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[Open Letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell](#)

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Dear Secretary Powell, Disparity of wealth in the world today fuels anger and desperation in the dispossessed and in those who identify with them. This anger and desperation can be exploited by those with an extremist agenda. We may wish to make changes in our social system that would tend to reduce disparity, or that would ensure that those on the low end of the income distribution spectrum are assured of a significant minimum. By promoting the security of those who are least secure, we would be promoting the security of all. (02/20/02)

[Community of Minds](#)

[GAIA's BRAIN: Integrating Humanity and the Biosphere](#)

This model of human society as meta-organism, and as nervous system of the gaia organism would transform the educational process. Children can understand the concepts of 'organism' and 'interaction with environment' because they themselves are organisms. They eat and breathe. They can observe protozoa. This gaia brain model would invite early introduction of ideas about social interaction, and would invite the active involvement of children in the collection of opinions among community members about appropriate levels of pollution and use of natural resources, and about perceived community needs; and it would invite their involvement in the assessment of actual conditions. A question is a linguistic device for directing one's attention onto a topic [Minsky], therefore, just the act of asking people about pollution, natural resource use, and community needs will cause them to think about these issues more. The fact that the questions might be put by children will do much to remind all concerned who it is that will be most affected by the answers: the children who will have to live with the consequences of these decisions for many years to come. Students, as assessors of actual conditions and of the accuracy of reports issued by industry, would be involved in the protection of resources that will sustain them in the future, and they would gain valuable knowledge and insight into the workings of society in the process. (02/20/02)

[FuturePositive](#)

[Weblogs as community](#)

The year 2000 saw the rebirth of a very old web idea, repackaged in some new technology, and unleashed as the weblog (or "blog" for short). The recipe for a weblog is

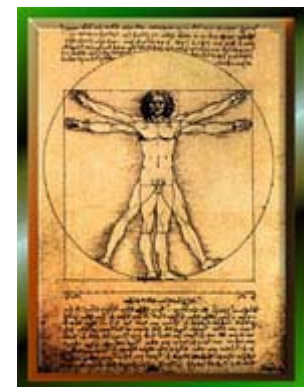
February 2002

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Synergic Links



[The Original SynEarth](#)

- [Project Renaissance](#)
- [CALResCo](#)
- [Win Win World](#)
- [Buckminster Fuller](#)

We Are Time-binders

This means we are synergic humans. Synergy means working together—operating together as in Co-Operation— laboring together as in Co-Laboration—acting together as in Co-Action. The goal of synergic union is to accomplish a larger or more difficult task than can be accomplished by individuals working separately. We are committed to a world where I win, you win, others win and the Earth wins. Win-Win-Win-Win. We believe that you should, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto

simple: make a web page, a single page, and put microcontent (short blurbs and blips) on it. Then update it again and again, all day, every day, with the newest stuff always at the top. ([SynEARTH is a weblog](#)) ... I don't believe that there is one cohesive weblog community. Instead, there are many communities, groups, cliques, and clubs in the weblog space. Any weblog with comments can quickly turn into a community of one, attracting a small group of people who are interested enough to follow along and participate. And if each of those readers then starts a weblog of their own, with comments that the others take part in, you wind up with a giant, interconnected, ever-evolving community. Or, better, a hazy cloud of overlapping communities, each with its own feel, and sharing a few members. (02/19/02)

TheInternet

Meditation -- A Powerful Response to Social Problems

Jivan Vatayan has explained [elsewhere](#) that we humans are often (always) distracted from what is important by what is urgent. "The busy-ness of this world allows very little available energy left (in most people) to consider a complete change in the way the entire species views, lives and behaves on Earth." This "busy-ness" prevents us from viewing reality clearly. In this morning's article he offers us an approach that might be helpful. (02/19/02)

FuturePositive

What is an ecological footprint?

