

# The sixty years crisis

## A short history of a huge problem



Part 4 Our common history – and future  
Compiled by Carl Ohlen

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# Content

- The crisis!
- The surprise?
- Gaia – our living planet
- **Our common history – and future**
- The facts
- The real terrorists
- The American dream
- My Home Countries
- The globalization nightmare
- So where do we go from here?
- My own journey

# And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day.



California



Arizona, Sedona



Hawaii



Sweden



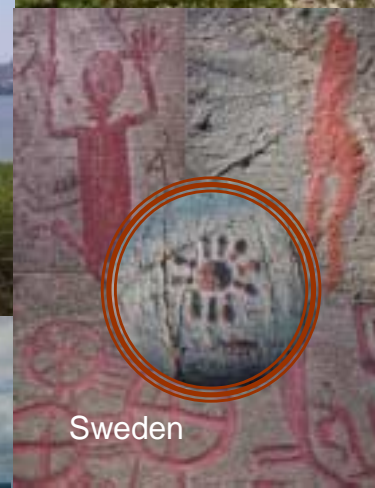
Hawaii



Switzerland



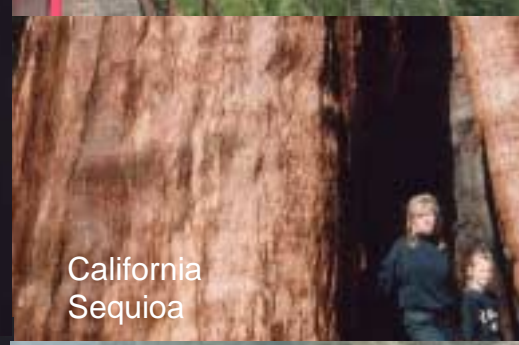
India



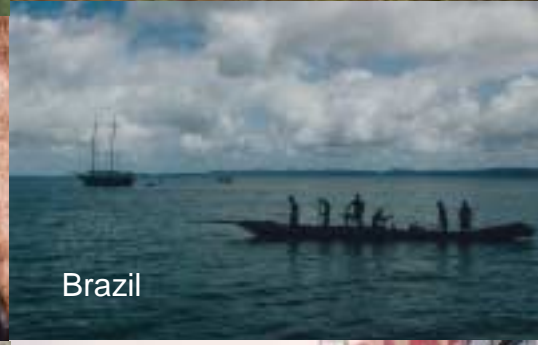
Sweden



Los Angeles



California Sequoia



Brazil



USA



Rio de Janeiro



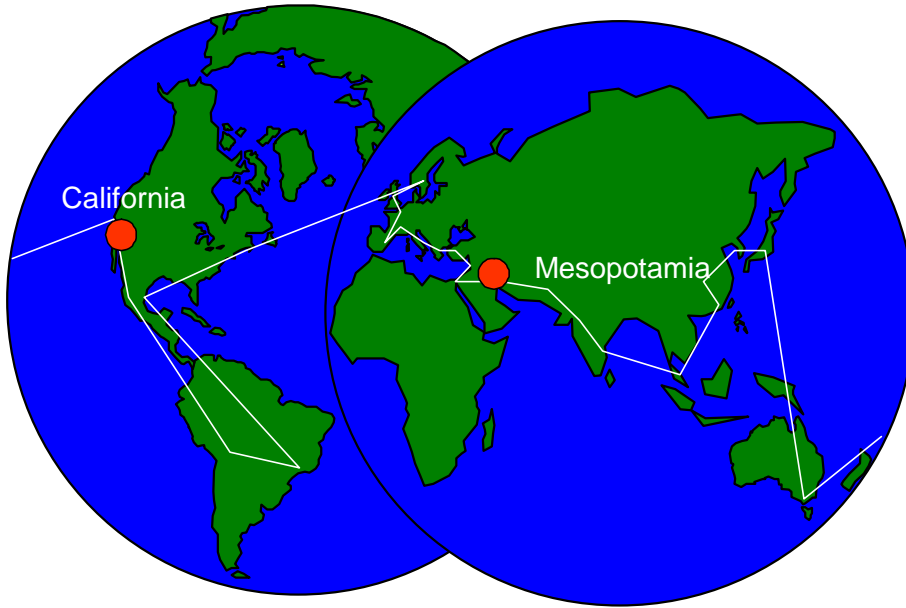
China  
The big wall



India



# Our common history and future



What we call civilisation was born 5000 years ago in Mesopotamia, today's Iraq.

The human evolution goes however even longer back in this fertile region along the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Here man started cultivating and creating. This means that man also started to change nature. To exit the Garden of Eden.

What made man after 40 000 of existence on this planet to all of a sudden start to build canals, burn bricks and construct whole cities is a mystery.

A similar evolution took place in China, India and Mesoamerica. But it was the development in Mesopotamia that came to form our future western civilisation.

We can therefore see our 5000 year progress as a westbound journey going through the Greece and Roman empires, to consolidate with the Muslim empire and then see a new Europe reborn when Spain, Portugal, France and England conquered the new world.

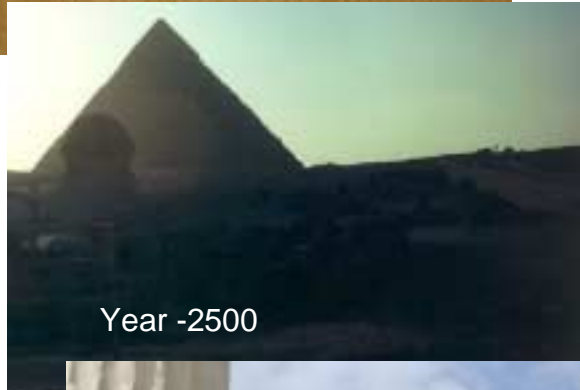
The new colonies and the industrial revolution created the British empire. The emigration and the consumer revolution created the American empire.



