

# Environmental Ethics and Land Management

ENVR E120

## *Where Can We Go From Here?*

*Moving Beyond Culpable Ignorance*



Timothy C. Weiskel

The ethical question is really not:

Where *Can* We Go From Here?

The ethical question is really not:

Where *Can* We Go From Here?

But rather:

Where *Should* We Go From Here?

[ What follows is a *personal assessment* of the most urgent issues in environmental ethics today. ]

# Why is this the question?



....because the toothpaste is already out of the tube.

What's done, cannot be undone.

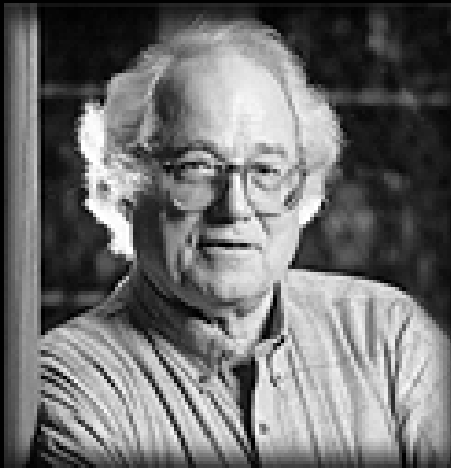
You have already learned a lot – a great deal, judging from your papers and presentations.

You can't unlearn this. It's done. It can't be undone... And it all adds up to a big question: Where should we go from here?

ENVR E120

Tim Weiskel

# In other words: What are the obligations of knowledge?



According to leading moral and religious spokesmen, we have a *primary moral obligation* to “think straight,” as The Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Jr. has put it.

The late Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

<http://ecojustice.net/2005-ENVRE120/Session-15/Coffin-Passion-for-Possible-Index.htm>

A Collective Tribute from the **Class of Yale '68**: <http://ecojustice.net/Coffin/index.htm>

...and a personal tribute: <http://ecojustice.net/Coffin/Tribute.htm>

# Four Simple Thoughts

There are some major historical discontinuities that will encounter in the near future.

Currently, we are not being told about these discontinuities.

But ignorance will be no excuse. We will be wacked by them anyway... There will be no escaping these potentially catastrophic discontinuities.

We will need to learn to think clearly and act deliberately in order to survive.

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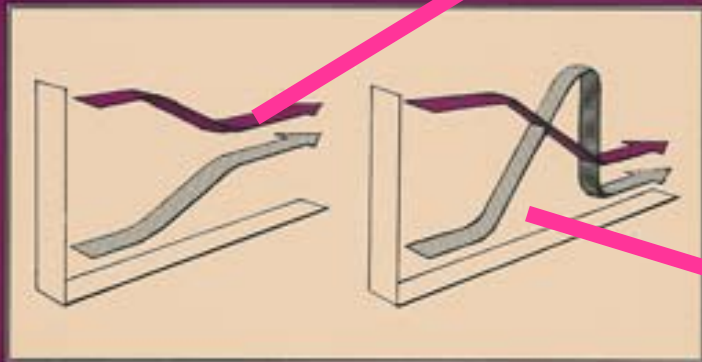
But **ignorance will be no excuse**. We will be wacked by them anyway... There will be no escaping these potentially catastrophic discontinuities.

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*Environmental Decline  
and  
Public Policy*

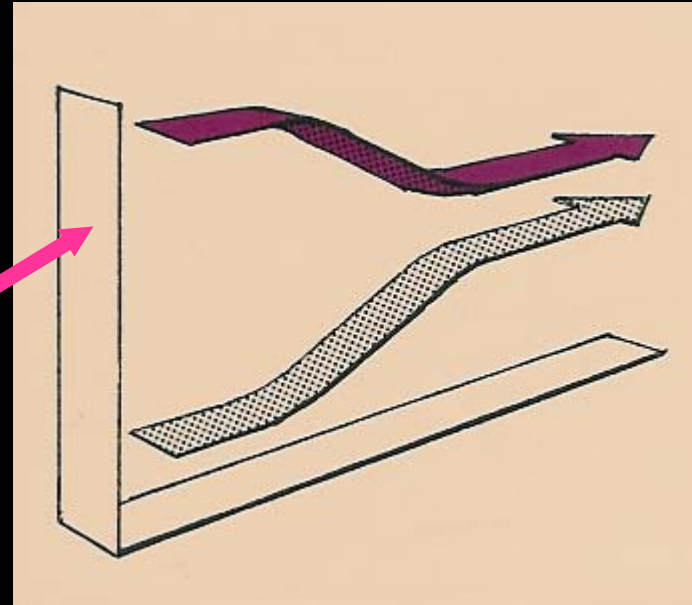
*Pattern, Trend and Prospect*

Timothy C. Weiskel  
and  
Richard A. Gray



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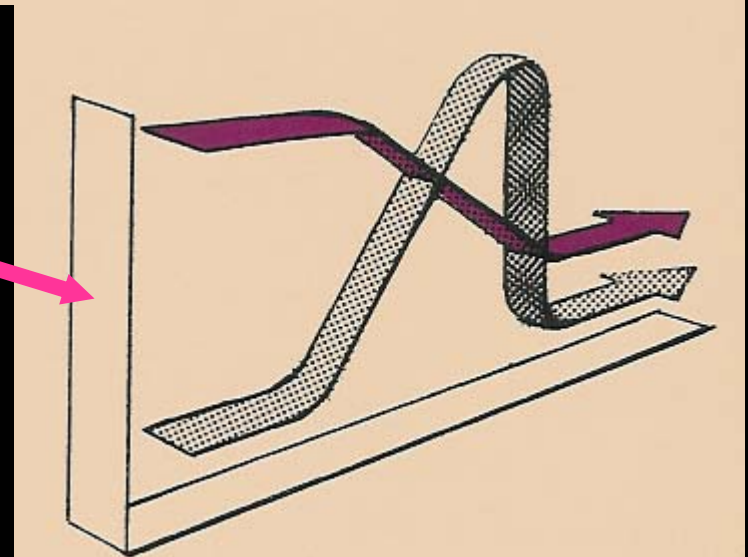
Sidebar: *What is a  
“discontinuity?”*



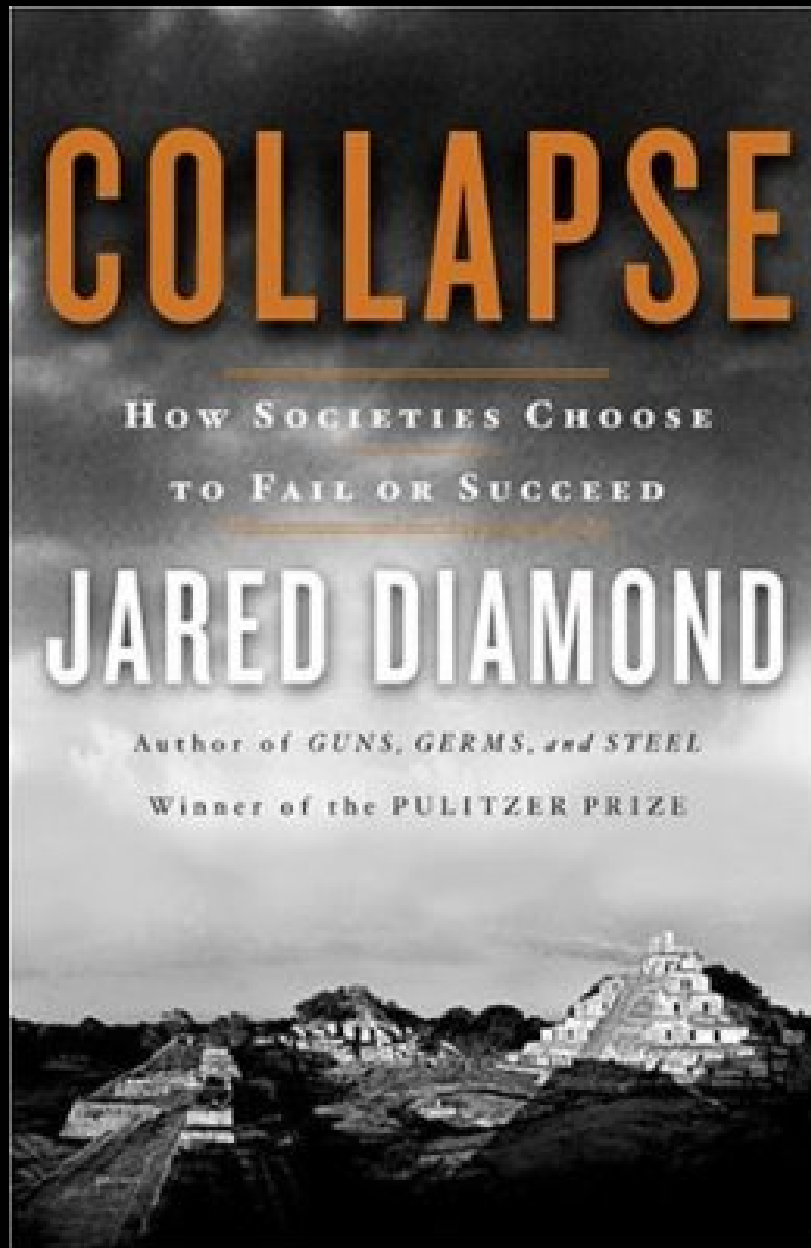
*..many  
kinds*

*or*

?







*Many scholars and authors have begun to write extended studies and popular press accounts of the abrupt discontinuities that have characterized cultures at numerous points in human history.*

## Now, ...for a little cultural anthropology...

Cultural anthropology involves the study of culture.

Culture is not “high culture,” but rather, every-day culture.  
(ie. not symphony orchestras -- but rather, high school).

Culture involves the learned, unconscious, and habitual thought and behavior of a group of “native” people.

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Culture is not “high culture,” but rather, every-day culture.  
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Culture involves the **learned**, **unconscious**, and **habitual thought** and **behavior** of a group of “native” people.

Generally, anthropologists ask simple questions to reveal patterns of learned, unconscious and habitual thought.

