

Utopia or Oblivion:
Shaping World Citizenship
for the Anthropocene
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Alfred Russel Wallace: A Precursor *Man's Place in the Universe* (1903)

Some . . . storms are so violent that no human structures can resist them . . . If our atmosphere [received] a somewhat greater amount of sun heat . . . these tempests might be so increased in frequency and violence as to render considerable portions of the globe uninhabitable.

-- Cited by Tim Flannery (2005), *The Weather Makers: How We Are Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth*, p. 135.

Paradigm for the Anthropocene: Everything is Interconnected

Gaia Hypothesis: James Lovelock has characterized the planet as a living organism which adapts to changing circumstances through the interaction of the myriad elements. All 'organisms' play a role in the complex whole.

Life in the Anthropocene

A New Cosmology/Paradigm/Modus Vivendi?

At the May 2012 De-Growth Conference in Montreal Mary Evelyn Tucker conveyed to us that a viable future requires a sense that we live in a larger system - a nested system from the family outward and one that embraces our interdependence and interconnection.

Time to Abandon Holocene Discourse & Practice

Politics

Westphalian System: sovereign equality and
right to self determination of all countries
large and small

Economics

cet. par. (ceteris paribus)

pari passu

Competitiveness: See Krugman: "a dangerous
obsession, which distorts policy on a wide
range of issues, many with little direct
bearing on international trade" -- *Foreign
Affairs*, 73 (Mar/Apr 1994) 28-44.

Keynes' Perspective (1940s)

His great appeal was that we should treat the whole economic problem as a unity and be prepared to present to the public a total solution which really did present a prospect of a **radical solution** of the problems of unemployment and of raising standards of living.

--James Meade (on John Maynard Keynes) -my emphasis

To realize the “prospect of a radical solution”

There is no question that the environmental movement is critical to our survival. Our house is literally burning, and it is logical that environmentalists expect the social justice movement to get on the environmental bus. But it is the other way around; the only way we are going to put out the fire is to **get on the social justice bus** and heal our wounds, because in the end, there is only one bus.

--Paul Hawken (2007) *Blessed Unrest*, p. 190. [my emphasis]

C. P. Kindleberger (1978)

... the international system must insure macro-stability ... there may ... be too little government internationally ... the need to build world federal functionalism ... has surely arrived.

-- "Government and International Trade,"
Essays in International Finance, No. 129

World Currency better than the Tobin Tax

James Tobin: "A permanent single currency, as among the 50 states of the American union, would escape all this turbulence. The United States example shows that a currency union works to great advantage when sustained not only by centralized monetary authorities **but also by other common institutions.**"

-- (UNDP, *HDR 1994*, p. 70) [my emphasis].

World Economy requires a World Polity

We are bound to move toward global community and global democracy, and once we do, many of the functions of today's national governments -- including dealing with extreme cases of inequality and poverty -- will be taken over by new global institutions.

-- Branko Milanovic (2005) *World's Apart: Measuring International and Global Inequality*, p. 162. [my emphasis]

World Polity
without
World Citizens?

Solutions for the Anthropocene?
Next Level of Carefully Nurtured Imagining

Nested Imagined Communities

From construction of local, group belonging

To imagining national loyalty

To imagining supra-nationality:

Citizens of EU

Francophonie

Regional groupings: e.g., Latin America, Africa

To imagining & constructing World Citizenship

Global Consciousness Advancing

Subtitle of Paul Hawken's *Blessed Unrest:
How the Largest Movement in the World
Came into Being and Why No One Saw It
Coming*

The democracy movement in its various
incarnations as a snowball gaining volume
and speed

Drivers of Global Change: The Global Mind

... the dominant information system now being used by the world as a whole ... has an inherent unifying imperative ... And the decisions now confronting the world as a whole cannot be made by any single nation or small group of nations.

-- Al Gore (2013) *The Future*, p. 89.

Social Movements Reshaping Global Norms

From abolition of slavery to action against
human trafficking

Anti-Apartheid movement

Promotion of Human Rights: of women, of
children (including restrictions on child
labor), of the disabled

Decolonialization movement

--Based on Al Gore, *The Future*, p. 139.

Shifting Norms: International Human Rights Conventions &/or Declarations

- 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*
- 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- 1965 Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- 1966 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*
- 1966 Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
- 1979 Rights of Women
- 1984 Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- 1989 Rights of the Child
- 1990 Rights of Migrant Workers & Members of Their Families
- 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 2008 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

* Together these constitute the International Bill of Human Rights

Responding to Interdependence

No matter the nation in which we reside, we as human beings now face a choice: either to be swept along by the powerful currents of technological change and economic determinism into a future that may threaten our deepest values or to build a capacity for collective decision making on a global scale that allows us to shape that future in ways that protect human dignity and reflect the aspirations of nations and peoples.

-- Al Gore (2013) *The Future*, p. 139.

People-Centered Visions

Buckminster Fuller (1968)[§]:

Providing all with a bare maximum

Riane Eisler (2012)*: "What is needed is a new normal - a new economic system that supports a more adaptive, responsible and caring ethos for governments, businesses, science, and technology."

