



GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

a compend of
task force
products

prepared by
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INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATIONINTRODUCTION

Across the globe during recent years there have been major events that have altered the consciousness of nations and continents. This has required the creation of new relationships. Everyone experienced difficulty in holding the changes and happenings in focus and in grasping the new reality in the globe. The issue facing the Assembly was discerning this new reality in order to have a comprehensive screen for responding to the demands of the world on those who care.

The dictionary definition of "symposium" that caught our attention was a) a collection of opinions expressed, or articles contributed, by several persons on a given subject or topic; b) (among the ancient Greeks) a convivial meeting, usually following a dinner, conversation and intellectual entertainment.

The statement of this symposium is not final or analytical but is an intuitional composition of emerging world trends. The indications provide clues for what it means to serve the world in the coming year.

The Assembly spent the first day talking through the happenings of each continent and the emerging global trends. The Task Force used this information in an intuitive swirl that provided us with the indicators of the global happenings. Each of these indicators was pushed for the key insight and the component parts. The process was intuitive throughout except for the grounding of our intuitions with illustrations from across the globe.

The Assembly's reflections on the enclosed chart indicated that the intuitions pulled together in these pages are indeed key factors in the developing globe. Because of the experimental nature of all these intuitions and graphics, they are to be understood as tentative models for expanding and deepening the insights of the movement in the near future.

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION

INDICATIONS OF A CULTURAL FOUNDATION
FOR A WORLD SOCIETY

A human culture is defined by its values and symbols. A people's choice of values and symbols indicate the foundation of their world view, revealing how they perceive themselves and their role in the world.

I. VALUE INDICES

A.
PRIORITY
OF
HUMANNESS

An emphasis on human values is becoming the focus in defining a civilized standard of living. Cultural values are challenging the economic as a prime measurement of the quality of society. This is underscored by the economic boycott of South Africa in protest of the racist Apartheid policy. Policy is increasingly being influenced by previously untapped human groupings. The United States' minimum retirement age was raised due to strong lobbying of elders who still consider themselves assets in the employment market. A general rediscovery of small community advantages is a key in promoting humanness. More and more people are assuming responsibility for population control. Indian women are increasingly seeking birth control advice over against strong ancient traditions.

B.
APPROPRIATE
EDUCATION

There is a universal quest today for appropriate education. As literacy increases more people are seeking methods of interpreting the meaning of their life. Guatemalan villages, finding established curriculums inadequate, are calling for heritage education. The image of the educated elite is shifting to massive practical training to close the employment gap. Australian universities are redesigning curriculum to be more practical and lowering entrance requirements. Adults and elders are entering classrooms. Innovations in education and curriculum revisions have become standard procedure. Singapore totally revised its educational structure this past spring.

C.
STYLES OF
LIFE

The intrusion of a global civilization is manifested in an explosion of life styles. Increased interdependence of nations in their search for resources is altering operating styles as energy shortages affect transportation, industry and agriculture. U.S. automakers have been forced to small car production. Mass media has created some common global styles. Disco music can be heard in almost any office or home in Peru and blue jeans are popular worldwide. This international mix is resulting in a collision of styles with both possibility and alienation. in traditional patterns of relationship. An Indian woman in a sari riding down the road on a motorcycle is not an uncommon sight. Alternative lifestyles continue to make inroads in modifying traditional approaches to living. Many groups in Europe and

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION
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North America are experimenting with alternative energy sources, family structures and cooperative economic experiments.

II. SYMBOL INDICES

D.
CULTURAL
IDENTITY

The source of identity for many people and groups is shifting in emphasis from the political to the cultural arena. The Prime Minister of Japan announced in January, 1979, that Japan's next decade should focus on the cultural. Religious symbology is challenging political ideology as the primary definition of a people's loyalty. The tumultuous welcome given the Pope on his visit to Poland this spring illustrates the power of a religious symbol to bind an ethnic group in spite of political influence over the past 30 years. Culturally rooted movements are competing with politically motivated emphases such as the Welsh and Quebec separatists rallying around language identity, while from the other direction political ideology is depending more and more on cultural values and images, such as the Ujimah national movement in Tanzania. Social groupings, such as women, elders, youth and racial minorities are cutting across traditional political lines to form alliances on the basis of sex, age and racial identities. There is a resurgence of ancient cultural ties beyond the nation in such phenomenon as the intensifying of the Islamic brotherhood in Pakistan, Indonesia, Malasia and West Africa.

