Ehrlich 2020 persönliche Lebensphilosophie
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KuWRI9ZMPWLXvbHuDY23N2Z23glLGEIm4bbEtkuEpAM/edit?usp=sharing

Paul Ehrlich 2020
persönliche Lebensphilosophie, working on 3 new books, Aborigines, Inuit
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY4IppGZXEw

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Es wurden ja schon viele Bücher geschrieben über den Aufstieg und vor allem den Untergang von Gesellschaften, in der Regel durch Übernutzung ihrer Umweltressourcen.
Paul Ehrlich habt mich darauf aufmerksam gemacht, daß die australischen Aborigines die einzige Gesellschaft ist, die seit über 16.000 Jahren existiert, weil sie in ihrer Umwelt nachhaltig gelebt hat.
Warum?
Das ist interessant. Darüber muß ich nachforschen. Wiki und Google geben bestimmt Auskunft.

Paul Ehrlich:
"I'm going to be visiting, not for the first time, this time next month the most sustainable and sustained civilization on the planet and that is of course the Australian aborigines.
i have been in places very interested in aboriginal art. i have been in places where the paintings are in the vicinity of 10 to 15 000 years old, painted over and over. where the rocks underneath the overhang where the paintings are the rocks are polished smooth by 10 or 15 000 years of human butts sitting on them and i have talked to the lineal descendants of the artists a couple miles away from the site of where the paintings were done. we're not going to go 15 000 years with our society right"

Die Inuit hat er ja auch besucht und bei ihnen eine konsumreduzierte Lebensweise vorgefunden (die er als Bestandteil einer Gesellschaftstransformation in Richtung Nachhaltigkeit befürwortet).
In einem Bericht habe ich mal gesehen: die Männer gehen auf Jagt, die Frauen verteilen in versammelter Runde die Beute, jedem was er unterschiedlich braucht, und jeder ist zufrieden.
Wie das Eindringen von Geld solche Gemeinschaften zerstört ist eine eigene Geschichte.

Zur Ökonomie:
Nun ja, von Max haben sie alle gehört und können brav evtl. etwas Allbekanntes zitieren, aber Marx hat die Bewegungsgesetze kapitalistischer Marktwirtschaft beschrieben, deren Komplexität nicht mit einem isolierten singulären Statement abgetan werden können.

Das Grundlegende ist die Beschreibung der Ökonomie des Warentausch zu gleichen Werten und die "Verselbständigung" des Werts zu einem reinen Geldwert, der aus sich selbst, ohne dazwischentreten von wertschaffender (gesellschaftlicher Arbeit) MEHR Wert wird, als Charakteristikum einer kapitalistischen Warenwirtschaftsweise.
Man muß Marx schon ernsthaft studieren, will man nicht ständig Gebrauchswert und ökonomischen Wert (Geldwert) miteinander verwechseln (Doppelcharakter der Ware und der Arbeit).

Gut, verzeihen wir ihm, denn eine voll ausgebildete kapitalistischen Warenökonomie hat die scheinbare natürliche Eigenschaft, ihre eigene sozial-ökonomische Natur zu verstecken und sich als Natureigenschaft zu präsentieren. Dieser Illusion unterliegen im Normalfall die Teilnehmer der kapitalistischen Warenwirtschaft, deren eigene Bewegungsgesetze diese Illusion produzieren. Man lese, nein, studiere Marx "Das Kapital".
Unsere Wirtschaftsweise ist komplex, daher kann es auch keine einfache, vereinfachte und einseitige Darstellung geben.

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Q:

welcome to post doom regenerative conversations exploring overshoot grief grounding and gratitude i'm your host michael dowd and in this conversation recorded in november of 2019 i speak with someone who really doesn't need an introduction he's one of the most famous scientists alive today paul ehrlich paul has written or co-written over 1100 scientific papers including many with his wife and over 40 books and you'll see few people alive get the concept of overshoot more clearly than paul elliot does it's just an honor for me to speak with somebody i've held in highest esteem for four decades or longer

just give us a sense of what you're up to these days

* Ehrlich:
well i can i can summarize very easily.
i'm working with two mexican colleagues on a book on the extinction of populations
because most of the emphasis is put on the extinction of species
but as you probably know a much more serious problem at the moment is the loss of individuals from populations we've lost
a probably about a third of the birds in north america for example we've lost in some places 80 or 90 of the insects already
they're absolutely vital to us and so we're working hard on that
i'm working with another mexican a orthodontist on the only big environmental problem
that i think we can do something about and help people today
and that's the shrinkage of the human jaw and we're working on working with a geneticist with the the orthodontist the geneticist and the world's expert on stress because the shrinking jaws are giving lots of people sleep apnea which is a huge stressor and which ties to everything from heart disease to cancer yes
and i'm preparing lectures for a trip to australia where i'm going to be trying to tell for example the parliament of south australia how bad things are, there they're facing another murdoch summers you may know rupert murdoch more than anyone else is responsible for massive deaths in the future from his promotion of climate disruption

Q:
i just want to note that i have never heard murdoch summer before and i love it

* Ehrlich:
well the the last murdoch summer i happen to be in south australia and the flying foxes which are one of the nice features of the australian environment were dropping dead out of the trees from the heat yes and of course as you may have seen uh cotter well lots of places now are starting to air condition the outside because it's too hot for people to survive outside and of course air conditioning the outside is usually done by generating electricity by burning coal and guess what that does exactly even hotter so these and then again there's a thug now running the united states uh and that occupies a lot of my time that i'd rather it didn't

Q:
yeah you mentioned something about three books in the works

* Ehrlich:
yeah i have the the one that i just mentioned
i'm working with another colleague on one trying to see if we made a country that did the best
than any country now does;
for example, if you selected say cuba as the exemplar of taking care of its people medically
and norway as a country that is doing the right things with some of its finances and so on.
if you put it all together you would be able to have an ideal country and the answer sadly is not right exactly
and i'm writing a memoir for my grandchildren telling them as a matter of fact i was writing. when we started this conversation on a summer i spent with the inuit in the arctic there's a lot of lessons in that too.
and then there's a lot of papers and so on
so it's just my time is not hanging heavy on my hands and i'm wrestling with some of the health problems that are inevitable for somebody my age

the i'm when i go to australia i'm going to do can i give a little commercial okay sure i i fly there because the direct flight is united airlines polaris class which is business class because my back won't take 13 15 hours tourists but it's fantastic practice for people my age i take along a little packet of formaldehyde and it's just like lying in a coffin for 15 hours so if you want to practice fly polaris on united airlines to australia sprinkle a little from albany on a why they're like this and it's perfect practice oh gosh well

Q:
the last time that you and i interacted i was simply reaching out to you because i had learned that william catton, author of overshoot, had died and I was creating an obituary on my huffington post blog and you know you have been one of the people more than i mean you and catton and others the limits to growth authors i mean it's just people who have seen what's in the pipeline who see what's coming the trends are obvious, the the attempts at debunking have been without faith, completely baseless, most of them. how have you held this, how have you continued to do the work that you do in the face; it's the cassandra syndrome which you even wrote about you know back in the day, so how's that been for you emotionally and as well as intellectually

* Ehrlich:
i'm fortunate in my work is something i love and i also love drinking wine and keeping my internal environment in great shape
while the external goes down the drain, it's very depressing from the point of view
and it's always been my main attitude what kind of world i'm leaving in to my now great grandchildren as well as grandchildren and daughter and so on
and i guess i take the advice that uh gerardo cebios my closest mexican colleague and i strongly agree on and that is
you've got to keep doing the things that you think are right and well and hoping,
that what you know intellectually is somehow not going to be true that is we're going down the drain
i tell my junior colleagues keep doing your research if the crash is not too severe and civilization somehow gets restarted some other thing and there still is enough electricity to run a few computers or whatever uh that you may be what you have learned uh may be helpful in the future
for example i put half a century into studying the population dynamics that is the growth and shrinkage of a set of insect populations and we learned what's necessary to preserve them
until global climate change wiped them out right
but in the future if we had a chance to restart civilization, it would give some good clues on what are the best places to preserve originally, in other words,
my basic most important intellectual activity is trying to get people to plan for a restart for rebooting civilization,
not that i don't think there's the tiniest chance that will avoid some form of a crash
that is a loss of complexity in civilization
a unfortunate great increase in the death rate which we're already beginning to see in some places
so well there's the cheery side of the story what i managed to stay very active
i cannot leave the tv on when the thug appears
i literally can't stand realizing, it's not actually the fact, that we have a really stupid sexual predator and thug as president, but when you look at particularly the republican senators, that refuse to do anything in the face of this, and you realize that similar people and groups are now taking over brazil and turkey and india and so on,
it tells me, we're actually, i think, in the start of the collapse
in other words, you have people in charge who are doing everything possible to enrich themselves and in the process destroy our life support systems and make a lot of perfectly innocent people suffer

Q:
well this is one of the things that only in the last seven years have i really understood the the urgency of climate and also things like overshoot and resource depletion and so on and one of the things i've been studying over these last seven years is the rise and fall of civilizations via toynbee and spangler and vico and sometimes mediated through john michael greer and others and what has helped me emotionally is just realizing that in the contraction of a civilization or an empire we're pretty much right on schedule in terms of the political dysfunction the economic insanity and the sort of thing

* Ehrlich:

i was just gonna say the thing is depressing on that is we have the record of all the civilizations that have gone down the drain we're the first one that's global yes exactly and that's i mean trump may not be the stupidest president we've ever had but he's certainly the stupidest of the ones that had the power to destroy the world or as if tyler were a total and dangerous uh the wars he could start were not going to end the world right exactly exactly

Q:
well paul i want to come to the the theme of this particular podcast series titled post doom conversations exploring or regenerative conversations exploring overshoot grief gratitude and grounding first of all the term post doom. how do you think about that but how what language do you find yourself using for these contracting and deteriorating times and what's on fire

* Ehrenberg:
i use collapse yes but i mean post doom would be a perfectly fine title if it took hold for the post collapse reset, what do you do after the collapse are two things that i would love to see happen,
one is find ways to ameliorate the impact of the collapse, so that you don't lose you know it would be as far as i'm concerned if you only had a billion people die early
that would be a very successful thing when we're shooting for 10 or 11 billion and could lose virtually all of them; not all of them i think unless there's a large scale nuclear thermonuclear war, there's essentially no chance that humanity will go extinct unless we manage to hold off the war long enough to heat the planet to the point where nobody can survive

Q:
yeah i'm not quite sure i share that assessment because i've been still one of the things i've been studying recently is just last six months or so is abrupt climate change watching the videos of paul beckwith and reading meteorologist nick humphrey and just reading a few others and it seems to me that if the arctic becomes ice free in september and then the next year a little more a little more that could that self-reinforcing feedback around methane specifically could raise things so fast that i think we could possibly lose

* Ehrenberg:
i agree with that i just think the odds of that are particularly with people like trump moving the collapse earlier it could weirdly save more lives in the long run but we had a lot of discussion of this when we were doing in the early 80s the nuclear winter studies totally with the russians
let me tell you something optimistic. i think weirdly that if there's any set of saviors, it might be the military. i found that working with field grade officers on the nuclear war issue they all said nuclear war is unethical by military standards that what we're supposed to do is minimize civilian casualties. the military in the u.s is doing all kinds of stuff about trying to deal with climate disruption even though you have a in charge. so it could be that all of us who not think of ourselves as not being warriors and not wanting to, you know not being great fans of the military, there may be more rescue there than most of us had felt emotionally previously i mean i was very active during the vietnam war and i felt for our military but it was a terrible thing to do

Q:
this leads me into really the heart of this particular project is to invite you to share your story of
what were your expectations
what was so many people in america especially have had
what could be called the secular religion of perpetual progress
that was sort of our religion over throughout the 20th and 21st centuries
so i'm curious how did that you know how was it for you growing up in the 40s 50s 60s 70s
how did it shift for you
was it was there a dramatic or or gradual shift to a sense of carrying capacity overshoot
and just all the things that you're aware of
and take as long as you want in terms of sharing that story because anybody watching this or listening to this is going to be aware of your stature and would be very interested in hearing how that transition over time happened for you

* Ehrenberg:
well first of all the smartest thing i ever did in my entire life was to be born in 1932. everybody should be born in 1932 because my father lost his job just after i was born in the depression and although i don't really remember any hardship from the depression my father particularly but my parents and the same happened with anne Ehrlich who's basically my age too.
talked the depression the two of us we've been married now for 65 years we've bought two things on time our first car cause we had to have a car and our house yes we never you know we were taught you don't buy anything you don't have the money for and you were really you know watching those things closely then along comes the second world war which and enforceably introduced both of us to the world
both of us asked our parents in the early 1940s when we were around 10 would they continue to publish the newspapers after the war right loose it at every page the newspaper was filled up with the war that i was when i was a teenager my frontal lobes weren't myelinated yet
and the frontal lobes are what give you sense, it's what totally missing in trump for example and that's why adolescents are notoriously have trouble dealing with various kinds of issues
i desperately wanted to be a fighter pilot, i was hoping the war would last long enough for me to get into it, so all that was fine
but then i went to college with the last of the of the world war ii veterans
i started college in 49 and that was just about when the last of the veterans on the gi bill were going to college and i roomed with um several veterans uh who became good friends and for instance when i went to join a fraternity they threw me into a cold shower and said you want to play it being a little boy and that sort of thing and they were all very concerned about various issues
one of my closest friends then had been wounded in the philippines in 1946 by a hold out japanese soldier he had then gone with the occupation forces to japan became very sympathetic with the japanese and not sympathetic with some of their behavior during the war obviously ended up later on obviously married to a wonderful nissai woman who had been on the east coast in the united states and not imprisoned like we did to the perfectly loyal japanese on our west coast yes exactly and so we had lots of discussions of racial issues of hatred between countries
and then william vogt's book, yes fairfield osborne, we read that we used to have big discussions of it
i had i'd never had my parents my mother in particular tried to answer all of my questions my parents both explained to me that contrary to the us propaganda the japanese did not have tails they were not genetically treacherous
well there were the the the u.s propaganda was that the japanese were treacherous and they had small tails and so on and so forth i mean racism yes after all
when i was a kid lynchings were common in the south my parents were very liberal and in fact the the world was very different in those days yes and i it had been for a while going in my view in the right direction for example
my family was nominally jewish i often say i'm of course have no interest in supernatural monsters i've often said that i'm jewish only for purposes of persecution looking back on it, though my parents who were very liberal had zero non-jewish friends when we lived in north jersey
and there were the waps the dagos the the the whole mess and i thought we had largely suppressed that i worked very hard on that
i was very much involved in desegregating, the restaurants of lawrence, kansas, with sit-ins had my life threatened and so on and so forth uh but uh i've always been aware of what was going on in the world
i watched i couldn't raise butterfly caterpillars in north jersey because they'd sprayed so much ddt around to control the mosquitoes which of course it didn't work or worked for a while and i had watched levitt towns being built over butterfly habitat
and so the overshoot the things that bill vogt wrote about and so on were very real to me and when i went to graduate school i was lucky you want more crap on this
yeah no this is continue please because i was i collected butterflies i got into that in a summer camp and i loved the diversity and the beauty and so on and i ended up meeting getting an introduction to charles michener at the american museum of natural history in new york we were living in north jersey and mitch was 11 years older than i was i met him when i was 15 and he was 26 i think and just gotten out of berkeley i couldn't get a job working on the evolution of bees because there just wasn't jobs so he took a job as the curator of butterflies and maws at the brit at the american museum and he introduced me to the lepidopterist society of which i am undoubtedly i'm now i think the last charter member still alive somewhere in that league anyway and i ended up eventually going to graduate school working with him and he got he got a job working on bees which he see what he wanted to do would be evolution and took it at the university of kansas and he was at some point maybe then the only member of the national academy between chicago and the coast and mitch got me a fellowship with another brilliant scientist who