**Iraq  
(Step pyramid)**



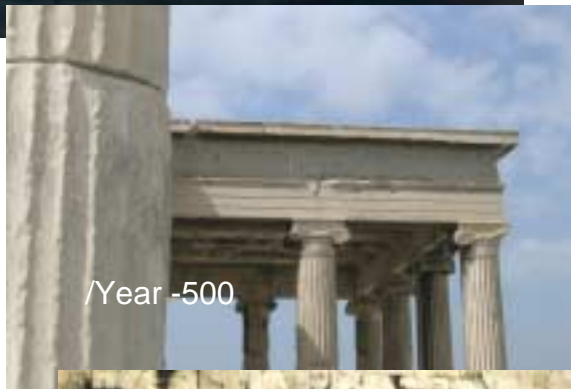
**England  
(Iron Bridge)**



**Egypt  
(Giza)**



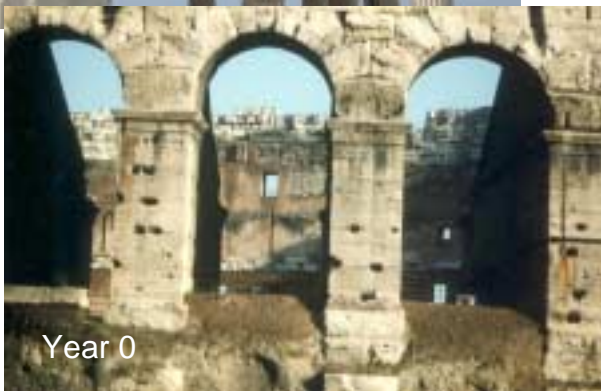
**Poland  
(Auschwitz)**



**Greece  
(Akropolis)**



**USA  
(Wall Street)**



**Italy  
(Colloseum)**



**USA  
(Golden Gate)**

Year - 3000

Year 1779

Year -2500

Year 1943

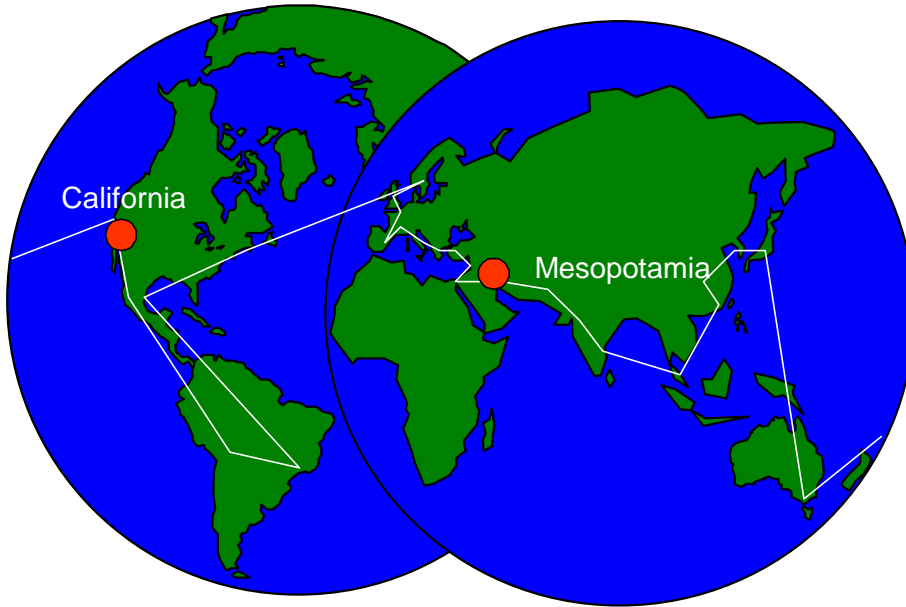
Year -500

Year 1990

Year 0

Year 2000

# My common history and future



My first foreign assignment was in Iraq in the end of the 1970ies. I worked with technical training within electric power engineering that was one of the priorities in building the modern Iraq. After my first visit to Babylon I was “hooked”. I started to read everything I could about this fascinating country that for 2500 years, half of the age of our western civilization was the centre of the world.

The fundamental concepts of our civilisation all originates from Mesopotamia. What we eat and drink, our agriculture and our traditions. How to build houses with bricks. How to fence them with huge walls and how to construct cities. Our writing, our schools, our religion, wars and our empires.

Ten years later I lived and worked in California – the golden state. I became equally fascinated and spent time in the local library reading about the California history – of 100 years! Our modern world was created here with cars, freeways, drive-in, credit cards, Hollywood movies, Silicon Valley computers. Jumbo jets and deep space exploration.

Here at the Pacific Coast man had reached the end of our journey. The question was where we should go now!

# Our westbound journey

Our western civilization evolved some 5000 years ago in Mesopotamia. The centre and consumer model for today's western world evolved in California with freeways, shopping centers, fast food, credit cards, Silicon Valley and Hollywood virtual reality. We can see our 5000 year history as a westbound journey from Mesopotamia through the Greece, Roman, Spanish, British and American Empires to California and what the native people there called "the brink of the world". A history with many achievements but also slavery, terror and numerous wars culminating in the horrifying World Wars of the 20th century, all carried out by the same western countries.

We have inherited the basics of our civilization from Mesopotamia. This spread by practice when people traveled to new regions. But maybe the most important is the invention of writing. With this we could keep records, do calculations and transfer knowledge to coming generations. Today our global civilization is based on these roots from what we call "The Middle East" mixed with Greece Philosophy, Roman law, and Arabic mathematics. From here we also carry our western religious belief from Gilgamesh and other ancients stories, through the Jews who in the Bible describe their own cultural journey from Ur and Babylon to our Christian and Muslim evolution.

Through this journey we saw another "trend". The building of empires by trade and by military force. Both the Greece empire and the Roman Empire began with colonies and grew to include not only a new part of Europe but also the old Middle East.

# The European "Discovery"

After the fall of the Roman Empire Europe fell to pieces and the German tribes was wandering around searching for food. Northern Europe was really a poor region with a cold climate. This is why my own ancestors, The Vikings went around terrorizing the world . Central and Southern Europe was more fertile but still for centuries it was far behind the prosperous cultures of Asia and Africa.

So the European "explosion" during the last 500 years is a sort of a mystery. But equipped with new weapons, ships and navigation they inherited from the Muslims who in turn had got them from China and the old Greece-Roman literature they translated – the Europeans conquered the world. And they used the same old technique with colonies first and then military force.

Larger armies, larger wars and larger empires is characteristic for our westbound journey. And for centuries Europe was in constant civil war. Some were religious wars between Catholics and protestants but most were to build empires. The new Spanish king who expelled both Muslims and Jews from Spain got an offer from the Italian Christopher Columbus he could not refuse. 1492 he discovered a new world by mistake on his way to China. The rest is history. In order to keep some order in the new conquest the pope draw a line in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and gave Spain the western part with the Americas and Portugal the eastern part. But since Brazil "was sticking out" it became Portuguese – by accident.





# How about the east

China had in the beginning of the 15th century more than 100 million inhabitants and almost twice the total population of Europe. After the Mongol invasion the Ming dynasty from 1368 headed a new era of rapid technical and industrial development. Printing of books, gun powder, guns, the compass, ship building and iron production was used for increase prosperity, a strong central government and military force. China produced 125 000 ton iron per year that was more than England could do until several years after the industrial revolution. This new Empire had an army of 1 million soldiers and more than 10000 warships.

The Chinese had the means and the knowledge to conquer the world, but they did not. In the beginning of the 15th century a fleet under Admiral Cheng Ho made seven long sea journeys all the way to India, the Arabic peninsula and Africa. But the Chinese came as traders and never tried to conquer the countries they visited. They were "civilized".

During this time Spain, Portugal and England together had maybe 10 million inhabitants. How these small countries with some help from France and Holland could conquer, divide and colonize the rest of the world is a mystery. But it did happen. So did the slavery, the destruction of whole cultures of people, animals and plants. From this a new and the so far biggest Empire in the world grew – The British Empire – and then an even bigger empire – The American Empire!