.....Now, since we are considering *our* culture,  
*you are the “natives” -- the “experts.”*

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)

The iPod revolution and the emerging Apple/Microsoft competition

Is that your phone or a TV?

YouTubing and the fate of mainstream media....

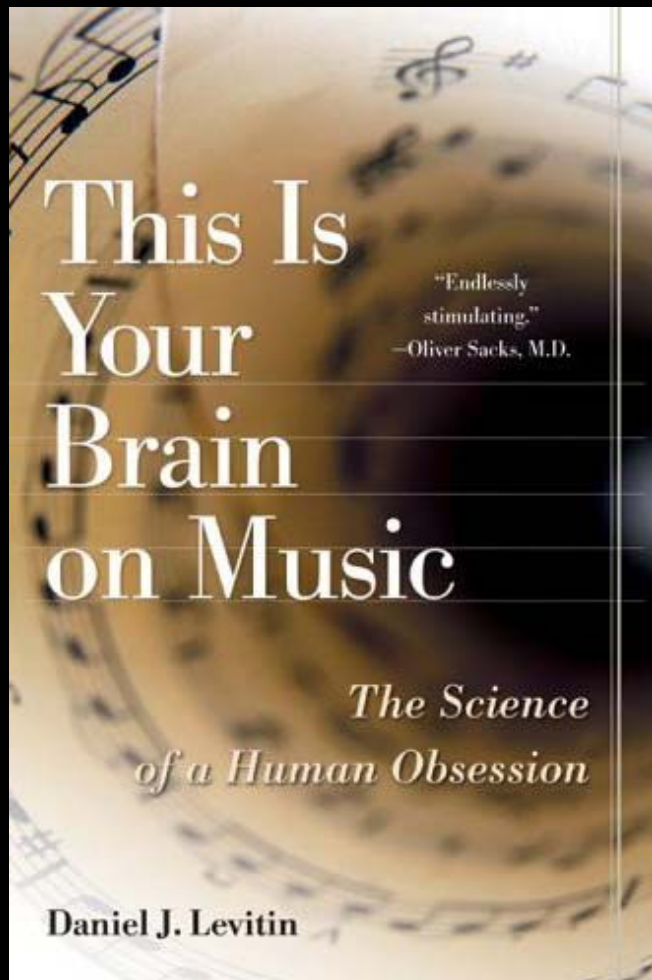
The YouTube, Yahoo Video and “viral” news transmission. Internet 2.0

Vlogging

Who ‘owns’ information? ...in Peru?

Have you googled google? Is google ‘*a way of life*’ for you? Or a ‘*part of life*?’

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)



In fact, there is a fundamental drive behind the enormous pent-up demand that has fueled the electronics revolution.

We are all drawn to this is because of the way our brains are “hardwired.”

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)

The electronics and entertainment industries have learned how to exploit the “hardwiring” in your brain, and they are making billions of dollars in meeting the “consumer demand.”

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)

This is all a “good thing” -- right?

Well, perhaps... BUT are there any “down sides” to this consumer-driven electronic revolution?

What are the long term, hidden, or unintended implications of stimulating-then-feeding “consumer demand” with the numerous new products of the electronic industry?

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)

What does the electronics revolution do for  
your understanding of the world?

What kinds of things are being  
“*left out*” by a consumer-driven electronics  
revolution?

When you can access everything, what are  
you *choosing* not to access  
or ignore?





*Are we all under the influence now of a:*

*“National Entertainment State?”*

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Neil Postman  
Author of *The Disappearance of Childhood*

# Amusing Ourselves to Death

Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business



“This comes along at exactly the right moment . . .  
We must confront the challenge of his prophetic vision.”

—Jonathan Kozol  
Copyrighted Material

*In a culture dominated by consumer-TV and its electronic extensions on the computers, iPods and cell phones, are we in danger of*

*“Amusing Ourselves to Death?”*

Consider what is happening all around you  
(by the way, all of you are already experts on this..., right?)

Is there a difference between living in a “free  
society” and living in  
a “free market” society?

Consumers are sovereign in a free market  
society, but what do they ignore?

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society, but what do they ignore?

In short, **what is the shape of ignorance** in  
market integrated societies?

# Ignorance in the Internet Age

Ignorance in the Internet age requires an explanation. Never before have so many people in America had so much instantaneous and sustained access to as many world-wide sources of news as they do in the Internet age.

Yet, never before has the American public been so ignorant of and indifferent toward the plight of the **growing majority of humankind** beyond its borders.

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Curiosity is natural. Ignorance is manufactured.

# Most News...Greatest Ignorance

With the world's best financed, best equipped and most technically competent news gathering professionals serving them every instant of every day, why is it that the American public remains ignorant?

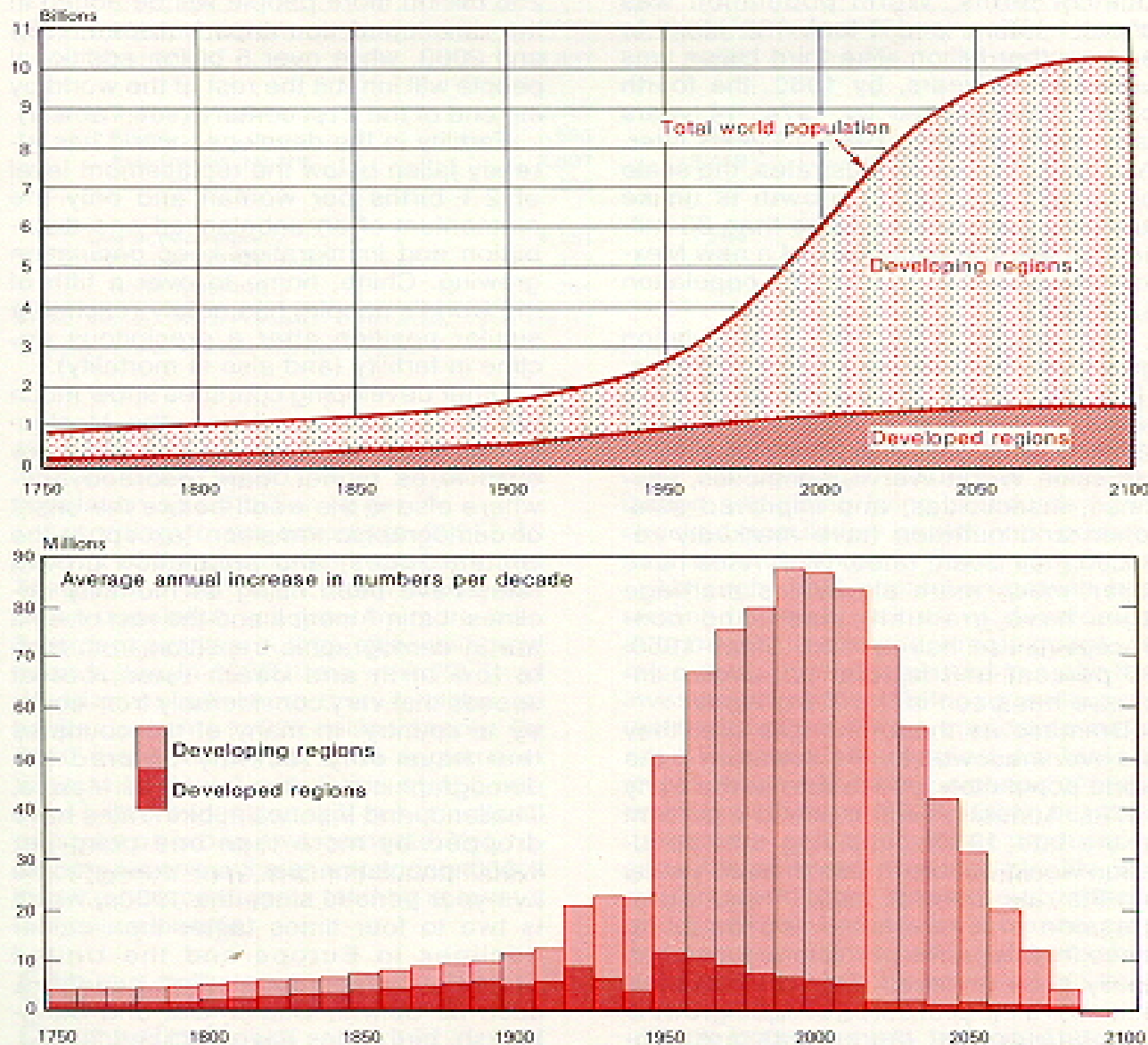
# Most News...Greatest Ignorance

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While many teenagers can reel off the names of soap opera stars and trivia they remember from episodes of "West Wing" or the "Sopranos" few have any sense of America's impact on the world or how Americans are perceived abroad.