E.
WORLD IMAGE
SHIFT

The ascendancy of consumer-oriented images is being challenged by growing cultural influences. There is a dawning awareness among third and fourth world nations of the uniqueness of their cultural heritage and contribution of images and symbols. The Gandian principle of non-violence has made a strong imprint on the global mindset. Eastern mysticism has moved in to fill a spiritual void in the industrialized world. Indian Yoga has permeated the world with its combination of physical exercise and meditative style. The emergence of China in world affairs has opened a rich store of culture, ancient and contemporary, enriching the world's imagination and affecting diplomatic styles. An intensified cultural exchange is resulting from the step-up of new trading relationships. New alliances between India and Yugoslavia, Japan and Brazil, have resulted in the proliferation of new foods, clothing and art in those countries.

Space exploration has begun to unlock previously earthbound images. What was science fiction a decade ago is now commonplace news. The moon landing has provided a new vantage point for

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION
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F.
EARTHBOUND
IMAGES
UNLOCKED

looking at the earth as a single entity. The poetry of space has infused Western culture with a proliferation of movies, novels and images. The reality of space travel has unlocked an entirely new future which includes space mining and manufacturing, permanent colonies and life beyond our solar system.

INDICATIONS OF A SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION
FOR PLANET EARTH

The social process flows through and is directed by the society's functional constructs and is driven by the society's power factors. Functions are its working relationships; power is its means of control.

III. FUNCTIONAL INDICES

G.
WORLD
LABORATORY

In the past some of the world's nations were seen as developers and others as receivers of technology, resources and so on. Today, the ineffectiveness of present models and the pending shortage of resources are leading people to realize that all nations are developing and experimenting. There are now 130 experimenting nations -- no developed or developing nations. The political chaos in Africa, for example, reflects experiments in new polity forms. India is becoming a leading nation in agricultural development. Every nation is a global repository of expertise in models and resources. China sends technicians to Africa to build bridges, Brazil leads the way in gasahol production, and Israel experiments with desert farming. And yet no nation has an edge on the development of the future. They are all experimenting with what are effective models for a new society.

H,
PRAGMATIC
DEVELOPMENT
IDEOLOGY

Practicality has become an increasing emphasis in development. Appropriate technology has become universally applicable as people discover that present methods only increase the rich-poor gap. Across the western world people are looking for simple, inexpensive ways to carry on everyday work. The quest for development now reaches beyond traditional boundaries. Nations are looking to other nations with similar resources and populations whatever their political ideology. The tendency to diagnose situations according to old remedies is now being replaced with "Does it work?" USAID is now evaluating its projects with this question. Bolivia gave land to the villagers only to discover that they could not maintain sufficient food

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION
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production. They are now looking for methods of increasing production while maintaining local man ownership. The pre-occupation with self-sufficiency on a local and national level is seen in India's move to push village capitalism.

Resources are increasingly having an effect on international relationships. Global economic interdependence is the byword as business goes anywhere in the world to obtain materials, works and markets. Consequently, nations are becoming more and more dependent on each other. Canada experienced this when they suggested moving the embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Arab nations' response was felt across Canada with major losses of contracts, markets, products and jobs within two weeks. New forms of international trade are appearing. Expanding trade between Brazil and Japan indicate this as well as the rapid growth of trade between China and the USA. Business interests are bridging ideological differences. Businesses will sell armaments to any nation. Development has become an important factor in a nation's sense of identity. Mexico took a new stance toward the USA with their discovery of oil and the shortage in the states.

I.
RESOURCE
DISTRIBUTION

Multinational corporations have become a new political force. Due to the demand of their products and their substantial contribution to various nations' gross national product, multinational corporations possess great power in national and international arenas. Decisions made by car and oil companies and their relationship to the OPEC and industrialized nations are influencing the world's economy. MNC's influence local governments in many ways, ranging from considerate cooperation to economic blackmailing and bribery. MNC's contribution to the stabilization of the trade market was a significant factor in establishing the EEC in Europe.

J.
MULTINATIONALS-
NEW POLITY
VEHICLE

Domestic traditions are being ruptured. Social groupings within many nations are playing new, more influential roles in society. The women's movements and "greyhair" movements, for instance, are claiming a significant role in society. In many nations local people are demanding social change with increasing intensity. The upheavals in Nicaragua, Uganda, Iran and South Africa demonstrate this. A dramatic rupturing of previous political patterns is taking place in the west. A conservative thrust is surfacing in some countries, such as the U.K., Australia, Scandinavia and the U.S. In others, a radical shift is emerging together with a polarization or fracturing of political parties, as in France and Italy.