Year 1601 England had about 4 million inhabitants. Today the "Anglo- American" English speaking Empire with UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand has 420 millions. Including all 54 states with English as official language this is 2135 millions!

Rank 	Country 	Continent 	Population <sup>1</sup> 				
1	 India	Asia	1,103,600,000	27	 Namibia	Africa	2,030,692
2	 United States <sup>14</sup>	North America	300,007,997	29	 Lesotho	Africa	1,867,035
3	 Pakistan	Asia	162,419,946	30	 Botswana	Africa	1,640,115
4	 Nigeria	Africa	128,771,988	31	 The Gambia	Africa	1,593,256
5	 Philippines <sup>[3]</sup>	Asia	87,857,473	32	 Mauritius	Africa	1,230,602
6	 United Kingdom <sup>14</sup>	Europe	60,441,457	33	 Swaziland	Africa	1,173,900
7	 South Africa	Africa	44,344,136	34	 Trinidad and Tobago	America	1,088,644
8	 Sudan	Africa	36,992,490	35	 Fiji	Oceania	893,354
9	 Kenya	Africa	33,829,590	36	 Guyana	South America	765,283
10	 Canada	North America	32,300,000	37	 Solomon Islands	Oceania	538,032
11	 Uganda	Africa	27,269,482	38	 Malta	Europe	398,534
12	 Ghana	Africa	21,029,853	39	 The Bahamas	America	301,790
13	 Australia <sup>14</sup>	Oceania	20,800,000	40	 Belize	Central America	279,457
14	 Madagascar	Africa	19,280,000	41	 Barbados	America	279,254
15	 Cameroon	Africa	16,380,005	42	 Vanuatu	Oceania	205,754
16	 Zimbabwe	Africa	12,746,990	43	 Saint Lucia	America	166,312
17	 Malawi	Africa	12,158,924	44	 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	America	117,534
18	 Zambia	Africa	11,261,795	45	 Micronesia	Oceania	108,105
19	 Rwanda	Africa	8,440,820	46	 Kiribati	Oceania	103,092
20	 Sierra Leone	Africa	6,017,643	47	 Grenada	America	89,502
21	 Papua New Guinea	Oceania	5,545,268	48	 Seychelles	Africa	81,188
22	 Singapore	Asia	4,425,720	49	 Dominica	America	69,029
23	 Republic of Ireland	Europe	4,130,700	50	 Antigua and Barbuda	America	68,722
24	 New Zealand	Oceania	4,108,561	51	 Marshall Islands	Oceania	59,071
25	 Liberia	Africa	3,482,211	52	 Saint Kitts and Nevis	America	38,958
26	 Jamaica	North America	2,731,832	53	 Palau	Oceania	20,303
				54	 Nauru	Oceania	13,528

# An amazing history

The scientific and industrial revolution during the 18th and the 19th century was truly amazing. It was based on the thinking of Galileo, Newton and Descartes who initiated the "paradigm shift" with a mechanical world view. We believed that it was possible to divide reality in smaller and smaller pieces with a behavior explained by formulas – a large mechanical clockwork ticking it's way into the future.

What we call the industrial revolution and which transformed our world originated on a weather bitten island in the North Atlantic and had within 100 years created the British Empire – an equally amazing development. So how could this happen?

As an island England became the dominant naval nation and that gave access to colonize the world. Britain became the center of the so called triangle trade with millions of slaves exported from Africa to America returning with cotton, sugar and rum to England and weapons, glass pearls and liqueur to Africa. Manufacturing of textiles and iron was the foundation of the industrial revolution. And for this energy was needed. England was lacking wood but had coal. And the coal mines needed to pump water. The invention of the steam engine by Newcomben and improved by James Watt is the first major technical achievement. 1776 Adam Smith, a friend of Watt wrote *"Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations"*.

Colonialism, Industrialism and Capitalism were developing together where England became both the colonial, industrial and economical center of the world. Today the center is in United States but our basic industrial and economical model was born in England in the beginning of the 19th century. So was "globalization".

# The British Empire

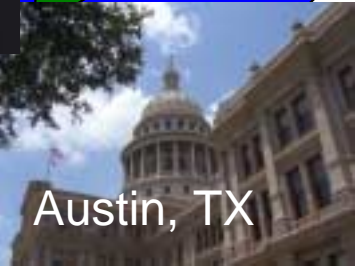
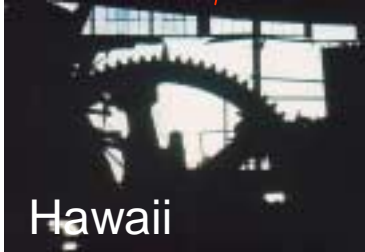
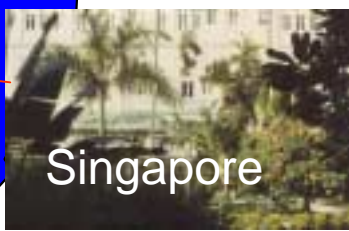
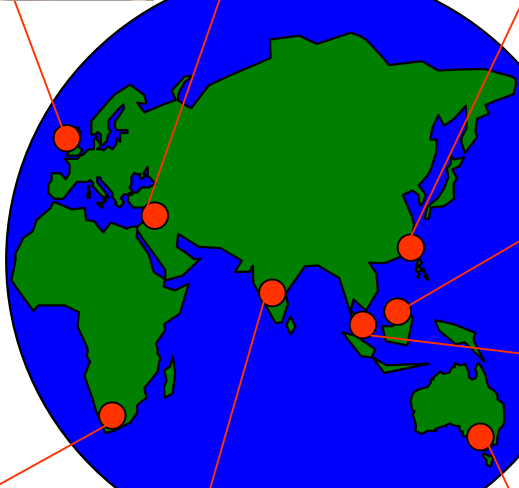
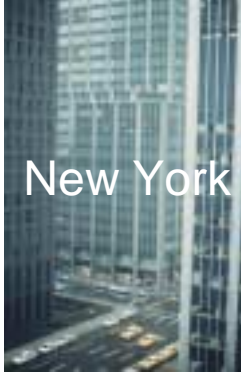
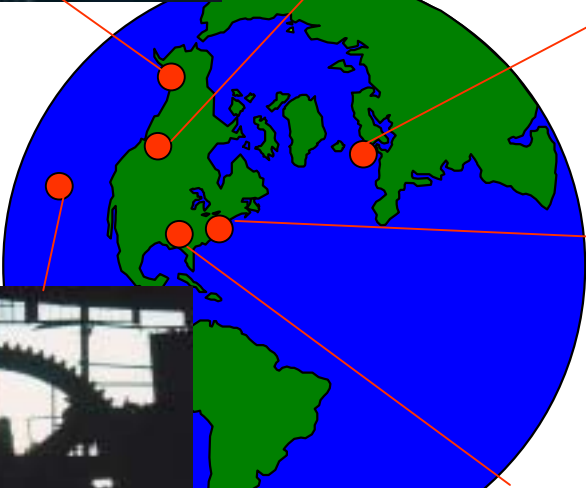
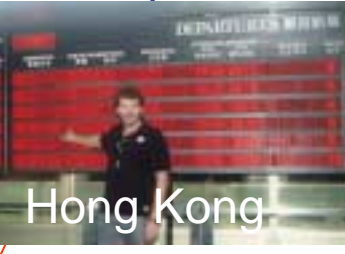
“Globalization” was created by the triangle trade. African slaves picked cotton in America. Textile was produced in England and sold to the rest of the world that needed clothing. The English iron bridge from 1779 symbolizes the start of industrialization. So what does this mean? Very generally this is to replace muscles from humans and animals with some other energy to be able to manufacture “something” more efficiently.

