An Ever-Advancing Civilization with 11 Billion People

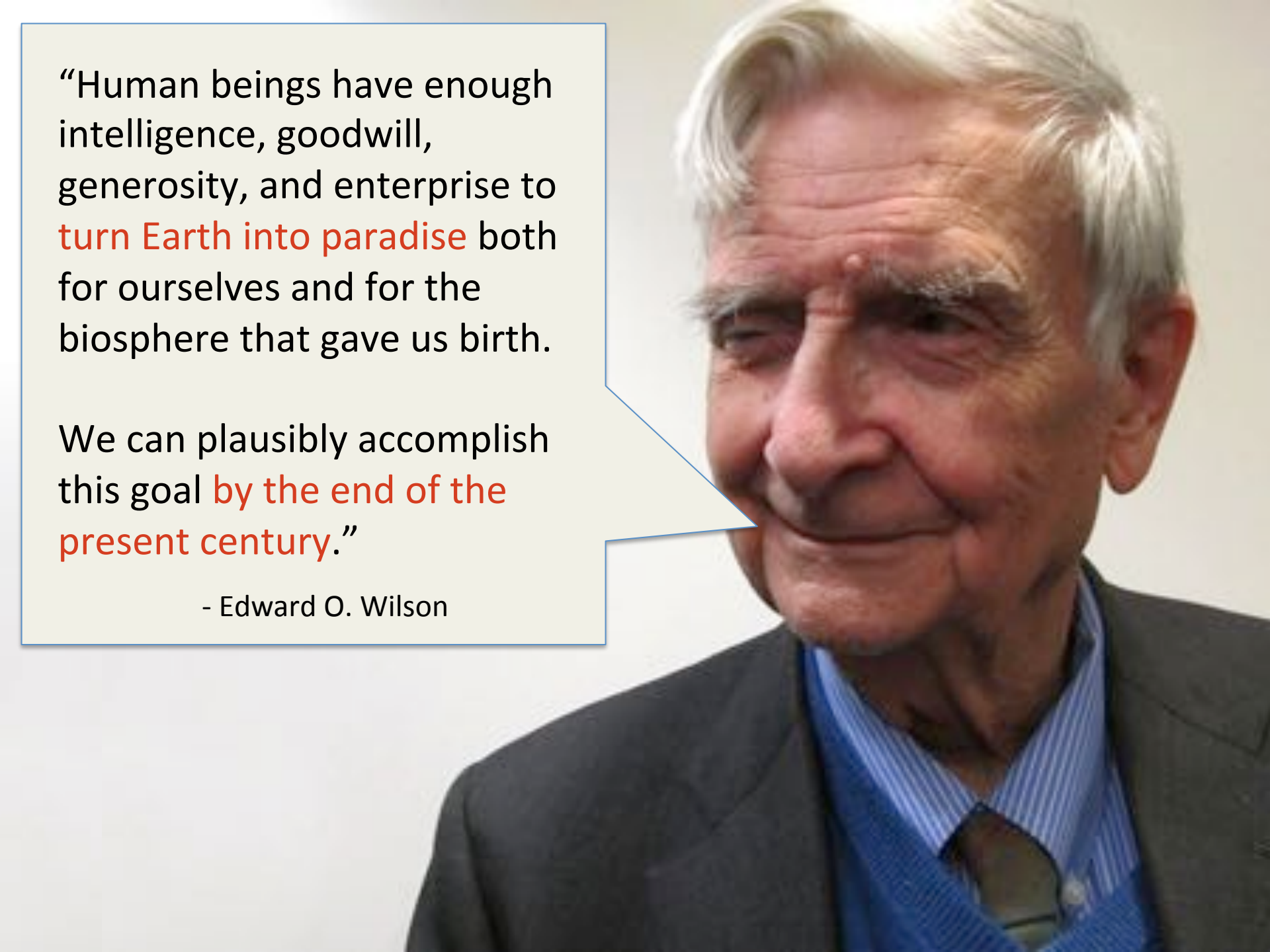
Premise #1

Uniting humanity will heal the planet

The state of the ecosphere is a reflection of the human condition

A social rather than an environmental problem

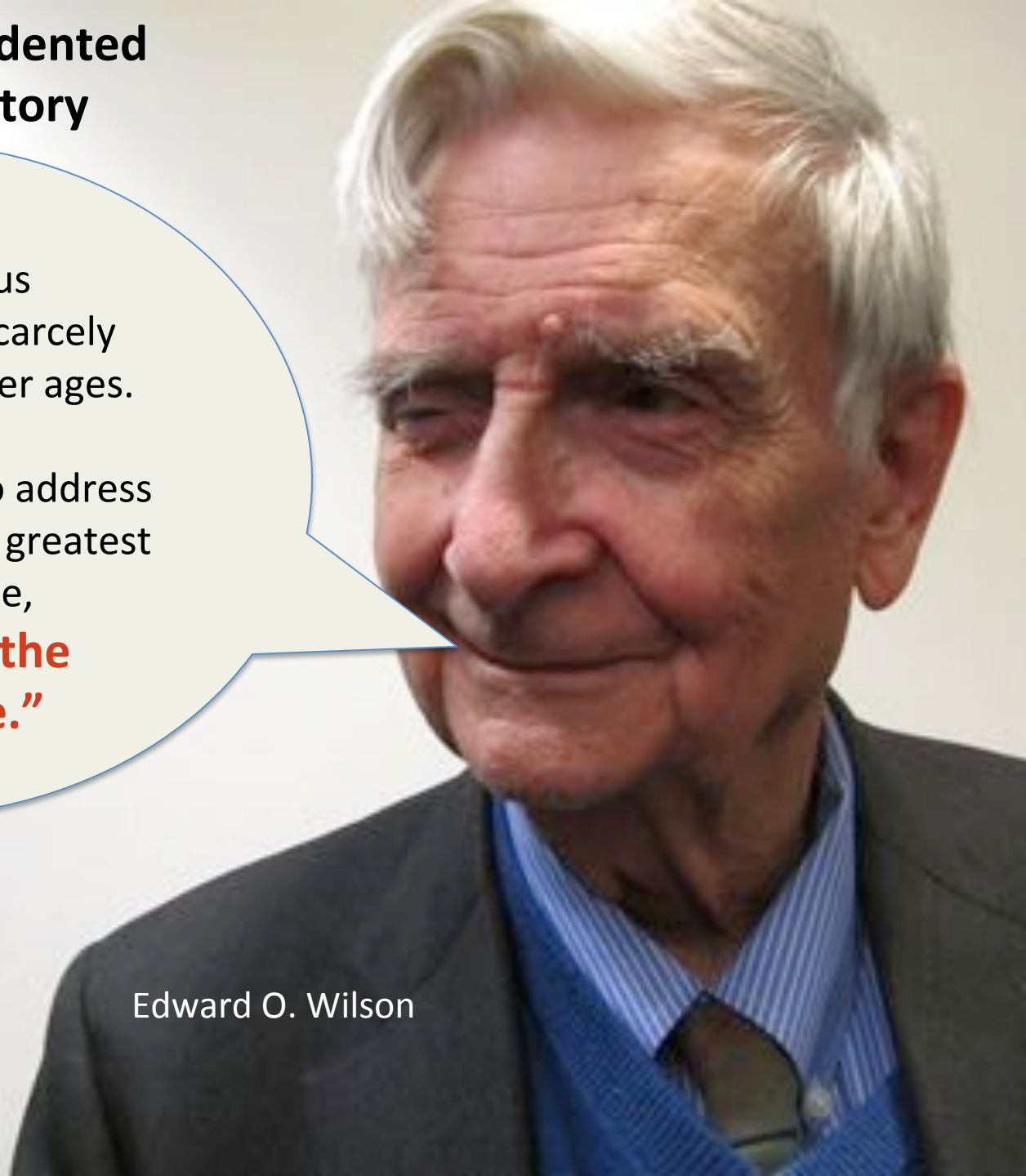
Premise #2
Healing the planet
will unite humanity


“Human beings have enough intelligence, goodwill, generosity, and enterprise to turn Earth into paradise both for ourselves and for the biosphere that gave us birth.
We can plausibly accomplish this goal by the end of the present century.”
- Edward O. Wilson

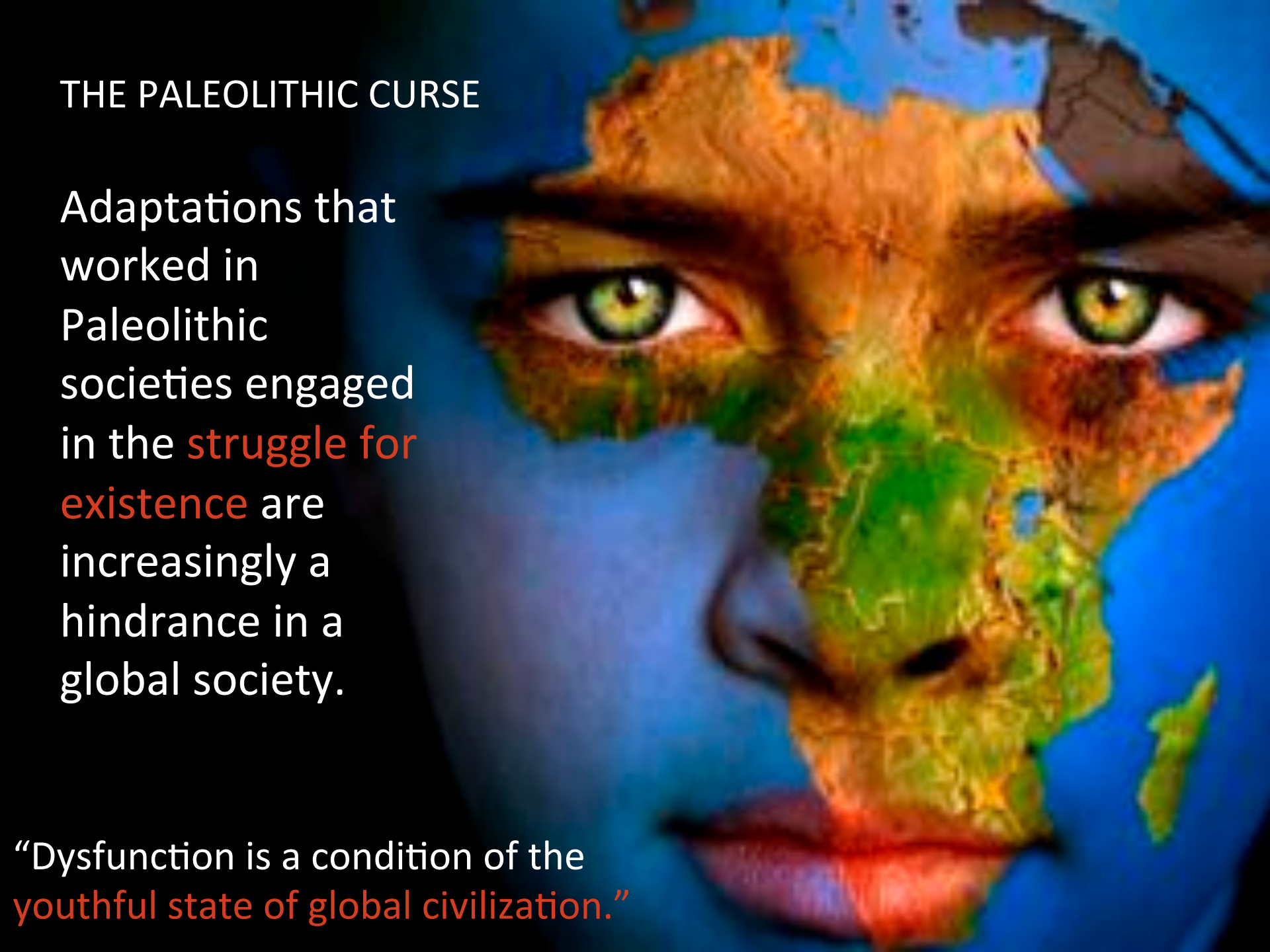
A time unprecedented in human history

"Laid before us
are new options scarcely
dreamed of in earlier ages.

