



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COMING SHIFT IN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND PHYSICAL LIFESTYLE

WHY WE MUST CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE BOTH SOCIALLY AND TECHNICALLY:

We live in a time of: diminishing resources, massively disturbed climate and environment, eroding national financial status, an increasing world population overlaid with a faster rise in world wide demand. The best agronomic estimates that with current technology and climate, without destroying the environment, we can only feed between 2.5 to 3.5 billion people; there are already 7.5 billion people on earth. There are 50-60 basic natural resources needed for industrial and technological production and corporate farming. Starting in the 1980's we are already extracting and harvesting less each year, of over 1/3 of these resources. World-wide, the inequity in distribution of what resource is left is at best immoral and at worst fatal.

The burgeoning individual and national lifeboat mentality can be seen in fanatical orthodox religions and increasing restrictive social orders, while lost leadership is busily quashing education for the common citizen while grasping for ever tighter control and dictatorial power.

Trans-national corporations own our elected officials, and governments, and control the “democratic” process with money; self-serving laws and tax breaks now control all our basic needs: water, food, medicine, fuel, mobility, crop seeds, clothing, and land use. Through pervasive advertising, and the saturation of laws, most people's thoughts and actions are also controlled. If we are to survive as a species with culture, and maintain basic personal rights and freedoms, we must break free by becoming locally dependent on ourselves, not distant Governments and rich Cartels. We must break free to preserve our heritage and our humanity.

The gap between rich and poor is greater than it has even been, and there is very little middle class left in the United States. The rich and powerful cannot insulate themselves from the coming changes with their greed, physical isolation, obsessive control, and power seeking, but because of the disparity between individuals and Countries, the eventual paradigm shift will be more intense in “developed” countries. Here, in our more tightly controlled society and being totally dependent on “others” for the resources basic to the necessities of life we will be impacted individually and collectively more dramatically because of our disconnect from nature then less “developed” societies.

As individuals and a society we have lost touch with the fact that we as animals are totally dependent on, and ultimately controlled by nature. This disconnect with reality will make the coming environmentally dictated change in the way we are living in the “developed nations” even more difficult than it will be for countries closer to a subsistent lifestyle.

We do not live on what nature can provide without being degraded, instead we, and the rich world wide, are robbing all future generations for our own momentary greed, and worse through our delusional lifestyles, conspicuous consumption, and personal greed, we are destroying our environment and its carrying capacity.

Without the availability or broad distribution of basic industrial input resources, technology will not save us. The reality is that we must change our lifestyle to be more locally and personally responsible for the necessities we depend on. Technology, particularly the biological sciences, will at best smooth out the coming transition until population, weather, and the environment can reach equilibrium under the new realities.

