



MANIFESTO

For A HOLISTIC CIVILIZATION

by [REDACTED] *& Collaborators*

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-INTRODUCTION-

Greetings, and welcome to my manifesto. This document represents the philosophy, research and passion I have accrued in the pursuit of a healthier world. It is a living document and a work in progress, in that anyone can comment on parts of it and suggest revisions or additions. I am all ears for what you have to say.

The goal of the document is to provoke critical thought in the reader and offer suggestions as to appropriate courses of action given concurrence in the principles it is founded on. By no means does it aim to be an end-all solution, but rather a cognitive stepping stone for those looking to cross the choppy waters of our disharmonious world.

To that end, I would very much appreciate it if you would be so kind as to share this document with others, so that we might achieve something closer to a community outlook. Thank you in advance for reading, sharing and commenting. I look forward to seeing how this manifesto develops.

- [REDACTED]

-ABSTRACT-

Issues

Nature: The Earth as a whole system, including but not limited to soil, forests and nonliving resources is being crippled by humans.

Civilization: Among our species, most of us are exploited for labor by those with a greater capacity for direct or indirect violence.

Society: Among those living in the first world, life is often low in emotional value due to the nature of our centralized socioeconomic systems.

Mission

Conservation: Protect the natural resources we have left from further exploitation.

Regeneration: Reskill the population and build natural systems.

Vision

State: Establish region-based, citizen-run government which provides for every citizen's basic needs and organizes work on public infrastructure by taxing extraneccessities.

Market: Decentralize markets and diversify currencies.

Action

Production: Produce food, wood and other resources using permaculture techniques, and distribute surplus amongst your local community.

Media: Create and distribute artwork and other media artifacts which challenge the current attitudes and philosophy and suggest different ones.

Computer: Create p2p and open source web platforms which enable decentralization, crowdsourcing and massive collaboration.

-ISSUES-

Or, the motivating factors for the synthesis of the manifesto.

Nature

Humans are causing crippling damage to the Earth through their industrial activities. This manifests in several ways:

- Obliteration of ecosystems such as forests and wetlands to make room for human development
- Pollution and contamination of ecosystems through chemical runoff and fuel burning
- Mistreatment of soils, both in urban and rural settings
- Overharvesting of other species for food or other anthropocentric purposes
- Mistreatment and misuse of symbiotic species such as dairy animals, meat animals, work animals and cultivated crops.
- Ineffective recycling and waste management systems which contribute to unnecessarily high energy expenditures

All of this has the ultimate effect of unbalancing natural systems which we all depend on for living and nonliving resources and services. If we continue our disruption of the natural Earth at our current pace, it will soon be unable to provide us with food, clean water and air, timber, and other essentials. In other words, we'd be looking at human extinction, or at least a drastically reduced quality of life for all people.

The root of our destructive activities is twofold. Firstly, the increase of the human population leads us to destroy healthy ecosystems in order to develop the land for anthropocentric purposes. Secondly, the existing human population (especially that of the three major empires of the USA, the EU and the PRC) continually demand more extraneccesities such as meat, imported goods, personal automobiles, large houses with microclimate control, sprawling lawns and so on and so forth.

As a corollary, it is pertinent to note that our currencies and markets are set up in such a way as to reward degradation of natural systems, but this is a product of the global demand for extraneccesities rather than a cause for it.

It is crucial to understand that it is possible to provide for all humans' basic needs without causing this kind of damage to the Earth, by abandoning classical centralized industry and adopting more sensible modes of production and distribution, but this will be discussed in the Mission section. For now, suffice to say that while population increase and the metastization of affluence are real problems which need to be addressed, an equally (if not even more) significant problem is the way in which they address them.

Civilization

Moving our focus to within our species, it becomes important to address the massive and pervasive segregation of power among humans. There are three dominant human empires on Earth:

- The United States of America
- The European Union
- The People's Republic of China

These empires have extremely consumptive populations, and to support their appetite for extraneccesities, much of the rest of Earth's human population is set to work providing food, clothing, and so on for the people of the empires.

The empires are able to enforce this regime through violence. There are many differences between the three empires, but one thing they have in common is a hyperactive military-industrial complex. Wars are started and ended in order to subdue the global peasantry, so to speak, and to rob them of their landbases' resources.

Recently, the United States' definition of 'humanitarian aid' has been shipping armaments to those who we believe or hope are fighting for higher quality of life in their region. The fact that these armaments inevitably end up in the hands of a more violent regime is simply ignored.

Even within the affluent empires themselves, there is huge inequality between the producers and the top consumers. This again is enforced by violence, in this case served by a militant police force, but also by systems of market and law, which in turn are backed by police violence and the threat of imprisonment.