[MJF: + new socio-political & educational systems;
Karl Polanyi: re-embedding the economy]

§Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth

*Challenge, 55 (March-April 2012)

Richard Wilkinson & Kate Pickett (2009)

*The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies
Almost Always Do Better*

... there is a better society to be won: a more equal society ... in which we regain a sense of community ... and share in the benefits of a growing non-monetized sector of the economy. (p. 264)

[my emphasis]

On Education

The fundamental thing in human association is and always has been education; for what education is, that is also our social organization and the quality of our lives.

-- H.G. Wells, *The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind* (London: William Heinemann Ltd, 1932) p. 650.

Engaged Learning at the Heart of Citizenship

There is a common thread in the development of our understanding of learning - **the learner as active agent in the learning process** (as found in the work of Jean Dewey, Jean Piaget, Lev Vygotsky, Jerome Bruner, Paulo Freire, Jean Lave and many others)

-- Based on presentation by Diane Laurillard at McGill, May 2, 2005

On Education

The first duty imposed on those who now direct society is to educate democracy; to put, if possible, new life into its beliefs . . .

--Alexis de Tocqueville [1838] *Democracy in America*, George Lawrence trans. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988), p. 12

A way ahead?

Reframing the discourse from
Focus on Poverty Alleviation
To Human Rights &
Collective Responsibilities of World
Citizenship (including provision of a
Social Protection Floor for All)

From Targeting the Poor to Right to a Basic Income & a Social Protection Floor

No stigma

No test to determine who is entitled

More easily administered, especially with
new IT options

Transition from object to citizen?

Beyond Full Employment & Basic Income:

Full Inclusion

'Valuing' Social Reproduction

Provision of health and education

Care

Cultural Creation

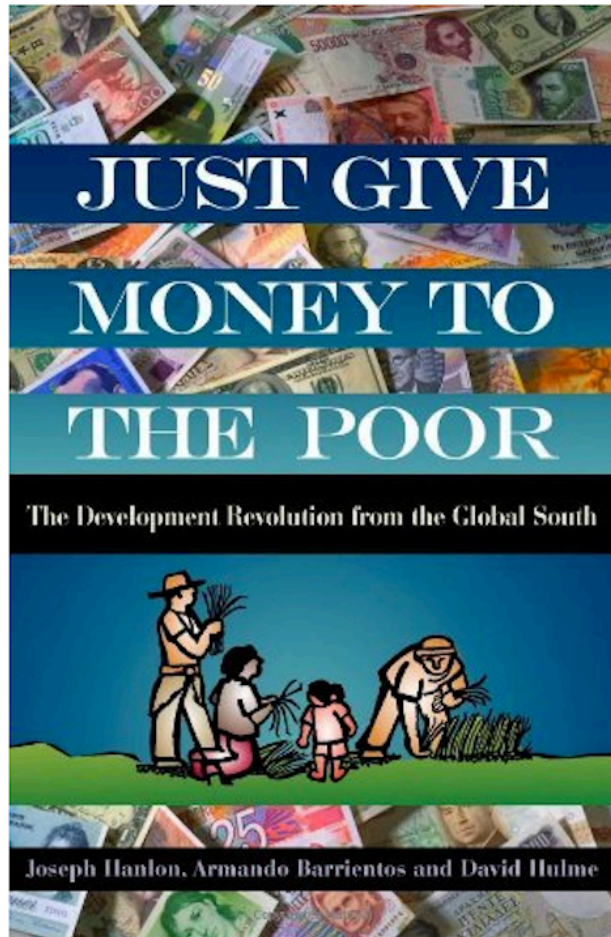
Amateur Sports

Education, Training, Coaching

Community involvement

Democratic participation

Revolution from the South?



They point out that beginning in the 1990s Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, India, China and Indonesia instituted cash transfer programs, some conditional, some unconditional. By 2010 at least 45 countries were providing cash transfers that reached more than 110 million families. They conclude that cash transfers work, that recipients can be trusted to foster the well-being of their families and that in today's learning culture the southern model of cash transfers is evolving rapidly.

Could the winds be shifting?

- "As other countries have discovered, handing out cash is more efficient and less susceptible to corruption than handing out food or subsidising fuel."
- "... pilot studies show that recipients in fact often eat better than when they are on food rations."

Leader: "Why India should hand out cash, rather than fuel and food, to the needy"

The Economist, Nov 10, 2012, p. 13

Voice & Evolving Discourse

Consultations now in progress to set the post MDG - post 2015 agenda. Views of more than 5,000 NGOs and 250 CEOs have been heard by the Secretary General's High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons. Co-Chaired by two Presidents (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Susilo Bambang Yudhono of Indonesia) and one Prime Minister, David Cameron of the UK. Other views have been submitted by internet.

HLP Report May 30, 2013: 5 points

1. Leave no one behind.
2. Put sustainable development at the core.
3. Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth.
4. Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.
5. Forge a new global partnership - built on principles of common humanity and mutual respect.

http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf

Progress of Equality is Fated!

... the gradual progress of equality is something fated. The main features of this progress are the following: it is universal and permanent, it is daily passing beyond human control, and every event and every man helps it along. . . . Does anyone imagine that democracy, which has destroyed the feudal system and vanquished kings, **will fall back before the middle classes and the rich?**

--Alexis de Tocqueville

Keynes 1930

...do not let us overestimate the importance of the economic problem, or sacrifice to its supposed necessities other matters of greater and more permanent significance.

-- "Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren"

<http://www.econ.yale.edu/smith/econ116a/keynes1.pdf>