Figure 1. World, Developing and Developed Regions, Population Growth: 1750-2100



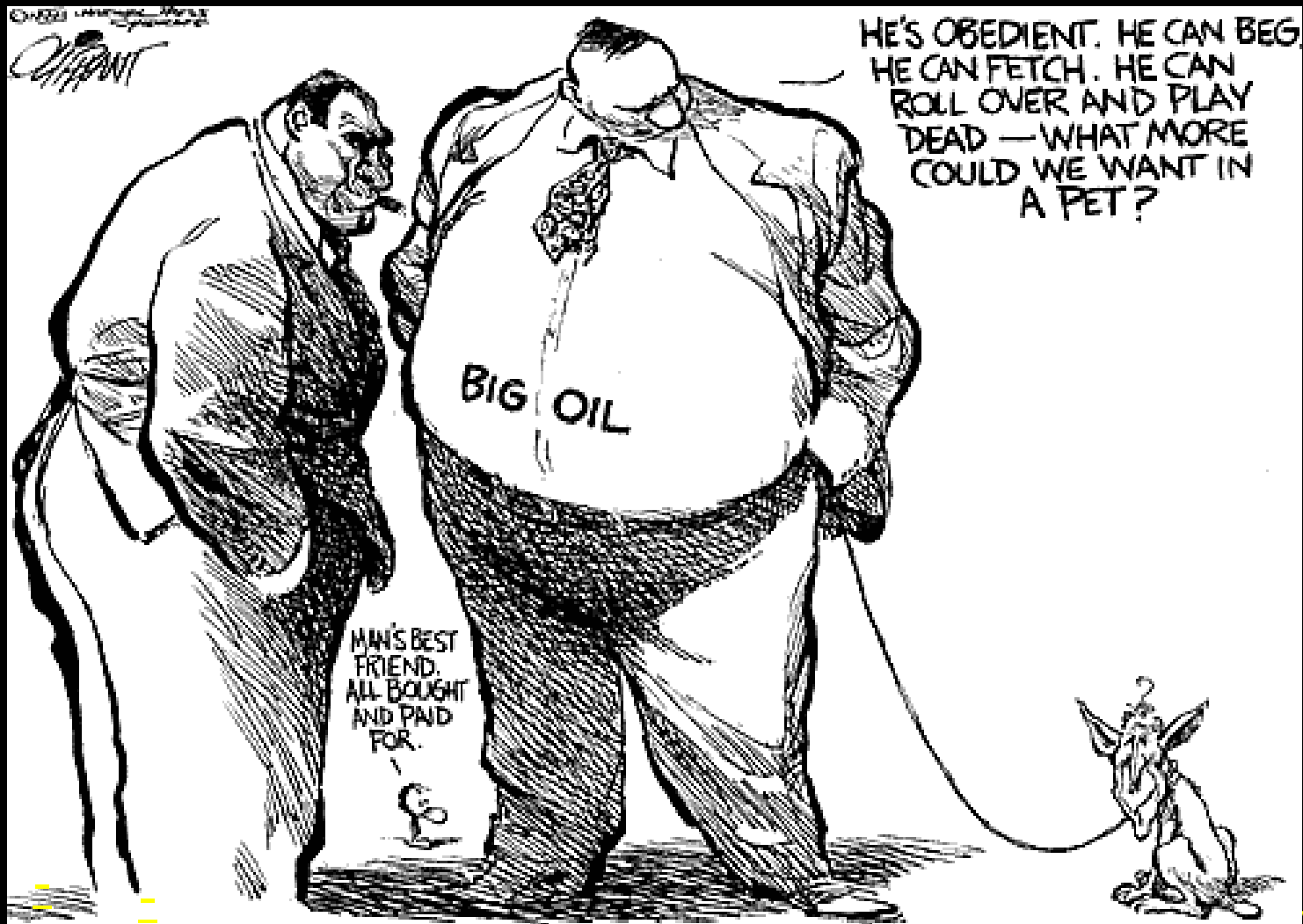
Source: Thomas W. Merrick, with PRB staff, "World Population in Transition," *Population Bulletin*, Vol. 41, No. 2 (April 1986) Figure 1, p. 4.

To begin, we should realize that the so called "Third World" is really the Two-Thirds World, and it will be the Four Fifths World and then the Nine Tenths world in the life time of those born today.

In this context, global disgust with officially encouraged American energy and resource gluttony is growing.



Our leaders are seen as “bought and paid for” -- the obedient political spokesmen of large corporations.



By rejecting the Kyoto treaty, America has destroyed its credibility on global environmental issues



SUV sales have reached record numbers and earned record market share during the course of the 1990s.

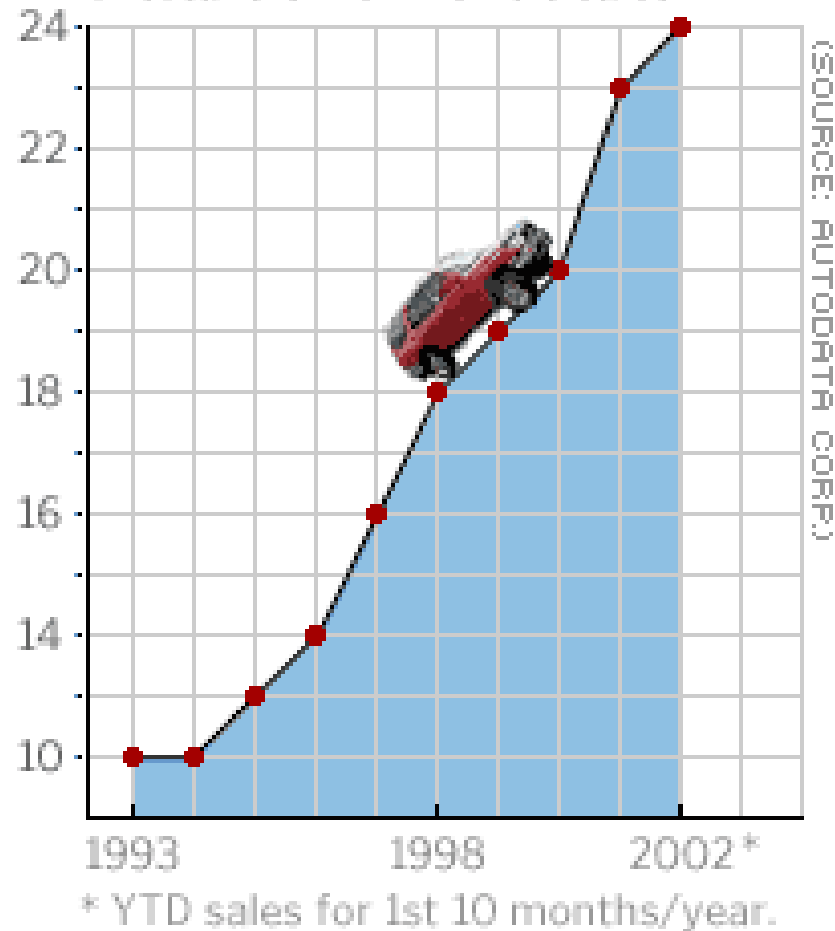
These SUVs are widely regarded globally as a symbol of America's bloated arrogance. We live as part of a culture of consumption in a world of constraint.

For many, the 'American Dream' has become a global nightmare. Are we really

“misunderstood?” Or perhaps ...understood all too well?

## SUV Sales

Sport/utility vehicle sales as a % of total U.S. new vehicle sales





Anti-Americanism is beginning to express itself in consumer boycotts throughout the Muslim world and beyond...



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THE IHT ONLINE

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## A global image on the way down

**Brian Knowlton/IHT** International Herald Tribune  
Thursday, December 5, 2002

### U.S. is blamed for others' economic and social misery

**WASHINGTON** The global image of the United States has suffered a dramatic bruising in the past two years, most seriously in Muslim countries but also to a surprising extent among many traditional allies, a major new opinion survey has found. The souring attitudes toward the United States were matched by broad discontent with world economic and social conditions, the survey found.

"Since 2000, favorability ratings for the United States have fallen in 19 of the 27 countries where trend benchmarks are available," said a report from the nonpartisan Pew Research Center which, in association with the International Herald Tribune, surveyed 38,000 people in 44 countries in late summer and early fall.

While majorities in nearly every country supported the U.S.-led war on terrorism, U.S. threats of war against Iraq appear to have heightened concerns, recorded in earlier surveys, about an American foreign policy seen as overly aggressive and insufficiently concerned with the interests of friends and allies.

Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center, called the breadth of the U.S. image problem surprising, attributing it in part to the United States' status as the world's sole superpower. "When you're the richest guy on the block and the most powerful nation on earth, unchallenged, you don't have the natural coalitions that unite you with





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Thursday, 5 December, 2002, 01:46 GMT

## Global anger at US 'growing'



AP

Anti-US feeling is strongest in certain Muslim societies

A major survey of global public opinion has found increasing anti-Americanism.

The trend is most dramatic in Muslim societies, and some of the strongest anti-Americanism is in Egypt and Pakistan, according to the study by the US-based Pew Research Center.

After 38,000 interviews in 44 countries, researchers concluded that in the past two

“  
We'll do everything we can to remind people that we've never been a nation of conquerors  
”

President Bush

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Madeline Albright, former US secretary of state  
"Fritter away the reservoir of goodwill towards of America" \*

**See also:** —

- ▶ 05 Sep 02 | Americas Anti-US feeling under scrutiny
- ▶ 23 Jul 02 | Americas US plans more broadcasts to Muslims

**Internet links:**

- ▶ Pew Research Center

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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

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## About Us

The mission of the Environmental Justice and Climate Change initiative is to educate and activate the peoples of North America to drive the creation and implementation of just climate policies. The primary focus of our work is to change policies and practices in the United States, but our perspective and the context for our work is international.

The EJCC Initiative supports energy efficiency, renewable energy, and conservation policies while seeking equitable measures to protect and assist the communities most affected by climate change.

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These organizations have joined the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative:

### [Black Leadership Forum](#)

The mission of the 25-year old Black Leadership Forum (BLF) is to promote creative and coordinated black leadership, and to be diverse in its membership, but clear on its priority: the empowerment of African Americans to improve their own lives and to expand their opportunities to fully participate in American social, economic, and political life. There are 28 BLF members, CEO's of the nation's most prominent and prestigious civil rights and service organizations.

Saturday December 7, 3:54 AM

## Global warming may nurture extremism, expert says

By Philip Blenkinsop

BERLIN (Reuters) - Climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions will exacerbate world poverty and could make millions of people more open to extremism, the chief of the United Nations' climate advisory body said on Friday.

Rajendra Pachauri told Reuters the effects of climate change were likely to affect the developing world disproportionately and make the poor even poorer and more bitter.

"Large areas of poverty are dangerous for the world as a whole as they provide fertile ground for extremist views... Things go wrong. People want to blame someone," Pachauri said.

Pachauri said that by 2100, worldwide temperatures would be 1.4 to 5.8 Celsius higher than today and sea levels would rise by 0.5 metres (1 ft 8 in).

Island groups, such as the Maldives and the South Pacific would be particularly hard hit, while low-lying Bangladesh, already one of the world's poorest countries, could lose 17 percent of its land.

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*In a culture of culpable ignorance we never  
“connect the dots” and all news is ....*

## News ‘from Nowhere’?



Were you surprised by this?

*In a culture of culpable ignorance we never  
connect the dots and all news is ....*

## News ‘from Nowhere’?



Were you surprised by this?