They empower us to address
with confidence the greatest
goal of all time,
**the unity of the
human race."**



Edward O. Wilson



THE PALEOLITHIC CURSE

Adaptations that worked in Paleolithic societies engaged in the struggle for existence are increasingly a hindrance in a global society.

"Dysfunction is a condition of the youthful state of global civilization."

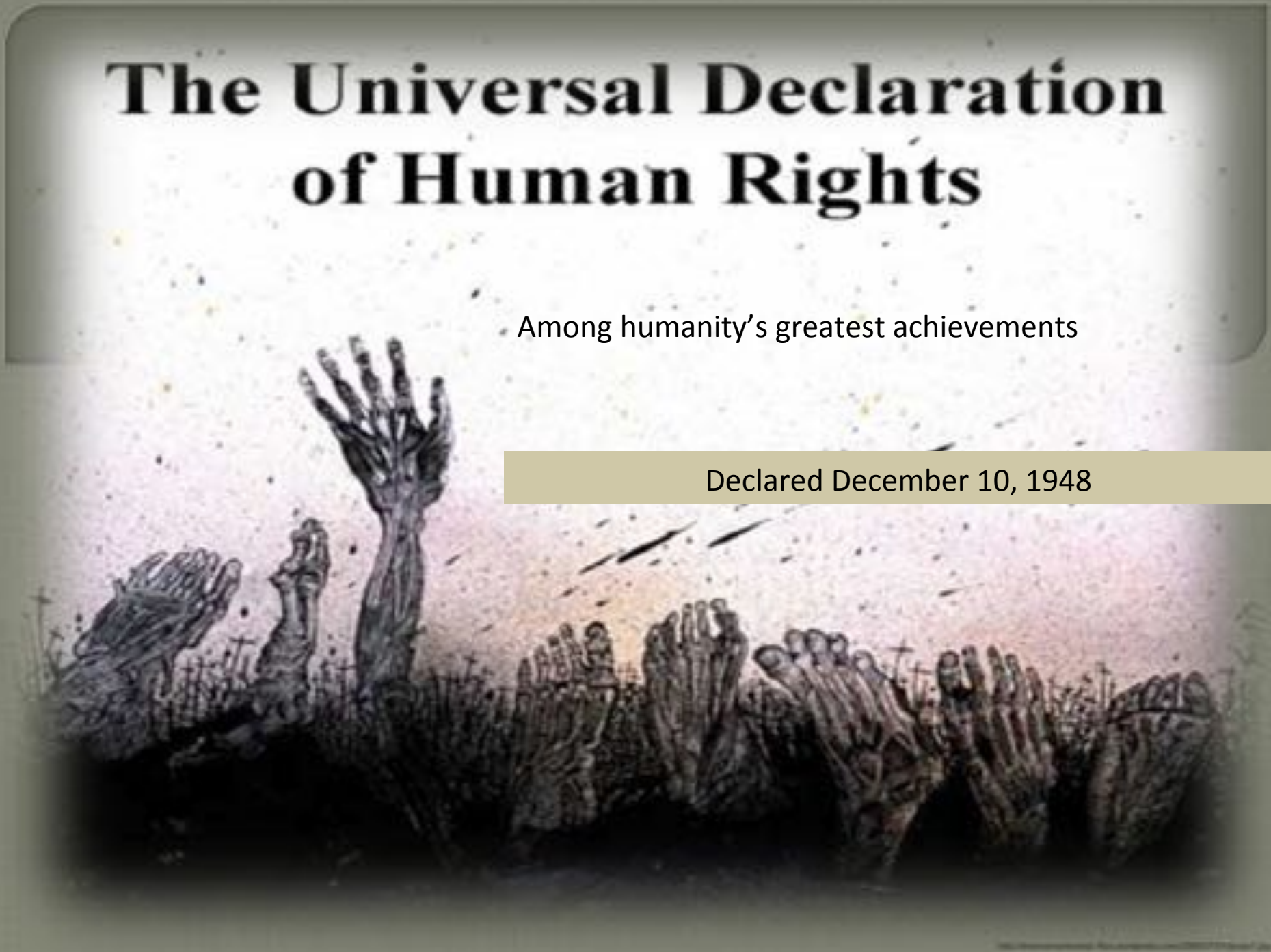
WE ARE GROWING UP

The gradual emergence of a unified global civilization that counterbalances the competitive struggle for existence with cooperation for the welfare of the whole.

Examples of maturation

Violence of all kinds has decreased

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Among humanity's greatest achievements

Declared December 10, 1948

The right to a healthy environment

- **explicitly recognized in 100 national constitutions.**
- **181 of 193 nations agree it is a human right.**

Earth Summit, Millennium Summit, Climate Summit.

reflecting this unification process we see the

SIMULTANEOUS EMERGENCE OF ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS

but the emergence of a global civilization is characterized by

Twin processes of integration and disintegration

What drives the process of integration?

What drives the process of disintegration?

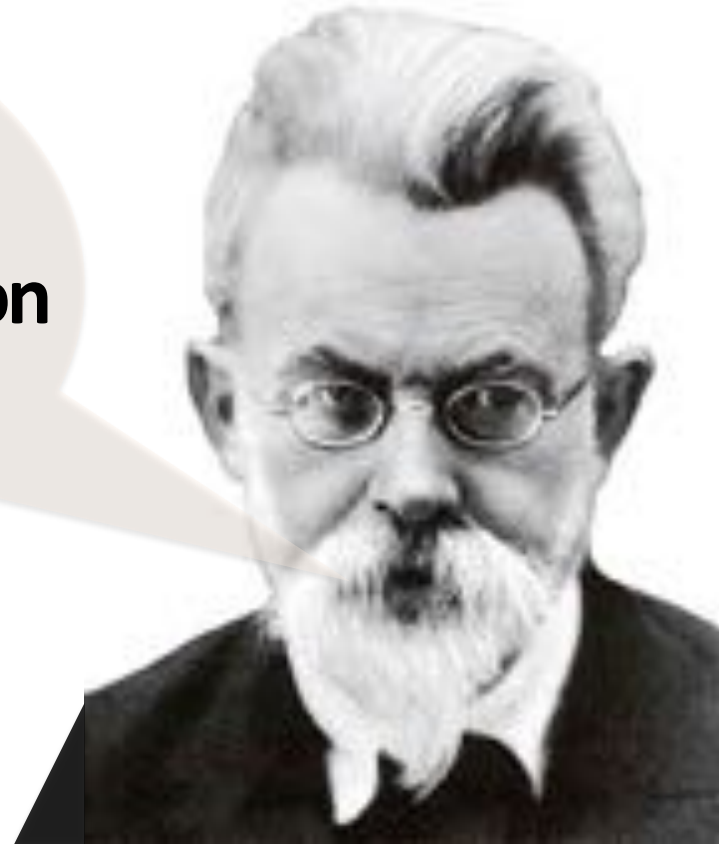
“The reality of man is his thought….”

- ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Reality is a product of

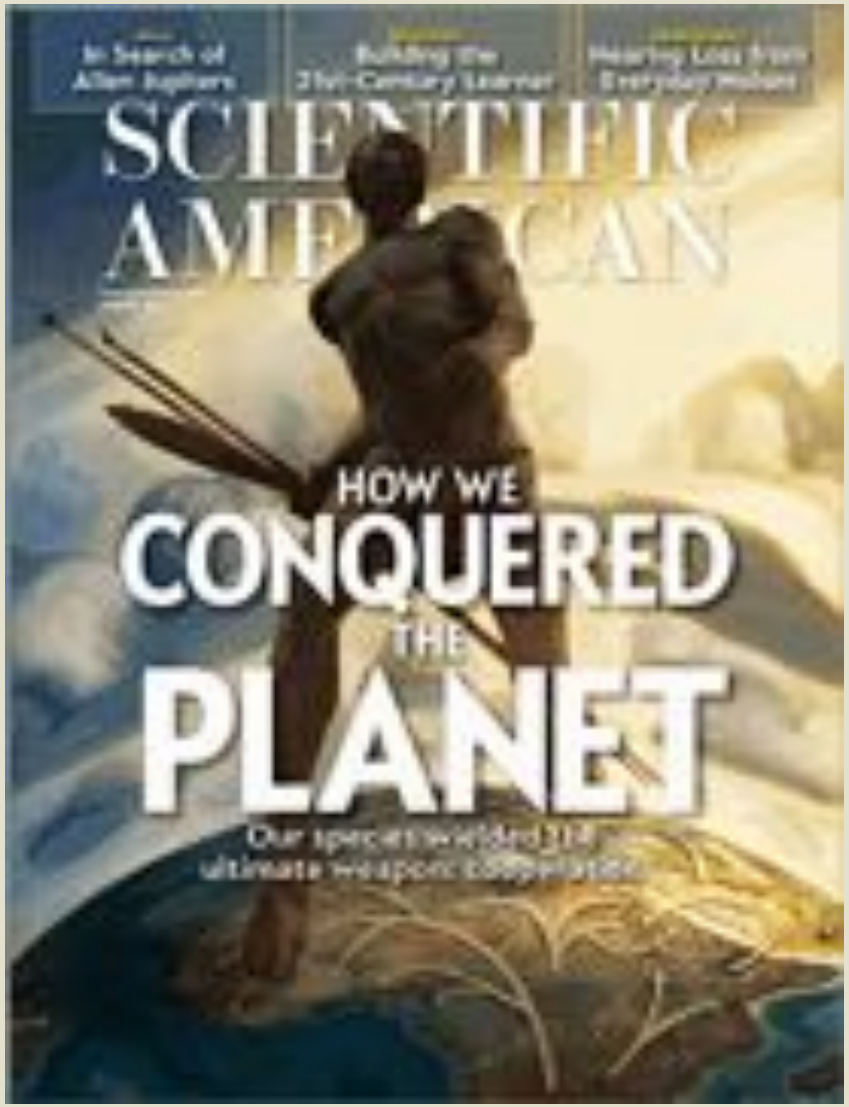
focused human attention

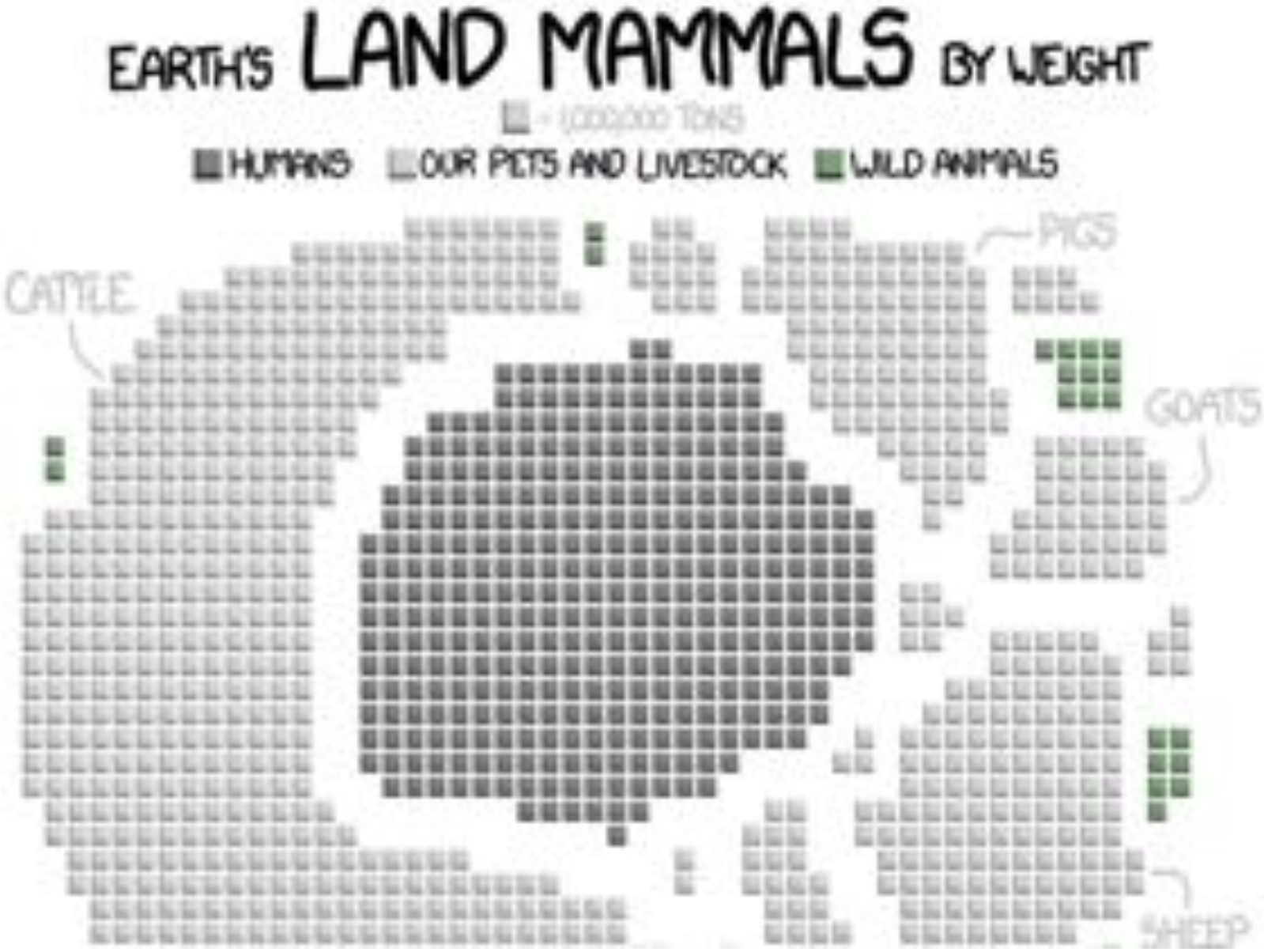
- Vladimir Vernadsky



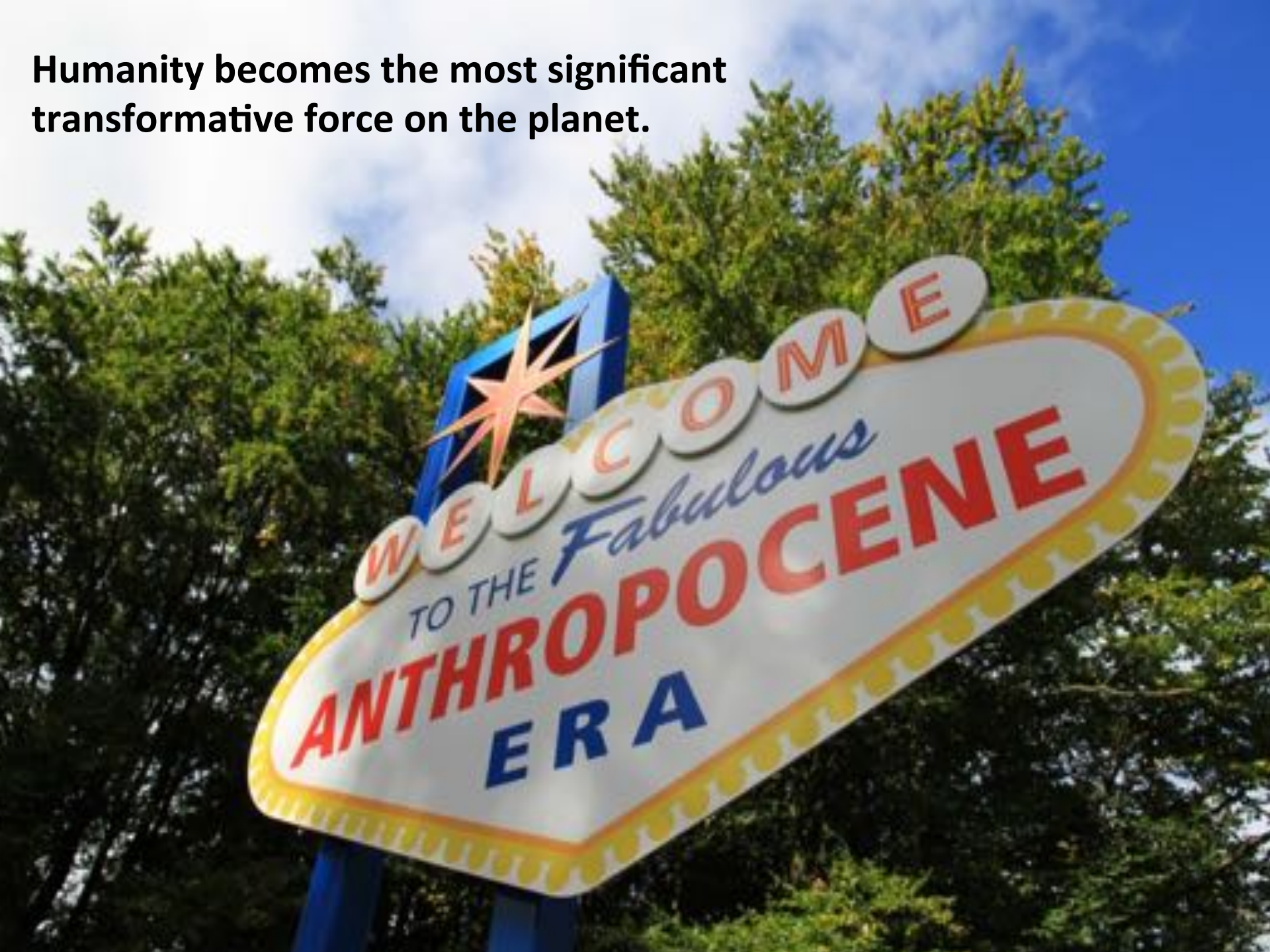
With ***collective*** focused attention, we alter the ecosphere

The cooperative species



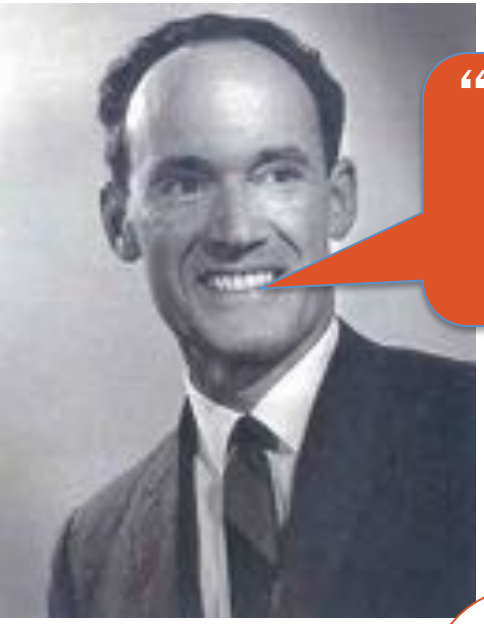

EARTH'S LAND MAMMALS BY WEIGHT
HUMANS
OUR PETS AND LIVESTOCK
WILD ANIMALS
CATTLE
PIGS
GOATS
SHEEP

Humanity becomes the most significant transformative force on the planet.



Our thought shapes the world, *quite literally*.

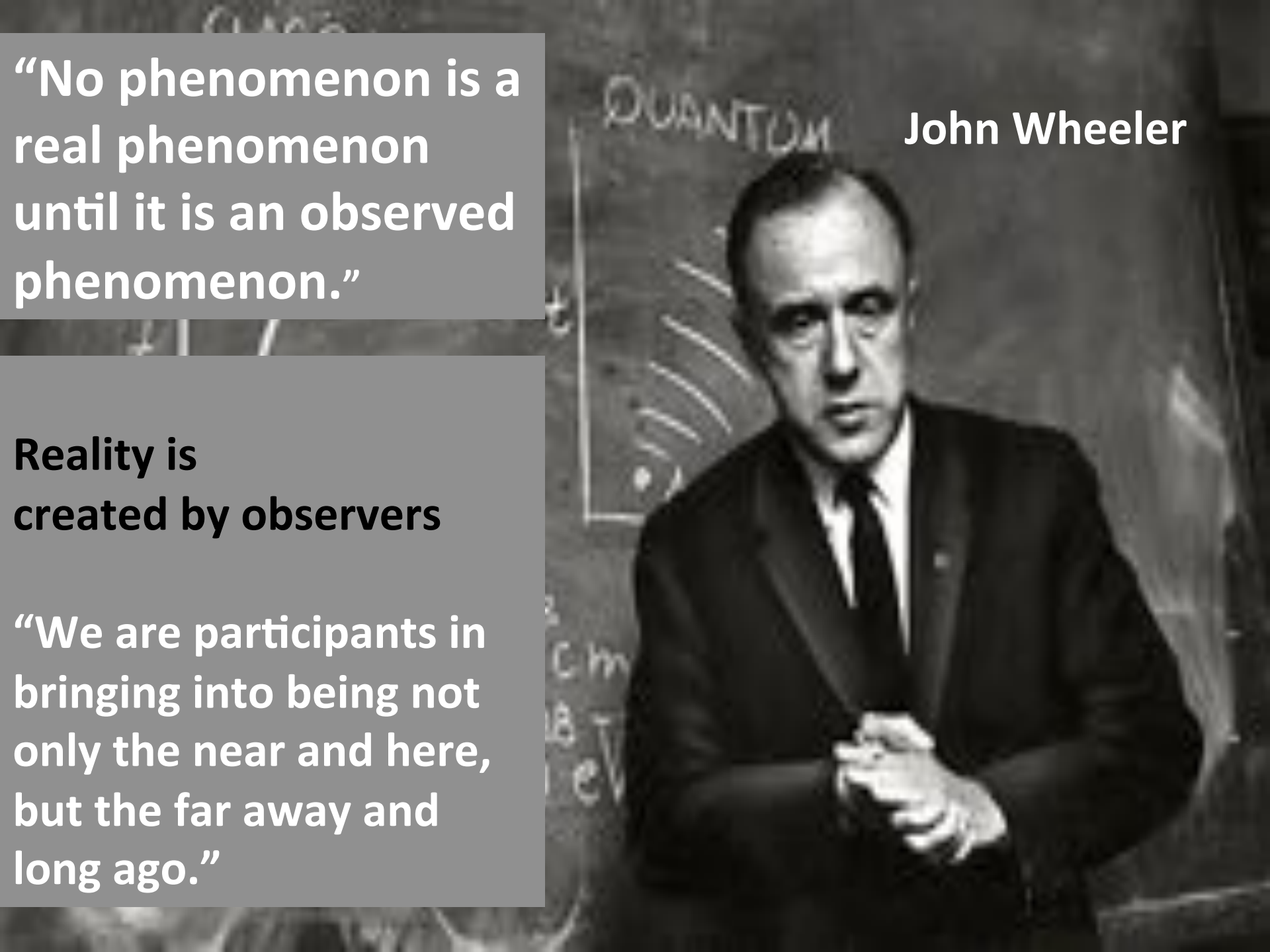
THE OUTER WORLD REFLECTS OUR INNER WORLD



"*The landscapes of our making match and reflect society's* ***cultural inscapes***." - Stan Rowe

"Man is organic with the world. ***His inner life molds the environment*** *and is itself also deeply affected by it."*

- Shoghi Effendi



"No phenomenon is a real phenomenon until it is an observed phenomenon."