But machines powered by water and wind had been used before. It was with the invention of the steam engine and the use of coal that this development took off. Fossil fuels powered the new world and allowed mass production and fast transportation. The industrialization and the colonization created economic and military power. It also created a new working class and demands for social changes. Europe was despite industrialization poor, over populated and devastated by war after war culminating in the first world war. For the first time fought by tanks, ships and airplanes using oil.

America became the dream for millions and millions poor Europeans who emigrated to the land of possibilities in the west. America was an untouched continent with in the beginning limitless resources. The native population and nature was “removed” and a completely new world was built by man using the new industrial technique and a new resource –oil! It was the oil that created a new way of living with cars, free ways, air planes, drive-in, drive through. 1937 the Golden Gate in San Francisco became the longest bridge in the world. After the horrors of the Second World War Europe had to be rebuilt with American aid. The British Empire was reduced to a member club. A new Empire had been born. And a new culture. The American dream became a success story for material wealth and freedom. Distributed by Hollywood.

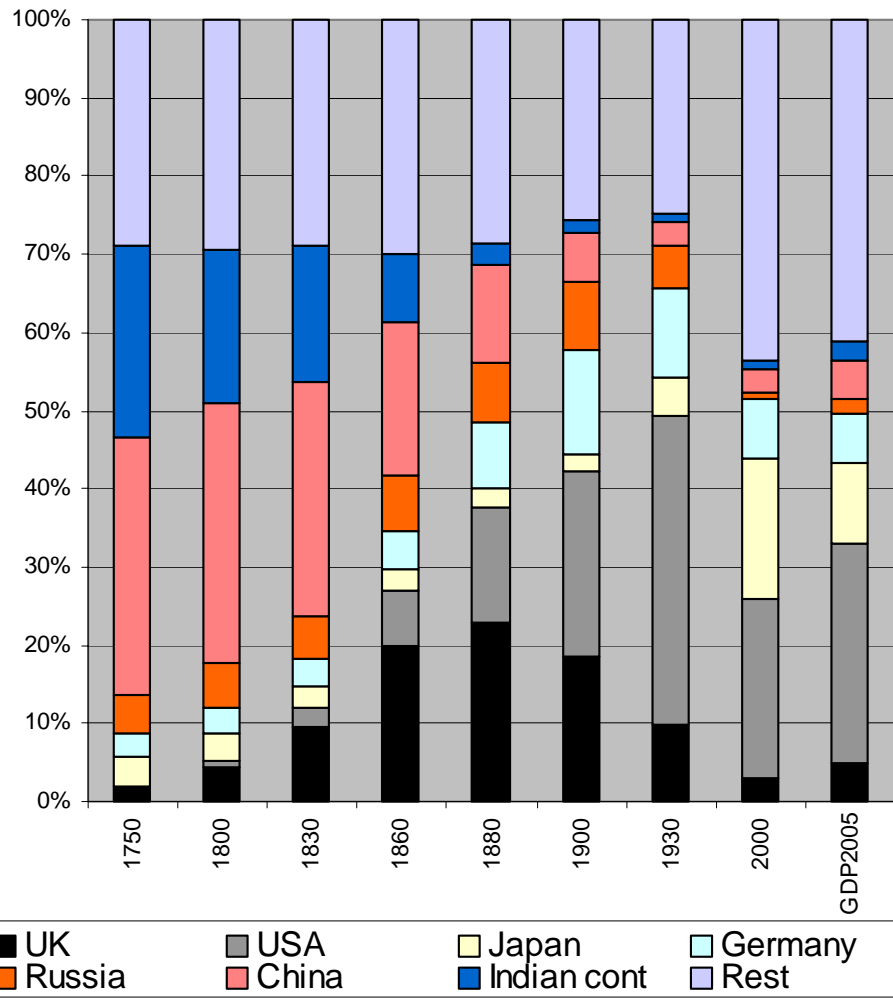
# The Anglo- American Empire

Today we live within the Anglo-American empire. Born on an island in the Northern Atlantic with rainy and cold weather it expanded to cover all corners of the world. The parliamentary democracy, free trade, capitalistic economy and industrial production combined with a strong fleet, slave and opium trade plus a strong navy gave th victory. This system was then further developed in America to one culture and one language. The Anglo-American empire was similar to the Greece-Roman, but much more powerful.



# The Industrial Powers

Share of industry



Before the industrialization 1750 China and India was still dominating the world production of iron, textile, porcelain, tea and spices. Europe and especially England was “poor” on both essential and luxury articles. The colonies and the “new World” supplied more and more from silver and gold to wood and rubber as well as the potatoes that became the basic food in Northern Europe.

But the industrial revolution in England changed it all. 1880 United Kingdom alone had almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the world industrial production. But an the turn of the 20th century US passed UK and 1930 US and UK had  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the world industrial production. Today USA is still the largest industrial nation with the largest GDP. Japan is no. 2 but China has the fastest growth. Still it is a long way back to the 1750 share.

# Forecasting the post industrial empire?

All empires in history has been built by military and economic strength as well as cultural influence but in different mix. And all empires has seen rise and fall – so far.

The industrial revolution created our western culture replacing our farming culture. Alvin Toffler who wrote the “Future Shock” published “The third wave” 1979 forecasting the end on our second wave industrial society where he is especially concerned about the old fashioned political structure not suited for the dramatic change.

After the fall of Soviet Union and before the Millennium shift numerous books about our future were published. Toffler came with “Power shift” 1990 and “War and Anti-war survival at the dawn of the 21th century” 1993. He discusses once again the death of the industrial power structure and the need for new political frame. John Naisbitt who wrote “Mega trends” came out with “Global Paradox” 1994. Peter Drucker published “New Realities” 1990 and “The post capitalist society” 1993. William Rees-Mogg published “The great Reckoning” 1991 and “Picnick and Vesuvius” 1992 where he forecast a more violent power shift. Francis Fukuyama from the Rand corporation wrote “The end of history and the Last Man” 1992 and John Lucas wrote “The end of the Twentieth Century and the End of the Modern Age”. Marvin Cetron and Owen Davis published “Crystal Globe” while Richard Barnet and John Cavanagh wrote “Global Dreams”.

So what did all these Anglo American wealthy men conclude about the state of the world and our fantastic future besides that China was the new tiger?