Have you ever asked *Why?* -- not  
only: “*Why did it happen?*”

But also:

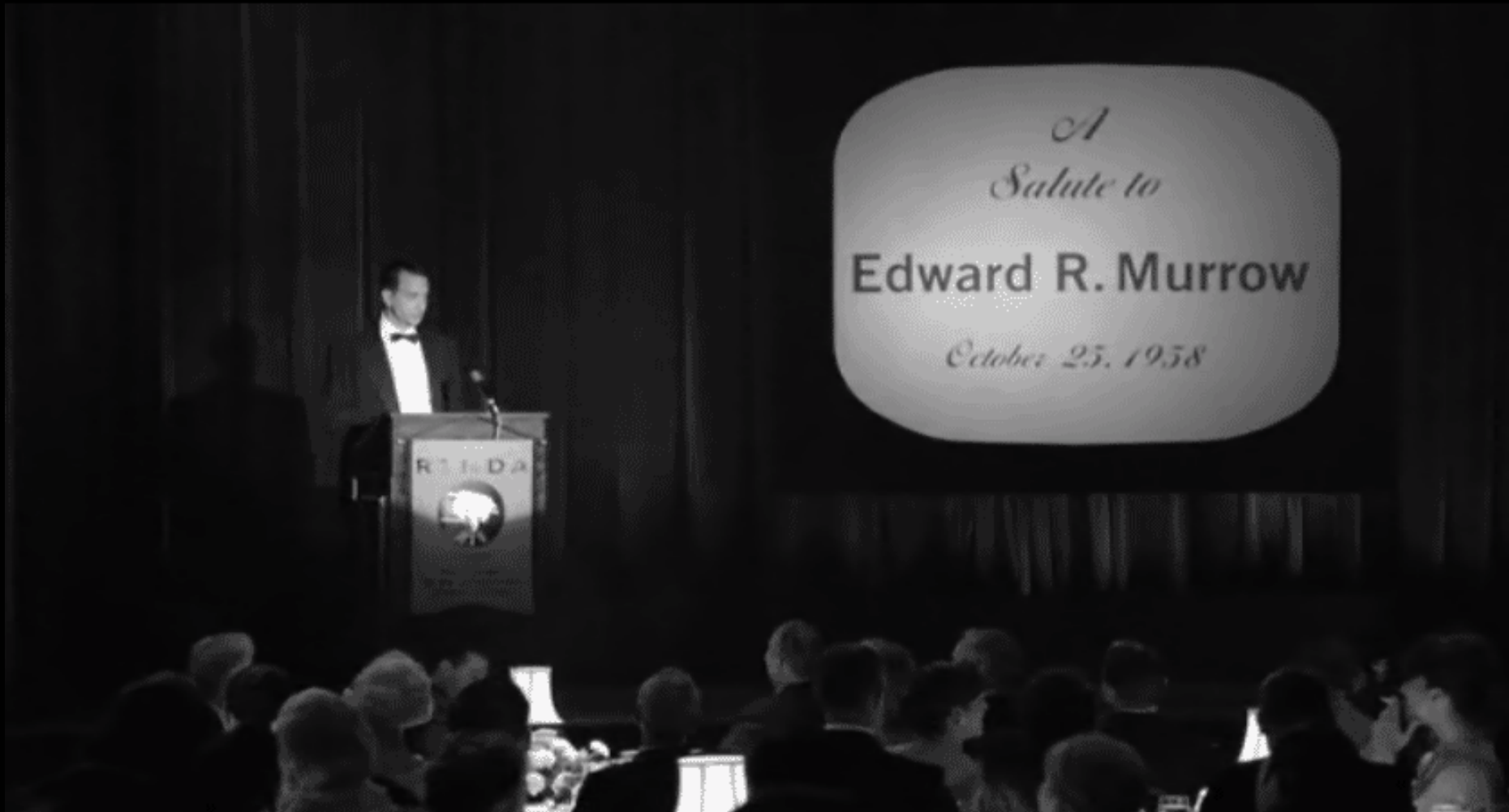
*“Why where you surprised?”*



Where will you be when “news from nowhere” strikes again?  
Are you going to be part of the solution? Or part of the problem?

*What DO we spend our time, money and resources  
looking at as a culture?*

*The answer was made clear almost fifty years ago – by  
the single greatest reporter in American history*



W I D E S C R E E N

david strathairn patricia clarkson  
george clooney jeff daniels  
robert downey jr. frank langella

# good night, and good luck.

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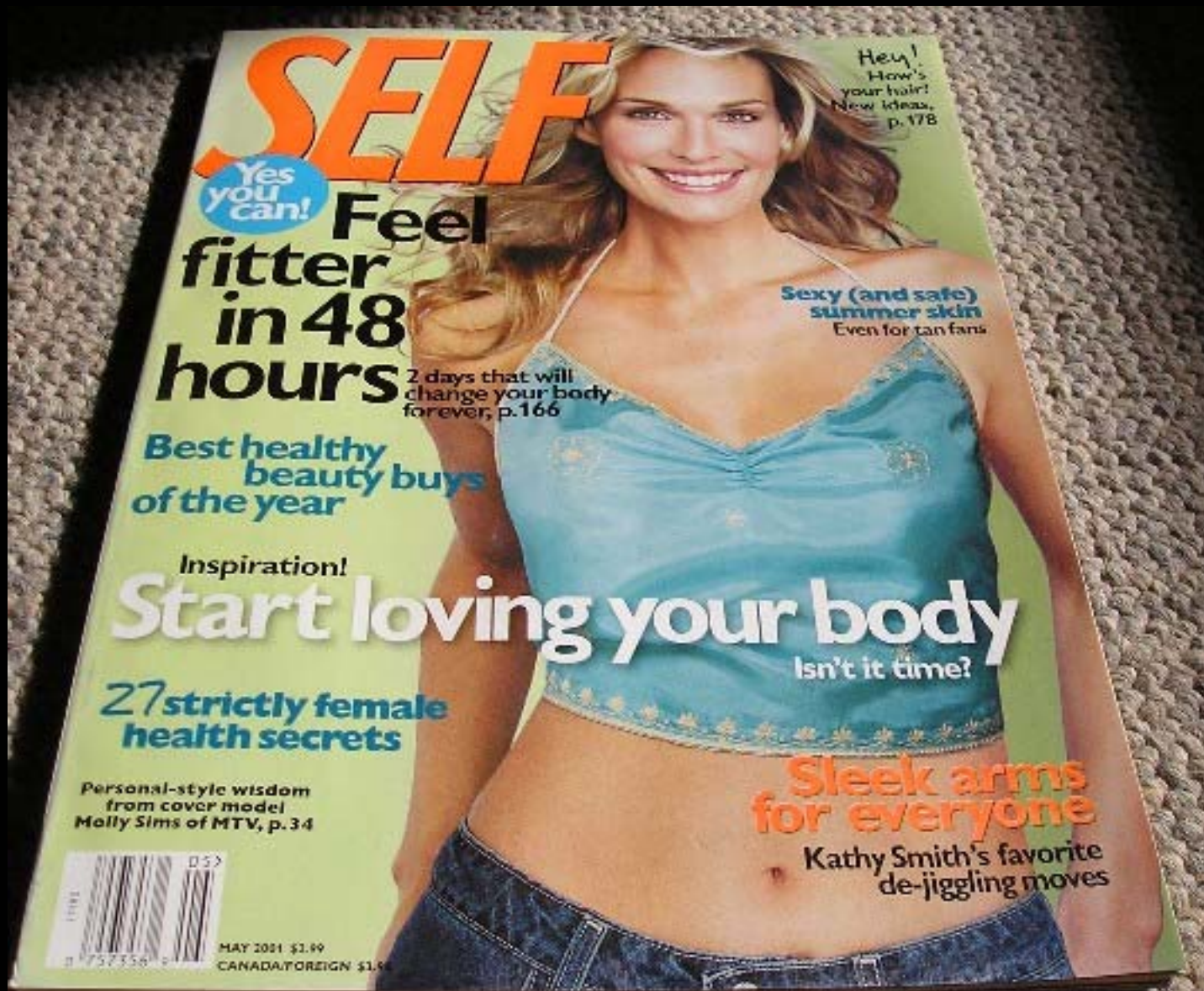
- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE



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*Whatever else has happened in the last 50 years, we have clearly become fascinated with ourselves....*



*Celebrity and crime are the big headline catchers...*

The image shows the cover of People magazine. At the top, the word "People" is written in a large, white, serif font. Below it, a red banner contains the text "MURDER IN NORTH CAROLINA" in white. The main headline, "WHO KILLED MICHELLE?", is written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of this headline is a photograph of a woman in a pink shirt holding a young child. To the right of the headline is a short article snippet. On the far right, there are three smaller vertical panels, each with a photo and a headline. The top panel shows a man and a woman with the headline "ANGELINA & BOLD: More Kids? 'Of Course'". The middle panel shows a man with the headline "BRITNEY'S LATEST GUY". The bottom panel shows a woman with the headline "RIGHT OR WRONG? Parents Halt Girl's Growth".

People

MURDER IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHO KILLED MICHELLE?

Pregnant mom Michelle Young was found murdered in her home, her daughter nearby. Cops say her husband was having a 'relationship' with her close friend. He's not talking

ANGELINA & BOLD: More Kids? 'Of Course'

BRITNEY'S LATEST GUY

RIGHT OR WRONG? Parents Halt Girl's Growth

LOSE 5, 10, 20 POUNDS p. 81

Get Ready  
For Summer!  
The OC's  
Rachel  
Bilson

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AT YOUR  
BEST

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*Your happiness is what really counts...*



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- ▶ Annabeth Gish and Husband Have a Son
- ▶ VIDEO: Paula Abdul's Bizarre TV Appearance
- ▶ Beckham Turned to Tom Cruise for Advice
- ▶ Eva Longoria: I Hate Sex Scenes
- ▶ Justin & Cameron: The Final Days

## PEOPLE TOP 5 THE STORIES EVERYONE IS READING TODAY UPDATED HOURLY



**1** Justin & Cameron: It's Over  
Timberlake and Diaz officially call it quits after dating for nearly four years

## Cover Story

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### Britney & Kevin: It's Over

After two years of marriage – and in the wake of one final chaotic weekend – Britney Spears catches her husband off guard by filing for divorce

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2006 12:00 PM EST



FEB. 8: "He still loves her," says a Federline friend. But someone close to Spears (with Federline at a post-Grammy party) says "he was not a good reflection on her."