John Wheeler

Reality is created by observers

"We are participants in bringing into being not only the near and here, but the far away and long ago."

Example: A LANDSCAPE MODIFIED BY THE INDIGENOUS MIND

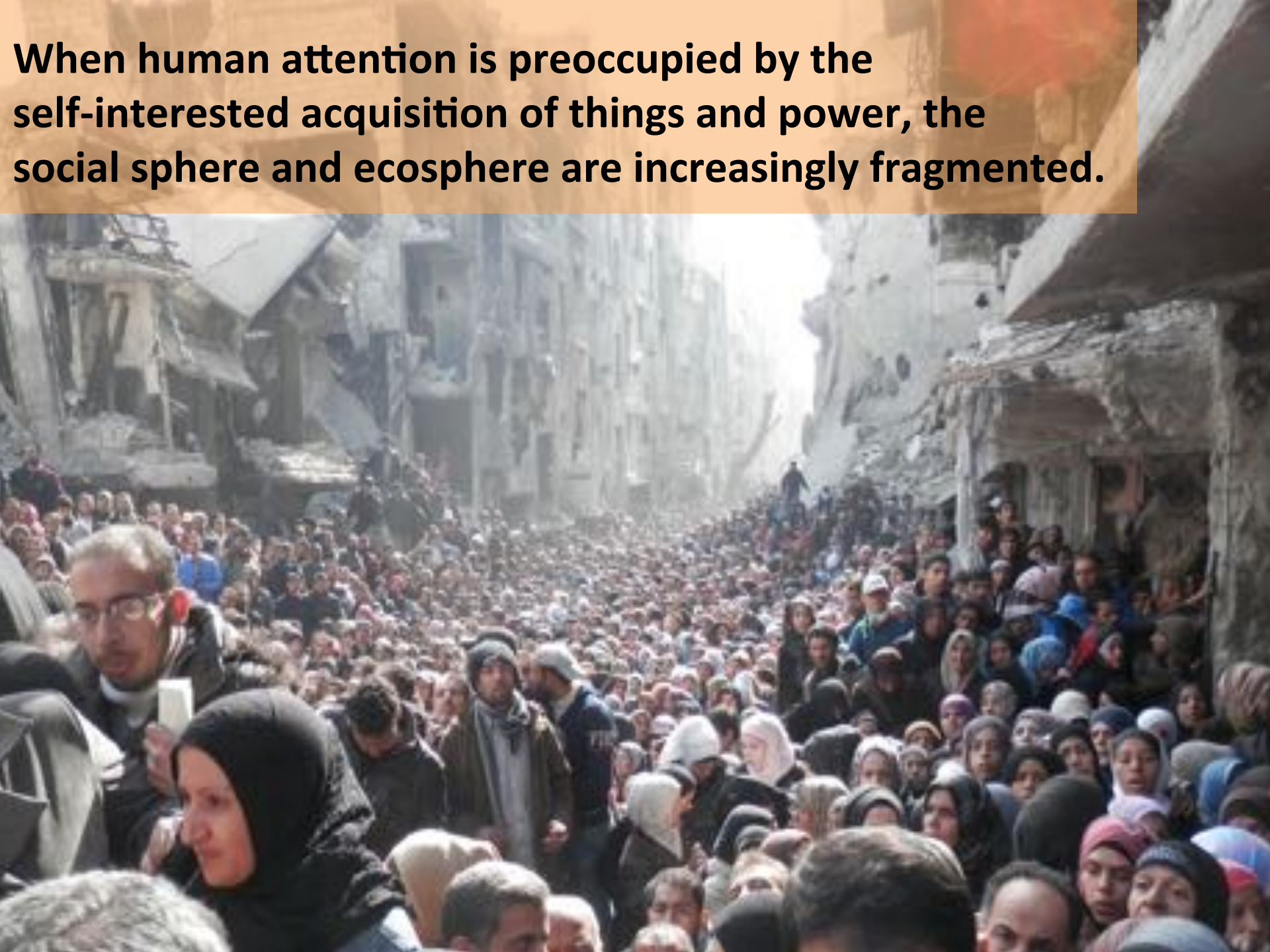
THE COLONIAL MENTALITY RE-FORMS THE LANDSCAPE

The modern landscape reflects a digital age

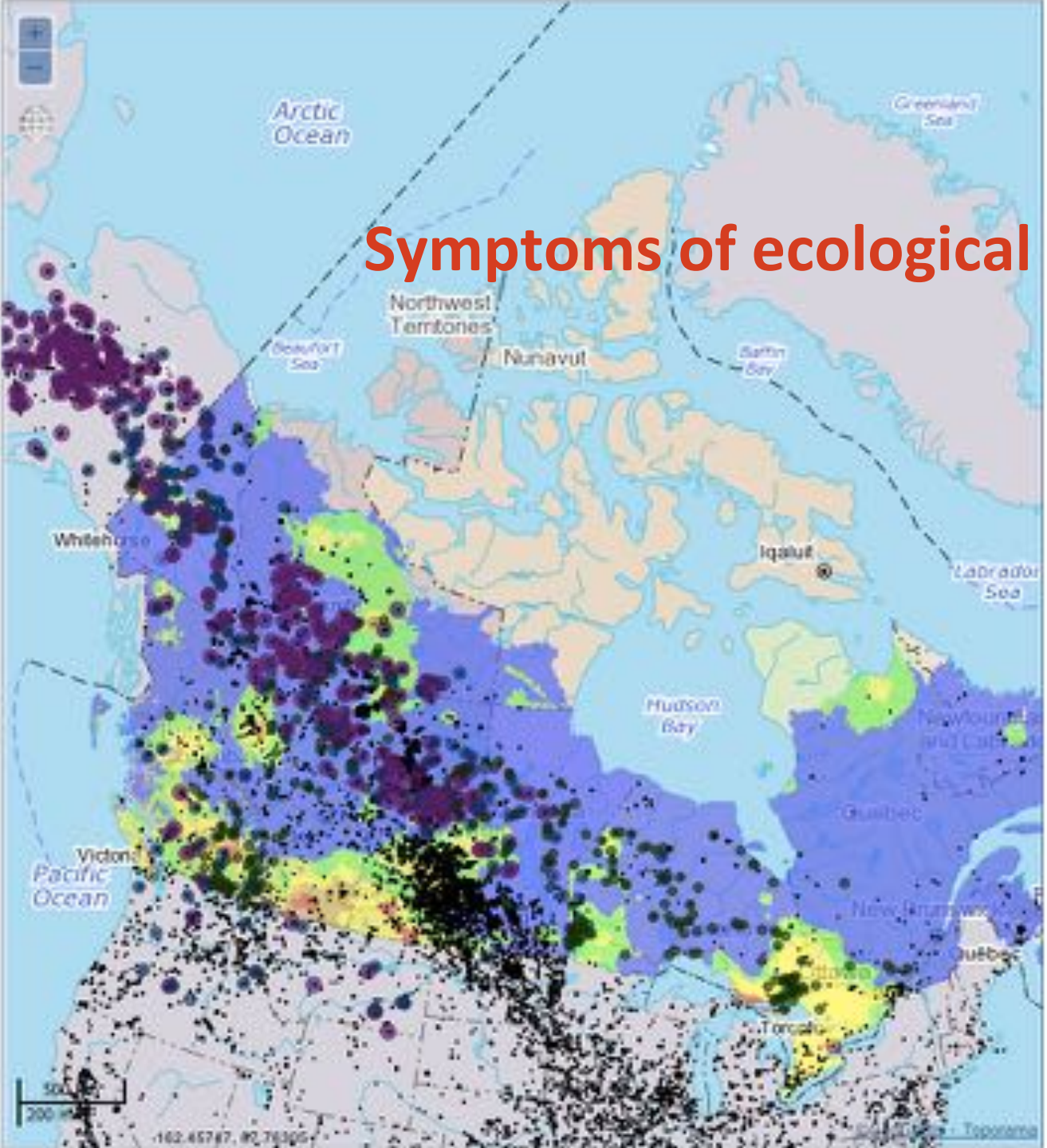
In the Anthropocene, **where** and **how** we focus our attention is increasingly important

It determines the nature of social-ecological space.

When human attention is preoccupied by the self-interested acquisition of things and power, the social sphere and ecosphere are increasingly fragmented.



THE PERMANENT EMERGENCY



Symptoms of ecological fragmentation

An overheated planet

Joining 65 million social and environmental refugees.

NatCatSERVICE

Natural loss events worldwide 2015

Geographical overview

Munich RE

The poor disproportionately impacted

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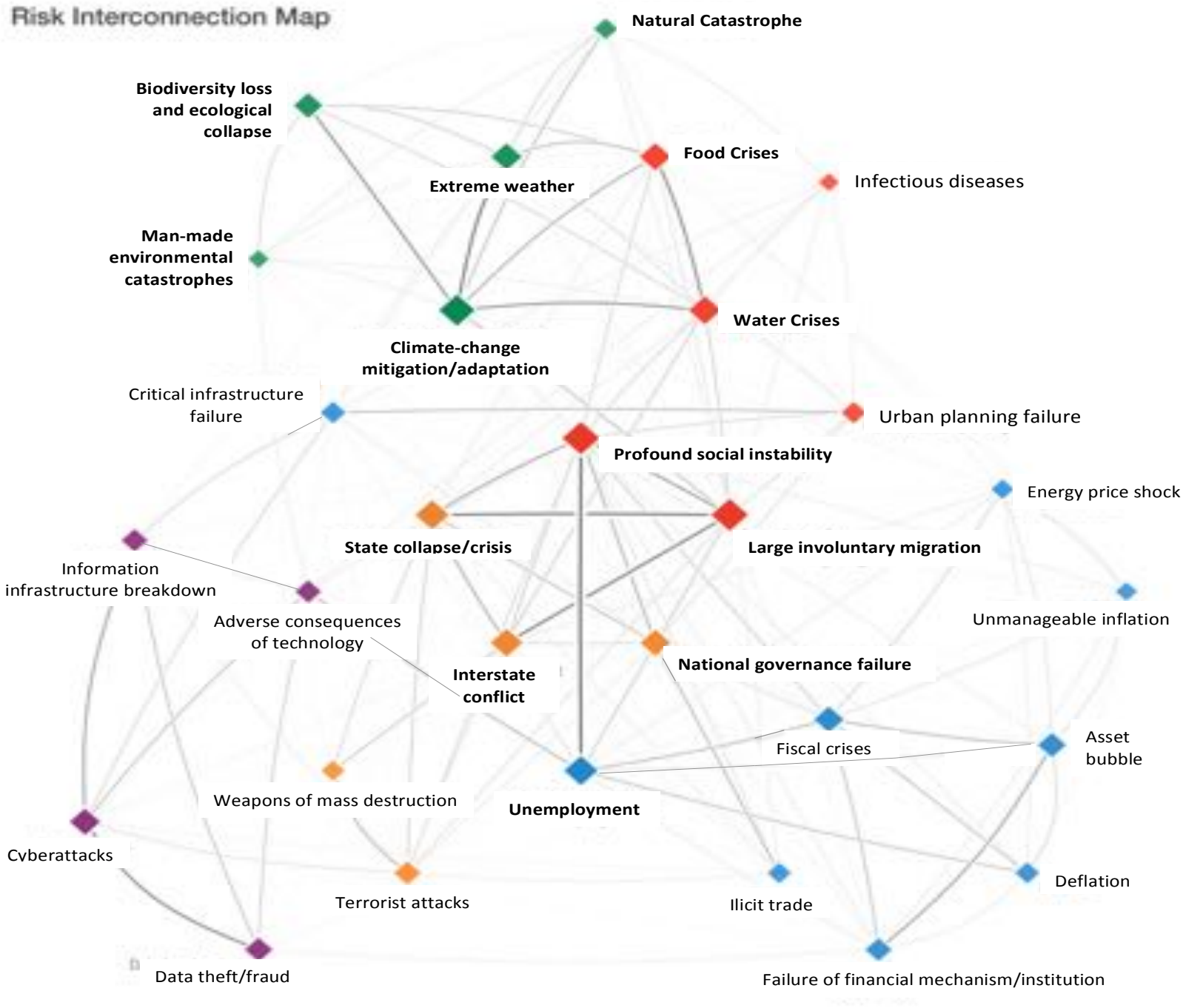
No one is spared

