

GOVERNMENT FOR A NEW TOMORROW

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Are humans too big to fail?

In the United States, an election is looming. In Europe, countries are struggling economically, and the very future of the EU is being put to the test. In the Middle East, Arab Spring countries are shaking off their oppressive leaders and regimes. Even in countries experiencing economic prosperity, all is not well.

What is it going to take for us to realize that the present course of human affairs is not working? That a “better leader” or “a new constitution” or “a more liberal government” is not going to solve our problems, but will simply replace one corrupt model with another, with us in our all-too-familiar roles as victims.

“Oh, but our new leader will take care of us and respond to our needs.” Don’t count on it. Your leaders have risen to the top in the current system—the last thing they are going to do is give up their power. If there is going to be change, we must tell them what we want, what we insist on, and what future we choose to pursue.

Our message is not geared towards liberals or conservatives, or to political parties that represent these extremes of opinion. It doesn’t favor democracy over communism or any other ideology. It represents the uniting of those worldwide who aspire to the best humans can achieve. We are MODERATES—the 99% who work, raise families, and pay taxes. Wisdom lies with us.

Chapter 1

WHAT’S WRONG WITH THE TOMORROW WE CURRENTLY LOOK FORWARD TO?

- It’s not sustainable
- It’s too complicated
- It is not aligned with how humans live
- Those who would “help” us are taking away our initiative and determination. We are de-maturing. Greed and fear have all but robbed us of passion, purpose, and self-determination, and the values of honesty, sincerity, and integrity
- Central governments and big corporations have opened the gates to graft, corruption, abuses of power, destruction, even murder
- There are more people than the Earth can support; however, that is not the root cause, but is itself a symptom of a deeper dilemma

FOR EXAMPLE:

- 1 Scientists estimate that, as the world adopts Western levels of consumption (as they are rapidly doing), the resources of four planet Earths will be required to support the population.

- 2 Schools and education in the United States:
 - Children in the United States today, for the first time, are less educated than their parents
 - And, again for the first time, they also earn less than their parents
 - But, a new and more concerning dubious milestone—for the first time ever, despite all our advances in medicine and nutrition, today’s children aren’t living as long as their parents!
- 3 Another recent dubious milestone — deaths from prescription drug abuse are now more common in the United States than deaths from car accidents!
- 4 The Arab Spring is showing that the people can and want to throw off oppressive regimes. The big, wealthy, powerful governments to which these countries aspire are not succeeding either. The United States and Europe are bleeding wealth, technology, and power at an unprecedented pace—WE ARE EXPERIENCING THE GREATEST TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. And to whom are we giving our wealth? To parts of Asia, including communist countries who are known to steal our advancements and technology. And to the Middle East, some factions of which want the west destroyed. It was these factions who attacked us on 9/11- and on that very day, before during and after the attacks, we continued to pay them millions of dollars to feed our addiction for oil.
- 5 While the U.S. is \$16 trillion in debt, with China as the largest lender, we continue to give China foreign aid!
- 6 Conceding that climate change may be caused by many factors, if we are doing anything to accelerate or alter the Earth’s climate or environment, we must stop. As polar ice caps melt*, the white ice turns into black water. White reflects the sun’s rays, black absorbs it. So, the more ice that melts, the faster the heat from the sun is absorbed, raising the Earth’s temperature and causing accelerated melting. This is why glacial melting is exceeding previous estimates. Black carbon (which is residue from human factories and automobiles) further accelerates this melting process.

* According to Natural Resources Defense Council, average temperatures in the Arctic region are rising twice as fast as they are elsewhere in the world. Arctic ice is getting thinner, melting and rupturing. For example, the largest single block of ice in the Arctic, the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf, had been around for 3,000 years before it started cracking in 2000. Within two years it had split all the way through and is now breaking into pieces.

- 7 The Earth’s surface is one-quarter land and three-quarters ocean. Yet, humans have so polluted the oceans (with toxic chemicals) that pregnant women are told to avoid eating fish, because toxins like mercury, though they don’t have an immediate impact on the mother, accumulate in the fetus.*

* American Pregnancy Association

Besides toxic chemicals, the oceans also support a floating human garbage dump, twice the size of Texas—there are one hundred million tons of plastic and waste floating in our oceans. No one knows how it could be cleaned up.