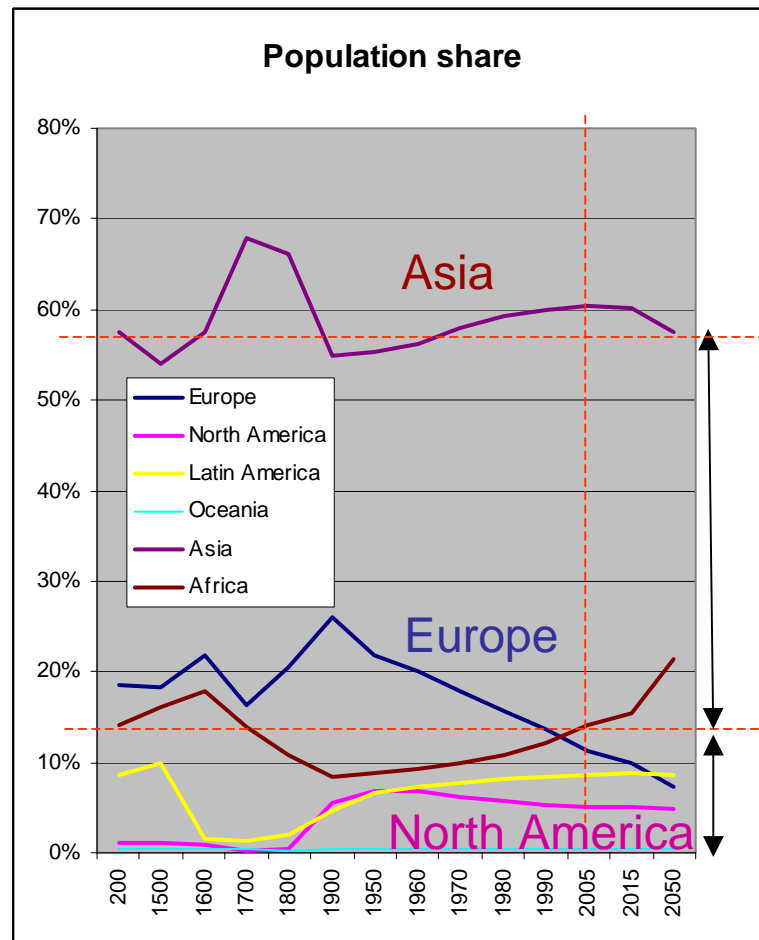
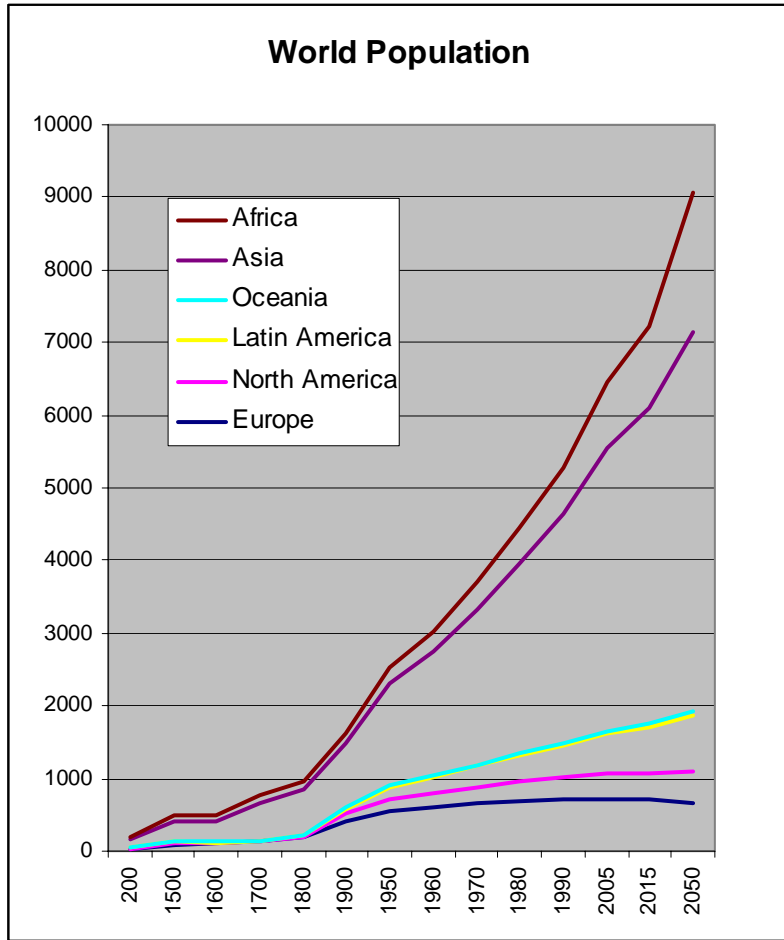
# The western victory

Naturally all these Anglo-American men will look upon the world from their perspective. And so they did. Many of them saw the Anglo- American model as the best there ever was. Most talked about the “new world order” after the fall of the Soviet Union but also the death of the ideologies. And several presented the “post industrial” society based on ICT, Information and Communication Technology. And most were certain that the political structure and even the present states will loose their importance to huge transnational corporations. William Rees-Mogg warned for a depression and more conflicts. And all saw China as the new growth market.

But almost no one mentioned anything about the environment and global warming. Out of the 5000 pages less then 5 mentioned our greatest threat. Francis Fukuyama who wrote “The end of history and the Last Man” as a love song to the American life style and saw this as the ultimate height of civilization. He may be absolutely right with his title but not in the way he thought.

It is naturally impossible to forecast the future of the world when we not even can forecast the weather tomorrow with 100 percent accuracy. Still these Anglo- American men cannot see out of their white box. The new world order is the old world order. The new “post industrial” model is still based on increased consumption and increased pollution. Paul Kennedy did say in a small remark in "Preparing for the twenty-first century" (1993) that the human activities and increased population had increased the speed of the human assault on Earth.

# The Population Growth

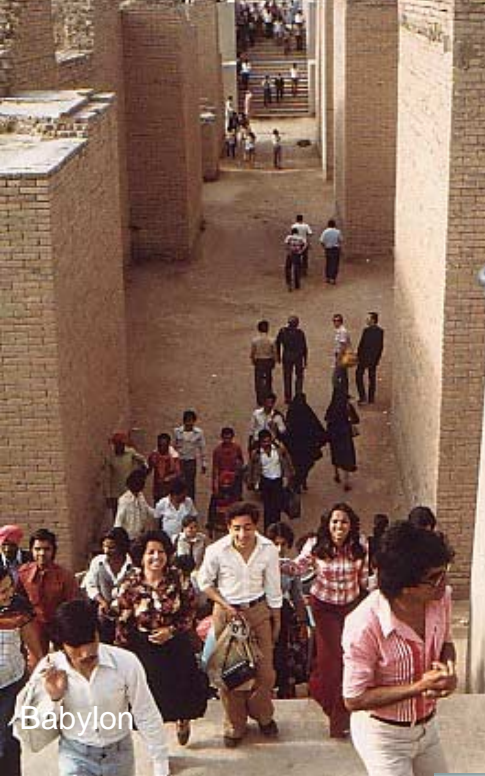


Year	200	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2005	2015	2050
Europe	37	92	110	125	196	425	547	604	656	692	721	728	721	653
North America	2	6	5	2	5	90	172	204	232	256	283	331	362	438
Latin America	17	50	8	10	19	75	167	219	285	362	444	561	634	783
Oceania	1	2	2	3	2	6	12,8	15,9	19,6	22,9	26,7	33,0	37,0	48,0
Asia	115	270	290	520	630	896	1 396	1 699	2 140	2 630	3 169	3 905	4 351	5 217
Africa	28	80	90	107	102	138	224	282	364	479	636	906	1 115	1 936
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>1630</b>	<b>2519</b>	<b>3024</b>	<b>3697</b>	<b>4442</b>	<b>5280</b>	<b>6464</b>	<b>7220</b>	<b>9075</b>