happened to be at kansas named bob sokol, robert sokol, who brought statistics into biology and utterly transformed the whole field of taxonomy so i was lucky to have two great mentors in graduate school and then i was lucky to be able to get a job at stanford there were jobs were scarce but i got it and the nsf, the national science foundation, was just starting up then i had gotten a pre-doctoral fellowship from them which allowed ann and me to survive in graduate school and then i got support for my work for many years from the national science foundation it was a great era for science, now of course that's being destroyed progressively around the world universities with i don't know any exception, there may, be but certainly the great universities so called like harvard and stanford, are intellectual sewers from the point of view, that they're still teaching as if it was 1790.
i mean i'd love to see stanford brought in to the 19th or 20th century but it's not going to happen
universities are built in parts of the system that's destroying us and they cannot change
our best man was a close friend who became a historian when we were we were graduate students and he summarized stanford perfectly in one phrase which fits harvard too, it's a full-service whorehouse
it's very sad anyway so i didn't have any moment of the shells dropping from my eyes unless you can say that rooming with world war ii veterans was incredibly important and living for a full summer

and working and learning the language of the inuit of the eskimos in 1952 i almost changed to anthropology when i saw how they were treated
the the canadian government is still not treating them well and a major reason is guess what they're trying to establish their sovereignty over the canadian arctic archipelago in order to be able to exploit the mineral resources which will destroy our climate and they're still at it
they they forcibly moved a lot of inuit into a place where i had been and where i could have told the inuit that they didn't want to go there because there was no game but they were moved, they were told they could move back if they didn't like it they didn't like it and then the canadian government said well uh you can move back but it'll cost you 970 or something for your transport these are people you know who made two dollars a month maybe they anyway horrible treatment of the inuit which is not well known
they tried to make up for it with setting up the nunavut and so on but much as i'm a fan of canada in many ways having worked with canadians but their treatment of the inuit was yeah not much better than our treatment of the native americans, our records even worse

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Q:
one of the things i'm curious about and i would imagine anybody watching or listening to this would be as well is that because you've been aware of these patterns and dysfunctions and you know it could go on and on for decades many decades, what has allowed you or supported you in staying sane in these crazy times when you're aware of this dysfunction

* Ehrenberg:
what makes you think i'm sane. you've lost all sense of perception there. i have to say that I try and take an evidence-based view of the world and when you get to be my age there are certain things that you know you can predict with absolute certainty like 10 years from now i'm going to be dead but that doesn't hold any particular fear for me because well i quote an old acquaintance of mine the auth the author oh my god i'm gonna vladimir Nabokov oh i'm having a senior moment that's okay.
Nabokov worked on butterflies i met him in the american museum when he wrote his famous book the name of which you'll remember but i don't vladimir Nabokov lolita i was at kansas as a graduate student and we had cards in those days which said dear dr blank, i would very much like a copy of a reprint of your paper such and such and certainly yours because we didn't have what we're doing now and so on and so i sent him a reprint card with lolita on it
that was the end of our correspondence anyway he wrote if i can remember it right he said the human existence is a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness so i've spent at least 15 billion years dead and i will spend probably another at least equal length of time dead after in some time in the next decade
and what bothers me is losing contact with many many friends and maybe even more important not knowing what the hell actually happens but i don't find that terrifying, particularly it's easily cured with a bottle of 41 mouton or something like that you know

Q:
i often say when i do programs on mortality and death uh that you know it seems to me pretty clear that where we go to when we die is the same place we came from before we were born and whether you speak of that it's coming from nothing and returning to nothing or coming from mystery and returning to history or coming from god and returning to god there's lots of different ways to talk about it but if where i go to isn't the very same place that all other plants and animals and bacteria have gone i'm gonna be pissed doesn't seem it doesn't seem to me that we get a special place and really part of what this series is about is my inviting various uh thought leaders activist authors professors uh to really share their take on on what it is to shift from human centeredness anthropocentrism which is so unsustainable and so self-destructive over time to life-centeredness or eco-centrism or as
i read indigenous cultures tribal first peoples that were able to live in place without destroying the place
probably to a single one they lived in a way that we would say is eco the ecosphere was related to as a vow not an it to be exploited and whatever their notion of spirit or the divine or whatever was present in and revealed through and expressed in the voices of the living world and we don't do that we treat the living world as an it our sort of resources or waste yes

* Ehrenberg:
i'm going to be visiting, not for the first time, this time next month the most sustainable and sustained civilization on the planet and that is of course the Australian aborigines.
i have been in places very interested in aboriginal art. i have been in places where the paintings are in the vicinity of 10 to 15 000 years old, painted over and over. where the rocks underneath the overhang where the paintings are the rocks are polished smooth by 10 or 15 000 years of human butts sitting on them and i have talked to the lineal descendants of the artists a couple miles away from the site of where the paintings were done. we're not going to go 15 000 years with our society right
when you talk about religion i'm not even a fan of the sort of standard religions that everybody talks about
i was glad to see some data the other day, that less than half of americans consider themselves religious, but the ones that seem harmless, like the sort of standard protestant sex or the not crazy jewish sex the ones that are just reformed, i can't remember the terminology anyway, because they allow people to think it's perfectly all right to live in a world, where you don't listen to the evidence, where you don't deal with taking care of for instance people, who are dying in reasonable ways

what the biggest scare I have, is that my mind will go, before i have a chance, to take the pills right and my society is perfectly all right, to put a horse out of its misery, but it won't be perfectly all right, to put me out of my misery, even though many people wish they could.

Q:
yeah well this is this is precisely the kind of thing that i regularly speak about in terms of death and religion it seems to me i've been influenced by not only thomas berry and william catton but also teddy goldsmith his book the stable society and also the way an ecological world view and it seems to me there's a profound difference between sustainable cultures or the role that life weighs, it wasn't called religion, but it was life ways in sustainable cultures really is that moral element of society that ensures that the future is not compromised by the present
teddy goldsmith even defined religion in healthy societies as the control mechanism,
that which insists on honoring limits upon pain of death or ostracizing
and that in unsustainable cultures religion downgrades to being merely a coping mechanism it can't

* Ehrenberg:
well that's what marx said
remember what he said ?

Q:
no i don't

* Ehrenberg:
he said
religion is the opiate of the people

Q:
i'm familiar with marx's opinion of the masses for sure and that's really what it is,
in dysfunctional unsustainable cultures it allows people to function and have healthy relationships but ultimately i don't think any of the great religions that quote unquote great religions of the axial age are up to the task and so we need to relearn assuming some portion of humanity survives this bottleneck we must relearn how to be intimate with the with the biosphere as a greater thou not a lesser it well when you can

* Ehrenberg:
when you consider how much money and effort we put into nuclear weapons that i mean i was a fan of obama as a president it was stunned me that we would finally have an african-american president during my lifetime which i never would have predicted right but he went along with our changing our nuclear weapons system to one that can strike the russians by surprise and he may actually have started us with others of course on a route towards a full-scale nuclear war which we know is basically the end
so religion hasn't the very fact that we continue to war and that we have put such huge effort into making it possible to actually end the world in other words yes just think about it
if the romans had had nuclear weapons you and i wouldn't be having this conversation because when the barbarians were coming over the wall they'd have used them yes exactly well anyway

Q:
well paul i'm curious what is your sense of what uh you know what's now beyond our control uh but what still is something that we can do individually or collectively that can make a difference in other words what's your sense of know what's no longer possible but what still is possible

* Ehrenberg:
i think it's no longer possible to actually reverse the trend towards some form of a collapse that could be a financial collapse because we have so much debt that is unsecured basically, climate disruption is something that most people think of when they think of environmental problems although loss of biodiversity may be equally or more serious and they're tightly tied together exactly
the increasing load of plastics and plastics coated with persistent organic pollutants and the pollutants that now are worse in small quantities than large ones
there's just all kinds of horrendous possibilities what is possible
well my closest friends among australian scientists say you got to go to the streets and i think the extinction rebellion that sort of thing is the direction if the people don't somehow demand that we start paying attention and start in the direction of not consuming, not killing our enemies and so on and start thinking,
i mean for example i've tried to persuade, no luck at all,
i founded with ann and don kennedy an organization which we called the millennium assessment of human behavior but it is now fading for lack of support that lack of financial support even though it's very popular trying to get civil society pointing in the right direction.
i live in one of the richest places in the world where real people can't afford to live.
i mean the only reason we can afford to live near stanford is that we bought a house before the prices went up so we paid 25 000 for a house which we sold for 1.4 million dollars 40 some years later and we had to pay that 1.4 million to get a small apartment to move into well
that sort of thing is not sustainable uh and i wanted palo alto the local town to start looking into the issue of how would you live in palo alto if there was only electricity for two hours a day and water for one hour a day and there was no currency to use that the currency was so debased and how would you eat ..
what would you do, how would you control things, that's the sort of thing we should be looking at, how can you make the collapse not totally disastrous
i'm old enough to have lived and survived without a cell phone when i came to stanford in 1959 we did not have access to personal computers to xerox machines to tape recorders we had to drive our own cars and i knew what every part in the car did and could fix it myself and so on and life was actually just wonderful i did not feel you know ..
I felt that i was on top of the world we had won the war i had a job i was able to eat reasonable food all the time uh i could drink wine i could get drunk you know and i certainly could enjoy the opposite sex,

most of the crap that we keep having shoved at us really isn't necessary for a happy life because i know i had a happy life without it exactly
and having watched the inuit when i was with them you could have a happy life with a lot less and a satisfying life, but that's the sort of thing we ought to be discussing and what are we discussing how you get rid of a hideous criminal who is you know pushing us faster and faster towards a worse and worse collapse

Q:
yeah yeah no exactly well paul in winding this down i'm curious what would be your coaching or advice or counsel to say somebody in their senior years and then how would you speak to a young person uh someone in their late teens twenties early thirties

* Ehrenberg:
i spent a lot of time talking to young people because that's a job if you're a faculty member they the biggest advice i always have given them and would still give is you got to make a living whether you like it or not do something you love much more important to enjoy your work,
than it is to make a lot of money exactly because making the money is dull as hell and i made this decision when i was about 17
i think i decided, that working 50 weeks a year, to get enough money to travel somewhere and collect butterflies for two weeks, was nowhere near as good a way as doing fooling with butterflies all the time if i could find somebody who would give me enough money so i could eat while i was doing it and that was the right decision to make.
fortunately i did not have to go short on food or live in a tent or so on to do that so do something you love learn about the state of the world and what the evidence shows
and then be as active as you possibly can uh in in trying to change it and that means political action i think everybody has to be a politician
if you don't be a politician then you're going to get what you deserve,
you're going to be trumpized
so that's my advice to young people.
my advice to people my age is keep on drinking keep on having sex and do anything you can just like the young people to change the political system
the people i remember very clearly: we worked very hard to get a women's rights bill passed, i can't remember the exact title of it, but it was to give women, which they should have, equal rights and opportunities to human beings and give women totally equal rights and equal opportunities with men. it did not pass. it was an equal rights amendment and it didn't pass because a lot of women didn't get politically active.
you know the way our system works is you got to be politically active you got to threaten them you got to hold their feet to the fire
it's never been clearer than yesterday, when something like two dozen morons invaded congressional meeting and threatened our security and they were again backing the thug
they were low low-grade thugs
that's something we all have to do: something to prevent and getting out on the streets is a very good thing to do if you're young enough to do it

Q:
yes well thank you so much paul for taking the time and for your work over the decades and uh may you have a uh blessed and fulfilling rest of your days

* Ehrenberg:
thank you if sometime in those later days i'm still around they're always happy to do this again if we can find the time so okay thank you for what you're doing and take care

---

Ehrlich 2020 persönliche Lebensphilosophie, working on 3 new books,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY4IppGZXEw
Marx, Rosling Statistik, Landwirtschaft agriculture das geht noch lange nicht tief genug erst wenn Mikros und Humus kommt

00:34:09,040
Ehrlich: Marx said religion is the opiate of the people

yeah well this is this is precisely the kind of thing that i regularly speak about in terms of death and religion it seems to me i've been influenced by not only thomas berry and william catton but also teddy goldsmith his book the stable society and also the way an ecological world view and it seems to me there's a profound difference between sustainable cultures or the role that life weighs it wasn't called religion but it was life ways in sustainable cultures really is that moral element of society that ensures that the future is not compromised by the present teddy goldsmith even defined religion in healthy societies as the control mechanism that which insists on honoring limits upon pain of death or ostracizing and that in unsustainable cultures religion downgrades to being merely a coping mechanism it can't well that's what marx said yeah remember what he said no i don't oh he said religion is the opiate of the people

i'm familiar with marx's opinion of the masses for sure

that's really what it is:
in dysfunctional unsustainable cultures it allows people to function and have healthy relationships
but ultimately i don't think any of the great religions
that great religions of the axial age are up to the task
and so we need to relearn.
assuming some portion of humanity survives this bottleneck
we must relearn how to be intimate with the biosphere
as a greater though not a lesser
it well when you can