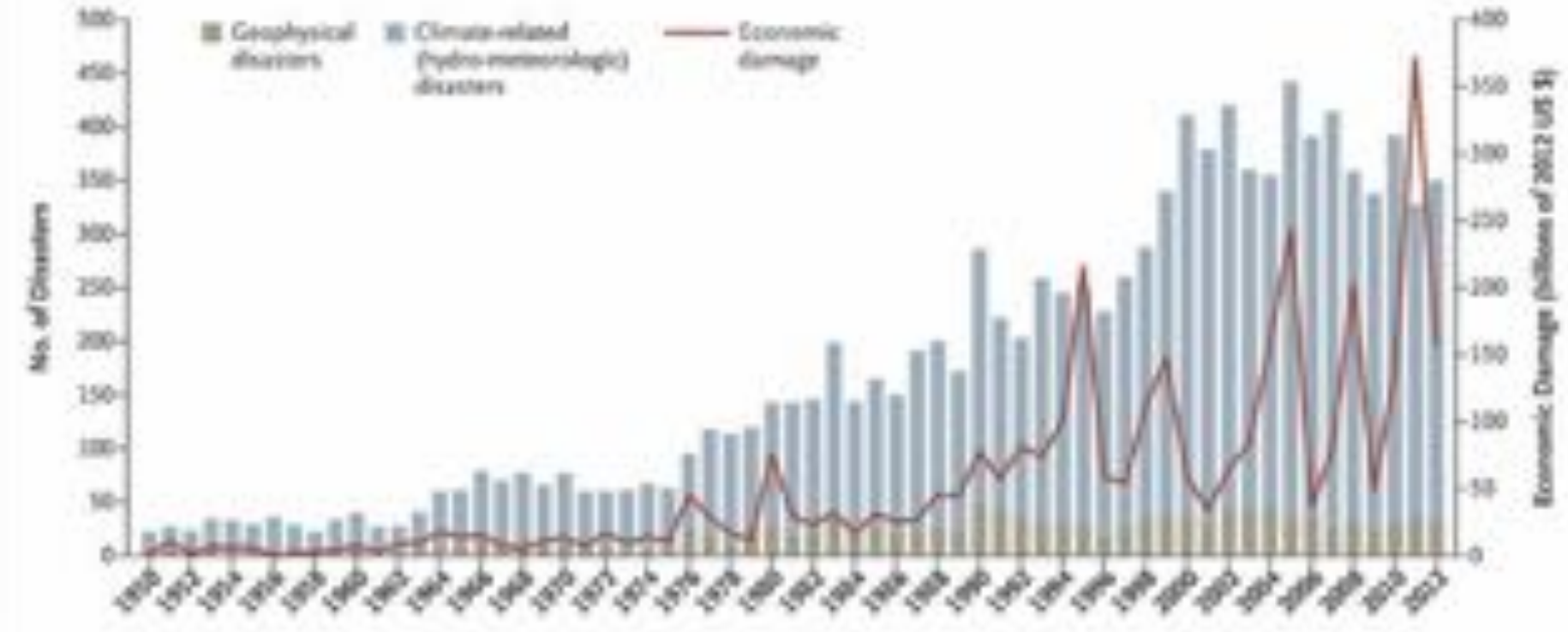
Three major loss events a day


Risk Interconnection Map
Natural Catastrophe
Biodiversity loss and ecological collapse
Extreme weather
Food Crises
Infectious diseases
Man-made environmental catastrophes
Water Crises
Climate-change mitigation/adaptation
Critical infrastructure failure
Urban planning failure
Profound social instability
Energy price shock
State collapse/crisis
Large involuntary migration
Information infrastructure breakdown
Adverse consequences of technology
Unmanageable inflation
Interstate conflict
National governance failure
Fiscal crises
Asset bubble
Weapons of mass destruction
Unemployment
Cyberattacks
Deflation
Terrorist attacks
Ilicit trade
Data theft/fraud
Failure of financial mechanism/institution

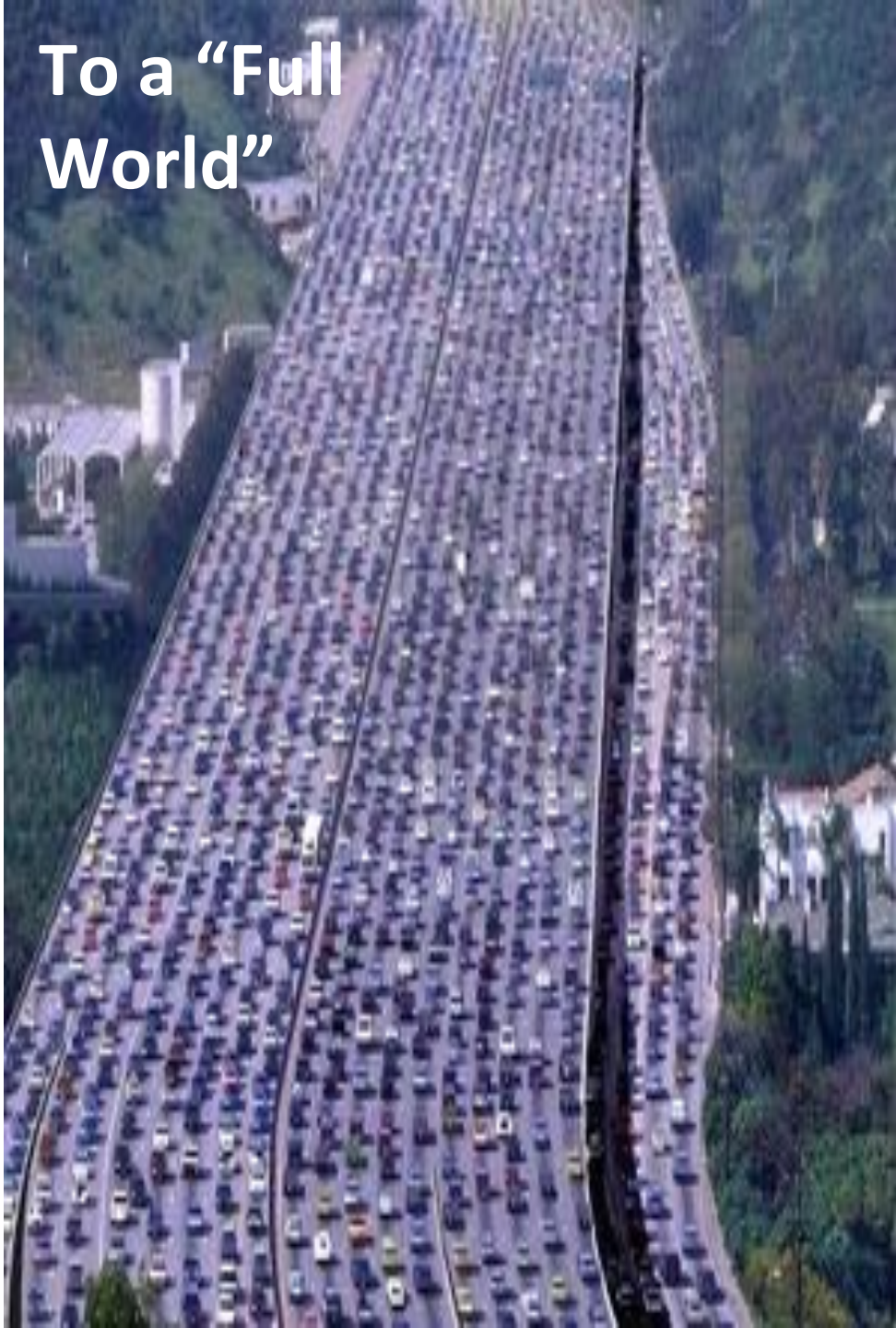
Economic growth becomes *un*-economic growth

Producing more "Illth" than Wealth

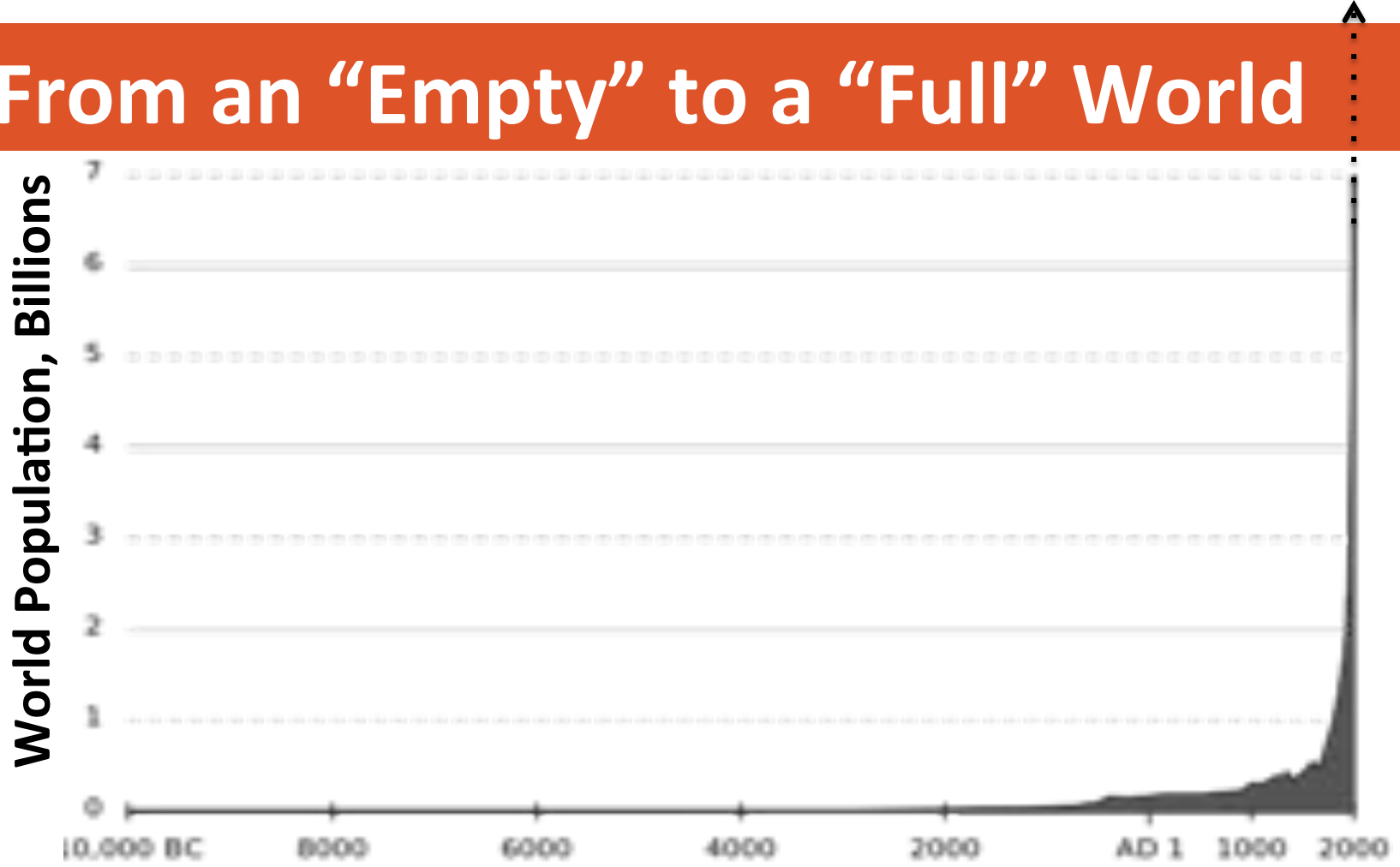
FIGURE 1: NUMBER AND TYPE OF NATIONAL DISASTERS, 1950-2012[5]