# How many humans can live on earth?

Year 1500 about 500 millions are estimated to have lived on earth. The major populations were in China, India, Europe and Africa in that order of size and also in that order in degree of civilization. With the European discovery of the rest of the world and the following colonization of America and Australia their native population decreased dramatically. Then with the industrialization and emigration to the new world America and Oceania started to grow rapidly – now with a white population – and black slaves. The population in Africa therefore decreased due to the slave export between 1700 and 1800. If we compare this time of colonization from 1500 to 1800 Europe and Asia doubled their populations while the rest of the world stood still or decreased.

With the industrialization and emigration from 1800 to 1900 Europe more than doubled their population again but in addition North America increased 18 times, Latin America 4 times and Oceania 3 times. Asia and Africa were now dominated by the Europeans and their population increase was significantly lower. Between 1900 and 1950 “The New World” in America and Australia doubled again in only 50 years while Europe suffering from two world wars slowed down. Africa and Asia with still many European colonies increased the population growth but this was still significantly lower than America and Australia. From 1950 until today North America has doubled, Latin America has tripled which is even more than Asia. But Africa has quadrupled. From the time of the Roman Empire year 200 to the time of the Anglo-American empire 2005 the world population has increased from 200 million to 6.5 billion – 32 times. What is interesting is however that the relative distribution between North-West and South – East is the same.



Baghdad



Babylon



San Diego



San Fransisco or "Baghdad by the bay"



Los Angeles

So what have we really learned on our 5000 year long journey from Mesopotamia to California from Baghdad to Baghdad by the Bay.

First of all we are really the same homo sapiens. Neither our intelligence, moral, desires and dreams seem to have changed.

But also the people of today are the same in both places. The same worries and need for love and understanding. So what is different?

The main difference is that we today have the history. The history of all mankind with successes and failures.

The scientific knowledge and the enormous technical resources. But we seem to do the same mistake in building our modern tower of Babel. To believe that man can control earth and become God. We cannot.

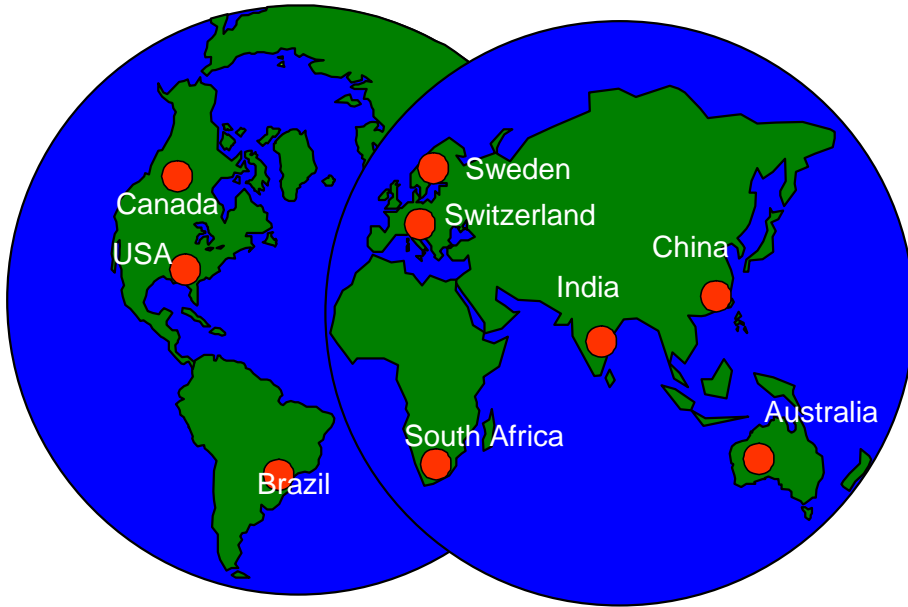
# My own westbound journey

I have been very fortunate to make our westbound journey in real life from Mesopotamia to California during this very period of our civilization when everything seem to happen. What took civilization 5000 years took me 25 years. I have been able to compare the absolute extremes such as Los Angeles and Las Vegas ultimate glory to Mumbai and Delhi ultimate poverty.

We are living in a divided world with completely different realities. The reason for this is self evident. We have a different history, a different culture, different climate and different languages. Like in Nature itself this human diversity is part of the beauty. It is therefore tragic to see how our dominant way of living based on fossil fuel and mass consumption is penetrating into all parts of the world. Because to even think that ONE solution and ONE way of living fits ALL is maybe the greatest mistake we have done.

On one of my first journeys in the end of the 1970ies I visited Borneo starting in Kuching from where you can in a few hours make a 40 000 year journey back to the origin of the natural man. I continued to Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei, a very small part of Borneo made "independent" by the British when they found oil there. The king of Brunei was already then one of the richest persons in the world. He owned his own fleet of modern jet planes. The Brunei natives lived in tree houses in the water. We took a lift with one of them in his carved canoe with a 120 Horse Power Honda. When we rapidly drew along the water streets we could see that all these primitive houses had TV antennas so the natives could watch and dream about a better world.

# My common history and future



Since my first journey to America 1969 and to in Asia 1979 I have travelled through more than seventy countries in my work. This means I have been able to follow the development in different parts of the world. Some of these countries I have been more involved with both professionally and personally. They are all “my home countries” with good and bad sides. But they are “home”.

The biodiversity in both nature and human culture is what makes the beauty, goodness and truth of our planet. The very idea that ONE single and uniform model should be applied globally did not work for communism and it will not work for our consumer based capitalism.

The reason is that this “globalisation” is against Nature in all aspect. Biodiversity and evolution adapt to the local conditions and nature. Not rape by force. The problem is that throughout our western 500 year history we have always believed that we – the white men were the owners of what was truth, goodness and beauty. But we are not.

And we can naturally not after ONE single generation – in sixty years – say that we have created “a new world order”. We have however created a global mess!

# A local world

The world is very different in different parts. Different geography, climate, plants, animals.

What is similar is that we humans are everywhere. When the white man colonized the world we tried to make the world the same. And with industrialization this accelerated.