---

1
00:00:00,480 --> 00:00:03,600
welcome to post doom regenerative

2
00:00:02,720 --> 00:00:06,160
conversations

3
00:00:03,600 --> 00:00:07,440
exploring overshoot grief grounding and

4
00:00:06,160 --> 00:00:09,519
gratitude

5
00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:11,440
i'm your host michael dowd and in this

6
00:00:09,519 --> 00:00:13,040
conversation recorded in november of

7
00:00:11,440 --> 00:00:14,480

2019

8
00:00:13,040 --> 00:00:15,920
i speak with someone who really doesn't

9
00:00:14,480 --> 00:00:17,760
need an introduction he's one of the

10
00:00:15,920 --> 00:00:21,039
most famous scientists alive today

11
00:00:17,760 --> 00:00:25,039
paul ehrlich paul has written or

12
00:00:21,039 --> 00:00:28,560
co-written over 1100 scientific papers

13
00:00:25,039 --> 00:00:29,199
including many with his wife and over 40

14
00:00:28,560 --> 00:00:32,079
books

15
00:00:29,199 --> 00:00:34,000
and you'll see few people alive get the

16
00:00:32,079 --> 00:00:35,200
concept of overshoot more clearly than

17
00:00:34,000 --> 00:00:37,280
paul elliot does

18
00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:39,440
it's just an honor for me to speak with

19
00:00:37,280 --> 00:00:45,840
somebody i've held in highest esteem for

20
00:00:39,440 --> 00:00:45,840
four decades or longer

21

00:00:47,360 --> 00:00:51,520
just give us a sense of what you're up

22
00:00:48,800 --> 00:00:55,280
to these days what's your particularly

23
00:00:51,520 --> 00:00:58,000
known well i can i can summarize

24
00:00:55,280 --> 00:00:59,840
very easily i'm working with two mexican

25
00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:03,280
colleagues

26
00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:05,040
on a book on the extinction of

27
00:01:03,280 --> 00:01:07,360
populations

28
00:01:05,040 --> 00:01:09,520
because most of the emphasis is put on

29
00:01:07,360 --> 00:01:10,960
the extinction of species but as you

30
00:01:09,520 --> 00:01:13,439
probably know

31
00:01:10,960 --> 00:01:14,000
a much more serious problem at the

32
00:01:13,439 --> 00:01:16,320
moment

33
00:01:14,000 --> 00:01:18,320
is the loss of individuals from

34
00:01:16,320 --> 00:01:21,119
populations we've lost a

35
00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:24,240
probably about a third of the birds in

36
00:01:21,119 --> 00:01:28,159
north america for example we've lost

37
00:01:24,240 --> 00:01:30,799
in some places 80 or 90 of the insects

38
00:01:28,159 --> 00:01:32,159
already they're absolutely vital to us

39
00:01:30,799 --> 00:01:34,880
and so on so

40
00:01:32,159 --> 00:01:36,400
we're working hard on that i'm working

41
00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:39,759
with another mexican

42
00:01:36,400 --> 00:01:44,000
a orthodontist uh on

43
00:01:39,759 --> 00:01:46,159
the only big environmental problem

44
00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,680
that i think we can do something about

45
00:01:46,159 --> 00:01:49,600
and help people today

46
00:01:47,680 --> 00:01:50,720
and that's the shrinkage of the human

47
00:01:49,600 --> 00:01:52,320
jaw

48
00:01:50,720 --> 00:01:54,960
and we're working on working with a

49
00:01:52,320 --> 00:01:55,840
geneticist with the the orthodontist the

50
00:01:54,960 --> 00:01:59,280
geneticist

51
00:01:55,840 --> 00:02:02,560
and the world's expert on stress

52
00:01:59,280 --> 00:02:04,719
because the shrinking jaws are giving

53
00:02:02,560 --> 00:02:06,960
lots of people sleep apnea which is a

54
00:02:04,719 --> 00:02:09,280
huge stressor and which ties to

55
00:02:06,960 --> 00:02:11,120
everything from heart disease to cancer

56
00:02:09,280 --> 00:02:14,319
yes

57
00:02:11,120 --> 00:02:16,080
and i'm preparing lectures for a trip to

58
00:02:14,319 --> 00:02:17,040
australia where i'm going to be trying

59
00:02:16,080 --> 00:02:19,200
to tell

60
00:02:17,040 --> 00:02:21,360
for example the parliament of south

61
00:02:19,200 --> 00:02:23,360
australia how bad things

62
00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:25,680

are there they're they're facing another

63
00:02:23,360 --> 00:02:28,000
murdoch summers you may know rupert

64
00:02:25,680 --> 00:02:29,120
murdoch more than anyone else is

65
00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:32,160
responsible for

66
00:02:29,120 --> 00:02:37,840
massive deaths in the future from uh his

67
00:02:32,160 --> 00:02:37,840
promotion of climate disruption uh

68
00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:41,680
hang on just a second i just want to i

69
00:02:39,599 --> 00:02:43,760
just want to note that i have never

70
00:02:41,680 --> 00:02:45,680
heard murdoch summer before and i love

71
00:02:43,760 --> 00:02:48,720
it

72
00:02:45,680 --> 00:02:50,959
well the the last murdoch summer i

73
00:02:48,720 --> 00:02:53,120
happen to be in south australia and the

74
00:02:50,959 --> 00:02:53,760
flying foxes which are one of the nice

75
00:02:53,120 --> 00:02:55,920
features

76

00:02:53,760 --> 00:02:58,000
of the australian environment were

77
00:02:55,920 --> 00:02:58,560
dropping dead out of the trees from the

78
00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,800
heat

79
00:02:58,560 --> 00:03:02,080
yes and of course as you may have seen

80
00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:05,440
uh

81
00:03:02,080 --> 00:03:08,239
cotter well lots of places now are

82
00:03:05,440 --> 00:03:10,080
starting to air condition the outside

83
00:03:08,239 --> 00:03:12,480
because it's too hot for people to

84
00:03:10,080 --> 00:03:15,120
survive outside and of course

85
00:03:12,480 --> 00:03:15,519
air conditioning the outside is usually

86
00:03:15,120 --> 00:03:18,400
done

87
00:03:15,519 --> 00:03:18,879
by generating electricity by burning

88
00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:21,360
coal

89
00:03:18,879 --> 00:03:21,920
and guess what that does exactly even

90
00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:25,360
hotter

91
00:03:21,920 --> 00:03:28,400
so these and then again there's a

92
00:03:25,360 --> 00:03:31,599
thug now running the united states

93
00:03:28,400 --> 00:03:33,200
uh and that occupies a lot of my time

94
00:03:31,599 --> 00:03:35,040
that i'd rather it didn't

95
00:03:33,200 --> 00:03:36,400
yeah you mentioned something about three

96
00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:40,640
books in the works

97
00:03:36,400 --> 00:03:43,920
uh yeah i have uh the

98
00:03:40,640 --> 00:03:46,080
the one that i uh just mentioned i'm

99
00:03:43,920 --> 00:03:49,599
working with another colleague

100
00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:52,080
on one trying to see if we

101
00:03:49,599 --> 00:03:53,200
made a country that did the best that

102
00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:56,959
every

103
00:03:53,200 --> 00:04:00,159
country now that any country now does

104
00:03:56,959 --> 00:04:03,040
for example if you selected

105
00:04:00,159 --> 00:04:05,280
say cuba as the exemplar of taking care

106
00:04:03,040 --> 00:04:09,840
of its people medically

107
00:04:05,280 --> 00:04:12,000
and norway as a country that

108
00:04:09,840 --> 00:04:13,920
is doing the right things with some of

109
00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,959
its finances and so on if you put it all

110
00:04:13,920 --> 00:04:17,359
together

111
00:04:14,959 --> 00:04:19,680
uh would you be able to have an ideal

112
00:04:17,359 --> 00:04:22,320
country and the answer sadly is no

113
00:04:19,680 --> 00:04:22,880
right exactly and i'm writing a memoir

114
00:04:22,320 --> 00:04:25,360
uh

115
00:04:22,880 --> 00:04:27,120
for my grandchildren uh yes telling them

116
00:04:25,360 --> 00:04:30,400
as a matter of fact i was writing

117
00:04:27,120 --> 00:04:31,440

when uh i when we started this

118
00:04:30,400 --> 00:04:34,479
conversation

119
00:04:31,440 --> 00:04:35,440
on a summer i spent with the inuit in

120
00:04:34,479 --> 00:04:39,919
the arctic

121
00:04:35,440 --> 00:04:41,600
there's a lot of lessons in that too

122
00:04:39,919 --> 00:04:43,120
and then there's a lot of papers and so

123
00:04:41,600 --> 00:04:45,840
on so it's just my

124
00:04:43,120 --> 00:04:47,759
time is not hanging heavy on my hands

125
00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:49,759
and i'm wrestling with some of the

126
00:04:47,759 --> 00:04:50,880
health problems that are inevitable for

127
00:04:49,759 --> 00:04:53,919
somebody

128
00:04:50,880 --> 00:04:56,720
my age um the

129
00:04:53,919 --> 00:04:57,280
i'm when i go to australia i'm going to

130
00:04:56,720 --> 00:05:00,160
do

131

00:04:57,280 --> 00:05:00,479
can i give a little commercial okay sure

132
00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:03,199
i

133
00:05:00,479 --> 00:05:04,560
i fly there because the direct flight is

134
00:05:03,199 --> 00:05:08,240
united airlines

135
00:05:04,560 --> 00:05:11,440
polaris class which is business class

136
00:05:08,240 --> 00:05:14,240
because my back won't take 13 15 hours

137
00:05:11,440 --> 00:05:16,240
tourists but it's fantastic practice for

138
00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:18,560
people my age i take along

139
00:05:16,240 --> 00:05:20,560
a little packet of formaldehyde and it's

140
00:05:18,560 --> 00:05:24,400
just like lying in a coffin

141
00:05:20,560 --> 00:05:27,520
for 15 hours so if you want to practice

142
00:05:24,400 --> 00:05:28,560
fly polaris on united airlines to

143
00:05:27,520 --> 00:05:30,800
australia

144
00:05:28,560 --> 00:05:32,240
sprinkle a little from albany on a why

145
00:05:30,800 --> 00:05:36,080
they're like this

146
00:05:32,240 --> 00:05:38,320
and it's perfect practice oh gosh well

147
00:05:36,080 --> 00:05:39,759
you know this leads me before i even ask

148
00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:41,440
any of the other questions

149
00:05:39,759 --> 00:05:43,039
one of the things that uh the last time

150
00:05:41,440 --> 00:05:44,560
that you and i interacted i was simply

151
00:05:43,039 --> 00:05:46,320
uh reaching out to you

152
00:05:44,560 --> 00:05:48,800
because i had learned that william caton

153
00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:52,000
uh author of overshoot had died

154
00:05:48,800 --> 00:05:53,440
and was creating a uh an obituary on my

155
00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:55,440
huffington post blog

156
00:05:53,440 --> 00:05:57,280
and you know you have been one of the

157
00:05:55,440 --> 00:05:58,080
people more than i mean you and caton

158
00:05:57,280 --> 00:05:59,520
and others the

159
00:05:58,080 --> 00:06:01,759
limits to growth authors i mean it's

160
00:05:59,520 --> 00:06:02,720
just people who have seen what's in the

161
00:06:01,759 --> 00:06:04,560
pipeline

162
00:06:02,720 --> 00:06:06,080
who see what's coming the trends are

163
00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:09,120
obvious um

164
00:06:06,080 --> 00:06:11,280
the the attempts at debunking uh have

165
00:06:09,120 --> 00:06:11,280
been

166
00:06:12,479 --> 00:06:17,680
without faith uh completely baseless

167
00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:20,160
most of them

168
00:06:17,680 --> 00:06:20,960
how have you held this how have you

169
00:06:20,160 --> 00:06:23,919
continued

170
00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:24,560
to do the work that you do um in the

171
00:06:23,919 --> 00:06:26,639
face

172
00:06:24,560 --> 00:06:27,759

it's the cassandra syndrome which you

173
00:06:26,639 --> 00:06:29,440
even wrote about

174
00:06:27,759 --> 00:06:31,199
you know back in the day so how's that

175
00:06:29,440 --> 00:06:33,280
been for you emotionally and

176
00:06:31,199 --> 00:06:34,560
as well as intellectually i i'm

177
00:06:33,280 --> 00:06:38,720
fortunate

178
00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:42,000
uh in the my work is something i love

179
00:06:38,720 --> 00:06:44,400
and i also uh love

180
00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:46,080
drinking wine and keeping my internal

181
00:06:44,400 --> 00:06:48,479
environment in great shape while the

182
00:06:46,080 --> 00:06:49,759
external goes down the drain it's very

183
00:06:48,479 --> 00:06:52,479
depressing

184
00:06:49,759 --> 00:06:54,800
uh from the point of view and it's

185
00:06:52,479 --> 00:06:56,720
always been this my main attitude what

186

00:06:54,800 --> 00:06:59,919
kind of world i'm leaving

187
00:06:56,720 --> 00:07:02,720
uh to my now

188
00:06:59,919 --> 00:07:03,680
great grandchildren as well as

189
00:07:02,720 --> 00:07:06,960
grandchildren

190
00:07:03,680 --> 00:07:09,520
and daughter and so on

191
00:07:06,960 --> 00:07:12,000
and i guess i take the advice that uh

192
00:07:09,520 --> 00:07:13,840
gerardo cebios my closest mexican

193
00:07:12,000 --> 00:07:17,120
colleague

194
00:07:13,840 --> 00:07:20,319
and i strongly agree on and that is

195
00:07:17,120 --> 00:07:23,120
uh you've got to keep doing the things

196
00:07:20,319 --> 00:07:25,280
that you think are right and well

197
00:07:23,120 --> 00:07:26,639
and hoping that what you know

198
00:07:25,280 --> 00:07:29,599
intellectually

199
00:07:26,639 --> 00:07:30,080
is somehow not going to be true that is

200
00:07:29,599 --> 00:07:33,199
we're going

201
00:07:30,080 --> 00:07:35,919
down the drain i tell my

202
00:07:33,199 --> 00:07:37,039
uh junior colleagues keep doing your

203
00:07:35,919 --> 00:07:40,880
research

204
00:07:37,039 --> 00:07:44,400
if the crash is not too severe

205
00:07:40,880 --> 00:07:46,160
and civilization somehow gets restarted

206
00:07:44,400 --> 00:07:48,080
some other thing and there still is

207
00:07:46,160 --> 00:07:50,000
enough electricity to run a few

208
00:07:48,080 --> 00:07:53,599
computers or whatever

209
00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:56,319
uh that you may be what you have learned