K.
DOMESTIC
TRADITIONS
RUPTURING

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION
(continued)

IV. POWER INDICES

L.
POWER
SHIFTING
TO LOCAL

Initiative at the local level is causing a change in the balance of political power. The Nicaragua revolution was initiated by a coalition of several locally based groups to challenge the government. Governments are seeking input from local people in a move toward decentralization which involves them more directly in decision-making. Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines are spending enormous sums on local development in an awareness that effective government rests on local will. There is an increasing demand for access to information which allows responsible participation by the people. Conflicting and inadequate reports on oil supply in the U.S. has resulted in an uncooperative response to the shortages. Local groups have employed a widening use of public protest in various forms, both non-violent and violent.

M.
ECONOMIC
POWER SHIFT

The economic power base of the world is expanding to include resource-rich developing nations along with the older industrial powers. Their accumulation of capital is often being invested in the economic growth of other nations. Saudi Arabia is investing in business, agriculture and real estate all over the globe. Another aspect is the increased local production of resources into manufactured goods. This breaks the cycle of local resources being used to produce goods in foreign nations which are then returned as commodity goods.

N.
NEW
INTERNATIONAL
ALIGNMENTS

The interdependence of nations is forging new international alignments. Power blocks are forming around common economic and political interests, such as the European Economic Community (EEC), Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Organization for African Unity (OAC). There is increasing awareness that all nations have power; none are all-powerful. Nations are becoming clear that interdependence is a necessity for survival. They are in the same predicament as people in the rowboat who feel safe because the hole is in the other end of the boat.

O.
NEW
RELIGIOUS
FORCE

In the face of their declining traditional structures, there are signs that religions are exerting a new force. In Latin America the Roman Catholic Church, traditionally aligned with the suppressive power structures, is taking a stance with and for the local people. In Thailand the Buddhists are exerting pressure on the present government for reforms on the local level. Many question the practicality of operating a modern nation under Koran law, but Islam is exerting a force in shaping much of the world.

INDICES OF AN EMERGING GLOBAL CIVILIZATION
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P.
GLOBAL
ARMED CAMP

A marked growth of nuclear powers in the past ten years and availability of conventional arms no longer limits the military balance of the globe to the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. The "nuclear club" membership has expanded to include China, France, Britain and India, with Pakistan only a few years away from joining. There is serious speculation that Israel has nuclear capability also. This proliferation has increased the threat of nuclear warfare. The tension is increased by the extensive production and sale of conventional arms to small nations and groups within nations. "Developing" nations are spending a higher percentage of their gross national product for arms than either the United States or the Soviet Union.

INDICATIONS OF A PLURAFORMATION
OF A GLOBAL VILLAGE

Demography in its root meaning is the relationship between a people and their land. This relationship forms the boundaries of a social structure, defining the limits within which people operate.

V. DEMOGRAPHIC INDICES

Q.
IMMIGRANT
WORLD
CITIZENSHIP

Massive migration of people has raised the issue of world citizenship. Twentieth Century technology has produced a globally mobile society: everyone is a migrant. The definition of "nation" is shifting from geography to people. At the latest count, 57 nations are represented in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, a community with a total population of 20,000. The flood of refugees has affected virtually every nation in the world. Estimates of the world's population which is permanently unsettled range between 10 to 13 million. The Vietnam refugees are leaving at the rate of 65,000 a month. In Africa there are perhaps 3 million refugees. Refugees asking "Where do we go?" have raised the issue of citizens' rights and responsibilities as well as the rights and responsibilities of nations. "Who decides" has exposed the need for a new decision-making vehicle to enable a reasonable distribution of the refugee population. A recently formed Tokyo-based group, Refugees International, is pressing the globe to take responsibility.

Traditional boundaries of continents, nations and sub-divisions within nations have become blurred by regionalism. The planet's face is undergoing an alteration. People have discovered that

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V DEMO

I VALUE INDICES

III FUNCTIONAL INDICES

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G. The ineffectiveness of present models and the pending shortage of resources are leading people to realize that all nations are developing and experimenting.

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H. Practicality has become an increasing emphasis in development.

R. Traditional continents sub-division have become regionalism

B. There is a universal quest for appropriate education.

I. Resources are increasingly having an effect on international relationships.

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J. Multinational corporations have become a new political force.