In this way, the entire human race is segregated and stratified. Those with power tend to stay at the top, and those without tend to stay that way as well, primarily because of the military/police force, but more recently also because of market forces.

While power and status do not necessarily imply happiness or a meaningful life, those with more power have their basic needs more readily provided for, so that they may pursue higher callings such as arts, education or philosophy. In general, those with power have more control over their lives, which is the basis for my argument against segregation enforced by violence.

Before we continue, note the recurring pattern: humans exploit other species, human empires exploit other nations, wealthy individuals exploit less wealthy individuals. Our present system is that of hierarchy, and the hierarchy is enforced with the threat of violence and imprisonment.

Society

Even among those at the top, who enjoy the benefits of affluence, dissatisfaction with life persists. There are many problems to be discussed here, but the key ones are thus:

- Loneliness; caused by overvaluation of individual effort and undervaluation of group effort, a culture of competition and hierarchy which demands secrecy in work and refusal to fraternize with those lower on the chain, lifestyles such as the long commute and the single-occupant apartment, and increasing dependence on computers combined with decreasing dependence on peers
- Depression and apathy; caused by lack of accessible high-quality natural areas, overworking and corresponding sleep deprivation, and loneliness
- Poor health; caused by industrial agriculture, lack of time appropriated towards cooking and gardening, industrial medicine, and sleep deprivation

Obviously, all of these symptoms are very much linked to one another. The root cause seems to be our present market system: that of capitalism.

Capitalism is the process by which high-value natural systems are converted into low-value commodities useful only to humans, which in turn are converted into arbitrary quantities of a currency based on war; from there, government-approved war tokens can be exchanged for other low-value commodities, or invested directly into the system to yield even more war tokens using the 'stock market'. Tragically, war tokens cannot be used to invest back into high-value natural systems.

As you probably know or could guess by this point, capitalism is enforced by the threat of violence and imprisonment. However, it is also enforced by social stigma: those who are unwilling to participate in the system of capitalism and earn their own war tokens are considered sloths, bums or leeches. This stigma feeds further into our culture of isolation, making those with moral values which they stick up for feel like they are unwelcome; that they should either submit to capitalism or remove themselves from society.

The underlying problem, in my opinion, lies not in the fact that markets exist, but again, in the way they are conducted. Here in the United States, the only accepted currency is the US Dollar, which is steeped in war and other degenerate activities. It is controlled by the federal government, which in turn is so corrupt as to be in reality controlled by the wealthiest market forces.

A healthy market system is possible, and will be discussed in the Vision section.

-MISSION-

Or, the goals for civilization suggested by the presented Issues.

Conservation

We must protect our remaining natural systems before they are damaged beyond the point of regeneration. This is of special importance in the following realms:

- Forests; which provide food, clean air and habitat for a staggering array of creatures, including ourselves
- Wetlands; which filter fresh water and again, provide habitat for many sensitive creatures and house some of the most diverse ecosystems.
- Oceans; which provide a huge amount of food for people, regulate the global climate and are the base of most of the global food web
- Soils; which are the basis for agriculture and much of the non-human food web
- Freshwater lakes and rivers; which provide us with clean fresh water

We can protect these systems by abstaining from industry in the following ways:

- Boycott industrial farms and support small, local, organic operations
- Collect rainwater as an alternative to chemically treated water
- Resist any development and exploitation of primary forests and wetlands
- Do not eat meat (including seafood, obviously) unless you raise or kill the animal yourself, or *at least* know personally the one who did so
- Purchase used products whenever possible
- Produce whatever you can personally (this is discussed in detail in the Regeneration section)

Conservation is about willingly abstaining from participation in degenerate industrial activities. It is by no means about sacrifice. Rather, it implies a shift from low quality to high quality, from grudging submission to self-discipline and self-sufficiency. Conservation is a positive transition, not a negative one.

In addition to the essential process of becoming more personally disciplined, conservation demands helping others do the same, and fighting against those who have no hope of reformation.

Regeneration

As a complement to conservation, regeneration is all about building positive human systems which feed back into natural ones. Regeneration is necessary in the following areas:

- Ecosystems; by feeding biomass back to the soil, planting trees and raising animals which perform ecosystem services
- Social systems; by community supported agriculture, work parties and barter
- Technology (as in techniques); by sharing skills and methods, learning from the world wide web and participating in free schools

Regeneration is driven in large part by technique. Given the right techniques, agriculture can be sustainable and healthy for the planet. Given the right techniques, production can be accomplished without sacrificing time for higher pursuits.

Most of these techniques are associated with the permaculture movement, and since this is not a technical document, I would highly recommend Bill Mollison's and David Holmgren's writings as a primer to permaculture techniques.