- 8 Banks and investment companies continue to find new ways to bend the rules and laws in order to steal from us. We are going bankrupt while financial leaders accumulate millions of dollars. One insider says there is no way of knowing what these organizations are doing, because their reach is global, and no one person can monitor all the variations and loopholes that are being contrived. When a new law is passed, tactics to circumvent it are quickly devised.
- 9 As the West (Europe and the United States) struggles to respond to and deal with the incursion of opposing ideologies (communism, Islam, etc.), what we don't acknowledge is that years of power, abuse, and manipulation of these developing countries by the west, including the exploiting of people for cheap labor and our continuing addiction to cheap goods and oil, has interfered with the natural growth and progress of these peoples. For instance, decades ago the West divided up the Ottoman Empire into the Middle East boundaries and countries we see today. Likewise, the West created the countries that are now Africa, and continue to exploit the resources and people (labor) of these countries, often without regard for their welfare, their progress, their path, and what is best for them.
- 10 Add to this:
 - Economic deterioration in the United States and Europe
 - Declining status of education and children's health (our future) in the United States
 - Ideological differences between the West and East
 - Distrust of anyone in power or authority, including governments, banks, investment companies and corporations (e.g., the Occupy Movement)

No example better illustrates the nightmare scenario of corporate Lobbying and its affect on government than the story of high-rolling lobbyist Jack Abramoff. This lobbyist pleaded guilty to several federal corruption charges in 2006 and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors investigating Washington influence-peddling. He admitted to illegally showering gifts on officials who provided favors for his clients, in a probe that led to convictions or guilty pleas for 20 lobbyists and public officials — including Ohio GOP congressman Bob Ney and Stephen Griles, the Bush administration's deputy interior secretary.

Abramoff served three and a half years in prison for conspiracy, fraud and tax evasion. In an interview, he said the reforms imposed after his guilty pleas have had little effect because campaign finance problems remain untouched.

Chapter 2

GOOD NEWS

What if ALL these problems were not problems at all, but symptoms? Symptoms of a common root cause. So that by correcting the cause, the symptoms, one by one, will quickly and almost magically begin to self-correct.

“I know what the root cause is. It’s over-population.”

No, even as basic a concern as over-population is but a symptom. The cause is something deeper, older, and (happily) simpler (not easier, but simpler).

Chapter 3

SO WHAT IS THE ROOT CAUSE?

To get to this underlying cause, we have to go back into early history. Remember in the history books, Egyptians were building the pyramids, and fighting wars, at the bidding of the rich and powerful leaders. What can we learn from this?

Well, we can observe that, already in ancient times, humans had compromised their lives, abandoning their groups and communities in favor of subservience and bondage to a larger body (powerful rulers, government).

Since humans had been living in groups continuously for over three million years, something pretty compelling must have caused them to abandon that lifestyle. What was it? At root, it was fear and greed.

Approx. 7000 years ago, we succumbed to a sales pitch. It was probably quite appealing because life was hard and we wanted desperately to believe in a better, easier, safer way.

The pitch: for just a few pennies a day and a pledge of a little of your allegiance and time, we will protect you, give you more power than the next village, assure you of more goods and services with less work.

This was at the time that we ‘knew ourselves,’ the dawn of human self-awareness. This was the time when Eve ate the apple (the fruit of the tree of knowledge), and Adam (typical man!) was tempted to try it too. Greed and fear, the two emotions of stock market fame, overrode freedom, passion, courage, conviction, purpose. Thus deluded, we believed a lie that never was, and can never be (that someone else can make decisions for us and take care of us). That was 7000 years ago, and we continue to believe those same lies today, all over the developed and developing world, in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

That lie is destroying us. If we don't courageously expose the lie and embrace the truth, no matter how painful and inconvenient, our days are numbered. That may be fine for the progression of life, which will go on - other intelligent species will emerge. But, it isn't going to be fine for you and me. As long as I can breathe and think, I will not settle for being a member of an obsolete and dying species if there is any way I can change that or make it better.

Q: Are you and I, us humans, so untrustworthy as to need to be managed, led, and controlled? It's OK if we Want to be – but do we Need to be?

Chapter 4

IF THAT PITCH WAS A LIE, WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

- 1 Humans in their natural state live in small, intimate groups, communities, villages, tribes
- 2 We interact face-to-face in our community. We are not solitary like bears, nor are we hive animals like ants or bees or termites
- 3 In a community, each of us is known, needed. Others know about us. There are no masses of teeming, anonymous, faceless humans roaming the streets with nothing to do, countries without work, rampant sexual disease*, millions of orphans

* Can you imagine? Reproduction, the most basic of universal biological functions, and humans have so abused that natural act that we have contracted and spread massive reproductive disease!

If the above is the truth of how our species, humans, live naturally and healthily and happily, then what?