Now it is a religion – Globalization.

In order to find a sustainable way of living we have to accept these differences. That each region has to develop a suitable way of living within the boundaries of the local resources and conditions . Most of the technology can be used world wide but if we try to enforce ONE single way to live and it is not only unsustainable it will be a very boring world.

The last ten years we have seen this globalization, centralization, uniformation to a mono culture based on increased consumption. A model that is totally opposite to the local and sustainable way of living with the Nature.



Australia



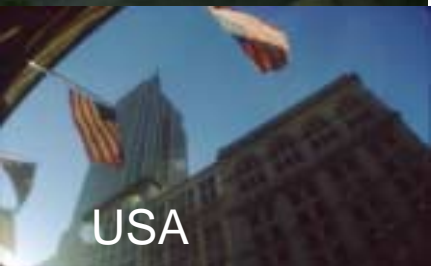
Canada




Sweden



Switzerland



USA



Russia



Brazil



China



India



South Africa

# ONE size does not fit ALL

We “stupid white men” actually believe that our western way of living is the absolutely best for everyone. We call it freedom, democracy, rule of law etc. and everything else is designated fundamentalism, evil, terrorism etc. We can do so because we rule the world, we control the media, we decide what is right and wrong. We rich, white men.

So I better say this first. I have experienced the military juntas of South America, the old fashion religion of Saudi Arabia, the Apartheid of South Africa, the communism of East Europe and I naturally do not want to live in such a society. Democratic freedom is one of the main achievements of our time. But from there and especially with our own history all of a sudden preach to the world that we are the best – stinks!

I have also experienced when many countries are “liberated”. The first thing that appear is prostitution and whisky. Then comes Mc Donald's and Coca Cola. Western hotels move in so we white stupid med can feel exactly like home and with the same TV channels. The air conditioned cars arrives, Mercedes, BMW, limousines. Then the shopping centers for the rich and famous are built with the same “brands” as in Paris or New York. This is then called economic progress. An upper class is created who then will become a middle class and they all will eat, shop, live and think like us white men in the already rich world. And the remaining poor majority can admire us in TV.

So instead of investing in infrastructure, decentralized and sustainable business our unsustainable model is being copied everywhere – and promoted by us for us.



# The goal of civilization



When man started to change nature we began with “stones” and “dirt”. Both made from silicon. Stones for our tools. Dirt for our fields, for our bricks. We built channels and houses. Dirt to make ceramics. We even had clay tablets for our books. We used bricks and stones to build pyramids. Then we found that from certain stones we could get gold, silver and copper. Later iron for new tools...and weapons. And we needed something to believe in – A religion and God. Some of us had higher ambitions. To become rulers. To become rich....and richer.

So what has really changed in 5000 years. We still build higher and higher Pyramids. Some of us want to become richer and rulers. We write everything on clay tablets out of silicon although we call them computer chips. And we believe in the almighty Market.



**Mesopotamia  
Iraq  
The first Empire!**





**United States of America**

**The last Empire?**



# Two empires after 5000 years of war

## CARNAGE AND DESPAIR IN IRAQ

17 March 2008

Five years after the US-led invasion of Iraq, the country is still in disarray. The human rights situation is disastrous, a climate of impunity has prevailed, the economy is in tatters and the refugee crisis continues to escalating.

A new Amnesty International report, *Carnage and Despair: Iraq five years on*, says that, despite the heavy presence of US and Iraqi security forces, Iraq is one of the most dangerous countries in the world, with hundreds of Iraqi civilians killed every month.

Since early 2006, violence has intensified and become more sectarian, with Sunni and Shi'a armed groups targeting followers of opposite faiths and driving whole communities out of mixed neighbourhoods. This has contributed to the displacement of over four million people. Two million of these are now refugees in Syria and Jordan.

Oxfam reported in July 2007 that 70 percent of Iraqis lacked access to safe drinking water and 43 percent were living on the equivalent of less than a dollar per day. Eight million Iraqis are in need of emergency assistance, with children the worst hit. Child malnutrition rates have increased from 19 percent during the period from 1991-2003, when international sanctions were imposed on the country under Saddam Hussein, to 28 percent in 2007.

14 March 2008

The cruelty and illegality of the US government's program of secret detentions can be illustrated by one man's story. It is the story of a man who was never charged with any crime, but who was held in secret CIA custody for nearly three years, becoming the victim of enforced disappearance.

Since the US invasion of Iraq about 4000 American soldiers has been killed and about 30 000 has been injured. This is a big loss.

But during the same time an estimated 500 000 to 1 million Iraqis have died, 4 million has fled the country and 8 million Iraqis need emergency assistance. All due to the US illegal war for oil. This is an awful crime against humanity!

Reference: [www.antiwar.com](http://www.antiwar.com) and wikipedia.org

Survey	Iraqi deaths
<a href="#">Opinion Research Business survey</a>	1,033,000 violent deaths.
<a href="#">Iraqi Health Ministry survey</a>	151,000 violent deaths out of 400,000 excess deaths due to the war.
<a href="#">Lancet survey</a>	601,027 violent deaths out of 654,965 excess deaths.



[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)



Abu Ghraib US prison  
photo from [www.antiwar.com/](http://www.antiwar.com/)

# Two opinions about the war in Iraq

KOFI ANNAN

The battle over Iraq in the UN Security Council raised doubts about the organisation's role in the 21st Century. Secretary General Kofi Annan vainly appealed for compromise and unity. But as France, China and Russia threatened to veto a US-backed resolution authorising force against Iraq, he realised the die was cast. The UN began instead to prepare for the humanitarian consequences of war.

In the first few months of the conflict the UN's headquarters in Baghdad was bombed, killing its most senior official. Mr Annan called the attack "the darkest day in our lives".

In September 2004, he said for the first time that the decision to go to war without a second resolution was illegal. "I have indicated it was not in conformity with the UN charter from our point of view - from the charter point of view - it was illegal," he told the BBC. In his final speech as UN head, in late 2006, he again attacked US unilateralism, saying: "No nation can make itself secure by seeking supremacy over others."

HANS BLIX

Plucked from retirement to lead the team of UN weapons inspectors sent in to Iraq, the pragmatic and calm Hans Blix asked in vain for more time to continue checking for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

His anger about the military intervention spilled over just months after the bombing began. In a series of scathing attacks on the UK and the US, he accused them of organising the war well before the outcome of his work was known and dramatising the threat of WMD to support their campaign. "There is evidence that this war was planned well in advance. Sometimes this raises doubts about their attitude to the [weapons] inspections," he told the Spain's El Pais in April 2003.

A year later, he compared the US attitude to the hunt for WMD to a "witch-hunt", saying the US had made "monumental" and "scandalous" errors of intelligence. His opinions have not changed. In 2007 he said: "I think everything in Iraq after the invasion has been a tragedy. The only positive thing I think is the disappearance of Saddam Hussein."