It is an attempt to give a conservative measure of the degree of [overshoot](#) occurring in a particular society or bioregion, under the conditions of present technology and social organization. The amount of land that would be required to support the civilization in a sustainable manner is calculated and compared to the amount of land that is available. When the required amount is greater than the total area where the people live, the carrying capacity has been exceeded. When this occurs on a global scale, it means that either miracles such as changing water into gasoline will have to happen, or that people will have to learn to use much less or become fewer in numbers. It is just a matter of past actions catching up to the present. Most adults with their absolute faith in technological human cleverness are making the not-in-my-lifetime bet, which makes it all the more probable that it will be a rougher yes-in-your-lifetime-buddy — cause you got in at the end of the line leading to the hog trough. (02/19/02)

TheInternet

A Preview of Coming Attractions

The truth is especially hard to believe if it requires that we take action — if it requires that we change. If humanity is to have a future, we must take action — we must change. If humanity is to have a future, we must believe the truth. Jay

you." What is it that most of us want others to do unto us? Synergic scientists answer this question as follows: Help others as you would wish them to help you. Or "Treat others the way they want to be treated."

Write Me



Timothy Wilken, MD

Hanson chose the name [DIEOFF](#) for his website. That term is not a political term, it comes from science. (02/19/02)

Community of Minds

Another spin on the evil axis

When General Eisenhower, commander of the allied forces in World War II, became US president and commander-in-chief of the US armed forces, he appealed for a "new vision." In the course of his campaign, he launched an all-out attack on what he termed the military-industrial complex, which was driven by an implacable thirst to build new weapons systems. When George W Bush, who represents the very interests of Big Business Eisenhower attacked, came to power, he set into motion a military operation against the destitute Afghan people that cost the US treasury billions. When that war came to its anticipated conclusion, the president -- a civilian who never served in the army -- asked Congress to approve a military allocation of \$380 billion. No US president had asked for such an unimaginable sum since Ronald Reagan (also a Republican), whose appeal for a military budget hike came in the context of the arms race against the former Soviet Union. While Reagan's motives may have had some justification in light of the eventual collapse of the Soviet bloc, it is difficult to perceive any logic behind the Bush administration's request for a rise in arms spending, apart from the megalomania that now has Washington fighting windmills. Washington's windmills, today, consist of the countries that make up what Bush referred to in his State of the Union address as the "axis of evil": Iraq, Iran and North Korea. (02/18/02)

The Internet

Angered by Snubbing

Beijing (SatireWire.com) — Bitter after being snubbed for membership in the "Axis of Evil," Libya, China, and Syria today announced they had formed the "Axis of Just as Evil," which they said would be way eviler than that stupid Iran-Iraq-North Korea axis President Bush warned of his State of the Union address. (02/18/02)

The Internet

Axis of Evil Remark Threatens Stability

Of the three nations Bush will visit over the next week-- Japan, South Korea and China--concerns about the "axis of evil" run highest in South Korea, senior administration officials said. "South Koreans are pursuing a policy of reconciliation and engagement [with North Korea], so they're a little bit nervous, frankly, about what this means for them," one senior official said. China is being careful not to appear critical of Bush over his axis comments, the official said. "They don't want to make a huge gap between us on terrorism questions" at a time when the United States is helping China expand its trade, and presence, globally, the official said. Little `heartburn' in Tokyo. Japan, a member

with Germany and Italy of the Axis in World War II, has been subdued in its reaction, largely because it has concerns of its own about the threat posed by North Korea. (02/18/02)

TheInternet

The World at WAR

This website devoted to the history of WWII brings some perspective for the origin of the term Axis of Evil. ... Never has there been a war that could have been avoided more easily than the one that has just destroyed (1939 - 1945) whatever was left of the world after the previous confrontation (1914 -1918). When World War II began in 1939, Germany was the aggressor, it was later joined in June 1940, by Italy, and [Japan](#) in December 1941. The war against Japan was fought over two-thirds of the world's surface, with America and her allies taking part in vast air, land and sea battles. It turned WW II into global conflict and ended it with the drawing of nuclear era. Together they formed [the major Axis nations](#), each had their strengths and weakness. (02/18/02)