- 1 The locus of power must shift from governments and dictators and leaders to humans in their communities. The rule: government does NOTHING that humans can do for themselves (and that is practically everything)
- 2 Thanks to technology, the world's communities can communicate, help each other, decide what does and doesn't happen in world affairs
- 3 Governments are reduced to small entities, charged with those few remaining tasks that transcend communities (such as global commerce; protecting our shores; etc.). Everything else we do for ourselves, in our communities
- 4 Government agents and politicians have NO power to make decisions or drive projects important to them. They act ONLY on the wishes of those they represent
- 5 We, all of us, people, shops, farms and businesses alike, get a HUGE and immediate raise, proceeds from the reduced cost of government, including the graft, corruption, waste, and interest that has put us massively in debt (the interest on our debt alone costs over \$400 billion a year in the U.S.). All these billions and trillions will return to us to use in our families and communities
- 6 Once transferred, we will have to continually fight to keep our power where it belongs – in

your and my community

GLIDING – How Life COULD Be

Picture yourself silently gliding over the Earth, rivers and mountains and valleys, animals and plants and colors and noises, clean air, blue skies, white clouds. And at intervals, small groups of humans, living sustainably, in balance with their environment and the rest of life on Earth. And these worldwide communities are in virtual communication via technology with each other, helping and supporting and sharing ideas, health information, technologies.

At present, our view is interrupted by sprawling cities with smoke and slums; by war and killing; by natural and nuclear disasters (most natural disasters are only disasters because there is such a glut of humans that a natural event, normal for the planet and the rest of life on it, becomes a disaster). We are also shocked to see vast plains where vital rainforests once stood, garbage in the ocean twice the size of Texas, polar ice caps melting, air pollution, holes in our atmosphere (ozone layer), and a changed global climate.

But in the new paradigm, where humans live naturally, sustainably, in concert with the rest of life (instead of fighting nature and needing to conquer and control it), we see Earth's beauty unpolluted and undestroyed, healthy glaciers, clean air and oceans. We see forests and valleys and plants and animals, and at intervals enclaves of humans living in communities, youth involved, all working toward a common goal of survival and prosperity, each community with a slightly different set of goals and priorities.

Are there clashes within communities? Yes. Between them? Yes. But they are handled locally – violence is rare. That is what passionate human life is about.

Chapter 5

MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY. I WANT MY FREEDOM

The illusion that each of us can just move somewhere and live independently is a sham – humans don't live like that, never have, never will. But let me emphasize that THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S COMMUNITY (although I personally long for that simpler time). Picture yourself gliding again, and stopping at the first community you see. This community is NOT begging at the coffers of big government for roads and schools and welfare and food stamps and unemployment, and all the money that the government spends (AND WASTES) on these services has been returned to the community. So you have a prosperous community, but one that owns its own success, its fate, its destiny. Little cottage industries are springing up, to provide local products and services, products and services sold to other communities. Global corporations, banks, investment companies, etc. no longer influence our lives with their money and power, but simply provide goods, services, and employment community by community. They are transparent – for every institution, we know what they do, who they are affiliated with, where the money we spend

with them goes. The day of backroom deals is over.

Technology connects communities all over the world, making this kind of global-to-local commerce efficient and profitable. Governments level the global playing field for these activities, assuring that we all equally have a voice—but that is ALL they do. So ... don't want to be a member of a community? GET OVER IT!

Chapter 6

JUSTICE, FAIRNESS, HONESTY, TRUTH

These words and concepts have been around as long as we have had a conscience, morals, laws, and prisons. But what do they really mean?

Take the example of a blue jay, which snatches an acorn from a squirrel that is carrying it away. A few minutes later, a bigger blue jay snatches it from the mouth of the smaller. Are these 'transactions' just? fair? honest? truthful?

We could have an interesting discussion on these questions, but we can agree on one thing – these transactions are REAL. With humans, the same can be said. After all the laws are written and the sermons preached, humans are going to be real. Laws and rules that you and I abide by, others find ways to get around. And we ALL justify the things we do – we concoct reasons why we are an exception (“if you'd been in my situation, you'd have done the same thing!”), and therefore such-and-such a rule doesn't apply to us.

And of course those in positions of wealth and power can influence markets, governments, voters. They can buy lawyers to create doubt in cases for which you and I would be found guilty, thereby bending the rules you and I live by to further their selfish ends.

ARE YOU SAYING LIFE ISN'T FAIR? THEN HOW DOES CIVILIZATION WORK?

