

the seventh seal

opening the future

You live in a dead culture.

I don't mean this in a Transition Towns gradualist sense, I mean this in the *violent political danger* sense. Let me tell you why. America and Europe have had a century of unparalleled military and economic dominance of the world, and living conditions for most people on earth completely suck. We nearly lost the planet to communism – 160 million dead in death camps and a global war we nearly lost. Now we have a new problem: our wealth is being diluted by the spread of vital manufacturing technologies. In a nutshell: the Chinese do all our manufacturing for us, and software, although it makes life interesting *fills no bellies*. We've pointed the productive talent of our best and brightest for a generation into twiddling bits in computers hoping a new economy will come out. It hasn't.

The wealthy countries are bleeding money to the poorer countries, and increasing natural resource use threatens to leave the world a bald Easter Island. Look at charts of North American deforestation then think about the Amazon. We are rapidly accelerating to a massive set of hard limits, on food, on fuel, on natural resources, and on political acceptance of the dominance of western nations in setting the global order.

You can see the fraying. The left swing the US fought in South America for fifty years is happening. Naxalites war across India.

We have a serious problem. *Communism leads to genocide*. But *Capitalism leads to ecocide*. Our models of wealth are so broken that high tech societies of all kinds are inoperable on the long scale. The robo-nano-bio revolution will bring weapons, simple to make and hide, and of unparalleled destructiveness.

The rich nations must own the fact that their money is built on war. The politely titled “colonial” period really means “the period where we got rich by killing people and taking their stuff” – *land piracy*. We are *still doing it* but mainly by trade agreements backed by occasional invasions, coup d'états and so on. Governments universally pry people from their land, as ownership concentrates resources in the hands of the few. Expansion of patent and copyright threaten to expand this terrain: “*The imperialists of the future are imperialists of the mind*” to paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill.

The bulldozer is made of many small components, individually benign, but as a whole the system bulldozes nature and the poor into oblivion. We become responsible by consumption. Our choice is a 21st century dominated by war as the poor fight for their place at the table, or a 21st century of peace based on fixing our models of what it is to succeed as a human being. *To be happy without injuring others is the seed of peace within us*. But this requires two changes: *a change in the self*, that we can know happiness, and *a change in our technological basis* so that we can satisfy our real needs without injuring each-other or the planet. I want your help in making this transition together, finding lifestyles that we can live within the boundaries of ecological sustainability and social justice. We can do this together.