PHOTO BY: DANNY MOLOSHOK / AP

For a few minutes on Nov. 7 – the day his marriage went from chaotic to kaput – the guy in a Toronto store wasn't K-Fed, he was K-Dad. "He was looking at baby clothing and holding up these little baby outfits," says a photo agency rep who was with cooing singer Kevin Federline in Toronto to promote his debut album while

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*Whether we like it or not, the vast majority of all public media in America is devoted to the fantasy world of celebrities.*



*Indeed, we are all invited to engage them as part of our fantasy world as the strut and prance before the omnipresent cameras, and the “press” dutifully records their every move.*

*Employing its meticulous observational skills the American press and broadcast media undertake the burdensome task of reporting momentous events in considerable detail.*



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*Is there anything they have left out?* I spare you the anatomical detail here, but the press -- assuming its awesome duty to inform the public -- does not shrink before this daunting task.

*To what, you might ask, is the American press devoting its unrivaled investigative skills?*

*Employing its meticulous observational skills the American press and broadcast media undertake the burdensome task of reporting momentous events in considerable detail.*



*Is there anything they have left out?* I spare you the anatomical detail here, but the press -- assuming its awesome duty to inform the public -- does not shrink before this daunting task.

*To what, you might ask, is the American press devoting its unrivaled investigative skills?* *To keeping track of Britney's underwear.*



*Are we, perhaps, focusing on the wrong things?  
What do we not “see coming” in America  
that everyone else in the world sees?*



**Key Question:** Why have Americans failed to perceive or act effectively upon the warnings of thousands of the planet's most distinguished scientists from its most respected institutions?



Is it because the information is simply an ‘inconvenient truth?’



Or is it because the information is  
secret or scarce or hard to find?



Not really....



Not really.... Consider the volume of reports and studies – both those already existing *and forthcoming...*

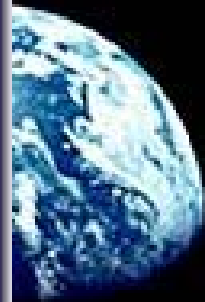


# CLIMATE CHANGE 2001

*Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*



Contribution of Working Group II to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



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Im

# Science

MAGAZINE'S

STATE  
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2006-2007



DONALD KENNEDY  
and the Editors of *Science*

AAAS





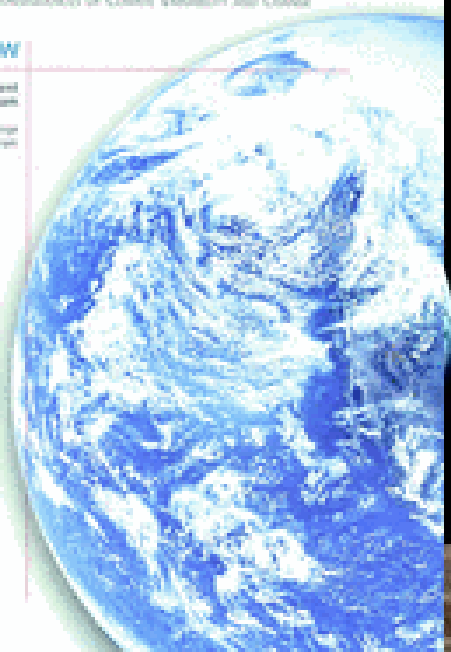
# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE UNITED STATES

The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change

## Overview

National Assessment  
Synthesis Team

U.S. State/Climate  
Research Program



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE

The Potsdam

## Overview

National Science Foundation

100-100-100



## Joint science academies' statement: Global response to climate change

### Climate change is real

There will always be uncertainty in understanding a system as complex as the world climate, however that is not stopping scientists from significant global warming is occurring. The evidence comes from direct measurements of rising surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures and from phenomena such as increases in average global sea levels, shrinking glaciers, and changes to many physical and biological systems. It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities (IPCC 2007). This warming has already led to changes in the Earth's climate.

The evidence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is that to fix on Earth - in the absence average temperatures would be about 30 centigrade degrees lower than they are today. But human activities are now causing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases - including carbon dioxide, methane, tropospheric ozone, and nitrous oxide - to rise well above pre-industrial levels. Carbon dioxide levels have increased from 280 ppm in 1750 to over 370 ppm today - a rise that is only previous levels that can be reliably measured (i.e. in the last 420,000 years). Including greenhouse gases are causing temperatures to rise. The Earth's surface warmed by approximately 0.8 centigrade degrees over the twentieth century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that the average global surface temperatures will continue to increase to between 1.4 centigrade degrees and 5.8 centigrade degrees above 1980 levels, by 2100.

### Reduce the causes of climate change

The scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action. It is vital that all nations identify cost-effective steps that they can take now. We contribute to substantial and long-term reduction in net global greenhouse gas emissions.

Action taken now to reduce significantly the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will secure the magnitude and rate of climate change. As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Negotiations, a lack of full scientific certainty about some aspects of climate change is not a reason for delaying an immediate response that sets, at a reasonable cost, prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Actions and economies develop over the next 25 years, world primary energy demand is estimated to increase by almost 60%. Fossil fuels, which are responsible for the majority of carbon dioxide emissions, provide the main energy source, provide valuable resources for many nations and are projected to provide 80% of the demand (IA 2006). Meeting the amount of the carbon dioxide reducing the atmosphere presents a huge challenge. This is necessary

potentially cost-effective technological options that could contribute to stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations. These are at various stages of research and development. However, barriers to their broad deployment abound to be overcome.

Carbon dioxide can remain in the atmosphere for many decades. Even with possible lowered emission rates we will be experiencing the impacts of climate change throughout the 21st century and beyond. Failure to implement significant reductions in net greenhouse gas emissions now, will make the job much harder in the future.

### Prepare for the consequences of climate change

Major parts of the climate system respond slowly to changes in greenhouse gas concentrations. Even if greenhouse gas emissions were stabilized instantly at today's levels, the climate would still continue to change as it adjusts to the increased emission of recent decades. Further changes in climate are therefore unavoidable. Nations must prepare for them.

The projected changes in climate will have both beneficial and adverse effects at the regional level, for example in water resources, agriculture, natural ecosystems and human health. The large and faster the changes in climate, the more likely it is that adverse effects will dominate. Increasing temperatures are likely to increase the frequency and severity of weather events such as heat waves and heavy rainfall. Increasing temperatures could lead to large-scale effects such as melting of glaciers and ice sheets with major impacts on low-lying regions throughout the world. The IPCC estimated that the combined effects of sea melting and sea level expansion from ocean warming are projected to cause the global mean sea level to rise by between 0.1 and 0.8 metres between 1980 and 2100. In Bangladesh alone, a 0.5 metre sea level rise would place about 1 million people at risk from flooding.

Developing nations that lack the infrastructure or resources to respond to the impacts of climate change will be particularly affected. It is vital that many of the world's poorest people are able to reduce the most harmful climate change. Long-term global efforts to create a more healthy, prosperous and sustainable world may be severely hindered by changes in the climate.

The task of devising and implementing strategies to adapt to the consequences of climate change will require worldwide collaborative efforts from a wide range of sectors, including physical and social scientists, engineers, social scientists, medical scientists, those in the humanities, business leaders and economists.

# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE

The Potsdam

## Overview

National Science Foundation



### Joint science academies' state Global response to climate c

Climate change is real. There will always be uncertainty in understanding a system as complex as the world climate, however that is how strong evidence that significant global warming is occurring. The evidence comes from direct measurements of rising surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures and from phenomena such as increases in average global sea levels, melting glaciers, and changes to many physical and biological systems. It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities (IPCC 2007). This warming has already led to changes in the Earth's climate.

The evidence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is that to life on Earth - in the absence average temperatures would be about 30 centigrade degrees lower than they are today. But human activities are now causing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases - including carbon dioxide, methane, tropospheric ozone, and nitrous oxide - to rise well above pre-industrial levels. Carbon dioxide levels have increased from 280 ppm in 1750 to over 370 ppm today - higher than any previous level that can be reliably measured (i.e. in the last 420,000 years). Including greenhouse gases are causing temperatures to rise. The Earth's surface warmed by approximately 0.8 centigrade degrees over the twentieth century. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that the average global surface temperature will continue to increase to between 1.4 centigrade degrees and 5.8 centigrade degrees above 1980 levels, by 2100.

### Reduce the causes of climate change

The scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action. It is vital that all nations identify cost-effective steps that they can take now to contribute to substantial and long-term reduction in net global greenhouse gas emissions.

Action taken now to reduce significantly the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will secure the magnitude and rate of climate change. As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes, a lack of full scientific certainty about some aspects of climate change is not a reason for delaying an immediate response that sets, at a reasonable cost, prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Analysts and economists looking over the next 25 years, world primary energy demand is estimated to increase by almost 60%. Fossil fuels, which are responsible for the majority of carbon dioxide emissions, provide the main energy source, provide valuable resources for many nations and are projected to provide 80% of the demand (IEA 2006). Meeting the amount of the carbon dioxide reducing the atmosphere presents a huge challenge. This is necessary

potentially not otherwise be contribute to stabilizing the. There are at various stages. However barriers to that in emissions.