TheInternet

Axis of stupidity

Bush utters the world "evil" the way a child does when it first dawns on him that there is darkness and danger in the world, and only his goodness and courage stands in its way. His axis-of-evil war cry, of course, was an attempt at Rooseveltian grandeur -- but because it mangles geopolitical reality (unlike the enemies FDR faced, there is no alliance between Iraq, Iran and North Korea), it simply confuses the American public and underlines what a dismal imitation of a great president our current leader is. It reminds us that this is a man who entered the 2000 presidential race in midlife with the barest, most homespun grasp of the world beyond America's borders, and after a year of Condi Rice tutorials and on-the-job training, is just a step away from calling Greeks "Grecians." Bush utters the world "evil" the way a child does when it first dawns on him that there is darkness and danger in the world, and only his goodness and courage stands in its way. His axis-of-evil war cry, of course, was an attempt at Rooseveltian grandeur -- but because it mangles geopolitical reality (unlike the enemies FDR faced, there is no alliance between Iraq, Iran and North Korea), it simply confuses the American public and underlines what a dismal imitation of a great president our current leader is. It reminds us that this is a man who entered the 2000 presidential race in midlife with the barest, most homespun grasp of the world beyond America's borders, and after a year of Condi Rice tutorials and on-the-job training, is just a step away from calling Greeks "Grecians." (02/18/02)

TheInternet

Redressing Evil: Advice from South Korea

Mr. Bush's State of the Union address "axis of evil" was

generally unpopular in Seoul, South Korea. As he did early in his tenure, Mr. Bush contradicted himself on an issue of vital importance to the Korean Peninsula. On March 7, 2001, when Mr. Bush held his first summit with President Kim Dae-Jung in Washington, Mr. Bush told the visiting Korean leader that he supported South Korea's policy of engaging the North. Then at a press conference later the same day he said he was skeptical of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il. Although not explicitly backing out of his earlier commitment to support Seoul's attempts at reconciliation, the statement implied that the U.S. was not serious about ending tensions on the peninsula. The same thing happened after the State of the Union. As soon as Mr. Bush left the House chamber, White House and U.S. State Department spin doctors said Washington remained willing to sit down for talks with Pyongyang. Another major problem with the State of the Union address was the lack of context. While it is true North Korea is a serious violator of human rights and is still exporting missiles to countries in the Middle East, Mr. Bush is missing the point. Yes, Kim Jong-Il may be no better than Osama bin Laden. Kim starves his own people, rather than attacking civilians in other nations. But the difference is, Mr. Kim wants dialogue with Washington. He's practically begging for it. Mr. bin Laden, on the other hand, prefers to do his talking with hijacked planes and bombs. (02/18/02)

TheInternet

Fish Catches Have Declined by Half

The scientists will present a new portrait of the state of the fisheries which shows that over the last fifty years, the catch of our preferred food fish species such as cod, tuna, haddock, flounder and hake, has decreased by more than half despite a tripling in fishing effort. "The only way we are maintaining yield is by increasing effort," says Dr. Daniel Pauly of the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre, and the head of the large international project. "But you need fish to make fish, and so we have created a massive reduction in productivity." While the disastrous collapses in areas like New England and Newfoundland have appeared to be local in scale, this new ocean wide synthesis reveals that the collapse applies to the entire North Atlantic Ocean. (02/18/02)

TheInternet

The Evil Axis ?

This won't be the case should we attack any of the new "Axis" states. Both North Korea and Iraq have powerful allies — China and Russia, respectively — that have already warned the United States about expanding the war on terrorism to these countries. And even our allies in NATO, including France, Germany and Great Britain, have denounced Bush's "Axis" speech as dangerous policy. As for Iran, Bush's declaration has caused a major setback in the slow detente developing between Washington and Tehran. Since the 1997 election of moderate Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, there has been a gradual shift of opinion away from the anti-Americanism that has existed since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Sept. 11 hastened this

process. Now, Iranians are again holding anti-American rallies and Iranian generals are publicly discussing plans of destroying oil fields — both in Iran in nearby states — should the United States attack. (02/18/02)

TheInternet

Comments

Today, I received a note of comment from a reader on [More Than the Sum of the Parts](#). He goes on to comment on the GAIA dialogues which have attracted a lot of interest this week. (02/17/02)

FuturePositive

World War III has begun?