We have moved
from an
“Empty World”


To a “Full
World”

From an “Empty” to a “Full” World



10,000 generations for the human population to hit 1 billion (1800)

Six more generations to hit 2 billion (1925)

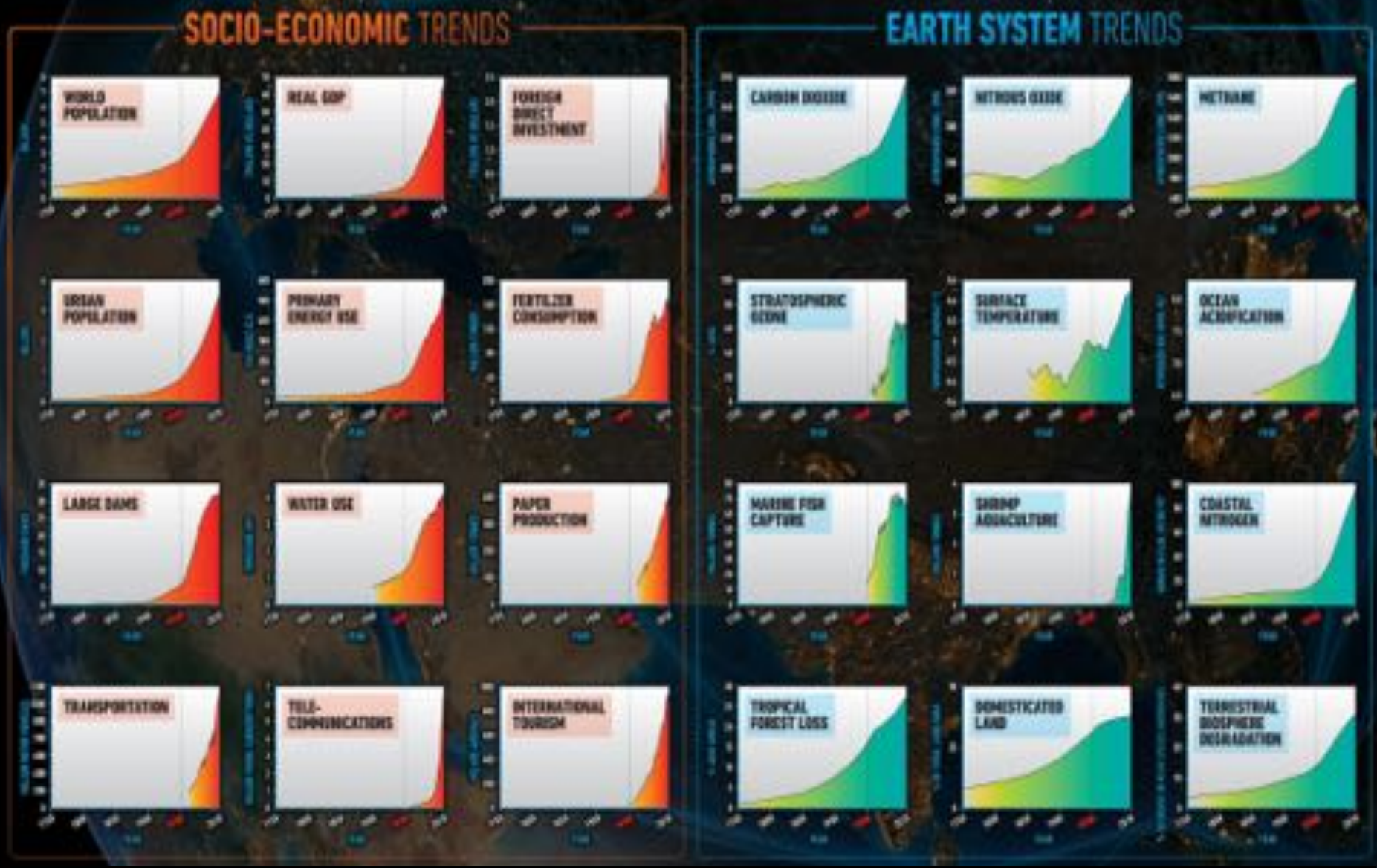
Two more generations to hit 3 billion (1960)

Less than one generation to hit 4 billion (1974)

(and each of the next one billion thresholds) (1987, 1999, 2012)