210
00:07:53,599 --> 00:07:57,120
uh may be helpful in the future for

211
00:07:56,319 --> 00:08:00,400
example

212
00:07:57,120 --> 00:08:03,280
i put half a century into studying

213
00:08:00,400 --> 00:08:04,879
the population dynamics that is the

214
00:08:03,280 --> 00:08:07,919
growth and shrinkage

215
00:08:04,879 --> 00:08:10,800
of a set of insect populations

216
00:08:07,919 --> 00:08:12,400
and we learned what's necessary to

217
00:08:10,800 --> 00:08:15,360
preserve them uh

218
00:08:12,400 --> 00:08:15,919
until global climate change wiped them

219
00:08:15,360 --> 00:08:19,280
out

220
00:08:15,919 --> 00:08:21,919
right but in the future uh if we

221
00:08:19,280 --> 00:08:23,759
had a chance to restart civilization it

222
00:08:21,919 --> 00:08:26,639
would give some good clues

223
00:08:23,759 --> 00:08:27,360
on what are the best places to preserve

224
00:08:26,639 --> 00:08:30,479
originally

225
00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:33,519
in other words my my basic my most

226
00:08:30,479 --> 00:08:36,640
important intellectual activity is

227
00:08:33,519 --> 00:08:37,440

trying to get people to plan for a

228
00:08:36,640 --> 00:08:40,640
restart

229
00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:42,800
for rebooting civilization not a i don't

230
00:08:40,640 --> 00:08:45,600
think there's the tiniest chance

231
00:08:42,800 --> 00:08:46,480
uh that will avoid some form of a crash

232
00:08:45,600 --> 00:08:50,160
that is

233
00:08:46,480 --> 00:08:53,120
a loss of complexity in civilization uh

234
00:08:50,160 --> 00:08:54,000
a unfortunate uh great increase in the

235
00:08:53,120 --> 00:08:55,839
death rate

236
00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:57,120
which we're already beginning to see in

237
00:08:55,839 --> 00:09:01,360
some places

238
00:08:57,120 --> 00:09:02,959
um so uh well there's the cheery side of

239
00:09:01,360 --> 00:09:06,080
the story what

240
00:09:02,959 --> 00:09:08,000
i managed to stay very active uh i

241

00:09:06,080 --> 00:09:11,760
cannot

242
00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:15,920
leave the tv on when the thug appears

243
00:09:11,760 --> 00:09:18,399
i literally can't stand

244
00:09:15,920 --> 00:09:19,920
realizing it's not actually the fact

245
00:09:18,399 --> 00:09:22,800
that we have a really

246
00:09:19,920 --> 00:09:24,000
stupid sexual predator and thug as

247
00:09:22,800 --> 00:09:26,959
president

248
00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:28,560
but when you look at the particularly

249
00:09:26,959 --> 00:09:31,519
the republican senators

250
00:09:28,560 --> 00:09:33,440
that refuse to do anything in the face

251
00:09:31,519 --> 00:09:36,480
of this and you realize

252
00:09:33,440 --> 00:09:41,440
that similar people and groups are now

253
00:09:36,480 --> 00:09:41,440
taking over brazil and uh

254
00:09:41,680 --> 00:09:49,519
turkey and india and so on and so forth

255
00:09:46,480 --> 00:09:50,000
it tells me we're actually i think in

256
00:09:49,519 --> 00:09:52,720
the start

257
00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:53,200
of the collapse in other words you have

258
00:09:52,720 --> 00:09:55,360
people

259
00:09:53,200 --> 00:09:57,519
in charge who are doing everything

260
00:09:55,360 --> 00:10:00,240
possible to enrich themselves

261
00:09:57,519 --> 00:10:01,680
and in the process uh destroy our life

262
00:10:00,240 --> 00:10:04,399
support systems

263
00:10:01,680 --> 00:10:05,680
and make a lot of perfectly innocent

264
00:10:04,399 --> 00:10:07,839
people suffer

265
00:10:05,680 --> 00:10:10,160
yes yes well this is one of the things

266
00:10:07,839 --> 00:10:11,440
that only in the last seven years have i

267
00:10:10,160 --> 00:10:15,279
really understood the

268
00:10:11,440 --> 00:10:16,880
the urgency of climate um and also

269
00:10:15,279 --> 00:10:18,560
things like overshoot and resource

270
00:10:16,880 --> 00:10:20,079
depletion and so on and

271
00:10:18,560 --> 00:10:21,600
one of the things i've been studying

272
00:10:20,079 --> 00:10:23,760
over these last seven years is the rise

273
00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:26,160
and fall of civilizations uh via

274
00:10:23,760 --> 00:10:27,680
uh toynbee and spangler and vico and

275
00:10:26,160 --> 00:10:29,200
sometimes mediated through john michael

276
00:10:27,680 --> 00:10:32,000
greer and others

277
00:10:29,200 --> 00:10:32,720
and what has helped me emotionally is

278
00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:35,040
just

279
00:10:32,720 --> 00:10:36,800
realizing that in the contraction of a

280
00:10:35,040 --> 00:10:38,399
civilization or an empire

281
00:10:36,800 --> 00:10:40,160
we're pretty much right on schedule in

282
00:10:38,399 --> 00:10:43,600

terms of the political dysfunction the

283
00:10:40,160 --> 00:10:45,920
economic insanity and the sort of thing

284
00:10:43,600 --> 00:10:47,040
i was just gonna say the thing is

285
00:10:45,920 --> 00:10:48,800
depressing on that

286
00:10:47,040 --> 00:10:50,640
is we have the record of all the

287
00:10:48,800 --> 00:10:51,600
civilizations that have gone down the

288
00:10:50,640 --> 00:10:54,560
drain

289
00:10:51,600 --> 00:10:55,200
we're the first one that's global yes

290
00:10:54,560 --> 00:10:58,560
exactly

291
00:10:55,200 --> 00:11:01,040
and that's i mean trump may not be

292
00:10:58,560 --> 00:11:02,880
the stupidest president we've ever had

293
00:11:01,040 --> 00:11:04,720
but he's certainly the stupidest of the

294
00:11:02,880 --> 00:11:06,079
ones that had the power to destroy the

295
00:11:04,720 --> 00:11:09,040
world

296

00:11:06,079 --> 00:11:10,959
or as if tyler if tyler were a total

297
00:11:09,040 --> 00:11:13,040
and dangerous

298
00:11:10,959 --> 00:11:14,480
uh the wars he could start were not

299
00:11:13,040 --> 00:11:16,959
going to end the world

300
00:11:14,480 --> 00:11:17,839
right exactly exactly well paul i want

301
00:11:16,959 --> 00:11:20,560
to come to the

302
00:11:17,839 --> 00:11:21,519
the the theme of this particular podcast

303
00:11:20,560 --> 00:11:24,800
series uh

304
00:11:21,519 --> 00:11:26,560
titled post doom conversations exploring

305
00:11:24,800 --> 00:11:28,399
uh or regenerative conversations

306
00:11:26,560 --> 00:11:30,720
exploring overshoot grief

307
00:11:28,399 --> 00:11:31,440
gratitude and grounding first of all the

308
00:11:30,720 --> 00:11:34,000
term post

309
00:11:31,440 --> 00:11:35,519
doom uh how do you think about that but

310
00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:36,959
how what language do you find yourself

311
00:11:35,519 --> 00:11:38,959
using for these contracting and

312
00:11:36,959 --> 00:11:42,480
deteriorating times and what's on fire

313
00:11:38,959 --> 00:11:45,920
i use collapse yes but i mean

314
00:11:42,480 --> 00:11:46,399
post doom would be a perfectly fine

315
00:11:45,920 --> 00:11:50,079
title

316
00:11:46,399 --> 00:11:52,800
if it took hold for the post collapse

317
00:11:50,079 --> 00:11:54,560
reset yes you know what do you do after

318
00:11:52,800 --> 00:11:56,880
the collapse are two things

319
00:11:54,560 --> 00:11:57,839
that i would love to see happen one is

320
00:11:56,880 --> 00:12:00,800
find ways to

321
00:11:57,839 --> 00:12:01,600
ameliorate the impact of the collapse so

322
00:12:00,800 --> 00:12:04,880
that you don't

323
00:12:01,600 --> 00:12:06,880
lose uh you know it would be as far as

324
00:12:04,880 --> 00:12:08,959
i'm concerned if you only had a billion

325
00:12:06,880 --> 00:12:10,240
people die early that would be a very

326
00:12:08,959 --> 00:12:13,120
successful

327
00:12:10,240 --> 00:12:13,760
thing when we're shooting for 10 or 11

328
00:12:13,120 --> 00:12:16,160
billion

329
00:12:13,760 --> 00:12:17,600
and could lose virtually all of them not

330
00:12:16,160 --> 00:12:21,279
all of them i think

331
00:12:17,600 --> 00:12:24,399
unless there's a large scale uh nuclear

332
00:12:21,279 --> 00:12:25,200
thermonuclear war there's essentially no

333
00:12:24,399 --> 00:12:28,240
chance

334
00:12:25,200 --> 00:12:30,480
that humanity will go extinct unless we

335
00:12:28,240 --> 00:12:31,760
manage to hold off the war long enough

336
00:12:30,480 --> 00:12:34,240
to heat the planet

337
00:12:31,760 --> 00:12:36,079

to the point where nobody can survive

338
00:12:34,240 --> 00:12:37,600
yeah i'm not quite sure i

339
00:12:36,079 --> 00:12:38,480
share that assessment because i've been

340
00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:39,920
still one of the things i've been

341
00:12:38,480 --> 00:12:42,000
studying recently is just last six

342
00:12:39,920 --> 00:12:44,480
months or so is abrupt climate change

343
00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:45,360
watching uh the videos of paul beckwith

344
00:12:44,480 --> 00:12:47,839
and reading uh

345
00:12:45,360 --> 00:12:49,279
meteorologist nick humphrey and just

346
00:12:47,839 --> 00:12:50,639
reading a few others and it seems to me

347
00:12:49,279 --> 00:12:52,720
that if the arctic

348
00:12:50,639 --> 00:12:54,320
becomes ice free in september and then

349
00:12:52,720 --> 00:12:54,720
the next year a little more a little

350
00:12:54,320 --> 00:12:57,120
more

351

00:12:54,720 --> 00:12:59,440
that could that self-reinforcing

352
00:12:57,120 --> 00:13:02,000
feedback around methane specifically

353
00:12:59,440 --> 00:13:03,440
uh could raise things so fast that i

354
00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:06,160
think we could possibly lose

355
00:13:03,440 --> 00:13:07,760
uh i i agree with that i just think the

356
00:13:06,160 --> 00:13:11,600
odds of that

357
00:13:07,760 --> 00:13:15,440
are particularly with people like trump

358
00:13:11,600 --> 00:13:18,880
moving the collapse earlier

359
00:13:15,440 --> 00:13:20,320
it could weirdly save more lives in the

360
00:13:18,880 --> 00:13:22,560
long run

361
00:13:20,320 --> 00:13:24,720
but we had a lot of discussion of this

362
00:13:22,560 --> 00:13:27,360
when we were doing in the early 80s the

363
00:13:24,720 --> 00:13:29,839
nuclear winter studies totally with the

364
00:13:27,360 --> 00:13:31,600
russians i i i'll tell you let me tell

365
00:13:29,839 --> 00:13:35,600
you something optimistic

366
00:13:31,600 --> 00:13:37,680
okay uh i think weirdly

367
00:13:35,600 --> 00:13:39,440
that if there's any set of saviors it

368
00:13:37,680 --> 00:13:41,839
might be the military

369
00:13:39,440 --> 00:13:44,000
i found that working with field grade

370
00:13:41,839 --> 00:13:48,000
officers on the nuclear

371
00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:50,240
war issue they all said nuclear war is

372
00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:52,399
unethical by military standards that

373
00:13:50,240 --> 00:13:54,160
what we're supposed to do is minimize

374
00:13:52,399 --> 00:13:56,800
civilian casualties

375
00:13:54,160 --> 00:13:57,760
the military in the u.s is doing all

376
00:13:56,800 --> 00:14:00,000
kinds of stuff

377
00:13:57,760 --> 00:14:01,120
about trying to deal with climate

378
00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:03,920
disruption

379
00:14:01,120 --> 00:14:05,360
even though you have a in charge

380
00:14:03,920 --> 00:14:09,360
uh so

381
00:14:05,360 --> 00:14:11,279
it could be that all of us who

382
00:14:09,360 --> 00:14:13,199
not think of ourselves as not being

383
00:14:11,279 --> 00:14:15,760
warriors and not wanting to

384
00:14:13,199 --> 00:14:16,880
you know not being great fans of the

385
00:14:15,760 --> 00:14:20,560
military

386
00:14:16,880 --> 00:14:22,639
uh there may be more rescue there than

387
00:14:20,560 --> 00:14:24,320
most of us had felt emotionally

388
00:14:22,639 --> 00:14:27,440
previously i mean

389
00:14:24,320 --> 00:14:29,680
i was very active during the vietnam war

390
00:14:27,440 --> 00:14:30,480
and i felt for our military but i did

391
00:14:29,680 --> 00:14:33,839
not you know i

392
00:14:30,480 --> 00:14:36,720

it was a terrible thing to do

393
00:14:33,839 --> 00:14:37,519
yes yeah well this leads me into really

394
00:14:36,720 --> 00:14:40,160
the heart of this

395
00:14:37,519 --> 00:14:41,760
uh particular project is to invite you

396
00:14:40,160 --> 00:14:44,240
to share your story

397
00:14:41,760 --> 00:14:46,160
of you know what were your expectations

398
00:14:44,240 --> 00:14:49,279
what was you know so many people

399
00:14:46,160 --> 00:14:50,800
in america especially have had what

400
00:14:49,279 --> 00:14:53,680
could be called the secular religion of

401
00:14:50,800 --> 00:14:56,959
perpetual progress that was sort of our

402
00:14:53,680 --> 00:14:59,199
uh our our religion over throughout the

403
00:14:56,959 --> 00:15:00,560
20th and 21st centuries and so i'm

404
00:14:59,199 --> 00:15:02,079
curious how

405
00:15:00,560 --> 00:15:03,839
did that you know how was it for you

406

00:15:02,079 --> 00:15:06,800
growing up uh

407
00:15:03,839 --> 00:15:08,720
in the you know 40s 50s 60s 70s uh how

408
00:15:06,800 --> 00:15:10,000
did it shift for you was it was there a

409
00:15:08,720 --> 00:15:13,440
dramatic or

410
00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:15,519
or gradual shift to a sense of you know