The year 2002 will be the second year of the Third World War, which began on Sept. 11 with the tragic terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC. The allies led by the US, once on the warpath against terrorism, cannot afford to risk taking half-measures; it will have to be all or nothing. And the year 2002 will prove (if proof need be) that it must be "all." Thus, it will be a year of "big surprises" and "unexpected events." Many trends will proceed faster, as war speeds things up. Many global problems have already been telescoped within the sights of World War III and will therefore require global solutions. (02/17/02)

CommUnityofMinds

Proposing the Dream

I often use "Starhawk's" term of power-with rather than power-over to describe the difference between adversarial and co-operative relations. The power-over human-centered worldview continues to gain momentum in a fear-based world. The busy-ness of this world allows very little available energy left (in most people) to consider a complete change in the way the entire species views, lives and behaves on Earth. When people entertain such utopian notions their views tend to be so radically divergent that step one of an infinite number of steps to create a new world is hardly ever agreed upon. Nevertheless, the possibility of a future utopian humanity with an entirely different worldview, way of being and living on Earth and relating to existence is an enthralling dream. Proposing the dream (no matter how unrealistic it appears to be) is the first stage in giving the dream any possible reality. (02/16/02)

FuturePositive

The Banality of Evil

We are like a successful cancer living inside a larger animal body. Our initial success is in appropriating the energy of the body toward the success of the human enterprise (cancer cells). Our ultimate success leads to the collapse and death of the integrity of the larger body (biospheric processes). All along the way "success is failure". The more

we succeed in turning nature into a resource, the more we get cultural payoffs and the more we degrade Nature itself. Until our prime value shifts toward the health of the habitat and biosphere we will continue to feed cultural engines that progressively consume the natural world. ... We are exterminating the ecosphere, yet we appear to ourselves to be well-adjusted, decent and utterly normal and even tender in other areas of concern. (02/16/02)

CommUnity of Minds

The Value of Intelligence to GAIA

Today, I feature a dialogue between myself and Jivan Vatayan. This discussion began earlier this week after I "coulded" on my fellow humans with my article [We Could Save the World](#) about the emergence of GAIA -- a single organism encompassing all life on planet Earth. I suggested that GAIA's brain would be created by those life forms capable of thinking -- human beings. My metaphor was that like the neurons that serve the body to create intelligence, humans could serve GAIA in a similar role. This article provoked a lot of comments and thread of discussion. You can read the [first part of that discussion](#) at Future Positive. (02/15/02)

CommUnity of Minds

More Than the Sum of the Parts

Synergy is the associated behavior of 'wholes', not predicted by examination of the 'parts'. So as Universe becomes more complex, reductionism fails to be as effective a strategy for understanding. In the past scientists have referred to the sciences of Physics and Chemistry as the hard sciences and those of Biology, Psychology and Sociology as the soft sciences. By this they implied that the scientists in the soft sciences were not as precise and rigorous as those in the hard sciences. The physicist with his hard science is not necessarily more precise and rigorous than the psychologist with his soft science, the physicist has been focusing on the so called simpler 'parts' of Universe, while the psychologist has been focusing on the more complex 'parts' of process. But something deeper is going on here. Science is making an even more fundamental error. The labeling of stages of process as 'parts' of Universe represents an even larger error. The stages of process are not 'parts' they are 'wholes'. And the study of 'wholes' requires an inclusive approach. This approach is diametrically opposed to reductionism. (02/15/02)

FuturePositive

RWWNL + NO SAFE GROUND (part II)

There is one thing helping to hold up our markets. It is the exchange rate. Currently the dollar is very strong in comparison to other international currencies. This has allowed our country to buy products from other countries at a very good price. It has helped to keep inflation down. It has kept the price of commodities down. It has helped keep our country stong! Other countries want to invest in our

markets in order to bet on a country with a strong currency. They want to invest in the good old USA. The only problem is that this might change. ...

Time again for part II of my thoughts on terrorism. After 30 years some of my ideas have changed. I for one have been looking back, and looking forward. Prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, I had made a decision to look at what I had been through in another light. I was becoming patriotic. After the devastation of 911, I am in hopes that we can keep the country on track to curb terrorism in our world. (02/14/02)

CommUnity of Minds

Islamophobia

Muslim intellectuals are afraid, very afraid: they fear "Islamophobia" - a deadly virus infiltrating parts of the Western psyche in the middle of the most dramatic shift of geopolitical tectonic plates in living memory. ... In purely military terms, the American war on Afghanistan may have achieved very little so far - especially when one considers that the most powerful armada in history took at least four days to establish air supremacy over a wretched heap of ruins - and on top of it managed to turn an intolerant medieval theocracy into a nationalist struggle. Even Afghans who hated the Taliban have now rallied behind them to defend their land against a foreign invader. Did Donald "Gung Ho" Rumsfeld and his Pentagon generals ever learn of a subject called the history of Central Asia? (02/04/02)