K. Domestic traditions are being ruptured.

T. New communi has envelop cocoon whicl relationship

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(continued...)

R.
GROWING
REGIONALISM

the Mercator projection map is only one way to picture the globe. Projections based on political, economic, cultural alliances, resource distribution, actual land surface and other criteria reveal multiple boundaries. Regionalism is developing within nations as groupings of people are forming new bonds. Tribes are claiming new boundaries within nations. The Province of Quebec will vote in the next 12 months on separation from Canada. Trans-national regionalism is enhancing economic and social development. The recently formed Andean group (Equador, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela and Columbia) is only one of Latin American trade associations. Regions are forming around major metropolitan areas because of the interrelationship of basic services, jobs and markets. New York City is said to extend from Washington D.C. in the south to Boston in the north, crossing eight state boundary lines.

S.
SINGLE
ENVIRONMENT

There is a growing awareness that the environment is a single organic network. Mankind's extraordinary technological capacity to alter natural patterns, with its potentially dangerous consequences, reveals the fragility of the environment. Over-cultivation and intensive use of petrochemical fertilizers threaten to exhaust the topsoil, leaving areas of the earth barren. Deforestation and massive use of fossil fuels may decrease the global oxygen supply. Ecological studies illuminate the awesome interdependence of environment. Albert Einstein's poetry, "a falling leaf in Africa affects the furthest star," has been experienced as startling reality with news that the use of certain aerosol spray cans may do cataclysmic damage to the ozone layer and that the Aswan Dam is indirectly responsible for the demise of the shrimp industry in the Mediterranean. A new consensus is developing within the province of science that the need is to create a reconciliation with environment.

T.
COMMUNICATIONS
COCOON

New communications technology has enveloped the world in a cocoon which has altered relationship patterns. Communication satellites, skyborne global switchboards, are creating a 4 billion party line. Approximately one-fourth of the world's population watched the World Cup soccer finals in Argentina last year. The capacity to transmit images and information almost instantaneously has altered the framework of time and space. Advanced computer systems have created an electronic nervous system for the world. One of the major computer terminals for China and England is located in Pittsburg. The acceleration of information exchange has raised the question of "Who is my neighbour?" When a young Philippine villager was asked why he was so knowledgeable about the United States presidential elections, he answered, "Do I dare not know?"

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE OF THIS MATERIALI. USE OF THE INDICES CHART

- A. Art form the indices chart - words, phrases, the ahas.
- B. Global illustrations, for as many indices as possible. Particularly ground your own continent.
- C. Which trends are emerging on your particular continent. How do they manifest themselves?
- D. Strategy - what does this mean for us, to be of service to the world?
What does this mean in terms of specific strategy?

II. USE OF THE VALENCE CHART

- A. Review the indices chart.
- B. Present the valence scale.
- C. Individually rate each of the 20 indices (for your continent).
- D. Corporately consense on the valencing. Give illustrations to support individual intuitions.

III. Use the chart as a decor piece and as a conversation piece.

IV. Use the indices chart as a way of updating the movement, or as a screen for discerning the underlying currents on your continent.

CONCLUSION

Judging from the results of the collegium workshop held by the assembly in the second week there was a feeling that the indices were generally helpful in holding our current intuitions about the present and future state of global society. The rating exercise indicated the following strengths of the indices on a global scale (averages of the nine continents):

A. 2.7	I. 2.4	Q. 3.5
B. 3.0	J. 3.3	R. 2.9
C. 3.3	K. 3.3	S. 3.4
D. 2.8	L. 3.3	T. 2.7
E. 2.7	M. 3.7	
F. 3.3	N. 2.8	
G. 2.9	O. 2.8	
H. 2.8	P. 2.6	

A high rating in any given continent (or nation) most likely indicates the intuition is well-grounded for that geography. A low rating may mean the intuition is weak or else that it is correct and indicates a real stress point when that nation catches up to the intuited condition. This valence chart could be used at the autumn councils as an aid in doing contradiction analysis and strategic planning.

The work of the indices chart and valence workshop appears to verify independently the accuracy of the seven revolutions as holding categories describing the times. It also suggests that the social imbalances in the economic process may have shifted globally in favour of resources over production, while common wisdom is moving toward a more balanced condition.

"THE STAKES OF THE GLOBAL VILLAGE"
(Based on Buckminster Fuller Projection)