In a word, it works SIMPLY. Easy, but hard:

The easy part – take back, demand, the return of our power to US in our villages, tribes, communities (and bring the massive cost of government and corporate waste, graft, and corruption, back to us also). Hereafter, if we choose to bend the rules, we will do it in full view of our families and neighbors and the members of our community. Erase the complexity by reducing government and restricting corporations, banks, and global institutions.

The hard part – we are going to have to retake responsibility for every facet of our own lives, in our families and communities. And then fight to keep it, because it is human nature to slip back, take the easy way, shove our problems off onto someone else. This move is going to take maturity, courage, and sacrifice. We are going to do the adult thing, and sacrifice NOW instead of kicking the can

forward to our children and grandchildren (when it may be too late). But the rewards are passion, purpose, 100% lives, lives well lived, children happy and successful and engaged and trained for life in their community. Are you up for that? I am!

“If not us, who? If not now, when?”

CRIME, DRUGS, VIOLENCE, TERRORISM, WAR, MURDER

In community, the group supports the success of every member, young and old alike. Those who have slipped through the cracks will now be known, needed, even wanted in their community. Instead of bucking the system and challenging authority, they will be shaping the system, learning from authority, and then assuming that authority. With power in community, the numbers in the court system and jails will plummet.

On the subject of drugs, illegal drug use in the U.S. is affecting other nations and cultures. Remember the adage “Do no harm.” Illegal drug use must stop. But legal (prescription) drugs are also being abused in skyrocketing proportions – more people now die in this country from prescription drug abuse than from car accidents! Our addictions to drugs, alcohol, food, sex, gambling, drama, and dumbing-down must also stop. And they WILL, when we transfer our power and energy to community.

A comment on PARENTING: One of my hats involves being a middle-school teacher, and what doesn't seem to get much current attention is the raw material that is being sent to our schools. Teachers are supposed to teach – good ones can motivate, make their subjects interesting, get the students involved, enable them to be active participants in their own education. But teachers CANNOT perform the role of parents. The raw material sent to schools will improve dramatically when the responsibility for education is owned by each community.

Chapter 7

HOW PRACTICAL IS THIS SHIFT OF POWER TO COMMUNITY?

If this new path was even possible, how could it work?

Chapter 8 lays it out in easy-to-follow steps. But first, what are the results you can expect?

- 1 Recession is replaced by prosperity
- 2 Prosperity leads to abundant jobs in EVERY corner of the globe
- 3 People are so busy in their families and communities that they stop hating and killing each other
- 4 The big nations of the West, now with power re-directed to the local community, stop manipulating and exploiting cultures and peoples who should be (and should have always been) left alone

- 5 The blight of human population automatically begins to adjust to healthy, sustainable levels. Prosperous communities have no incentive to bloat their population beyond healthy and sustainable levels, based on their particular environment, situation, and goals
- 6 We enjoy bountiful prosperity, as we stop paying 50% of everything we make in taxes, most of it for promised services we never see
- 7 Children, youth, the future, take on a whole new passion and joy when raised by the community
- 8 Government and corporations and other global entities now come to US, in our communities. They are transparent – if they do business in my community, everything important to know about their business, their interests, their partnerships and links is available to me
- 9 Communities look different. Instead of cities, businesses, factories in one place, homes in another, everything is local, available in the community. Technology will make this much easier to implement. Instead of spending billions shoring up rotting infrastructure (bridges, highways, pipelines), we need to move toward this new community model, in which most of the infrastructure can be provided by the community itself

And for those skeptics among you, those who require proof – you won't have to wait until the steps below are implemented to see the above benefits. **YOU WILL BEGIN TO SEE THEM IMMEDIATELY, ONCE THE STEPS ARE BEGUN.**

Chapter 8

THE STEPS

Beginning immediately, transfer power away from impersonal governments and regimes to us locally and globally in our communities.

Reduce the size of governments, while retaining a small constitutional government body to protect the rights and safety of all.

Transfer the cost, waste, graft, and corruption of government directly and immediately back to us in our communities, to be used to manage our OWN affairs.

RULE: Government does NOTHING for us that we can do for ourselves.

Continue the reduction of government until governments are again true public servants, acting ONLY on behalf of those they represent, with NO decision-making ability or powers or financial (conflicting) interests of their own.

Restrain the power and influence of large corporations, banks, and institutions.

Chapter 9

HOW COULD WE DO THIS IN THE U.S.?

Immediate 5% across-the-board reduction in government, followed by equal reductions every quarter. These savings are returned to us in our communities and families, via:

- 1 Immediate reduction in amount withheld from our pay *
- 2 For companies, immediate reduction in amount paid in quarterly tax filings *

* At first, a small amount (0.5%) will be withheld from the 5%, with the remaining 4.5% immediately returned. The 0.5% will be used to pay down the national debt (currently \$14 trillion in the U.S.) to a balanced and manageable level. After that, the full 5% will be returned to us.