Carbon dioxide can remain in the atmosphere for decades. Even with prompt action to reduce the input, the 21st century will have significant reductions in its level, will make the job more

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# THE WINDS OF CHANGE

## Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations

### EUGENE LINDEN

AUTHOR OF *The Future in Plain Sight*



## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE

The Potomac

### Overview

National Academies  
Symposium I  
10-11 October 2007  
Research 20



Joint science academies' statement  
Global response to climate change

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# THE WEATHER MAKERS



How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth

TIM FLANNERY

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The Potential  
**Overview**

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NSF Division of Research



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Global response to climate change

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# W M

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and W

# MAN, NATURE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

# TIM

Elizabeth Kolbert

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The Potential  
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National Academies  
Synthesis I  
10-10-10  
Research 10



## Joint science academies' state Global response to climate c

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# THE REVENGE OF GAIA

## EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS & THE FATE OF HUMANITY

# JAMES LOVELOCK



# CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE

The Potsdam

## Overview

National Science Foundation



Joint science academies' statement on climate change  
Global response to climate change

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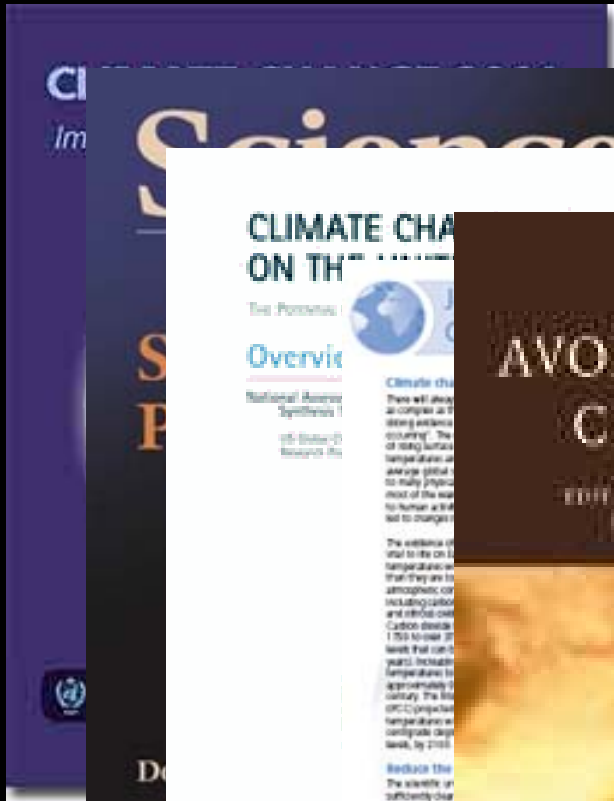
# CLIMATE CHANGE



# AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

THE PLANETARY EMERGENCY OF GLOBAL WARMING AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

# AL GORE



# CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE MARCH

The Potentially Catastrophic Risks of Delaying Action on Climate Change

## Overview

National Academies Press  
10-10-09  
Research Report



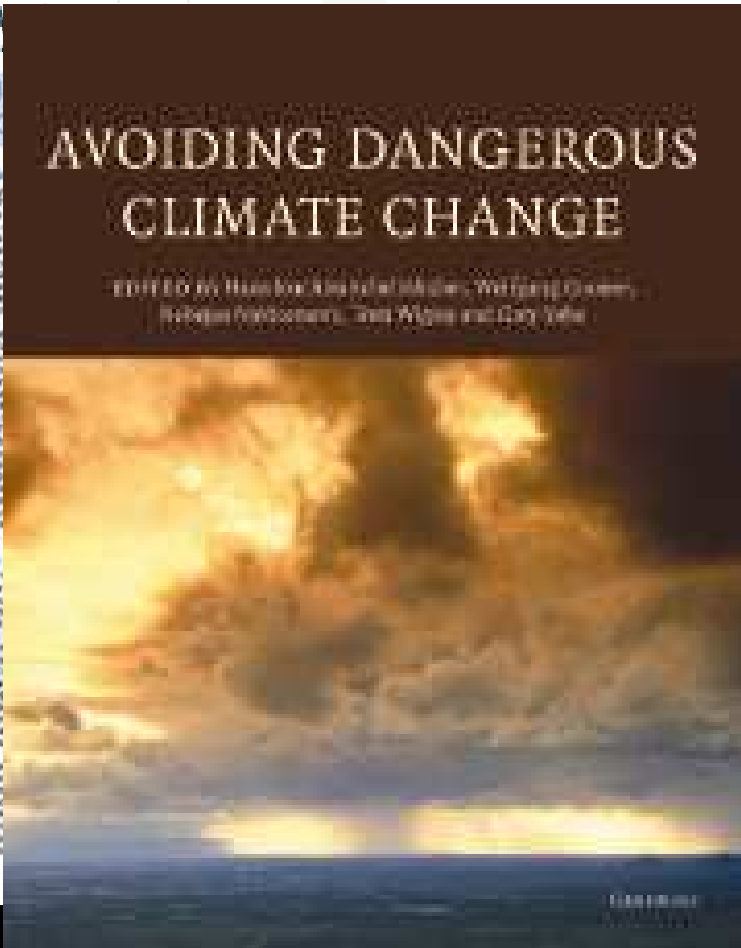
Climate change is expected to cause a 1.5°C increase in global average surface temperature by 2100. The most likely physical impacts of climate change are expected to be felt in the form of more frequent and severe weather events, such as droughts, floods, and storms.

The evidence of climate change is now so strong that it is clear that the world is facing a global climate crisis. The most likely physical impacts of climate change are expected to be felt in the form of more frequent and severe weather events, such as droughts, floods, and storms.

Reduce the risks of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The most effective way to do this is to reduce energy consumption and to switch to renewable energy sources.

Action taken now can significantly reduce the risks of climate change. The most effective way to do this is to reduce energy consumption and to switch to renewable energy sources.

Adaptation and mitigation are both essential to addressing climate change. Adaptation involves taking steps to reduce the risks of climate change, while mitigation involves taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



# AVOIDING DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE

EDITED BY HANS-MARTIN WEGMANN, WOLFGANG DÖRMANN, REBECCA M. WOODMAN, WILLEM AND GARY VERBEKE

CLIMATE CHANGE

THE  
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—Jared Diamond

REVENGE OF NATURE

# REVENGE OF NATURE



# AN UNCONVENIENT TRUTH

THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: A WARNING AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

# AL GORE



# The Northeast Climate Impact Report

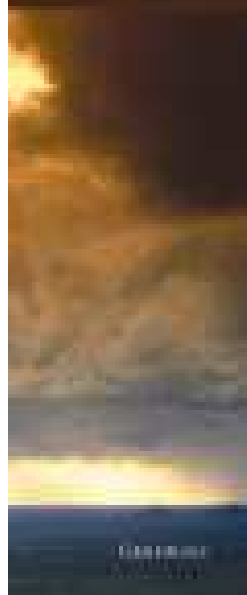
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—Jared Diamond

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THE GREAT EMERGENCY OF GLOBAL WARMING AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

AL GORE

**The Northeast Climate Im  
Report**

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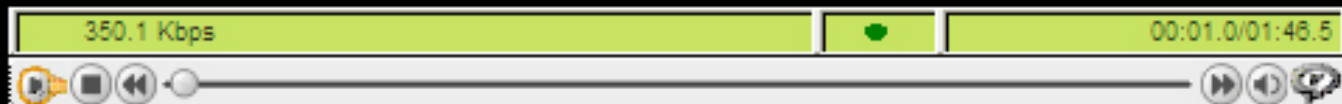
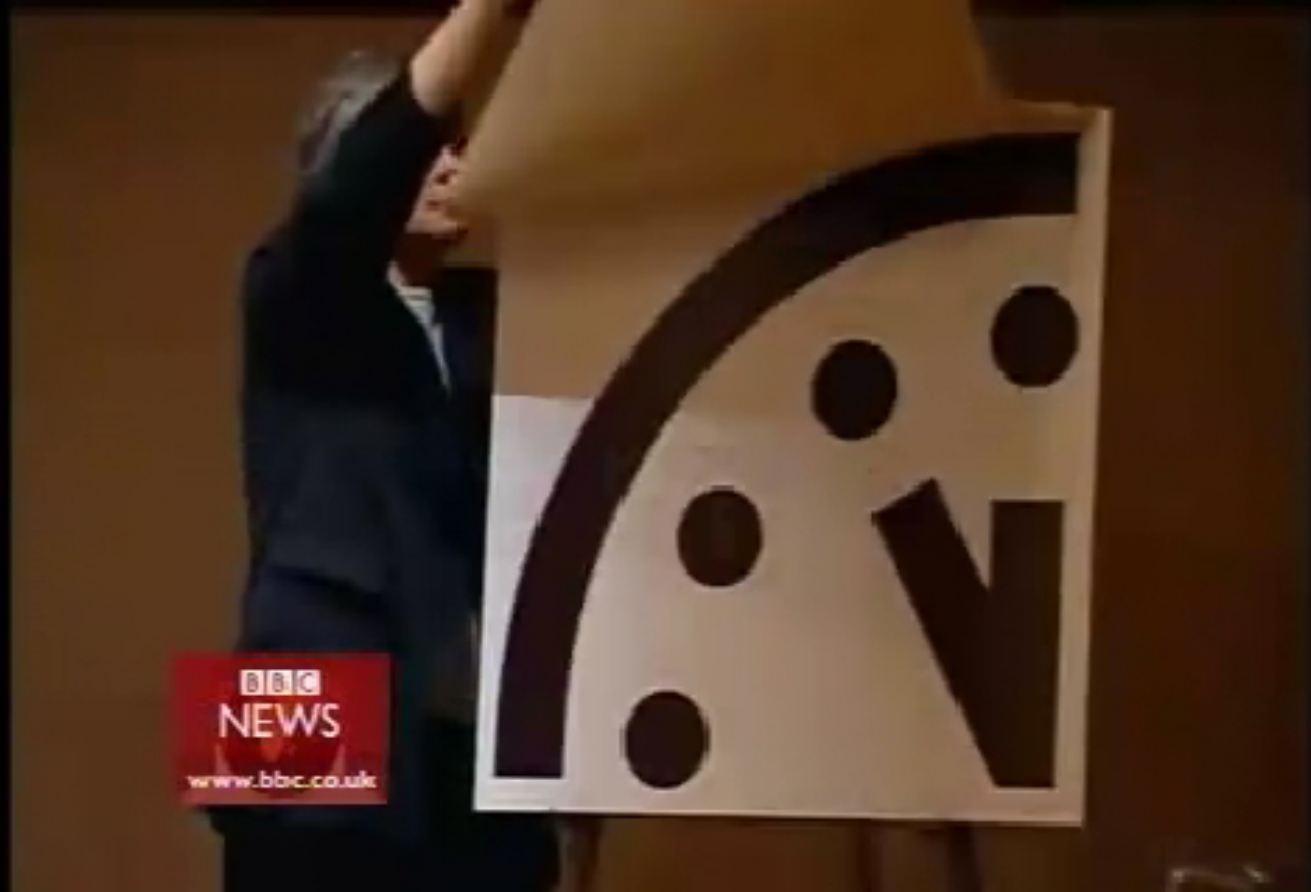
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**The 4th Assessment Report  
of the  
IPCC**