The UN secretary general and the UN leader of the weapons inspectors were both against this war. So was a huge majority of the world. Still USA, UK, Australia and a few others invaded Iraq and started another Holocaust that has caused thousands of innocent men, women and children their lives. Just to secure the oil. The same oil that these countries are burning and poisoning our environment with.



The UN building in New York

The promised land with Jerusalem and Jericho seen over the Dead Sea



Auschwitz concentration camp



# A people without a land

When I grew up it was mandatory in the sixth grade to watch long documentary movie about the German concentration camps with the naked dead and suffering Jews. This was the culmination of a European and Christian Racism that started 1492 (The same year Columbus discovered America) when the Spanish king expelled all Jews. The Massacre of six Million Jews by the Nazis is part of our collective guilt. Because the harassment of the Jews were everywhere in Europe, not only in Germany.

The idea of a new homeland for the Jews around the world originates from 1897 when The World Zionist Organisation was founded in Basel, Switzerland. 1901 the Jewish National Fund was created to purchase land in Palestine. This was an idealistic venture with many good sides. The problem was that the promised land was already occupied. The problem was also that UK during the first world war had promised this land to the Arabs if they revolted against the Ottoman Turks supporting Germany in the war. But then UK also promised the Jews. 1948 when Israel declared it's own state it was after a number of deadly Jewish terrorist attacks against both Arabs and Britons. The Deir Yasin Massacre, the King David Hotel bombing and others was the start of a long war between two people without a land.



# Another people without a land

On one of my journeys in the Middle East I went with a Palestinian taxi driver from Amman down to what is left of the Jordan river where John is said to have baptized Jesus. He was one out of five million without a country and his family had fled three times. After we had walked along the barbwire down to one of Christianities holiest place we saw the mines and the Israeli fortress and flag on the other side of the occupied west bank.

1900 only 10% of the population in Palestine were Jews.

After the first world war when Palestine was a British mandate this was about 80 000 Jews or 13%. 1946 after the second world war this was about 600 000 Jews and 1/3. The other 2/3 were Palestinian Arabs. 1947 UN proposed a division of Palestine on one Jewish and one Arabic state. 55% of the land was given to the 1/3 Jewish population owning 10% of the land. This was not accepted by the Arabs. 1948 Israel declared itself as an independent state and after the following war the Jews occupied 77% of the land. Today it is 100% including the concentration camp in Gaza. 2/3 of the Jewish population are 1st or 2nd generation immigrants. Since 1965 mot of them are from America or Ex. Soviet Union. And many of them are moving into the occupied west bank.

# Another shameful history

I fully understand the Jewish people that after the German concentration camps and centuries of European suppression were looking for a new home land. I can even understand (but not support) some of the horrible terrorist attacks by the Jewish organizations. This was a question of survival.

But I also fully understand the millions of Palestinians who have been chased away from their homeland and now are imprisoned into the worlds largest concentration camp. So I can understand (but not support) the desperate rocket and stones attacks against a far superior and occupying power with nuclear arms and US airplanes.

What I do not understand is how the world community and especially UK and United States has totally failed to resolve this conflict. Because this is a conflict created by the western countries after the first and second world wars and it is a conflict now supported by especially by USA. It is shameful!

No wonder that we will see more and more terrorists. How would you act if you were stripped of your country, living, dignity and locked into a desert strip to have your women and children killed with laser guided rockets from helicopter gun ships?

## CHILDREN AND CIVILIAN BYSTANDERS IN GAZA DEATH TOLL

3 March 2008

Israeli military air strikes and artillery attacks on the Gaza Strip during the last few days have killed over 100 Palestinians, including dozens of children and other civilian bystanders. Three Israelis – a civilian killed by a rocket fired by a Palestinian armed group on 27 February and two soldiers – were also killed.

## POEMS FROM GUANTÁNAMO

12 December 2007

"O Father, this is a prison of injustice.  
Its iniquity makes the mountains weep.  
I have committed no crime and am guilty of no offense.  
Curved claws have I,  
But I have been sold like a fattened sheep."



# Gaza- The worlds largest concentration camp

The situation for 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is worse now than it has ever been since the start of the Israeli military occupation in 1967. The current situation in Gaza is man-made, completely avoidable and, with the necessary political will, can be reversed.

This humanitarian crisis is a direct result of on-going collective punishment of ordinary men, women and children and is illegal under international law<sup>17</sup>. Isolation and poverty are breeding increasing levels of violence for which both Palestinians and Israelis are paying the price.

Year on year, the Gazan population is getting poorer despite successive increases in international aid. Karen Koning Abu Zayd, the head of UNRWA recently warned, “Gaza is on the threshold of becoming the first territory to be intentionally reduced to a state of abject destitution, with the knowledge, acquiescence and – some would say – encouragement of the international community.”<sup>18</sup>

## ➤ Basic Services

The blockade is destroying public service infrastructure in Gaza. The Israeli government prevents the repair and maintenance of the electricity and water service infrastructure in Gaza by prohibiting the import of spare parts. The impact of this is amplified by Israel’s parallel punitive restrictions on fuel and electricity to Gaza. Hospitals cannot generate electricity to keep lifesaving equipment working or to generate oxygen, while 40-50 million litres of sewage continues to pour into the sea daily<sup>14</sup>.

## A New Policy for Gaza

The blockade has effectively dismantled the economy and impoverished the population of Gaza. Israel’s policy affects the civilian population of Gaza indiscriminately and constitutes a collective punishment against ordinary men, women and children. The measures taken are illegal under international humanitarian law.

# The goal of today's civilization?

Throughout our history from the birth of our western civilisation in Mesopotamia 5000 years ago we see an increasing frequency and magnitude of wars. We see how the rich and powerful want more wealth and more power. We see empires rise and fall.

The Anglo-American empire is the latest of these empires. Born in Europe and after numerous civil wars the European white men conquered the world. We imposed our culture, our religion and our model on other people and other continents.

The drive for these white man was to conquer, to find gold, to get rich, richer and richest.

In the new world in America the battle of our civilisation expanded towards the west. A complete continent was conquered. After the industrialization two more civil wars were fought. Out of the first and the second world war United States came as the victorious new empire, now ready to conquer the world. The methods were similar to earlier empires. A mixture of military, economic and cultural influence. But the drivers were the same. Growth and expansion of the white man.

What was new was the magnitude and speed of this development. This is what is so amazing and scaring. That in a few years of so called globalization a majority of the world is focused only on this thing. Economic growth, stock market index, consumption of everything. Everything is measured in money. Even people. Artists and athletes are now trade marks. The media is filled with the same message. Consume more, and more. If you don't consume more the stock market will go down so you can not consume more. In one generation we have managed to brain wash a majority to become this one-track-mind. And we forgot the most important thing. That we all are part of a common earth with a common future. So what shall we conquer now?



Guess which city this is!  
Right answer in last chapter.





Guess which city this is!  
Right answer in last chapter.





Guess which city this is!  
Right answer in last chapter.





Guess which city this is!  
Right answer in last chapter.





Guess which city this is!  
Right answer in last chapter.