As government size and power are steadily reduced, the remaining government employees and representatives will return to their intended level of authority. They will again be public servants, acting ONLY on the wishes of their constituents. They will no longer have any power or decision-making ability of their own.

Corporations, banks, and institutions will be restrained by an addition to the monopoly law (described in more detail in Chapter 13). They will practice and publish their transparency status at all times – we will know what these bodies are doing, where our money is going, who they are affiliated with. They will also no longer benefit from lobbying or from donating to politicians and political parties. They will no longer influence America's path, because we have a government of the people, and it is those people (not the 1% who are able to apply influence, wealth, and power) who must choose our desired path, our vision, our mission, our long-term goal. We must return morality to the decisions we make, asking not "How much money can we make?" but "What is in the best interest of our society now, and in our children's generation and beyond?" And if in doubt ... DON'T DO IT!

DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS TAKES POWER

A community, country, or species united with a common purpose and cause holds mighty power, the power to literally move mountains. At present, humans are powerless because we have no common vision, are frustrated and impotent, and don't know how to change. Just a small group of us, a tiny critical mass, are enough to begin to turn society and humanity in a new and sustainable direction.

How can we NOT succeed? What would we give to have our passion, purpose, zest for life, prosperity, restored? Taking care of our fellow community members, children seeing all we do, no more corrupt politicians and regimes, no more bribery for routine services, no more theft and law-breaking by greedy businesses and individuals.

Chapter 10

WHAT COUNTRY WILL LIKELY BE THE FIRST TO START?

The U.S. is a prime candidate, because it has become what its Founding Fathers feared most. European countries, especially those currently experiencing difficult political and economic challenges, would find a surge of prosperity by adopting this new paradigm.

Arab Spring countries are also prime candidates. They have already thrown off their oppressive governments. They have always been community/tribal-based, so the marriage of a small, balanced constitution with a strong and renewed emphasis on community and tribe, will open their gates to a future of prosperity. Developing countries in Africa and the Middle East will also find that this approach complements their way of life. Asian countries, because of their strong emphasis on family and community, are ideal candidates. Finally, communist countries might find that this approach to governance complements their philosophy.

Is this either a liberal or conservative approach? No. It should be equally appealing to both sides, but it can be described as the Moderate Approach. If our cause is just, we will rise above the radical lefts and rights and provide the needed middle ground for the 99% who pay the bills and deserve a world where their rights, their freedom, their passion and purpose are maximized.

Chapter 11

WHAT IF ALL GOVERNMENTS DON'T GO ALONG?

WARNING: A community or nation might choose not to adopt this new model. That's OK - this new model will prove to be so attractive and successful that, over time, they will be drawn to it. But to those reluctant factions, BE WARNED – posing a threat, making a threat, being a threat or a global bully will be met with immediate worldwide resistance. We, globally, are trying to return to a healthy and sustainable state. You can choose not to join that vision, but you will NOT threaten this new movement for the rest of us.

Chapter 12

ECONOMICS

Keynesian economics, the principles of Thomas Locke and Thomas Hobbes, may work for the rich and powerful, in large central governments, but complex theories have no place in the reality of human life in community – budgeting, making purchases and paying bills, living within our means, making ends meet, storing up savings for a rainy day. Macro-economic theory is not compatible

with how people naturally live.

In the U.S.: Happy, healthy people don't borrow \$16 trillion, the majority of that from a competitive and communist country. Happy, healthy humans don't borrow trillions from China, then send them foreign aid!

In Europe: People don't borrow billions of Euros that they can't repay, even if interest rates are favorable, most used for welfare and entitlement programs, and then pass the buck, refuse to make sacrifices, when their country is faced with bankruptcy. Yes, governments may have made bad decisions, but who gave government that authority, that power? If we wrongly gave away our power, then we need to step up, boldly and with courage, and take it back!

EXAMPLE: THE WORLD ECONOMY

Before giving step-by-step details of exactly what we will do and how this GLOBAL TRANSFER OF POWER will work, I want to use as an example a huge current problem (one of many) that is affecting most of the world – the global economy.

The details of how we will get the economy under control follow, but I want to emphasize the scope of this transfer of power. When we transfer power from central governments to people in their communities, the entire world economy will change, correct itself, self-adjust. As you evaluate the worthiness of this movement and decide if you want to throw your hat into the ring, be clear that the implications for just this one social problem are awesome. Can any of us afford not to give this movement our support if it can change a problem of this magnitude? And this is just one issue – others, just as powerful, might be human over-population, education, poverty, or the rescuing of our global environment.