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November 2007

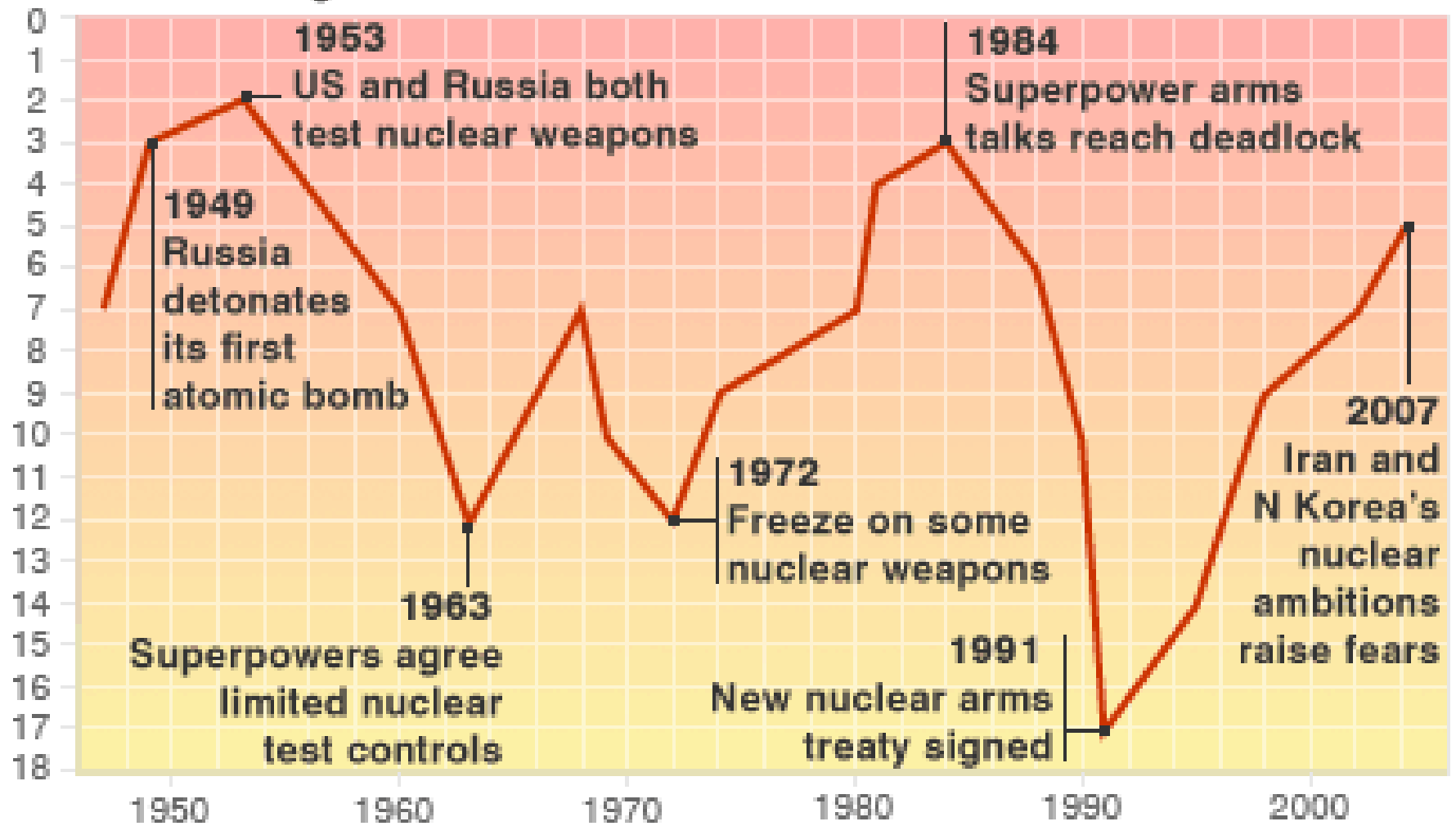
*Just yesterday!* Is this covered in the U.S.  
news-entertainment complex?

"'Doomsday Clock' adjusted," BBC News Online, (17 January 2007).

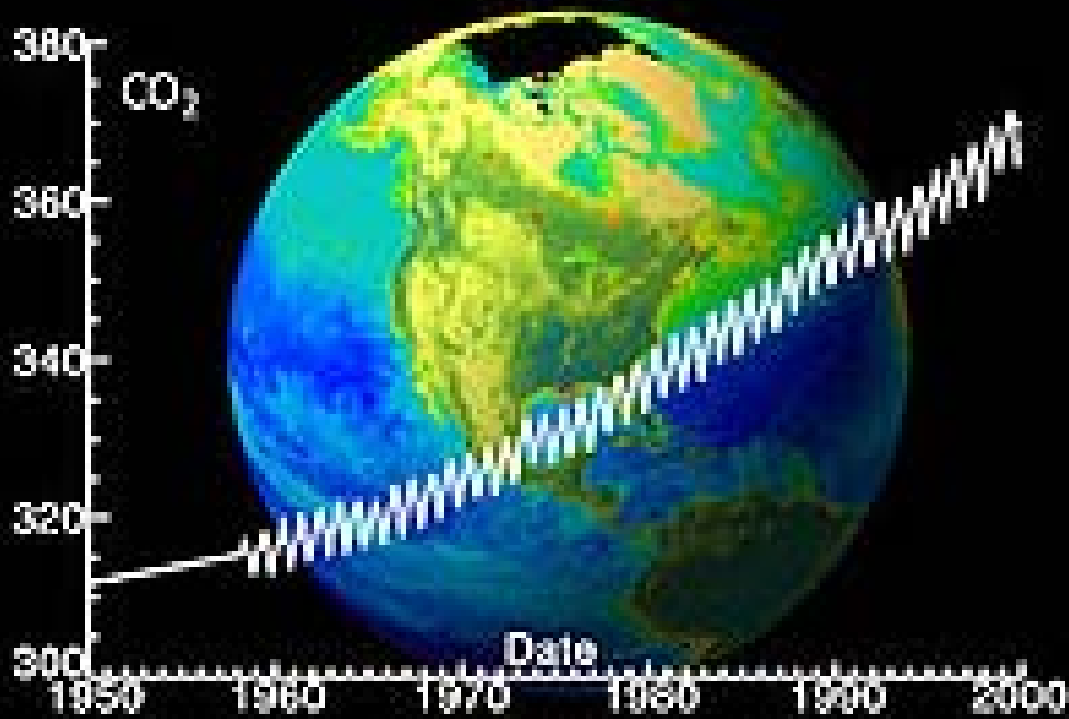


# THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK

Minutes to midnight



SOURCE: Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists



*What other 'surprises' are scientists trying to tell us about?*

*What are the predictable consequences of these 'surprises?'*

*Why are these warnings not being heard and acted upon?*

I turns out...there is a reason...

"The Denial Machine," CBC - TV, (15 November 2006)..

*Do you know who  
is man is?*

*Do you know what  
he has done?*

*How would you  
assess his implicit  
environmental  
ethic?*

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# But one man cannot act alone...

In American consumer society we are co-participants in a potentially catastrophic conspiracy of silence:

*we prefer not to know what our leaders prefer not to tell us.*

This culpable ignorance may prove to be fatal on a massive scale in your life-time.

# Overcoming our culpable ignorance

BP Ad

The Big Ask

Competitive Enterprise Institute Ads

vs.

They call it pollution...

We call in life....

What can you do?

- What schools are doing elsewhere
- Organizing your own education around questions of our collective survival.
- Al Gore Film here ..... and elsewhere.

30 Years Ad- Click on this ad to view - note the cynicism about intergenerational moral responsibility.



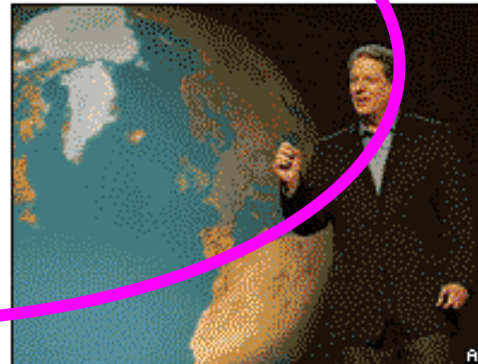


Last Updated: Tuesday, 16 January 2007, 15:16 GMT

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## Gore film to be shown in schools

Former US vice president Al Gore's climate change film is to be shown in all of Scotland's secondary schools, it has been announced.



Al Gore's film warns of the impact of humans on climate change

An Inconvenient Truth looks at the scientific evidence on the causes and likely impacts of global warming.

Plans to show it in Scottish schools were announced ahead of an event in Glasgow attended by Mr Gore and former UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix.

A package of education materials will be developed around the film.

Environment Minister Ross Finnie said: "Scotland takes climate change seriously.

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A good test of how are sensibilities are evolving can be seen in a picture like this.



A good test of how our sensibilities are evolving can be seen in a picture like this.

There was once a time – in the living memory of most of us – when such a picture inspired pride and a sense of an important job well done.



A good test of how our sensibilities are evolving can be seen in a picture like this.

There was once a time – in the living memory of most of us – when such a picture inspired pride and a sense of an important job well done.

Now, however, it seems hopelessly out of date and sadly beside the point.



We need, instead, to recognize that there are more important tasks that demand our attention in devising and enacting a new kind of ethic for the global community.





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The goal should not be further chauvinistic space travel but rather a commitment to achieve planetary survival.



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The goal should not be further chauvinistic space travel but rather a commitment to achieve planetary survival.