411
00:15:13,440 --> 00:15:17,120
carrying capacity overshoot and just all

412
00:15:15,519 --> 00:15:19,360
the things that you're aware of

413
00:15:17,120 --> 00:15:21,040
um and take as long as you want in terms

414
00:15:19,360 --> 00:15:22,639
of sharing that story because anybody

415
00:15:21,040 --> 00:15:23,519
watching this or listening to this is

416
00:15:22,639 --> 00:15:26,560
going to be aware

417
00:15:23,519 --> 00:15:27,199
of your stature and would be very

418
00:15:26,560 --> 00:15:30,480
interested

419
00:15:27,199 --> 00:15:31,279
in hearing how that transition over time

420
00:15:30,480 --> 00:15:35,199
happened for you

421
00:15:31,279 --> 00:15:37,759
well first of all uh

422
00:15:35,199 --> 00:15:38,800
the smartest thing i ever did in my

423
00:15:37,759 --> 00:15:42,560
entire life

424
00:15:38,800 --> 00:15:45,519
was to be born in 1932. uh

425
00:15:42,560 --> 00:15:47,759
everybody should be born in 1932 because

426
00:15:45,519 --> 00:15:50,880
my father lost his job

427
00:15:47,759 --> 00:15:53,040
uh just after i was born

428
00:15:50,880 --> 00:15:54,079
in the depression and although i don't

429
00:15:53,040 --> 00:15:57,440
really remember

430
00:15:54,079 --> 00:16:01,279
any hardship from the depression

431
00:15:57,440 --> 00:16:02,959
uh my father particularly but my parents

432
00:16:01,279 --> 00:16:06,320
and the same happened with anne who's

433
00:16:02,959 --> 00:16:07,279
basically my age too uh talked the

434
00:16:06,320 --> 00:16:09,360
depression

435
00:16:07,279 --> 00:16:11,199
the two of us we've been married now for

436
00:16:09,360 --> 00:16:14,160
65 years

437
00:16:11,199 --> 00:16:16,880
we've bought two things on time our

438
00:16:14,160 --> 00:16:19,440
first car cause we had to have a car

439
00:16:16,880 --> 00:16:21,279
and our house yes we never you know we

440
00:16:19,440 --> 00:16:22,720
were taught you don't buy anything you

441
00:16:21,279 --> 00:16:24,959
don't have the money for

442
00:16:22,720 --> 00:16:26,240
and you were really you know watching

443
00:16:24,959 --> 00:16:28,639
those things

444
00:16:26,240 --> 00:16:30,079
closely then along comes the second

445
00:16:28,639 --> 00:16:34,000
world war

446
00:16:30,079 --> 00:16:37,680
uh which and enforceably

447
00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:40,720

introduced both of us to the world uh

448
00:16:37,680 --> 00:16:43,120
both of us asked our parents in the

449
00:16:40,720 --> 00:16:46,160
early 1940s when we were around

450
00:16:43,120 --> 00:16:47,440
10 would they continue to publish the

451
00:16:46,160 --> 00:16:50,959
newspapers

452
00:16:47,440 --> 00:16:52,480
after the war right loose it at every

453
00:16:50,959 --> 00:16:56,320
page the newspaper

454
00:16:52,480 --> 00:16:58,560
was filled up with the war uh

455
00:16:56,320 --> 00:16:59,920
that i was when i was a teenager my

456
00:16:58,560 --> 00:17:03,040
frontal lobes weren't

457
00:16:59,920 --> 00:17:05,520
uh myelinated yet uh

458
00:17:03,040 --> 00:17:06,400
and the frontal lobes are what give you

459
00:17:05,520 --> 00:17:09,520
sense it's what

460
00:17:06,400 --> 00:17:12,720
totally missing in trump for example and

461

00:17:09,520 --> 00:17:15,360
that's why adolescents are notoriously

462
00:17:12,720 --> 00:17:16,640
have trouble uh dealing with various

463
00:17:15,360 --> 00:17:18,720
kinds of issues

464
00:17:16,640 --> 00:17:21,520
i desperately wanted to be a fighter

465
00:17:18,720 --> 00:17:24,480
pilot i was hoping the war would last

466
00:17:21,520 --> 00:17:28,160
long enough for me to get into it

467
00:17:24,480 --> 00:17:31,760
so all that was fine but then i uh

468
00:17:28,160 --> 00:17:32,080
went to college with the last of the of

469
00:17:31,760 --> 00:17:34,960
the

470
00:17:32,080 --> 00:17:36,799
uh world war ii veterans i started

471
00:17:34,960 --> 00:17:39,600
college in 49

472
00:17:36,799 --> 00:17:41,120
and that was just about when the last of

473
00:17:39,600 --> 00:17:45,280
the veterans on

474
00:17:41,120 --> 00:17:46,720
the uh gi bill were going to college and

475
00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:49,919
i roomed

476
00:17:46,720 --> 00:17:52,400
with um several veterans

477
00:17:49,919 --> 00:17:53,760
uh who became good friends and for

478
00:17:52,400 --> 00:17:55,840
instance when i went to join a

479
00:17:53,760 --> 00:17:57,280
fraternity they threw me into a cold

480
00:17:55,840 --> 00:17:58,720
shower and said you want to play it

481
00:17:57,280 --> 00:18:00,799
being a little boy

482
00:17:58,720 --> 00:18:02,320
and that sort of thing and they were all

483
00:18:00,799 --> 00:18:05,440
very concerned

484
00:18:02,320 --> 00:18:07,360
about various issues um one of my

485
00:18:05,440 --> 00:18:11,520
closest friends then

486
00:18:07,360 --> 00:18:16,720
had been wounded in the philippines

487
00:18:11,520 --> 00:18:19,120
in 1946 by a hold out japanese soldier

488
00:18:16,720 --> 00:18:19,760
he had then gone with the occupation

489
00:18:19,120 --> 00:18:24,000
forces

490
00:18:19,760 --> 00:18:26,640
to uh japan became very sympathetic

491
00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:28,320
with the japanese and not sympathetic

492
00:18:26,640 --> 00:18:30,160
with some of their behavior during the

493
00:18:28,320 --> 00:18:34,559
war obviously

494
00:18:30,160 --> 00:18:37,679
ended up later on obviously married to a

495
00:18:34,559 --> 00:18:39,760
wonderful nissai woman who had been on

496
00:18:37,679 --> 00:18:41,360
the east coast in the united states and

497
00:18:39,760 --> 00:18:44,080
not

498
00:18:41,360 --> 00:18:44,799
imprisoned like we did to the perfectly

499
00:18:44,080 --> 00:18:48,240
loyal

500
00:18:44,799 --> 00:18:50,799
japanese on our west coast yes exactly

501
00:18:48,240 --> 00:18:52,720
and so we had lots of discussions of

502
00:18:50,799 --> 00:18:56,320

racial issues of

503
00:18:52,720 --> 00:18:58,880
hatred between countries and then um

504
00:18:56,320 --> 00:18:59,919
william vogt's book yes fairfield

505
00:18:58,880 --> 00:19:01,840
osborne

506
00:18:59,919 --> 00:19:03,120
uh we read that we used to have big

507
00:19:01,840 --> 00:19:06,240
discussions of it i had

508
00:19:03,120 --> 00:19:09,200
i'd never had my parents uh

509
00:19:06,240 --> 00:19:11,600
my mother in particular tried to answer

510
00:19:09,200 --> 00:19:15,360
all of my questions my parents both

511
00:19:11,600 --> 00:19:17,600
explained to me that contrary to the us

512
00:19:15,360 --> 00:19:19,360
propaganda the japanese did not have

513
00:19:17,600 --> 00:19:20,559
tails they were not genetically

514
00:19:19,360 --> 00:19:23,600
treacherous

515
00:19:20,559 --> 00:19:25,120
uh and uh but paul said i get say that

516

00:19:23,600 --> 00:19:26,720
again you said contrary to popular

517
00:19:25,120 --> 00:19:28,000
belief the japanese and you did

518
00:19:26,720 --> 00:19:29,520
it froze when you started saying

519
00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,480
japanese so start that sentence again

520
00:19:29,520 --> 00:19:34,000
well there were the

521
00:19:30,480 --> 00:19:37,679
the the u.s propaganda

522
00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:40,880
was that the japanese were tr

523
00:19:37,679 --> 00:19:42,160
treacherous and they had small tails and

524
00:19:40,880 --> 00:19:44,480
so on and so forth

525
00:19:42,160 --> 00:19:45,360
i mean racism yes after all when i was a

526
00:19:44,480 --> 00:19:48,880
kid

527
00:19:45,360 --> 00:19:50,799
uh lynchings were common in the south my

528
00:19:48,880 --> 00:19:53,919
parents were very liberal

529
00:19:50,799 --> 00:19:57,120
uh and in fact the the world was

530
00:19:53,919 --> 00:19:59,679
very different in those days yes uh

531
00:19:57,120 --> 00:20:01,360
and i it had been for a while going in

532
00:19:59,679 --> 00:20:02,400
my view in the right direction for

533
00:20:01,360 --> 00:20:05,600
example

534
00:20:02,400 --> 00:20:08,480
uh my family was nominally jewish

535
00:20:05,600 --> 00:20:10,640
i often say i'm i'm of course have no

536
00:20:08,480 --> 00:20:11,679
interest in supernatural monsters i've

537
00:20:10,640 --> 00:20:14,240
often said

538
00:20:11,679 --> 00:20:16,480
that i'm jewish only for purposes of

539
00:20:14,240 --> 00:20:19,360
persecution

540
00:20:16,480 --> 00:20:20,880
looking back on it though my parents who

541
00:20:19,360 --> 00:20:23,520
were very liberal

542
00:20:20,880 --> 00:20:25,280
had zero non-jewish friends when we

543
00:20:23,520 --> 00:20:27,840
lived in north jersey

544
00:20:25,280 --> 00:20:28,400
and there were the waps the dagos the

545
00:20:28,400 --> 00:20:34,240
the the whole mess

546
00:20:32,159 --> 00:20:36,159
and i thought we had largely suppressed

547
00:20:34,240 --> 00:20:37,760
that i worked very hard on that i was

548
00:20:36,159 --> 00:20:40,400
very much involved in

549
00:20:37,760 --> 00:20:42,880
uh desegregating the restaurants of

550
00:20:40,400 --> 00:20:43,919
lawrence kansas with sit-ins had my life

551
00:20:42,880 --> 00:20:48,080
threatened and

552
00:20:43,919 --> 00:20:51,200
so on and so forth uh but uh

553
00:20:48,080 --> 00:20:52,240
i've always been aware of what was going

554
00:20:51,200 --> 00:20:56,320
on in the world

555
00:20:52,240 --> 00:20:58,640
ever since my frontal lobes yes exactly

556
00:20:56,320 --> 00:20:59,840
so there's not been any big moment for

557
00:20:58,640 --> 00:21:02,559

me i watched

558
00:20:59,840 --> 00:21:04,000
i couldn't raise butterfly caterpillars

559
00:21:02,559 --> 00:21:06,400
in north jersey

560
00:21:04,000 --> 00:21:07,919
because they'd sprayed so much ddt

561
00:21:06,400 --> 00:21:09,760
around

562
00:21:07,919 --> 00:21:11,760
to control the mosquitoes which of

563
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:15,120
course it didn't work

564
00:21:11,760 --> 00:21:17,440
or worked for a while and i had watched

565
00:21:15,120 --> 00:21:18,640
levitt towns being built over butterfly

566
00:21:17,440 --> 00:21:21,840
habitat

567
00:21:18,640 --> 00:21:24,159
uh and so the overshoot the

568
00:21:21,840 --> 00:21:25,840
things that bill vogt wrote about and so

569
00:21:24,159 --> 00:21:29,440
on were very real

570
00:21:25,840 --> 00:21:32,880
to me and when i went to graduate school

571

00:21:29,440 --> 00:21:33,200
uh i was lucky you want more crap on

572
00:21:32,880 --> 00:21:35,200
this

573
00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:38,240
yeah yeah no this is continue please

574
00:21:35,200 --> 00:21:40,480
because i was i

575
00:21:38,240 --> 00:21:41,760
collected butterflies i got into that in

576
00:21:40,480 --> 00:21:44,960
a summer camp and i

577
00:21:41,760 --> 00:21:46,159
loved the diversity and the beauty and

578
00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:49,200
so on

579
00:21:46,159 --> 00:21:53,360
and i ended up meeting uh getting an

580
00:21:49,200 --> 00:21:55,600
introduction to charles michener at the

581
00:21:53,360 --> 00:21:58,480
american museum of natural history in

582
00:21:55,600 --> 00:22:02,240
new york we were living in north jersey

583
00:21:58,480 --> 00:22:04,960
and uh mitch was 11 years older than i

584
00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:07,039
was i met him when i was 15 and he was

585
00:22:04,960 --> 00:22:08,159
26 i think and just gotten out of

586
00:22:07,039 --> 00:22:10,400
berkeley

587
00:22:08,159 --> 00:22:11,760
i couldn't get a job working on the

588
00:22:10,400 --> 00:22:13,919
evolution of bees

589
00:22:11,760 --> 00:22:15,120
because there just wasn't jobs so he

590
00:22:13,919 --> 00:22:18,159
took a job

591
00:22:15,120 --> 00:22:19,200
uh as the curator of butterflies and

592
00:22:18,159 --> 00:22:22,640
maws at the brit

593
00:22:19,200 --> 00:22:26,000
at the american museum and

594
00:22:22,640 --> 00:22:28,559
uh he introduced me to the lepidopterist

595
00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:31,039
society of which i am