Chapter 13

THE NEW ROLE OF BUSINESS, CORPORATIONS, BANKS, INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Businesses, banks, and institutions exist to do business. Their reward for a good job is called “profit.” They provide quality goods and services to us at reasonable prices, and offer employment to millions of workers worldwide. Fine. But this is ALL they provide.

An addition will be made to our monopoly laws, requiring corporations, banks, and lending institutions to submit to a new transparency. No longer will they influence voters, use their money to lobby, influence, bribe. No longer will there be clandestine connections to sources of wealth and power, including governments, which the average consumer or employee doesn't know about. No longer will the rich and powerful have unfair access to markets, using their power and wealth for other manipulations not available to you and me. All these activities are inconsistent with our new paradigm, which places our power in OUR hands, in our communities. Democracy is defined as government by the people.

Whether we are working for these institutions or consuming their products and services (or both), these institutions will henceforward come to us, in our communities, to employ us and do business with us, instead of us to them. A Statement of Transparency will be required by EVERY company, bank, investment company, or corporation that has any interaction in our community, whether as an employer or a provider of goods and services. This Statement lets us know everything about this entity: how they get their money and how it is spent; who they are affiliated with and donate to; the nature of their business activities (all of them). A representative of the company will be made available for questions from any community (via the community's business manager), anywhere they do business.

Our part is to keep all our business local*; to stop sending our money away; and to stop making decisions based solely on the cheapest goods and services at the cheapest price, without regard to the unintended consequences of our spending (transferring of wealth).

* Q: Does this mean that we shouldn't do business with any entity outside our community? How can a global corporation or bank be local?

A: Here's how that works. We are already reducing government so that most of our affairs are handled by us in our communities, with the small government that remains as public servants, with no power or independent decision-making ability. Now we extend this transfer of power to banks and corporations, by saying: "If you want to do business with us, and/or employ us, you need to establish a presence IN OUR COMMUNITY." They do this by expressing their desire to serve our community, and by providing the Statement of Transparency and taking the other actions mentioned above.

Q: Aren't these businesses and corporations entitled to their privacy, their right to make clandestine, back-room deals to enhance their profits? Don't they have a right to influence by advertising and employing lobbyists, and expect extra consideration from their senators and congressmen because of their size and scope, wealth and power and influence, and the large number of jobs they provide?

A: No!

EXAMPLES OF MORAL DECISIONS MADE ON THE BASIS OF MONEY:

- 1 we'll kill human embryos for stem cells because it is profitable;
- 2 we'll allow marijuana to be sold and used because we can tax it;
- 3 we'll further cut the meager amount we pay for education (while sports, TV, and rock stars make millions), chopping away at our future to save a few dollars;
- 4 we'll exploit the more inexpensive labor and resources of developing countries for our own profit, with no acknowledgement or concern that we are changing the entire path of growth and development for those countries.
 - o For instance:
 - the Middle East was once the Ottoman Empire, carved up into the present pseudo-countries by the West. Our addiction to oil has changed the entire course of the Middle East's development;
 - Africa, likewise, has been carved into separate nations, with boundaries that

- they didn't make for themselves;
- China, a communist country, has profited from our greed, materialism, and addiction to cheap goods. Though we don't see it, we are exploiting their people for their cheap labor – and WE are paying a dear price. The right thing to do is to let China (and every other people) live their OWN lives, and grow and develop at their OWN pace, without our interference.

Chapter 14

HOW MUCH CAN WE SAVE? CAN WE BALANCE OUR BUDGET, LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS IN THE U.S.?

Corporate military waste and fraud -	\$172 billion per year
Interest on our debt	400 billion per year
Fraud in business	994 billion per year
Reduction in government spending	1.2 trillion per year *
Total	\$2.76 trillion

THIS IS THE ANNUAL AMOUNT THAT CAN BE SAVED AND RETURNED TO US IN OUR COMMUNITIES

* Based on four quarterly 5% reductions in government spending (which is \$6 trillion annually) – see How Can We Do This in the U.S.? (above)

Chapter 15

Q: WILL THIS SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS?

A: YES!

If you take one thing away from this book, if I could impress upon you one point, it is this: THE CHANGE WE WILL SEE WHEN WE START (not complete, but start) THIS PROCESS WILL BE 100X GREATER THAN ANY OF US CAN VISUALIZE!