THE GREAT ACCELERATION

Started in 1950



The use of every kind of resource rises dramatically

THE EXPLODING POPULATION OF THINGS

120,000 malls in North America alone

THE POPULATION OF THINGS

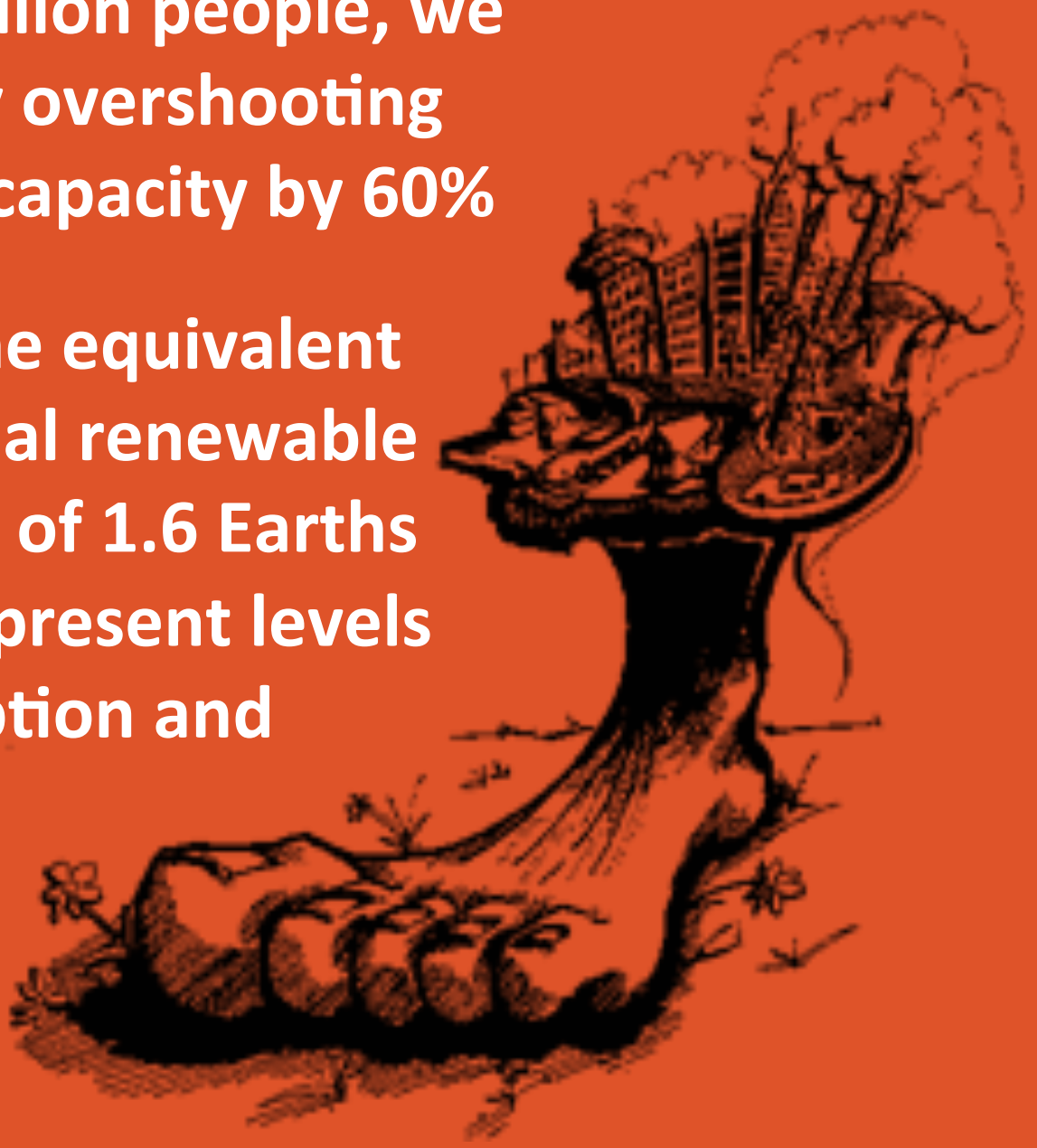
1.7 billion buildings

35 billion barrels of oil/year

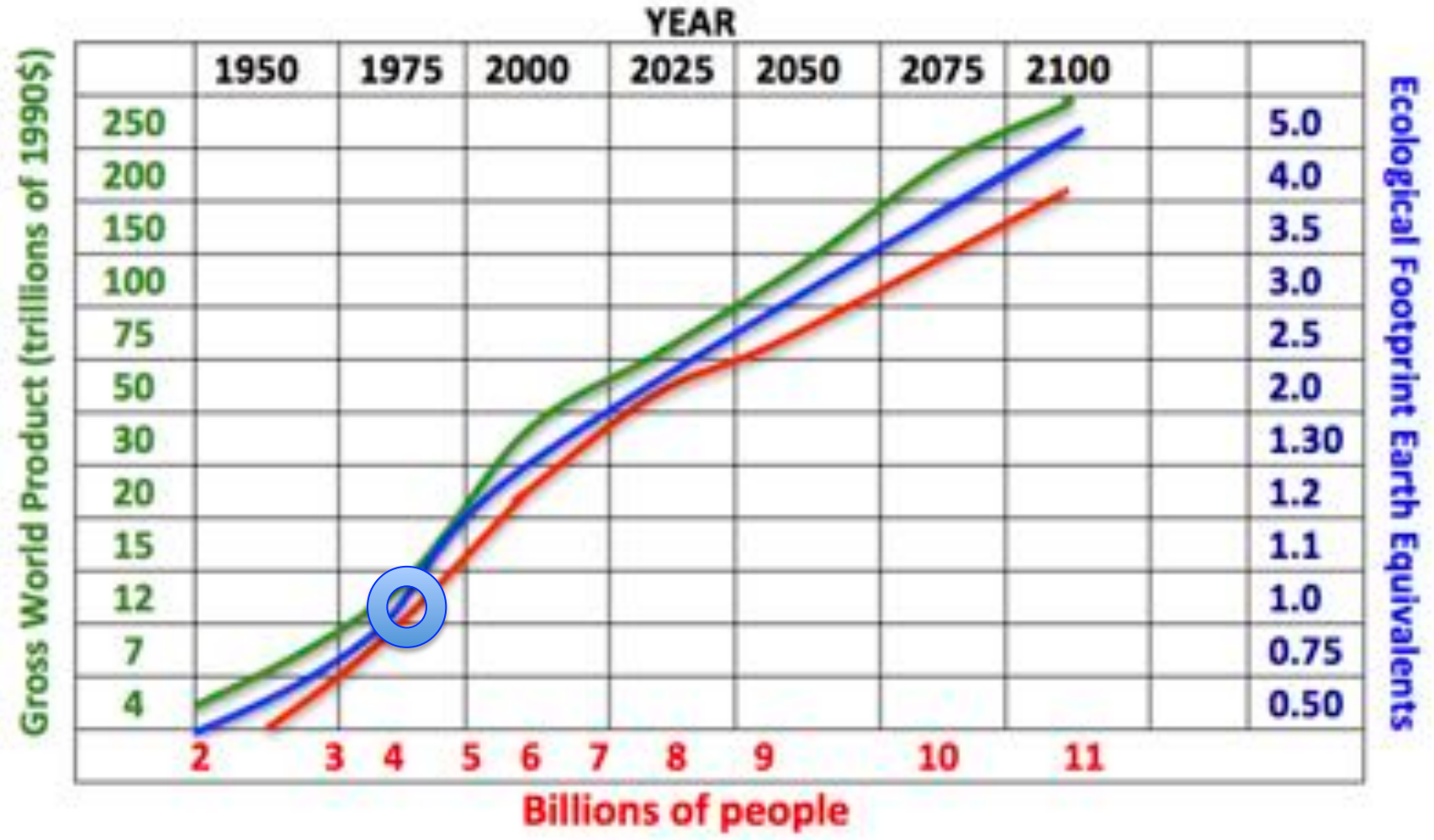
7.5 BILLION

With 7.5 billion people, we are already overshooting Earth's biocapacity by 60%

We need the equivalent of the annual renewable biocapacity of 1.6 Earths to support present levels of consumption and emissions

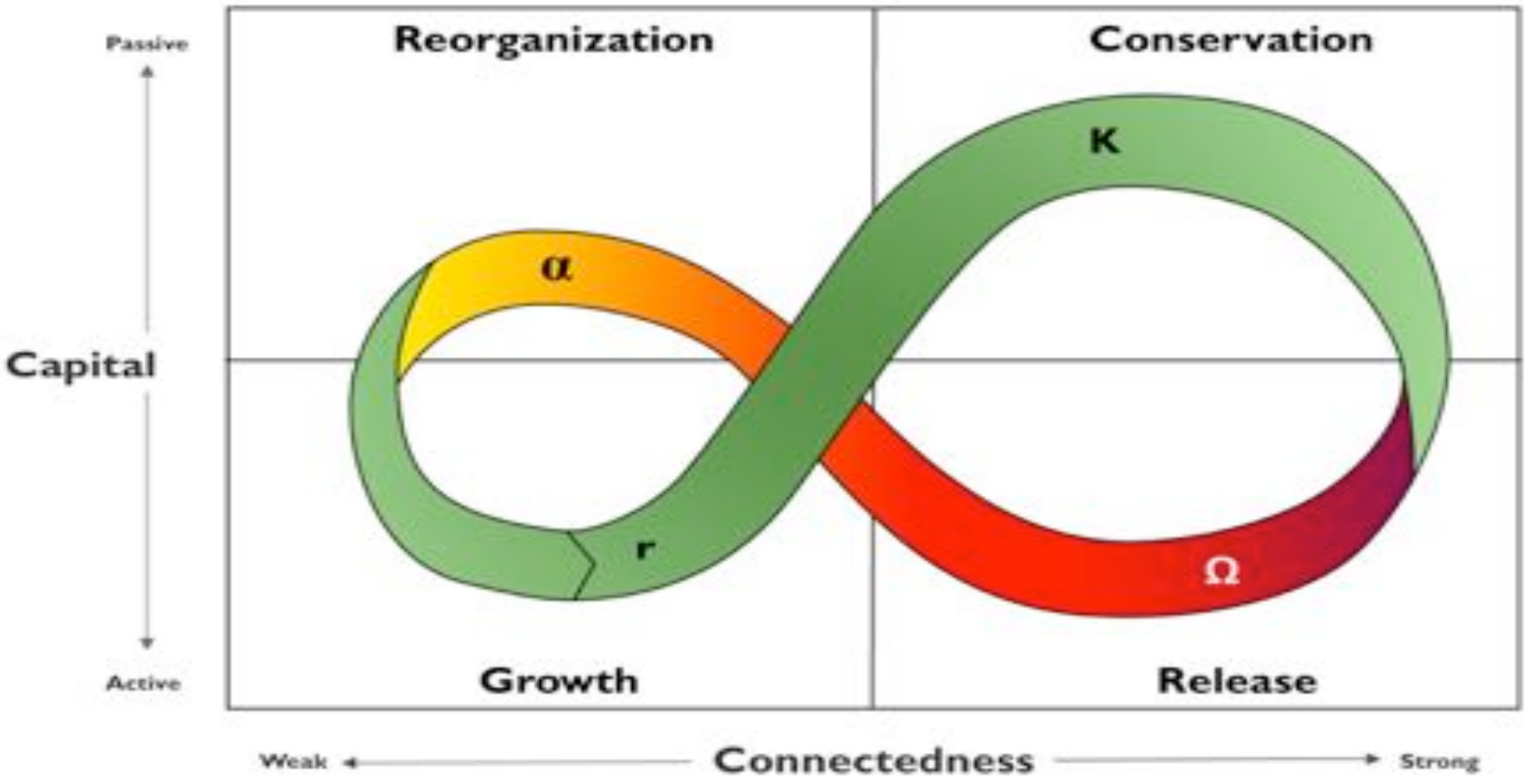


But, we've only just begun



We have to return to a 1975 ecological footprint, the last time our footprint was one earth equivalent

Transformation inevitable in any system



Panarchy Model: change is inveitable

A Major Pulse of Transformation Coming

Respond with diverse adventures in living

From *con*sumers to *pro*sumers

SUSTAINBLE URBAN DESIGN

Västra Hamnen, Europe's first carbon-neutral neighbourhood.

800 million urban gardeners/farmers

Whole nations are changing

Everything
that needs to be done
to make an 11-billion world
just and sustainable

is being done
somewhere, successfully, already

Why aren't they being adopted universally?

HOW DO WE CHANGE?