We already live on the largest inhabitable “space ship” in the known universe. Yet our policies and behavior are in the process of destroying our own life support systems.





We need, instead, to recognize that there are more important tasks that demand our attention in devising and enacting a new kind of ethic for the global community.

The goal should not be further chauvinistic space travel but rather a commitment to achieve planetary survival.

We already live on the largest inhabitable “space ship” in the known universe. Yet our policies and behavior are in the process of destroying our own life support systems.

This marks a failure of moral imagination.

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In fact, no forms of cherished “exceptionalism” will exempt us from biogeochemical processes to which we are subject in this complex ecosystem.

To survive, a new kind of environmental ethic will need to be devised for all of humankind.



# What is an appropriate “*theory of time?*”...



Moreover, there is not much time left to forge this much needed global environmental ethic.

Click hour glass to hear latest scientific warning from Dr. James Hansen.

<http://www.climate-talks.net/2005-ENVRE130/Climate-Talks-U/20051207-BBC-James-Hansen-Statement-index.htm> and

<http://ecojustice.net/2005-ENVRE120/Session-15/Video/20060120-BBC--Antarctic-Change-Index.htm>

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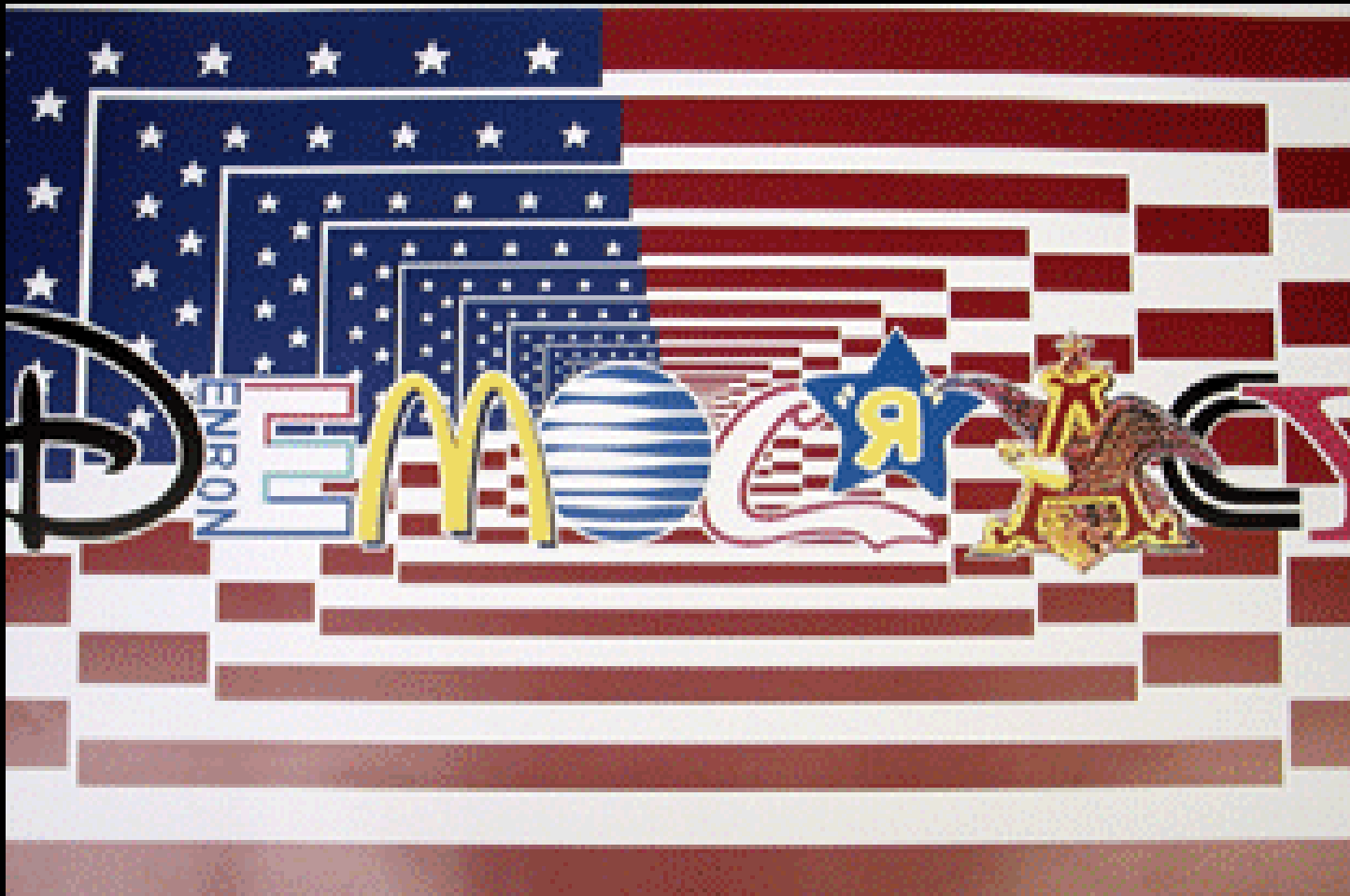
The global ecosystem is changing fast.

If we wish to survive within it, we have no choice but to change quickly...

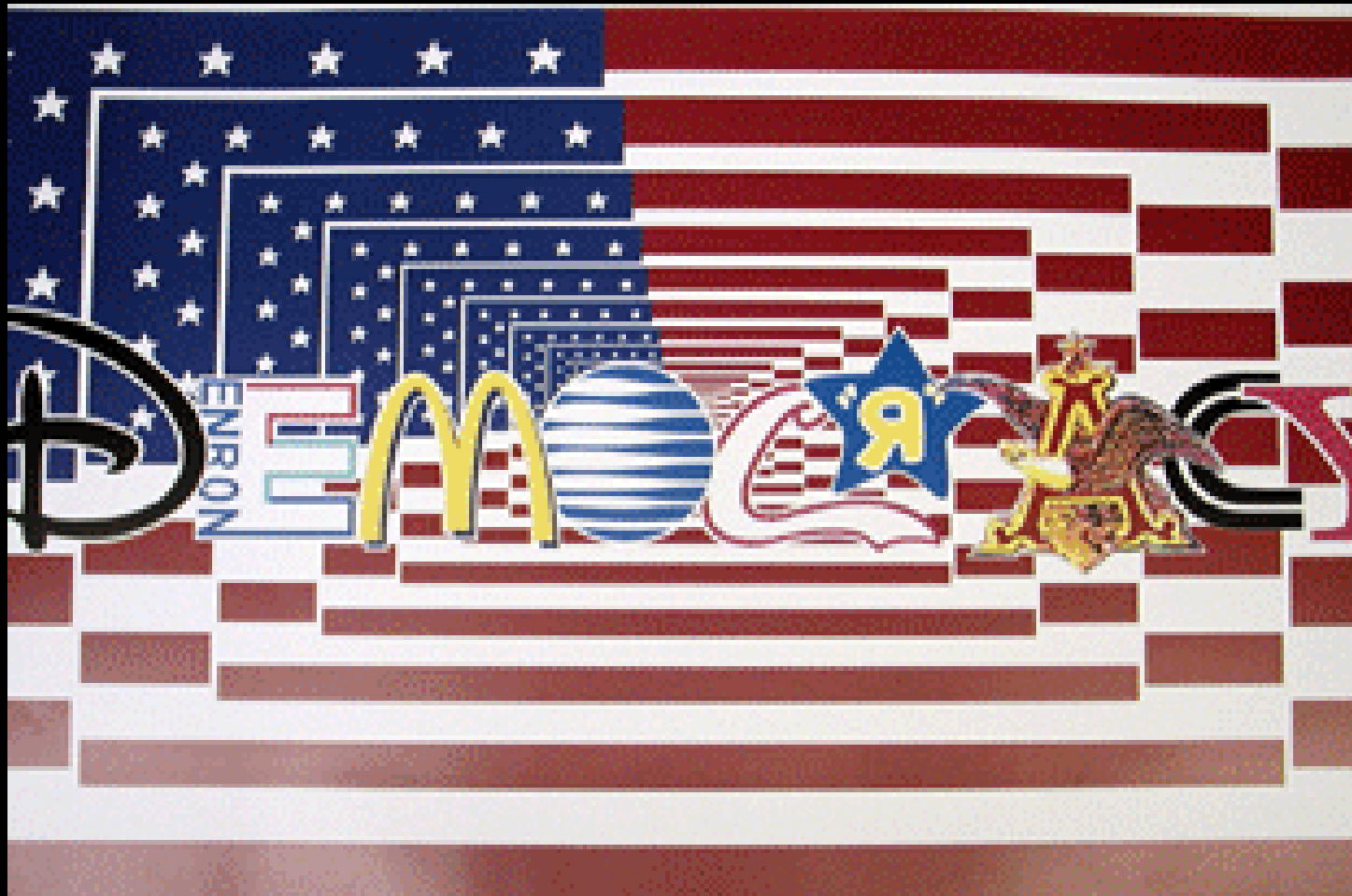
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...because, our current, default strategy – that of corporate driven continuous growth -- is simply not survivable on a finite planet. The brutality of dominance required for continued corporate globalization cannot be sustained.



We need to move beyond the juvenile growth phase of “western” development to devise sustainable strategies for collective, global survival. In this, the guiding moral vision of those in the Global South needs now to be acknowledged and embraced.



<http://ecojustice.net/2005-ENVRE120/Session-15/Video/20051002-Resist-Roy-Doc-Index.htm>



*Where can we go from here?*



*Where can we go from here?*



*The world looks different  
if you change your perspective.*



*Consider it in the 'moonlight'...*



<http://www.climate-talks.net/2006-ENVRE130/Conversations/20060819-WeekendAmerica-Jane-Hirshfield.mp3>

*Allow the world to change you  
...and you can change the world.*



*The beauty of nature's art can 'unfasten  
the latches and return us to ourselves.'*

*We need to return ....*



*Start where you are; take us to where  
we need to go -- as a new, world community.  
This is the ultimate moral obligation  
we must all now share.*



Good Night, And Good Luck.



[ A PDF file of the lecture slides -- with active links to sources cited in the lecture -- is available on the website for the Week 16. ]