Why? Because the new global sense of renewed determination and prosperity, as we abandon what has ceased to work for new lives in our groups, communities, and villages, will change the very ATTITUDE OF MODERN HUMANITY, CREATING NEW COTTAGE INDUSTRIES AND JOBS WHERE THEY DON'T CURRENTLY EXIST, AND ELIMINATING THE GIGANTIC WEALTH DRAIN, WASTE, AND CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENTS AND REGIMES.

Chapter 16

PRINCIPLES ALL HUMANS LIVE BY

If communities globally are going to take their power back, they must have a set of values and a long-term goal, which they revisit and update periodically. A basic creed, which already exists in virtually every human culture in one form or another, is:

The Golden Rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

The Hippocratic Oath – Do no harm

The Prime Directive – Never interfere with the progress or growth of another

Chapter 17

IN CONCLUSION ... SO WHAT?!

The plan, the promise, and the steps are outlined above. Now what is YOUR next step going to be? Suggestion: Why don't you JOIN US, by going to our website and giving us your email address and suggestions (www.CommunityGroove.org). There's no obligation or cost, your info won't be sold to or shared with anyone. But you WILL be heard; we WILL incorporate your thoughtful input and respond to you; and in that way this site, this movement, will become YOUR site, your movement. Together we will plant new seeds of change in human lives and affairs. Beginning with a small critical mass we will grow, driven by the power of YOUR ideas and energy, to shape and change the course of human events toward a natural and sustainable path.

Q & A:

Q: What about the poor? Won't they be the ones to suffer (again)?

A: Plenty of people are already suffering, and it is getting steadily worse. When productivity and power are returned to communities, those who are currently suffering will be known and needed in their community. With the community to support them, they will be productive and successful. Yes, some will struggle, but toward a peaceful, sustainable end. Now there is struggling, and even if we could end all the suffering, we are on a path that is unsustainable and cannot continue or succeed.

Q: Humans lived in communities for thousands of years. Why go back? Besides, there are too many people.

A: Yes, people lived in communities for over two million years. That is because that is how happy, healthy people (humans) live. Huge governments, armies, killing, over-population, destruction, pollution – these are NOT natural or sustainable, are NOT the way humans live. Although I

personally yearn for that return to community, the community being proposed is not your grandfather's community. In this one, you LIVE. You are a member. If you and your neighbors don't do it, it doesn't get done! You have the money to succeed, but the rest is up to you. Government won't be doing anything for you or the other members of your community that you can possibly do for yourself.

Q: How can you reduce the size of the population?

A: We take our power back (and our money), in our communities, and the population will automatically adjust to normal, healthy, sustainable levels.

This is conceptually hard to imagine, but the results will be apparent as soon as we embark on this new path. Humans mistakenly believe that their swelling numbers represent a successful species. The opposite is true. Over-population is a symptom of temporary imbalance, and is seen by us in any other living thing not as success, but as blight, pestilence, mutation, plague, disease, something to be corrected and even annihilated. HEALTHY SPECIES LIMIT THEIR NUMBERS.

Take, for example, a couple of rabbits (one of each sex) dropped in the Australian Outback, in an area with few or no natural predators and plenty of available food and water. Given these pristine conditions, the rabbits will multiply and prosper.

Then, they may start to run out of food or water. Or maybe they use up all the land for boroughs. They begin to fight for the dwindling resources. Disease thins their numbers. In the meantime, predators appear as a result of the new potential food source. Extremes of climate and food shortages take their toll.

And what might these rabbits think about their own situation? Well, when things were expanding, they were upbeat, aggressive, active, engaged. Their outlook was expansive, positive. But when things began to go south, they became competitive, fearful, nervous, anxious. Isn't this the cycle in which humans find themselves?

Ultimately, Mother Nature returns all life to a natural balance, to the realities of available food, water, air, and available territory. In green circles, we describe this as our footprint – a proper footprint is not to consume more than our environment can provide (humans are currently on the threshold of consuming the resources of 3-4 Earths – obviously, that is not a sustainable footprint).

Q: Who wants to live in a small powerless community?

A: These new communities won't be powerless. They will be both powerful and prosperous. When we get government out of our lives and re-take our passion and purpose, communities will bristle with prosperity and opportunity. As we stop THE LARGEST GLOBAL TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN HUMAN HISTORY, and return all the billions of dollars to us in our communities, cottage industries will burst forth, replacing cheap and imported goods (we can grow and raise our own food, make our own goods, provide our own services) with food, products, and services of local quality. Your community may succeed, it will undoubtedly have its struggles, but you'll be alive, engaged, and not impotent and powerless! Don't want the hassle and inconvenience of living and working with others! Grow up!