596
00:22:28,559 --> 00:22:33,280
undoubtedly i'm now i think the last

597
00:22:31,039 --> 00:22:37,120
charter member still alive

598
00:22:33,280 --> 00:22:39,919
somewhere in that league anyway and

599
00:22:37,120 --> 00:22:41,360
i ended up eventually going to graduate

600
00:22:39,919 --> 00:22:44,960
school working with him and he

601
00:22:41,360 --> 00:22:46,480
got he got a job working on bees which

602
00:22:44,960 --> 00:22:47,520
he see what he wanted to do would be

603
00:22:46,480 --> 00:22:50,559
evolution

604
00:22:47,520 --> 00:22:54,159
and took it at the university of kansas

605
00:22:50,559 --> 00:22:57,039
and uh he was at some point maybe then

606
00:22:54,159 --> 00:22:59,520
the only member of the national academy

607
00:22:57,039 --> 00:23:01,919
between chicago and the coast

608
00:22:59,520 --> 00:23:03,919
and uh mitch got me a fellowship with

609
00:23:01,919 --> 00:23:06,159
another brilliant scientist

610
00:23:03,919 --> 00:23:08,559
who happened to be at kansas named bob

611
00:23:06,159 --> 00:23:12,240
sokol robert sokol

612
00:23:08,559 --> 00:23:14,480

who brought statistics into biology and

613
00:23:12,240 --> 00:23:15,760
utterly transformed the whole field of

614
00:23:14,480 --> 00:23:19,760
taxonomy

615
00:23:15,760 --> 00:23:22,880
so i was lucky to have two great mentors

616
00:23:19,760 --> 00:23:26,240
in graduate school and then i was lucky

617
00:23:22,880 --> 00:23:29,840
to be able to get a job at stanford

618
00:23:26,240 --> 00:23:32,000
there were jobs were scarce but i got it

619
00:23:29,840 --> 00:23:33,120
and the nsf the national science

620
00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:35,440
foundation was just

621
00:23:33,120 --> 00:23:36,880
starting up then i had gotten a

622
00:23:35,440 --> 00:23:39,280
pre-doctoral fellowship

623
00:23:36,880 --> 00:23:42,159
from them which allowed ann and me to

624
00:23:39,280 --> 00:23:45,279
survive in graduate school

625
00:23:42,159 --> 00:23:47,279
and then i got support for my work for

626

00:23:45,279 --> 00:23:48,240
many years from the national science

627
00:23:47,279 --> 00:23:51,279
foundation

628
00:23:48,240 --> 00:23:53,440
it was a great era for science

629
00:23:51,279 --> 00:23:55,679
uh now of course that's being destroyed

630
00:23:53,440 --> 00:23:59,039
progressively around the world

631
00:23:55,679 --> 00:24:00,960
universities with i don't know any

632
00:23:59,039 --> 00:24:02,799
exception there may be but certainly the

633
00:24:00,960 --> 00:24:04,640
great universities so called like

634
00:24:02,799 --> 00:24:06,799
harvard and stanford

635
00:24:04,640 --> 00:24:07,679
are intellectual sewers from the point

636
00:24:06,799 --> 00:24:09,799
of view

637
00:24:07,679 --> 00:24:12,480
that they're still teaching as if it was

638
00:24:09,799 --> 00:24:13,279
1790. i mean i'd love to see stanford

639
00:24:12,480 --> 00:24:16,080
brought in

640
00:24:13,279 --> 00:24:17,200
to the 19th or 20th century but it's not

641
00:24:16,080 --> 00:24:20,240
going to happen

642
00:24:17,200 --> 00:24:22,720
universities are built in

643
00:24:20,240 --> 00:24:23,520
parts of the system that's destroying us

644
00:24:22,720 --> 00:24:27,279
and they

645
00:24:23,520 --> 00:24:30,880
cannot change the

646
00:24:27,279 --> 00:24:32,960
my my best man our best man

647
00:24:30,880 --> 00:24:34,640
was a close friend who became a

648
00:24:32,960 --> 00:24:37,120
historian when we were

649
00:24:34,640 --> 00:24:39,039
we were graduate students and he

650
00:24:37,120 --> 00:24:41,440
summarized stanford

651
00:24:39,039 --> 00:24:42,400
perfectly in one phrase which fits

652
00:24:41,440 --> 00:24:45,600
harvard too

653
00:24:42,400 --> 00:24:48,320
it's a full-service whorehouse

654
00:24:45,600 --> 00:24:49,039
it's very sad anyway so i didn't have

655
00:24:48,320 --> 00:24:52,000
any moment

656
00:24:49,039 --> 00:24:54,400
of the shells dropping from my eyes

657
00:24:52,000 --> 00:24:58,080
unless you can say

658
00:24:54,400 --> 00:25:02,320
that rooming with world war ii veterans

659
00:24:58,080 --> 00:25:04,799
was incredibly important and living

660
00:25:02,320 --> 00:25:06,799
for a full summer and working and

661
00:25:04,799 --> 00:25:08,240
learning the language of the inuit of

662
00:25:06,799 --> 00:25:11,520
the eskimos

663
00:25:08,240 --> 00:25:14,640
in 1952 um

664
00:25:11,520 --> 00:25:17,679
i i almost changed to anthropology

665
00:25:14,640 --> 00:25:20,559
when i saw how they were treated um

666
00:25:17,679 --> 00:25:21,360
the the canadian government is still not

667
00:25:20,559 --> 00:25:25,120

treating them

668
00:25:21,360 --> 00:25:26,960
well and a major reason is guess what

669
00:25:25,120 --> 00:25:28,159
they're trying to establish their

670
00:25:26,960 --> 00:25:31,279
sovereignty

671
00:25:28,159 --> 00:25:33,679
over the canadian arctic archipelago

672
00:25:31,279 --> 00:25:35,919
in order to be able to exploit the

673
00:25:33,679 --> 00:25:37,520
mineral resources which will destroy our

674
00:25:35,919 --> 00:25:40,159
climate

675
00:25:37,520 --> 00:25:43,279
and the they're still at it they they

676
00:25:40,159 --> 00:25:45,679
forcibly moved a lot of inuit

677
00:25:43,279 --> 00:25:46,400
into a place where i had been and where

678
00:25:45,679 --> 00:25:48,640
i could have

679
00:25:46,400 --> 00:25:50,880
told the inuit that they didn't want to

680
00:25:48,640 --> 00:25:53,600
go there because there was no game

681

00:25:50,880 --> 00:25:56,480
but they were moved they were told they

682
00:25:53,600 --> 00:25:58,000
could move back if they didn't like it

683
00:25:56,480 --> 00:26:00,240
they didn't like it and then the

684
00:25:58,000 --> 00:26:03,039
canadian government said well

685
00:26:00,240 --> 00:26:04,360
uh you can move back but it'll cost you

686
00:26:03,039 --> 00:26:07,840
97

687
00:26:04,360 --> 00:26:10,000
970 or something for your transport

688
00:26:07,840 --> 00:26:10,960
these are people you know who made two

689
00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:14,320
dollars a month

690
00:26:10,960 --> 00:26:17,120
maybe uh they anyway

691
00:26:14,320 --> 00:26:19,120
horrible treatment of the inuit which is

692
00:26:17,120 --> 00:26:19,679
not well known it's basically a whole

693
00:26:19,120 --> 00:26:21,279
they

694
00:26:19,679 --> 00:26:24,400
they tried to make up for it with

695
00:26:21,279 --> 00:26:27,760
setting up the nunavut and so on but

696
00:26:24,400 --> 00:26:29,520
much as i'm a fan of canada

697
00:26:27,760 --> 00:26:31,600
in many ways having worked with

698
00:26:29,520 --> 00:26:35,279
canadians

699
00:26:31,600 --> 00:26:38,240
but their treatment of the inuit was

700
00:26:35,279 --> 00:26:39,679
yeah not much better than our treatment

701
00:26:38,240 --> 00:26:41,760
of the native americans we

702
00:26:39,679 --> 00:26:42,799
our records even worse but yeah now

703
00:26:41,760 --> 00:26:44,640
exactly

704
00:26:42,799 --> 00:26:46,080
well you know paul one of the things i'm

705
00:26:44,640 --> 00:26:47,760
curious about and i would imagine

706
00:26:46,080 --> 00:26:49,120
anybody watching or listening to this

707
00:26:47,760 --> 00:26:51,120
would be as well

708
00:26:49,120 --> 00:26:52,720
is that because you've been aware of

709
00:26:51,120 --> 00:26:56,320
these um

710
00:26:52,720 --> 00:26:58,960
patterns and dysfunctions

711
00:26:56,320 --> 00:27:00,480
and you know i could go on and on for

712
00:26:58,960 --> 00:27:02,720
decades many decades

713
00:27:00,480 --> 00:27:04,240
what has allowed you or supported you in

714
00:27:02,720 --> 00:27:06,080
staying sane in these

715
00:27:04,240 --> 00:27:08,240
crazy times when you're aware of this

716
00:27:06,080 --> 00:27:08,570
dysfunction what makes you think i'm

717
00:27:08,240 --> 00:27:10,960
sane

718
00:27:08,570 --> 00:27:12,960
[Laughter]

719
00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:15,200
you've lost all sense of perception

720
00:27:12,960 --> 00:27:15,200
there

721
00:27:17,039 --> 00:27:24,320
i have to say that my i try and take an

722
00:27:21,200 --> 00:27:27,600

evidence-based view of the world and

723
00:27:24,320 --> 00:27:29,279
when you get to be uh my age there are

724
00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:31,840
certain things that you know you can

725
00:27:29,279 --> 00:27:35,039
predict with absolute certainty like

726
00:27:31,840 --> 00:27:37,600
10 years from now i'm going to be dead

727
00:27:35,039 --> 00:27:39,600
but that doesn't hold any particular

728
00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:43,919
fear for me because

729
00:27:39,600 --> 00:27:43,919
well i quote an old acquaintance of mine

730
00:27:44,880 --> 00:27:51,679
the auth the author oh my god

731
00:27:48,159 --> 00:27:53,360
i'm gonna vladimir oh i'm having a

732
00:27:51,679 --> 00:27:56,480
senior moment

733
00:27:53,360 --> 00:27:58,320
that's okay mabakov navikov worked on

734
00:27:56,480 --> 00:27:59,600
butterflies i met him in the american

735
00:27:58,320 --> 00:28:02,960
museum

736

00:27:59,600 --> 00:28:04,799
when he wrote his famous book the name

737
00:28:02,960 --> 00:28:08,159
of which you'll remember but i don't

738
00:28:04,799 --> 00:28:10,399
vladimir nabokov lolita

739
00:28:08,159 --> 00:28:11,279
i was at kansas as a graduate student

740
00:28:10,399 --> 00:28:14,640
and we had

741
00:28:11,279 --> 00:28:15,520
cards in those days which said dear dr

742
00:28:14,640 --> 00:28:19,120
blank

743
00:28:15,520 --> 00:28:21,360
um if i would very much like a copy of a

744
00:28:19,120 --> 00:28:21,760
reprint of your paper such and such and

745
00:28:21,360 --> 00:28:23,919
such

746
00:28:21,760 --> 00:28:25,679
and certainly yours because we didn't

747
00:28:23,919 --> 00:28:29,279
have what we're doing now

748
00:28:25,679 --> 00:28:31,120
and so on and so i sent him a reprint

749
00:28:29,279 --> 00:28:33,679
card with lolita on it and he

750
00:28:31,120 --> 00:28:34,240
that was the end of our correspondence

751
00:28:33,679 --> 00:28:36,799
anyway

752
00:28:34,240 --> 00:28:37,600
he wrote if i can remember it right he

753
00:28:36,799 --> 00:28:40,880
said

754
00:28:37,600 --> 00:28:44,080
um the human existence is

755
00:28:40,880 --> 00:28:46,799
a brief crack of light between

756
00:28:44,080 --> 00:28:47,520
two eternities of darkness so i've spent

757
00:28:46,799 --> 00:28:51,120
at least

758
00:28:47,520 --> 00:28:54,640
14 15 billion years dead and

759
00:28:51,120 --> 00:28:58,399
i will spend probably another at least

760
00:28:54,640 --> 00:29:02,240
equal length of time dead after in

761
00:28:58,399 --> 00:29:05,760
some time in the next decade um and

762
00:29:02,240 --> 00:29:09,360
it doesn't what bothers me is uh

763
00:29:05,760 --> 00:29:11,200
losing contact with many many friends

764
00:29:09,360 --> 00:29:12,399
and maybe even more important not

765
00:29:11,200 --> 00:29:16,720
knowing what the hell

766
00:29:12,399 --> 00:29:20,240
actually happens but i don't find that

767
00:29:16,720 --> 00:29:23,679
terrifying particularly um the uh

768
00:29:20,240 --> 00:29:26,880
it's easily cured with a bottle of 41

769
00:29:23,679 --> 00:29:29,120
mouton or something like that you know

770
00:29:26,880 --> 00:29:30,240
yeah i i often say when i do programs on

771
00:29:29,120 --> 00:29:33,200
mortality and death

772
00:29:30,240 --> 00:29:34,240
uh that you know it seems to me pretty

773
00:29:33,200 --> 00:29:36,559
clear that where we go

774
00:29:34,240 --> 00:29:38,240
to when we die is the same place we came

775
00:29:36,559 --> 00:29:39,600
from before we were born and whether you

776
00:29:38,240 --> 00:29:41,120
speak of that it's coming from nothing

777
00:29:39,600 --> 00:29:43,120

and returning to nothing or coming from

778
00:29:41,120 --> 00:29:44,880
mystery and returning to history or

779
00:29:43,120 --> 00:29:45,919
coming from god and returning to god

780
00:29:44,880 --> 00:29:46,480
there's lots of different ways to talk

781
00:29:45,919 --> 00:29:48,720
about it

782
00:29:46,480 --> 00:29:50,480
but if where i go to isn't the very same

783
00:29:48,720 --> 00:29:51,760
place that all other plants and animals

784
00:29:50,480 --> 00:29:55,279
and bacteria have gone

785
00:29:51,760 --> 00:29:56,799
i'm gonna be pissed

786
00:29:55,279 --> 00:29:59,120
doesn't seem it doesn't seem to me that

787
00:29:56,799 --> 00:30:01,279
we get a special place

788
00:29:59,120 --> 00:30:03,520
and really part of what this series is

789
00:30:01,279 --> 00:30:06,159
about is my inviting various

790
00:30:03,520 --> 00:30:07,440
uh thought leaders activist authors

791

00:30:06,159 --> 00:30:11,600
professors

792
00:30:07,440 --> 00:30:13,200
uh to really share their take on on

793
00:30:11,600 --> 00:30:14,960
what it is to shift from human

794
00:30:13,200 --> 00:30:16,240
centeredness anthropocentrism which is

795
00:30:14,960 --> 00:30:18,720
so unsustainable

796
00:30:16,240 --> 00:30:21,120
and so self-destructive over time to

797
00:30:18,720 --> 00:30:23,520
life-centeredness or eco-centrism or

798
00:30:21,120 --> 00:30:24,559
as i read indigenous cultures tribal

799
00:30:23,520 --> 00:30:26,000
first peoples that

800
00:30:24,559 --> 00:30:28,000
were able to live in place without

801
00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:30,720
destroying the place