CommUnity of Minds

A CommUnity of Minds Thinks About GAIA

Earlier this week, I "**coulded**" on my fellow humans with my article ***We Could Save the World*** about the emergence of GAIA a single organism encompassing all life on planet Earth. I suggested that GAIA's brain would be created by those life forms capable of thinking -- human beings. My metaphor was that like the neurons that serve the body to create intelligence, humans could serve GAIA in a similar role. This article provoked the following comments and thread of discussion. (02/14/02)

Future Positive

How Humans Got Big Brains

How did humans get so intelligent? Why do we have such a big brain? Well, it didn't happen overnight. The Earth is believed to have formed four and one-half billion years ago. Life was soon to follow. Today we have found fossils from early living systems that are over 3 billion years old. What advantage emerging humanity had over the animals was not physical. The animals were bigger, stronger, and faster. The human advantage was intelligence. Time-binding is not a new physical form. Time-binding is a new way of "thinking". And, understanding human intelligence and time-binding will

require us to understand the evolution of ourselves and of our human brain. (02/13/02)

FuturePositive

Accept the things I cannot change

Written in 1926 by Reinhold Neibuhr, the Serenity prayer is always worth reading and thinking about. ... (02/13/02)

FuturePositive

Optimizing Your Intelligence

A major division of synergic science is the study of human intelligence. In my search to understand human intelligence, I have discovered seven states of mind that when accomplished increase human intelligence, they are: **calmness, awareness, synergy, validation, motivation, adaptability & responsibility.** Creativity and productivity are optimized in an environment that is highly supportive of these vectors of human intelligence. (02/12/02)

FuturePositive

Unity of Responsibility

In my studies of human intelligence, I was strongly influenced by the work of **N. Arthur Coulter, Jr., MD.** His publication of **SYNERGETICS: An Adventure in Human Development** in 1976 was a milestone in advancing our understanding of human intelligence. We will soon be republishing that work here at **SynEARTH.net.** Professor Emeritus of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Coulter wrote on the problem of Human Intelligence Attenuation as recently as 1996. The following paper was first published in **CHANGE—The Journal of the Synergetic Society.** (02/12/02)

CommUnity of Minds

Schools Without Failure

As a synergic scientist, my focus of study is on working together. Successful partnerships result when the partners both know their responsibilities and carry them out successfully. In education the partnership is between the Student and the Teacher. Analysis reveals that successful education results only when there is a presence of six factors. (02/12/02)

FuturePositive

Synergic Evolution

I have taught that humanity is evolving. We evolved from the animals. Animals are space-binders. Their lives are dominated by adversity. Early humans lives were dominated by adversity. Humans who commit to adversity could be

called Adversans. I explained to escape the Adversary world, humans invented Capitalism and the Great Market. This is a Neutral mechanism. Humans who commit to Capitalism and the Market could be called Neutrans. I have explained that if humanity is to have a future that we must give up the hurting of Adversity — give up the ignoring of Neutrality, and embrace the helping of Synergy. Humans who commit to Synergy could be called Synergans. Now imagine that the Earth including all of life is a single organism — GAIA. Further imagine the entire humans species — all of humanity — organized in a single Organizational Tensegrity. This evolved form of humanity could be called Synergicity. Synergicity then could be the brain of GAIA. Each human being functioning as a neuron within GAIA's brain. (02/11/02)

FuturePositive

J.P. Morgan Chase Bank may follow Enon

In recent years Morgan Chase has invested much of its capital in derivatives, including gold and interest-rate derivatives, about which very little information is provided to shareholders. Among the information that has been made available, however, is that as of June 2000, J.P. Morgan reported nearly \$30 billion of gold derivatives and Chase Manhattan Corp., although merged with J.P. Morgan, still reported separately in 2000 that it had \$35 billion in gold derivatives. Analysts agree that the derivatives have exploded at this bank and that both positions are enormous relative to the capital of the bank and the size of the gold market. ... It gets worse. J.P. Morgan's total derivatives position reportedly now stands at nearly \$29 trillion, or three times the U.S. annual gross domestic product.

(02/10/02)

TheInternet

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