

Era of Neohumanism

Towards a Cooperative Spiritual Society


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Thesis

1. Convergence of knowledge and evidence from many fields of human endeavor attest to the fact we have crossed the threshold into a new era of peace and cooperation.
2. Biological, psycho-social and spiritual forces are moving us towards greater cooperation and unity.
3. Neohumanism serves as a hub for the synthesis of universal morality, socio-economic, and psycho-social movements contributing to an era of cooperation and spirituality.

Economic and environmental crises
leave us no alternative to finding a
common ground to survive or thrive





*"There is no energy crisis,
food crisis
or environmental crisis.
There is only a
crisis of ignorance."
- Buckminster Fuller*

*www.BuckyFullerNow.com
Inspired Ideas for Living*

“Sacred Economics: Money, Gift & Society In The Age of Transition”

Charles Eisenstein

“The present convergence of crises- in money, energy, education, health, water, soil, climate, politics, the environment, and more- is a birth crisis, expelling us from the old world into a new.”

Economic stability and justice
go hand in hand



Money the Problem: Depersonalization and Commodification of Everything



Understand the real value of money.

Next stage of human economy

- will call forth the gifts of each of us
- will emphasize cooperation over competition
- will encourage circulation over hoarding
- will be cyclical, not linear
- No split between spirit and matter concerning economics, “On a deep level, money and consciousness are intertwined.”

Gift Economy: What people make and do for each other

- how to connect the provider of a gift with the person who needs that gift (money- medium of exchange)
- how to acknowledge and honor those who give generously of their gifts (money- unit of account)
- how to coordinate the gifts of many people across space and time in order to create things (money- store of value)

Key Macroeconomic Elements of Sacred Economics: From Age of Separation to Gift Society

- 1. Negative-Interest Currency
- 2. Elimination of Economic Rents, and Compensation for Depletion of the Commons
- 3. Internalization of Social and Environmental Costs
- 4. Economic and Monetary Localization
- 5. The Social Dividend
- 6. Economic Degrowth
- 7. Gift Culture

Paul Hawken “Blessed Unrest”

- Environmental movement largest social movement in human history- approximately two million organizations
- Evolved independently from the bottom up
- Ecological sustainability and social justice
- Ecological degradation and climate change.

Blessed Unrest Anthem

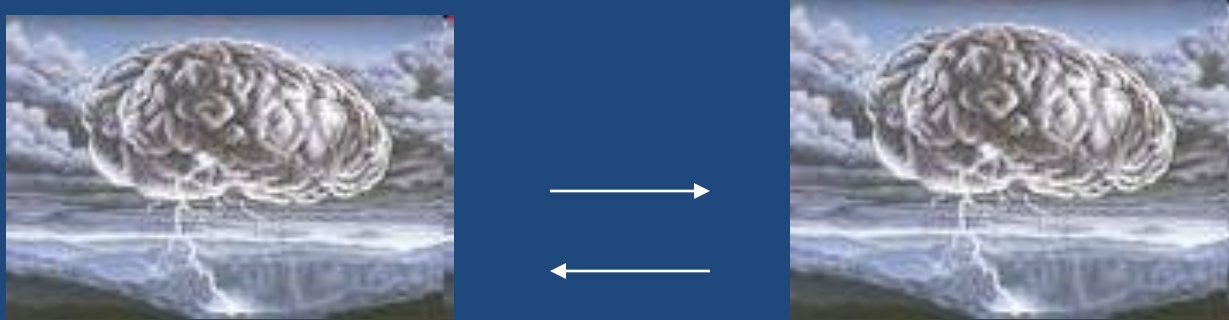
Martha Graham-“There is only a divine dissatisfaction, a *blessed unrest* that keeps us marching and makes us more alive.”

Hawkins- Individuals, institutions and corporations must cooperate in restoring the planet by “removing whatever prevents the system from healing itself....based on the principles of justice and ecology.”

Biological, Psychosocial and Spiritual Foundations for Cooperation



Relational Brain/Mind



- Brain a social organ linked to other brains
- (Cozolina, 2008)
- An organ of adaptation to change
- Only understood in relationship to other brains
- Mirror Neurons- Imitation and Empathy

Human Nature- Relationships are our primary environment

- Synapse- between neurons of brain
- Social synapse- transport sight, sound, thoughts and feelings between individuals; external neural circuits for one another
- Promotes outer-suggestion; Satsaunga
- Bhagavad Dharma- Becoming one with Supreme Consciousness

Hormones

- Promote and maintain healthy interpersonal relationships
- Key Bio-psychological foundation for cooperation



Oxytocin –

- levels rise in response to remembering positive relationships
- levels decrease in remembering negative relationships
- increases in response to positive emotions for in committed relationships
- promotes bonding in relationships between men/women; mother/child

Recent update on Endorphin Research:

- Peptide for “Bliss” and Bonding/Attachment
- Low endorphin in tail wagging in dog reversed by petting and touching



Joyfulness

- Laughter, joy and playfulness increase endorphins resulting in bonding and learning
- Children tickling, touching, rough and tumble play stimulates endorphins and bonding



Story telling/Oral Traditions like Tantra help us recall who we are.