802
00:30:28,000 --> 00:30:32,320
probably to to a single one they lived

803
00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:36,720
in a way that we would say

804
00:30:32,320 --> 00:30:39,520
is uh eco theo that is the ecos the

805
00:30:36,720 --> 00:30:40,000
the ecosphere was related to as a vow

806
00:30:39,520 --> 00:30:42,240
not an

807
00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:43,919
it to be exploited and whatever their

808
00:30:42,240 --> 00:30:45,039
notion of spirit or the divine or

809
00:30:43,919 --> 00:30:46,880
whatever was

810
00:30:45,039 --> 00:30:48,720
present in and revealed through and

811
00:30:46,880 --> 00:30:49,360
expressed in the voices of the living

812
00:30:48,720 --> 00:30:51,200
world

813
00:30:49,360 --> 00:30:52,480
and we don't do that we treat the living

814
00:30:51,200 --> 00:30:54,960
world as an it

815
00:30:52,480 --> 00:30:55,679
our sort of resources or waste yes

816
00:30:54,960 --> 00:30:57,919
exactly

817
00:30:55,679 --> 00:30:59,519
i'm going to be visiting uh not for the

818
00:30:57,919 --> 00:31:03,519
first time this time

819
00:30:59,519 --> 00:31:06,720
next month the most sustainable

820
00:31:03,519 --> 00:31:08,480
and sustained civilization on the planet

821
00:31:06,720 --> 00:31:09,840
and that is of course the australian

822
00:31:08,480 --> 00:31:12,399
aborigines

823
00:31:09,840 --> 00:31:14,720
who i have been in places uh very

824
00:31:12,399 --> 00:31:16,159
interested in aboriginal art i have been

825
00:31:14,720 --> 00:31:19,279
in places

826
00:31:16,159 --> 00:31:23,279
where the paintings

827
00:31:19,279 --> 00:31:26,720
are in the vicinity of 10 to 15

828
00:31:23,279 --> 00:31:29,200
000 years old painted over and over

829
00:31:26,720 --> 00:31:30,240
where the rocks underneath the overhang

830
00:31:29,200 --> 00:31:34,000
where the paintings

831
00:31:30,240 --> 00:31:37,519
are the rocks are polished smooth

832
00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:41,200

by 10 or 15 000 years of human butts

833
00:31:37,519 --> 00:31:44,240
sitting on them and i have talked to the

834
00:31:41,200 --> 00:31:47,120
lineal descendants of the artists

835
00:31:44,240 --> 00:31:47,600
a couple miles away from the site of

836
00:31:47,120 --> 00:31:50,080
where

837
00:31:47,600 --> 00:31:52,320
the paintings were done we're not going

838
00:31:50,080 --> 00:31:54,799
to go 15 000 years with our

839
00:31:52,320 --> 00:31:56,159
society right and i think one of the uh

840
00:31:54,799 --> 00:31:59,440
i've also

841
00:31:56,159 --> 00:32:02,960
um when you talk about religion i'm

842
00:31:59,440 --> 00:32:05,039
not even a fan of the um

843
00:32:02,960 --> 00:32:06,399
sort of standard religions that

844
00:32:05,039 --> 00:32:08,080
everybody talks about

845
00:32:06,399 --> 00:32:09,600
i was glad to see some data the other

846

00:32:08,080 --> 00:32:13,360
day that less than half

847
00:32:09,600 --> 00:32:16,640
half of uh americans consider themselves

848
00:32:13,360 --> 00:32:20,080
uh religious but uh

849
00:32:16,640 --> 00:32:24,000
the ones that seem harmless like the

850
00:32:20,080 --> 00:32:26,960
sort of standard protestant sex or uh

851
00:32:24,000 --> 00:32:27,519
the not crazy jewish sex the ones that

852
00:32:26,960 --> 00:32:29,120
are just

853
00:32:27,519 --> 00:32:30,880
reformed i can't remember the

854
00:32:29,120 --> 00:32:33,519
terminology anyway

855
00:32:30,880 --> 00:32:35,120
because they allow people to think it's

856
00:32:33,519 --> 00:32:37,919
perfectly all right

857
00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:40,080
to live in a world where you don't

858
00:32:37,919 --> 00:32:43,440
listen to the evidence

859
00:32:40,080 --> 00:32:45,360
where you don't deal with uh

860
00:32:43,440 --> 00:32:46,559
taking care of for instance people who

861
00:32:45,360 --> 00:32:50,159
are dying

862
00:32:46,559 --> 00:32:54,000
uh in reasonable ways uh for instance

863
00:32:50,159 --> 00:32:55,039
you know if i i what the biggest scare i

864
00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:58,000
have

865
00:32:55,039 --> 00:32:59,760
is that my mind will go before i have a

866
00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:01,840
chance to take the pills

867
00:32:59,760 --> 00:33:03,600
right and my society is perfectly all

868
00:33:01,840 --> 00:33:05,120
right to put a horse out of its misery

869
00:33:03,600 --> 00:33:06,559
but it won't be perfectly all right to

870
00:33:05,120 --> 00:33:11,440
put me out of my misery

871
00:33:06,559 --> 00:33:15,360
even though many people wish they could

872
00:33:11,440 --> 00:33:16,720
yeah well this is this is precisely the

873
00:33:15,360 --> 00:33:19,279
kind of thing that i

874
00:33:16,720 --> 00:33:21,039
regularly speak about in terms of death

875
00:33:19,279 --> 00:33:21,840
and religion it seems to me i've been

876
00:33:21,039 --> 00:33:23,840
influenced by

877
00:33:21,840 --> 00:33:26,399
not only thomas berry and william caton

878
00:33:23,840 --> 00:33:28,799
but also teddy goldsmith

879
00:33:26,399 --> 00:33:30,960
his book the stable society and also the

880
00:33:28,799 --> 00:33:33,039
way an ecological world view

881
00:33:30,960 --> 00:33:35,279
and it seems to me there's a profound

882
00:33:33,039 --> 00:33:36,000
difference between sustainable cultures

883
00:33:35,279 --> 00:33:37,440
or

884
00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:39,519
the role that life weighs it wasn't

885
00:33:37,440 --> 00:33:42,000
called religion but it was life ways

886
00:33:39,519 --> 00:33:44,320
in sustainable cultures really is that

887
00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:46,080

moral element of society that ensures

888
00:33:44,320 --> 00:33:46,880
that the future is not compromised by

889
00:33:46,080 --> 00:33:48,880
the present

890
00:33:46,880 --> 00:33:50,080
teddy goldsmith even defined religion in

891
00:33:48,880 --> 00:33:52,080
healthy societies

892
00:33:50,080 --> 00:33:54,240
as the control mechanism that which

893
00:33:52,080 --> 00:33:56,080
insists on honoring limits

894
00:33:54,240 --> 00:33:58,159
upon pain of death or ostracizing and

895
00:33:56,080 --> 00:33:59,120
that in unsustainable cultures religion

896
00:33:58,159 --> 00:34:01,360
downgrades

897
00:33:59,120 --> 00:34:02,880
to being merely a coping mechanism it

898
00:34:01,360 --> 00:34:05,600
can't

899
00:34:02,880 --> 00:34:06,000
well that's what marx said yeah remember

900
00:34:05,600 --> 00:34:09,040
what he

901

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:10,399
said no i don't oh he said religion is

902
00:34:09,040 --> 00:34:12,399
the  of the people

903
00:34:10,399 --> 00:34:13,679
i'm familiar with marx's opinion of the

904
00:34:12,399 --> 00:34:15,359
masses for sure

905
00:34:13,679 --> 00:34:17,359
and that's really what it is is it's in

906
00:34:15,359 --> 00:34:18,800
dysfunctional unsustainable cultures it

907
00:34:17,359 --> 00:34:20,879
allows people to

908
00:34:18,800 --> 00:34:22,000
function and have healthy relationships

909
00:34:20,879 --> 00:34:24,079
but ultimately

910
00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:25,679
i don't think any of the great religions

911
00:34:24,079 --> 00:34:27,440
that quote unquote great religions of

912
00:34:25,679 --> 00:34:29,359
the axial age

913
00:34:27,440 --> 00:34:31,440
are up to the task and so we need to

914
00:34:29,359 --> 00:34:33,520
relearn assuming some portion of

915
00:34:31,440 --> 00:34:36,159
humanity survives this bottleneck

916
00:34:33,520 --> 00:34:37,440
we must relearn how to be intimate with

917
00:34:36,159 --> 00:34:40,000
the with the biosphere

918
00:34:37,440 --> 00:34:40,560
as a greater thou not a lesser it well

919
00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:42,320
when you can

920
00:34:40,560 --> 00:34:44,480
when you consider how much money and

921
00:34:42,320 --> 00:34:48,560
effort we put into nuclear weapons

922
00:34:44,480 --> 00:34:50,960
that i mean i i was a fan of obama

923
00:34:48,560 --> 00:34:53,280
as a president it was stunned me that we

924
00:34:50,960 --> 00:34:55,280
would finally have an african-american

925
00:34:53,280 --> 00:34:56,639
president during my lifetime which i

926
00:34:55,280 --> 00:35:01,440
never would have predicted

927
00:34:56,639 --> 00:35:03,920
right but he went along with uh our

928
00:35:01,440 --> 00:35:04,880
changing our nuclear weapons system to

929
00:35:03,920 --> 00:35:08,000
one that can

930
00:35:04,880 --> 00:35:11,200
strike the russians by surprise and

931
00:35:08,000 --> 00:35:11,680
he may actually have started us with

932
00:35:11,200 --> 00:35:13,680
others

933
00:35:11,680 --> 00:35:16,079
of course on a route towards a

934
00:35:13,680 --> 00:35:17,280
full-scale nuclear war which we know is

935
00:35:16,079 --> 00:35:20,480
basically the end

936
00:35:17,280 --> 00:35:24,079
so religion hasn't

937
00:35:20,480 --> 00:35:27,760
the very fact that we continue to war

938
00:35:24,079 --> 00:35:30,640
and that we have put such huge effort

939
00:35:27,760 --> 00:35:31,280
into making it possible to actually end

940
00:35:30,640 --> 00:35:33,280
the world

941
00:35:31,280 --> 00:35:35,119
in other words yes just think about it

942
00:35:33,280 --> 00:35:36,960

if the romans

943
00:35:35,119 --> 00:35:38,720
had had nuclear weapons you and i

944
00:35:36,960 --> 00:35:39,920
wouldn't be having this conversation

945
00:35:38,720 --> 00:35:41,839
because

946
00:35:39,920 --> 00:35:43,440
when the barbarians were coming over the

947
00:35:41,839 --> 00:35:47,040
wall they'd have used them

948
00:35:43,440 --> 00:35:47,520
yes exactly well anyway cheery cheery

949
00:35:47,040 --> 00:35:49,280
baby

950
00:35:47,520 --> 00:35:51,599
[Laughter]

951
00:35:49,280 --> 00:35:52,400
well paul i'm curious what is your sense

952
00:35:51,599 --> 00:35:54,560
of what

953
00:35:52,400 --> 00:35:56,000
uh you know what's now beyond our

954
00:35:54,560 --> 00:35:58,240
control uh

955
00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:59,839
but what still is something that we can

956

00:35:58,240 --> 00:36:01,200
do individually or collectively that can

957
00:35:59,839 --> 00:36:02,880
make a difference in other words what's

958
00:36:01,200 --> 00:36:03,839
your sense of know what's no longer

959
00:36:02,880 --> 00:36:05,760
possible

960
00:36:03,839 --> 00:36:07,680
but what still is possible i think it's

961
00:36:05,760 --> 00:36:10,160
no longer possible

962
00:36:07,680 --> 00:36:12,480
to actually reverse the trend towards

963
00:36:10,160 --> 00:36:15,599
some form of a collapse that could be

964
00:36:12,480 --> 00:36:18,240
a financial collapse you because of the

965
00:36:15,599 --> 00:36:20,000
uh we have so much debt that is

966
00:36:18,240 --> 00:36:23,280
unsecured basically

967
00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:26,960
it climate disruption is something

968
00:36:23,280 --> 00:36:28,640
that um uh most people think of when

969
00:36:26,960 --> 00:36:30,720
they think of environmental problems

970
00:36:28,640 --> 00:36:32,720
although loss of biodiversity may be

971
00:36:30,720 --> 00:36:35,440
equally or more serious and they're

972
00:36:32,720 --> 00:36:37,680
tightly tied together exactly this the

973
00:36:35,440 --> 00:36:40,480
increasing load of

974
00:36:37,680 --> 00:36:42,720
plastics and plastics coated with

975
00:36:40,480 --> 00:36:45,920
persistent organic pollutants

976
00:36:42,720 --> 00:36:48,400
and the pollutants that now are worse in

977
00:36:45,920 --> 00:36:51,119
small quantities than large ones

978
00:36:48,400 --> 00:36:52,079
uh there's just all kinds of horrendous

979
00:36:51,119 --> 00:36:55,280
possibilities

980
00:36:52,079 --> 00:36:58,000
what is possible well uh

981
00:36:55,280 --> 00:36:59,440
my closest friends among australian

982
00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:00,400
scientists say you got to go to the