Political Approach Inadequate

TRANSFORMATION ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE

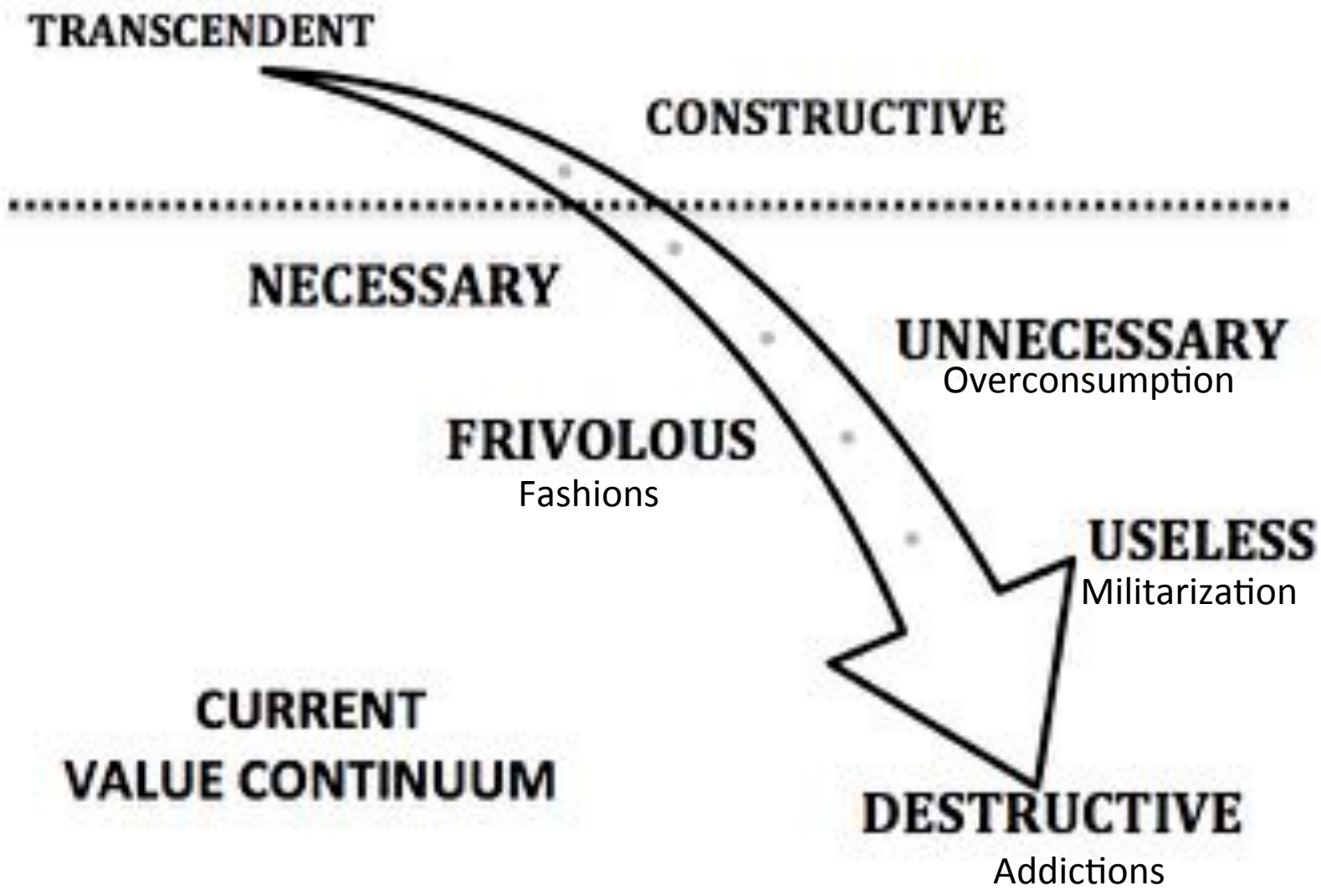
A NEW CULTURE

A NEW AGRICULTURE

A NEW HUMAN RACE

An Ethical Revolution

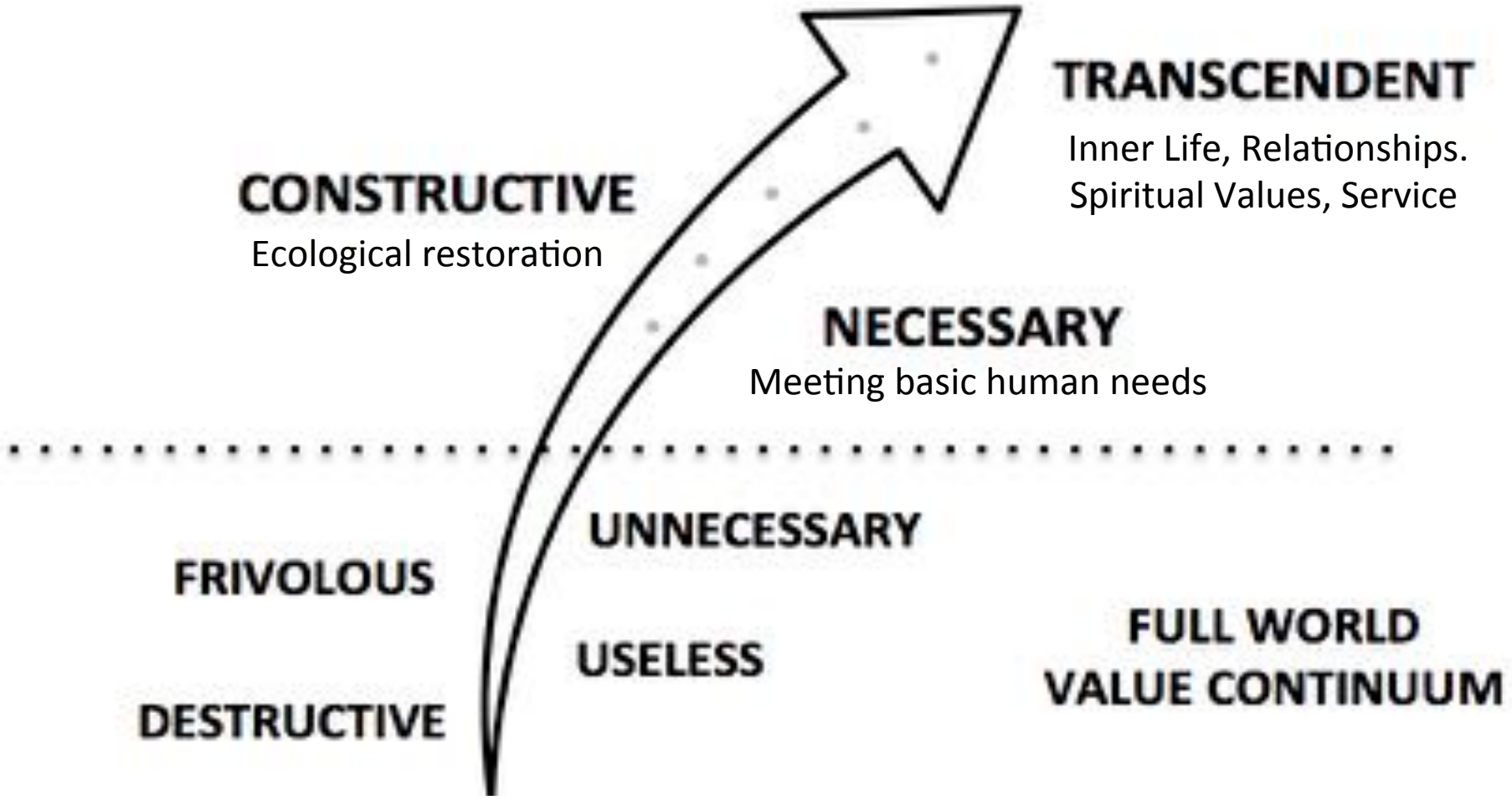
Much of what we value is unnecessary or destructive



Wasted Wealth

Activity	Annual Cost (trillions US$)
Gambling, prostitution and pornography	0.607
Mass media, Live Shows and Sports Events	0.826
Persona Adjustments (Fashion, Fragrance, etc.)	1.165
Junk food	1.500
Perverse subsidies	2.000
Dining and travel (entertainment portion)	2.183
Illness care (due to bad habits)	2.300
Defence spending	2.500
Alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, tranquilizers	2.663
Social costs of alcohol, drugs, tobacco	3.200
Corruption	3.600
Consumer goods (top 20%)	20.000
Total	**42.544**
Percent of Gross World Product	50%+

Flipping what we value releases wealth



for **reconstructing** civilization, **restoring** ecosphere

RIGHT VALUES HELP FOCUS HUMAN ATTENTION ON UNIFIED ACTION

IDEAS TRANSFORM LANDSCAPES

COLLECTIVE FOCUSED HUMAN ATTENTION

Unity of thought and action can move the world

Transforming Our Food and Agriculture Model

Agroecology
2.5 billion small farmers: the pivot of global transformation

Carbon Farming

Focusing Collective Human Attention on Restoring the Ecosphere

3.5 billion hectares degraded worldwide

Support the rural poor to restore land

- Eliminate extreme poverty, hunger
- Increase biocapacity
- Ameliorate climate change
- Avoid migration/permanent emergency

Restoring this much land would be equivalent to creating a new continent

Transformational Processes

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality.

To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

– R. Buckminster Fuller

Steps to Transformation

- Develop capacity to “read reality”
- Develop unity of thought
- Balance material and spiritual
- Develop capacity for service
- Action orientation
- Systematic, planet-wide activities

Individuals, communities, institutions

Retraining ourselves in a new cultural ethos

Millennium Villages

Experiments with holistic models

Harlem Children's Zone

The Ruhi Institute

A process-based approach to individual, cultural, and ecological transformation

Global Participatory Education Movement

Cultural Transformation through Education

A world-wide, grassroots movement to change culture

Addresses spiritual as well as material conditions

Operates at the local level, with global feedback loops

Ultimately involves every community in the world
- rich, middle income, poor
- children, youth, adults

Elevated conversation
Ethical educational
***Service* orientation**
Social *change*

STEPS IN THE SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS IN A VILLAGE/NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY/REGION

THE TRAINING INSTITUTE: A PROCESS FOR BUILDING HUMAN RESOURCES TO EFFECT TRANSFORMATION IN A REGION

Individuals and teams talk to friends, elevate conversation and start activities

Friend

Friend

Friend

A steady flow of individuals through informal training courses:

Course	Subject/activity
1.	Learning to "read our reality" through profound reflection on local and global conditions
2.	Engaging in "elevated' conversation with friends, neighbours, family coworkers
3.	Providing moral education for children.
4.	Learning about inspirational examples and sharing the stories with others.
5.	Animating youth empowerment programs and meeting their families.
6.	Engaging in more organized outreach activities to reach ever-wider circles.
7.	Becoming a tutor and starting study circles.

Coordination from the Regional Institute Board/Area Coordinator

Creating a sacred centre

Children's classes

Junior youth empowerment

Study circles

Ever increasing number of fresh recruits engaged in Institute process

Moving the region to the next stage of development through a systematic program of growth

Accumulated Learning

Reflection Meetings

Administration

A self-sustaining system for the transformation of a population

THE INSTITUTE PROCESS HELPS BUILD COMMUNITY ↕ **COMMUNITY DRIVES THE INSTITUTE PROCESS.**

Institutions

Local Councils

- Nurture human potential
- Help build capacity
- Properly assess/use resources
- Nurture environment conducive to unified action
- Mobilize resources
- Improve administrative function

Coordinators

- Mobilizing participants
- Collaboration with cluster agencies/councils

Community

An arena in which powers are multiplied in unified action

- Establishes an nurturing environment
- Maintains focus on advancing process of growth
- Develops a unified vision and sense of common purpose
- Engages in collective action
- Creates a space for heightened discourse at the village/neighbourhood level
- Raises needed funds
- Incorporates the arts

Individual

- Engage in profound study
- Take initiative
- Engage in acts of service
- Accompany others in service
- Elevate conversations
- Participate in institute process

As resources increase it becomes possible to contribute to broader social discourse and engage in concrete socio-ecological development activities

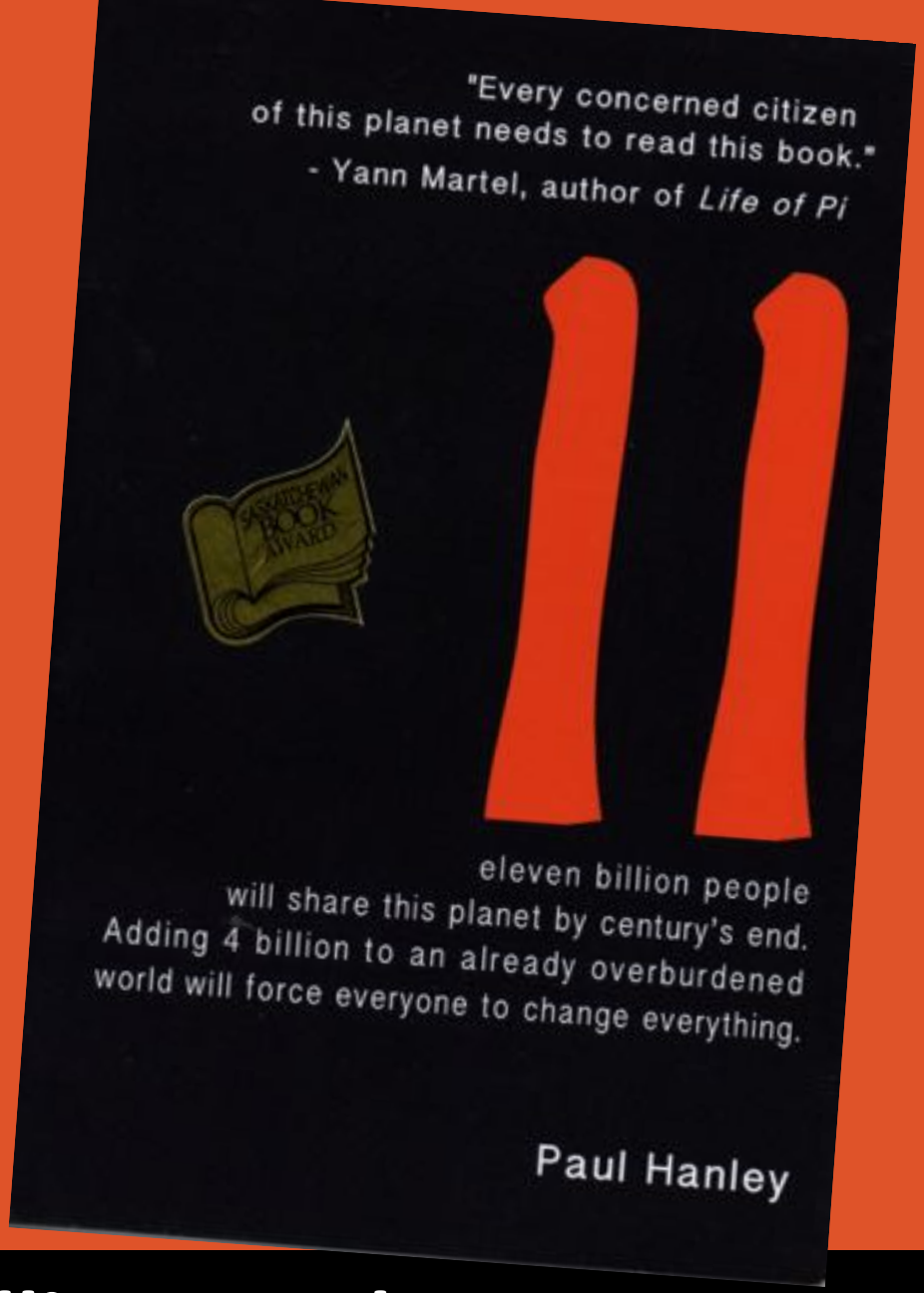
HUMAN UNITY IS THE PREREQUISITE FOR REINTEGRATING THE ECOSPHERE

CHANGING OUR INNER WORLD/RELATIONSHIPS ALSO CHANGES THE OUTER WORLD

HEALING THE PLANET WILL HELP UNITE HUMANKIND

ELEVEN

Paper and ebooks available from most online bookstores



www.elevenbillionpeople.com