It is important that we regenerate human systems, but broader natural systems must take precedent, since, if they collapse, human systems will collapse as well.

I feel that it is essential for us to recover as much indigenous culture as we possibly can, as most indigenous peoples managed to live in harmony with their landbase, and any techniques and attitudes we can glean from them may be immensely valuable.

-VISION-

Or, what a world in which the Mission has been implemented might be like.

State

In our imagined holistic future, the goals of the state are as follows (in descending order of importance):

- Protect natural systems
- Ensure that every citizen's baseline needs are met, including healthy food, clean water, adequately sized shelter, basic health care, access to information and a community of peers
- Organise and fund the construction and maintenance of public infrastructures, including roads, railways, the internet and the electrical grid

The government is entirely decentralized and run by citizen volunteers. In a system resembling Kickstarter, citizens propose economic action through an online platform. Small proposals need only to be backed by a small number of citizens, while large proposals need a majority or even a supermajority to pass through the system. Once a proposal is passed and funded by citizens, the money is transferred to the appropriate organizations and actions are carried out.

Government is based on bioregion, with no area of jurisdiction larger than, say, Michigan. In this way, the unique properties of the region are taken into account in all legislation.

A state currency based on the natural capital of the region coexists with market currencies, as will be discussed in the Market section. One pays for necessities with their state currency, and extranecessities with market currencies. A state currency based on real natural capital ensures that such capital is not abused, as such abuse would result in the entire state tanking.

State currency is paid to people who manage the landbase, i.e. farmers, foresters, fishers, etc. and those who process resources, i.e. cooks, millers, etc.

State governments have more influence in cities than in rural areas. For those who wish to live in the city, basic needs are assured by the state, but for those who wish to live in less-developed areas, the role of the government is simply to make sure that the Earth and the people there aren't being abused, and let rural communities run themselves.

To the end of protecting human rights and the environment, there is a state police force with those goals. The enforcement of humanitarian/environmental law is carried out by

apprehending offenders and drafting them into public works projects like the ones described in the above list.

Market

In a world where basic needs are always met, what is there to fight for? Anything and everything, as it turns out. Enter the market. The market resembles our current economy, with several key differences:

- Each section of the market (sections which we will call 'micromarkets') has its own currency, and they might be entirely online, convertible to cash or entirely physical, depending on the nature of the micromarket
- The market deals exclusively in extraneccesities; it is entirely opt-in
- Most goods are produced and sold by small groups or individuals, and sold through the world wide web, so that both large retailers and large manufacturers are all but defunct

In this way, the state and the market are almost completely divorced, with only humanitarian/environmental regulations bridging the two.

The market is all about wants. Whatever lifestyle you want to lead, there is a micromarket for it. Furthermore, as the market is based on small groups of producers, it extends into social life as well. The people you share a micromarket with tend to be ideologically similar, and you might work with these people through the world wide web in many different ways, rather like an economic tribe, unrestricted by physical proximity.

-ACTION-

Or, how to achieve the Vision described antecedently.

Production

Perhaps the highest-impact intervention you can make right now is to grow food for your family. Using permaculture techniques and principles, produce and manage as much as you can, including food, drinking water, building materials and medicine.

Shifting the production of these essential resources from big corporations to individuals and communities will relieve most of the pressure currently on the natural Earth.

In order to properly implement permaculture techniques, information and skills must be exchanged at a prodigious rate, as described in the Media section.

Media

Put simply, we have to spread the word. There are problems, there are solutions, and there is a better world waiting if we take action.

The internet is no more or less than the most powerful tool ever devised for the dissemination of ideas. Let's make good use of it and make sure that it doesn't fall completely into corporate hands.

Write, make music, play games, whatever it is you love. Share it with everyone, using the internet *and* physical distribution channels. Tell the world how you feel, and wrap your feelings in beautiful artwork. The only way to make people listen is to speak their language. Become a cryptographer. Become a hacker.

Computer

I really can't over-stress the importance of the physical internet and the world wide web of software in the struggle for a holistic civilization. Neither the state nor market systems described in the manifesto could be possible without the internet.

The action that needs to be taken is in the realm of Peer-To-Peer (p2p) web platforms. We need to decentralize *everything*, and the best way to do that is using the web. Right now, platforms like Bitcoin, uTorrent, Etsy and others like them are creating new opportunities for individuals and communities to connect to each other with no capitalistic middleman in between. Let's support these projects and create new, better ones.

-RESOURCES-

- [P2P Foundation](#): An outstanding resource for information and discussion on peer-to-peer software
- [Permaculture Principles](#): A nice visual introduction to permaculture
- [Transition Network](#): A movement towards resilience in communities

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