983
00:36:59,440 --> 00:37:03,440
streets

984
00:37:00,400 --> 00:37:04,880
and i think the um extinction rebellion

985
00:37:03,440 --> 00:37:08,800
that sort of thing

986
00:37:04,880 --> 00:37:11,040
is the direction if the people don't

987
00:37:08,800 --> 00:37:12,160
somehow demand that we start paying

988
00:37:11,040 --> 00:37:14,800
attention

989
00:37:12,160 --> 00:37:15,920
and start in the direction of not

990
00:37:14,800 --> 00:37:19,200
consuming

991
00:37:15,920 --> 00:37:21,680
not killing our enemies and so on

992
00:37:19,200 --> 00:37:23,200
uh and start thinking i mean for example

993
00:37:21,680 --> 00:37:27,839
i've tried to persuade

994
00:37:23,200 --> 00:37:30,880
no luck at all i i founded with ann and

995
00:37:27,839 --> 00:37:32,640
don kennedy an organization called which

996
00:37:30,880 --> 00:37:33,839
we called the millennium assessment of

997
00:37:32,640 --> 00:37:36,880

human behavior but

998
00:37:33,839 --> 00:37:38,640
is is now fading for lack of support

999
00:37:36,880 --> 00:37:40,960
that lack of financial support even

1000
00:37:38,640 --> 00:37:42,800
though it's very popular trying to get

1001
00:37:40,960 --> 00:37:45,440
civil society

1002
00:37:42,800 --> 00:37:47,119
pointing in the right direction to see

1003
00:37:45,440 --> 00:37:48,160
for instance we i would love to get

1004
00:37:47,119 --> 00:37:50,960
paulo i live in

1005
00:37:48,160 --> 00:37:52,960
one of the richest places in the world

1006
00:37:50,960 --> 00:37:55,760
where real people can't afford

1007
00:37:52,960 --> 00:37:58,000
to live i mean we we the only reason we

1008
00:37:55,760 --> 00:38:00,240
can afford to live near stanford

1009
00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:02,560
is that we bought a house before the

1010
00:38:00,240 --> 00:38:06,800
prices went up so we paid 25

1011

00:38:02,560 --> 00:38:07,839
000 for a house which we sold for 1.4

1012
00:38:06,800 --> 00:38:10,480
million dollars

1013
00:38:07,839 --> 00:38:12,640
40 some years later and we had to pay

1014
00:38:10,480 --> 00:38:13,760
that 1.4 million to get a small

1015
00:38:12,640 --> 00:38:16,880
apartment

1016
00:38:13,760 --> 00:38:21,119
to move into well uh that

1017
00:38:16,880 --> 00:38:24,160
that sort of thing is not sustainable

1018
00:38:21,119 --> 00:38:27,119
uh and i wanted palo alto the

1019
00:38:24,160 --> 00:38:27,839
local town to start looking into the

1020
00:38:27,119 --> 00:38:30,720
issue of

1021
00:38:27,839 --> 00:38:32,560
how would you live in palo alto if there

1022
00:38:30,720 --> 00:38:35,440
was only electricity

1023
00:38:32,560 --> 00:38:36,720
for two hours a day and water for one

1024
00:38:35,440 --> 00:38:40,720
hour a day

1025
00:38:36,720 --> 00:38:44,400
and there was no um uh currency

1026
00:38:40,720 --> 00:38:45,599
to use that the currency was so debased

1027
00:38:44,400 --> 00:38:47,599
and

1028
00:38:45,599 --> 00:38:49,119
how would you eat what would you do how

1029
00:38:47,599 --> 00:38:50,640
would you control things

1030
00:38:49,119 --> 00:38:53,200
that's the sort of thing we should be

1031
00:38:50,640 --> 00:38:57,280
looking at how can you make

1032
00:38:53,200 --> 00:39:00,800
the collapse

1033
00:38:57,280 --> 00:39:03,040
not totally disastrous i mean i

1034
00:39:00,800 --> 00:39:04,240
guess what i'm old enough to have lived

1035
00:39:03,040 --> 00:39:07,520
and survived

1036
00:39:04,240 --> 00:39:10,000
without a cell phone when i came to

1037
00:39:07,520 --> 00:39:12,839
stanford in 1959

1038
00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:16,240
we did not have access to personal

1039
00:39:12,839 --> 00:39:19,599
computers to xerox machines

1040
00:39:16,240 --> 00:39:22,000
to tape recorders uh

1041
00:39:19,599 --> 00:39:23,839
we had to drive our own cars and i knew

1042
00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:26,160
what every part in the car did and could

1043
00:39:23,839 --> 00:39:29,200
fix it myself and so on

1044
00:39:26,160 --> 00:39:32,079
and life was actually just wonderful

1045
00:39:29,200 --> 00:39:34,079
i did not feel you know i felt that i

1046
00:39:32,079 --> 00:39:35,119
was on top of the world we had won the

1047
00:39:34,079 --> 00:39:38,640
war

1048
00:39:35,119 --> 00:39:39,200
i had a job i was able to eat reasonable

1049
00:39:38,640 --> 00:39:42,320
food

1050
00:39:39,200 --> 00:39:43,599
all the time uh i could drink wine i

1051
00:39:42,320 --> 00:39:46,800
could get drunk

1052
00:39:43,599 --> 00:39:48,800

uh you know and i certainly uh could

1053
00:39:46,800 --> 00:39:51,920
enjoy the opposite sex

1054
00:39:48,800 --> 00:39:53,119
uh most of the crap that we keep having

1055
00:39:51,920 --> 00:39:56,079
shoved at us

1056
00:39:53,119 --> 00:39:57,760
really isn't necessary for a happy life

1057
00:39:56,079 --> 00:39:58,720
because i know i had a happy life

1058
00:39:57,760 --> 00:40:01,040
without it

1059
00:39:58,720 --> 00:40:02,720
exactly and having watched the inuit uh

1060
00:40:01,040 --> 00:40:04,800
when i was with them

1061
00:40:02,720 --> 00:40:05,839
you could have a happy life with a lot

1062
00:40:04,800 --> 00:40:08,319
less

1063
00:40:05,839 --> 00:40:09,920
and a satisfying life but that's the

1064
00:40:08,319 --> 00:40:11,520
sort of thing we ought to be discussing

1065
00:40:09,920 --> 00:40:13,599
and what are we discussing

1066

00:40:11,520 --> 00:40:14,720
how you get rid of a hideous criminal

1067
00:40:13,599 --> 00:40:17,280
who is you know

1068
00:40:14,720 --> 00:40:18,720
pushing us faster and faster towards a

1069
00:40:17,280 --> 00:40:21,839
worse and worse collapse

1070
00:40:18,720 --> 00:40:23,359
yeah yeah no exactly well paul in

1071
00:40:21,839 --> 00:40:24,880
winding this down i'm curious what would

1072
00:40:23,359 --> 00:40:28,000
be your coaching or

1073
00:40:24,880 --> 00:40:28,960
advice or counsel to say somebody in

1074
00:40:28,000 --> 00:40:30,560
their senior years

1075
00:40:28,960 --> 00:40:32,960
and then how would you speak to a young

1076
00:40:30,560 --> 00:40:33,599
person uh someone in their late teens

1077
00:40:32,960 --> 00:40:35,680
twenties

1078
00:40:33,599 --> 00:40:37,520
early thirties i spent a lot of time

1079
00:40:35,680 --> 00:40:38,720
talking to young people because that's a

1080
00:40:37,520 --> 00:40:41,920
job if you're a

1081
00:40:38,720 --> 00:40:44,400
faculty member they

1082
00:40:41,920 --> 00:40:46,160
the biggest advice i always have given

1083
00:40:44,400 --> 00:40:48,319
them and would still give

1084
00:40:46,160 --> 00:40:49,680
is you got to make a living whether you

1085
00:40:48,319 --> 00:40:52,160
like it or not

1086
00:40:49,680 --> 00:40:53,200
do something you love much more

1087
00:40:52,160 --> 00:40:56,319
important to

1088
00:40:53,200 --> 00:40:57,200
enjoy your work than it is to make a lot

1089
00:40:56,319 --> 00:41:00,560
of money

1090
00:40:57,200 --> 00:41:01,599
exactly because making the money is dull

1091
00:41:00,560 --> 00:41:05,200
as hell

1092
00:41:01,599 --> 00:41:06,880
and i i made this decision when i was

1093
00:41:05,200 --> 00:41:11,760
about 17 i think

1094
00:41:06,880 --> 00:41:13,920
i decided that working 50 weeks a year

1095
00:41:11,760 --> 00:41:16,480
to get enough money to travel somewhere

1096
00:41:13,920 --> 00:41:19,599
and collect butterflies for two weeks

1097
00:41:16,480 --> 00:41:21,839
was nowhere near as good a way as

1098
00:41:19,599 --> 00:41:23,920
doing fooling with butterflies all the

1099
00:41:21,839 --> 00:41:25,520
time if i could find somebody

1100
00:41:23,920 --> 00:41:27,440
who would give me enough money so i

1101
00:41:25,520 --> 00:41:30,400
could eat while i was doing it

1102
00:41:27,440 --> 00:41:32,720
and that was the right decision to make

1103
00:41:30,400 --> 00:41:35,920
fortunately i did not have to

1104
00:41:32,720 --> 00:41:37,599
go short on food or live in a tent or so

1105
00:41:35,920 --> 00:41:40,880
on to do that

1106
00:41:37,599 --> 00:41:42,720
so do something you love learn

1107
00:41:40,880 --> 00:41:44,240

about the state of the world and what

1108
00:41:42,720 --> 00:41:46,400
the evidence shows

1109
00:41:44,240 --> 00:41:47,280
and then be as active as you possibly

1110
00:41:46,400 --> 00:41:50,400
can

1111
00:41:47,280 --> 00:41:52,720
uh in in trying to change it

1112
00:41:50,400 --> 00:41:54,400
and that means political action i think

1113
00:41:52,720 --> 00:41:56,480
everybody has to be

1114
00:41:54,400 --> 00:41:58,079
a politician if you don't be a

1115
00:41:56,480 --> 00:41:59,119
politician then you're going to get what

1116
00:41:58,079 --> 00:42:02,640
you deserve

1117
00:41:59,119 --> 00:42:04,640
you're going to be trumpized so

1118
00:42:02,640 --> 00:42:07,040
that's my advice to young people my

1119
00:42:04,640 --> 00:42:11,359
advice to people my age

1120
00:42:07,040 --> 00:42:14,400
is keep on drinking keep on having sex

1121

00:42:11,359 --> 00:42:15,280
and do anything you can just like the

1122
00:42:14,400 --> 00:42:18,319
young people

1123
00:42:15,280 --> 00:42:22,079
to change the political system uh the

1124
00:42:18,319 --> 00:42:23,520
uh people i i remember very clearly and

1125
00:42:22,079 --> 00:42:24,240
i'm going to have to go in a minute but

1126
00:42:23,520 --> 00:42:27,440
i remember

1127
00:42:24,240 --> 00:42:31,200
very clearly we worked very hard

1128
00:42:27,440 --> 00:42:32,960
to get a uh women's rights bill

1129
00:42:31,200 --> 00:42:35,280
passed a i can't remember the exact

1130
00:42:32,960 --> 00:42:37,359
title of it but it was to give women

1131
00:42:35,280 --> 00:42:39,520
which they should have equal rights and

1132
00:42:37,359 --> 00:42:42,160
opportunities to human beings and that

1133
00:42:39,520 --> 00:42:42,160
excuse me

1134
00:42:42,960 --> 00:42:47,119
give women totally equal rights and

1135
00:42:45,520 --> 00:42:50,720
equal opportunities

1136
00:42:47,119 --> 00:42:53,280
uh with men and uh

1137
00:42:50,720 --> 00:42:54,720
the it did not pass it was the it was an

1138
00:42:53,280 --> 00:42:58,079
equal rights amendment

1139
00:42:54,720 --> 00:43:00,800
right and it didn't pass because a lot

1140
00:42:58,079 --> 00:43:04,079
of women didn't get politically active

1141
00:43:00,800 --> 00:43:06,000
you know the way our system works is

1142
00:43:04,079 --> 00:43:07,359
you got to be politically active you got

1143
00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:08,640
to threaten them you got to hold their

1144
00:43:07,359 --> 00:43:12,160
feet to the fire

1145
00:43:08,640 --> 00:43:14,800
it's never been clearer than yesterday

1146
00:43:12,160 --> 00:43:15,839
when something like two dozen morons

1147
00:43:14,800 --> 00:43:19,040
invaded

1148
00:43:15,839 --> 00:43:22,160
uh a uh congressional meeting

1149
00:43:19,040 --> 00:43:22,560
and threatened our security and they

1150
00:43:22,160 --> 00:43:24,839
were

1151
00:43:22,560 --> 00:43:26,000
again backing the thug they were low

1152
00:43:24,839 --> 00:43:29,359
low-grade

1153
00:43:26,000 --> 00:43:31,119
thugs uh that's something we all have to

1154
00:43:29,359 --> 00:43:33,119
do something to prevent

1155
00:43:31,119 --> 00:43:34,640
and getting out on the streets is a very

1156
00:43:33,119 --> 00:43:35,520
good thing to do if you're young enough

1157
00:43:34,640 --> 00:43:38,880
to do it

1158
00:43:35,520 --> 00:43:40,640
yeah yeah on that happy note yes well

1159
00:43:38,880 --> 00:43:42,880
thank you so much paul for taking the

1160
00:43:40,640 --> 00:43:46,480
time and for your work over the decades

1161
00:43:42,880 --> 00:43:49,839
and uh may you have a uh

1162
00:43:46,480 --> 00:43:51,920

blessed and fulfilling rest of your days

1163
00:43:49,839 --> 00:43:53,599
thank you if sometime in those later

1164
00:43:51,920 --> 00:43:55,359
days i'm still around they're always

1165
00:43:53,599 --> 00:43:56,160
happy to do this again if we can find

1166
00:43:55,359 --> 00:43:58,480
the time so

1167
00:43:56,160 --> 00:43:59,359
okay thank you for what you're doing and

1168
00:43:58,480 --> 00:44:02,079
take care

1169
00:43:59,359 --> 00:44:02,400
okay you too for more information about

1170
00:44:02,079 --> 00:44:08,240
this

1171
00:44:02,400 --> 00:44:08,240
project go to postdoom.com

Xxx

xxx