Q: We've lived under governments for thousands of years. We can't just throw them out.

A: Why not? Are we compulsively holding onto something that is no longer working and killing us? Are we too big to change, too big to fail? Besides, we're not throwing out government. We're just taking our power back, transferring it from central government to us in our community, and we're doing this community by community across the globe. And, yes, though it is the right and mature thing to do, some will struggle and suffer. But they are suffering now; it's getting worse; and it's about to get MUCH worse, if we don't change our course.

Q: How will this plan change the quality of the education of our young?

A: Look out in nature – how are the young of other species trained? By being present, engaged, observing parents and elders, being involved, in every facet of the affairs of THEIR PARTICULAR COMMUNITY. Groups of apes or hyenas or lions vary from one group to the next in many ways, and those variances are translated to the young via their training.

How do humans prepare their young? One size fits all: you'll learn this or that at a certain age whether you are ready and interested or not; sitting at a desk for virtually all of your 20-or-so formative years of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. Instead of hands-on practice and direct observation, it's books, lectures, and tests given nationally to be sure that youth are learning what they need to be competitive in the world economy (regardless of what they are interested in, regardless of their background and individual skills and talents). But that isn't working. U.S. educational excellence has slipped to one of the lowest levels of the developed nations.

In community, youth will train, learn, observe, apprentice in their community. Every student will exit high school trained for a vocation. Want to go on to higher education, to professions in science, the arts, technology, law? Fine. But you will also have a firm foundation, vital support from your community, and a fallback strategy. And in the meantime, you will be prepared to enter the reality of adulthood.

Q: How will this plan affect our economy, the global economy, confidence in our businesses and institutions, the return of prosperity and jobs, and bring back confidence and values in real estate?

A: The short answer is "It will." Better yet, you won't have to wait to see the results – you will begin to see change as soon as we start! As we reduce our dependence on government and re-energize our lives in our communities, the global economy will bounce back, because it is the sum of its communities. As we reduce government and bring our power back to us, corporations, banks, investment companies will no longer operate globally, but instead will operate locally. They will come to us via transparency statements and by making a representative available to every community who provides an employee or does business with them. They will serve us, do business with us, and employ us on OUR terms (because we are the customer, and the customer is always right!).

Q: Isn't human over-population the source of our troubles?

A: Although it appears to be, the very real fact of human over-population is itself but a symptom. The root cause is the lie that we bought 7000 years ago and continue believing today, when we let greed and fear overpower our innate passion and purpose.

The real source of over-population is frustration. When we gave up our power and passion, we were left with mediocre lives. We gave up our zest for life, and as our lives lost quality, we substituted

quantity – have more children, live longer.

The minute we begin to transfer power from central government to our communities, human population will magically begin to adjust to normal and sustainable levels.

Q: What about immigration (both legal and illegal)?

A: Steps to repair the problems of our borders:

- 1) Obey our laws. Change them if needed, but in the meantime, obey them
- 2) As government is reduced in size, it retains functions such as international diplomacy and protection of our shores. In the U.S., our system for granting citizenship is seriously broken, and in urgent need of repair and streamlining. This must be done immediately
- 3) So, if you are a hard worker, honest, creative, a good asset for the country you desire to live in, then please join us. WE WANT YOU.

Q: What about entitlements and programs that enable people and actually discourage them from taking self-responsibility and finding work? Like welfare, social security, food stamps, unemployment insurance, disability coverage, etc.

A: These services will be transferred to where they belong – in the community.

Q: Your plan returns money to those who are paying taxes, but what about the 10% who are NOT working, or just barely getting by?

A: Actually, the percentage not working is much higher. With this scenario, WE ALL LOSE. In your community, you WILL have work, WILL be a member, WILL not only ‘get by,’ but find meaning, purpose, fellowship (as well as prosperity).

Q: What will the roles of technology, science, medicine, the internet, and media be?

A: Technology is our friend, and will allow the world’s communities to communicate, mobilize, help one another globally, efficiently, and in real time. But all these conveniences and advances will be subjected to the same moral scrutiny as corporations, banks, and institutions. We will encourage and make use of those advances that benefit mankind sustainably (meaning they benefit us now, and in 50, 500, or 5000 years), and deny the rest. This is the opposite of what we are doing now: advances are allowed regardless of their consequences, if we can make money from them. Like the selfish Ferengi from Star Trek, there is one criterion for any new technology or advance: what is its potential profit? So, moral considerations (good) are trumped by money (greed).

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