- Positive Self Narrative- optimistic and supports physical, mental, social and spiritual health augment endorphins.
- Negative Self Narrative- pessimistic and damaging to our health and self image inhibit endorphins.

Deep Ecology

Arnie Naess

“We must develop therapies which heal our relationships with the widest community, that of all living beings.”

“The world is a being, part of our own body”

Biophilia

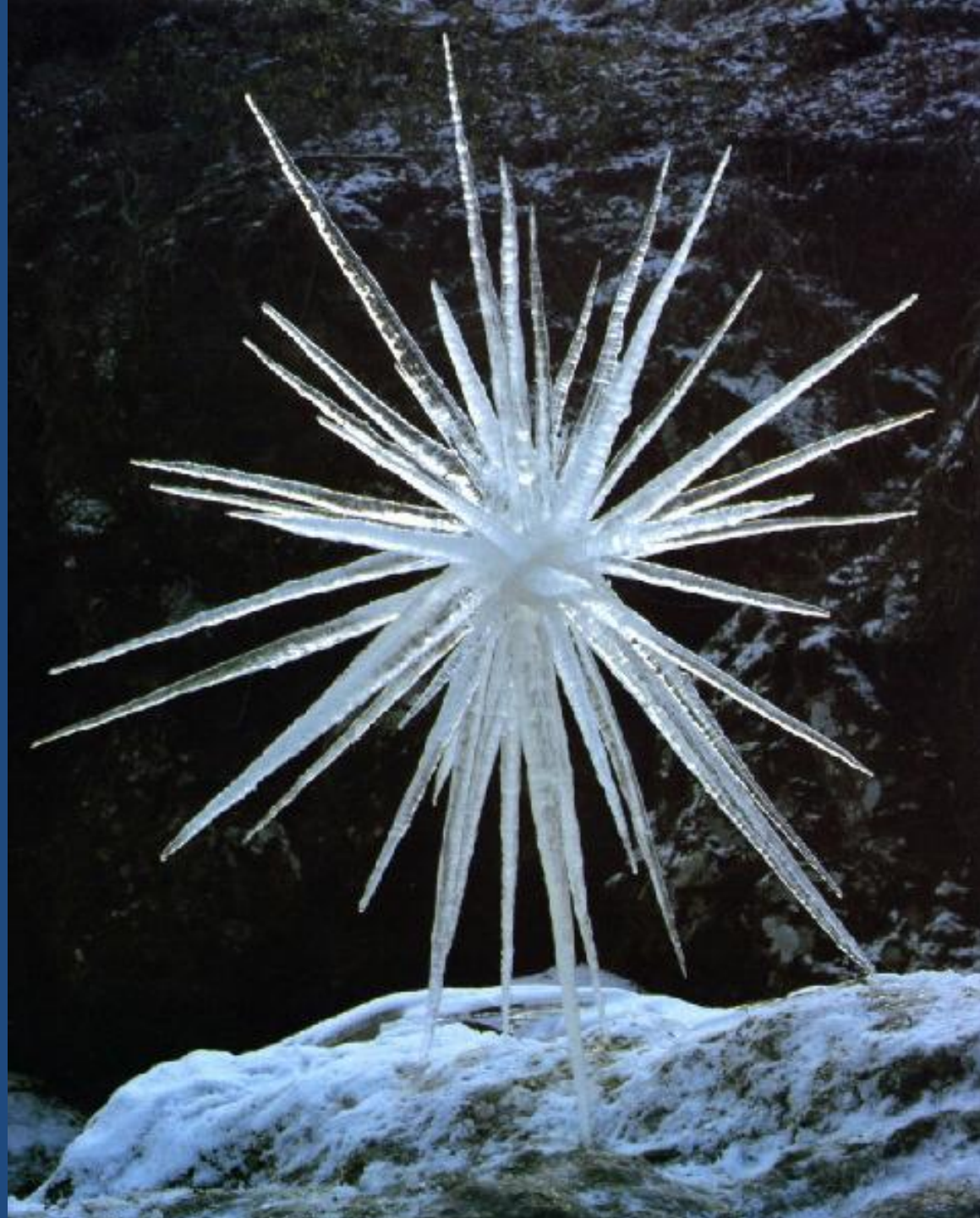
Edward O. Wilson



Innate bond between human beings and other living systems

The urge to affiliate with other living beings







Ecopsychology

Theodore Roszak

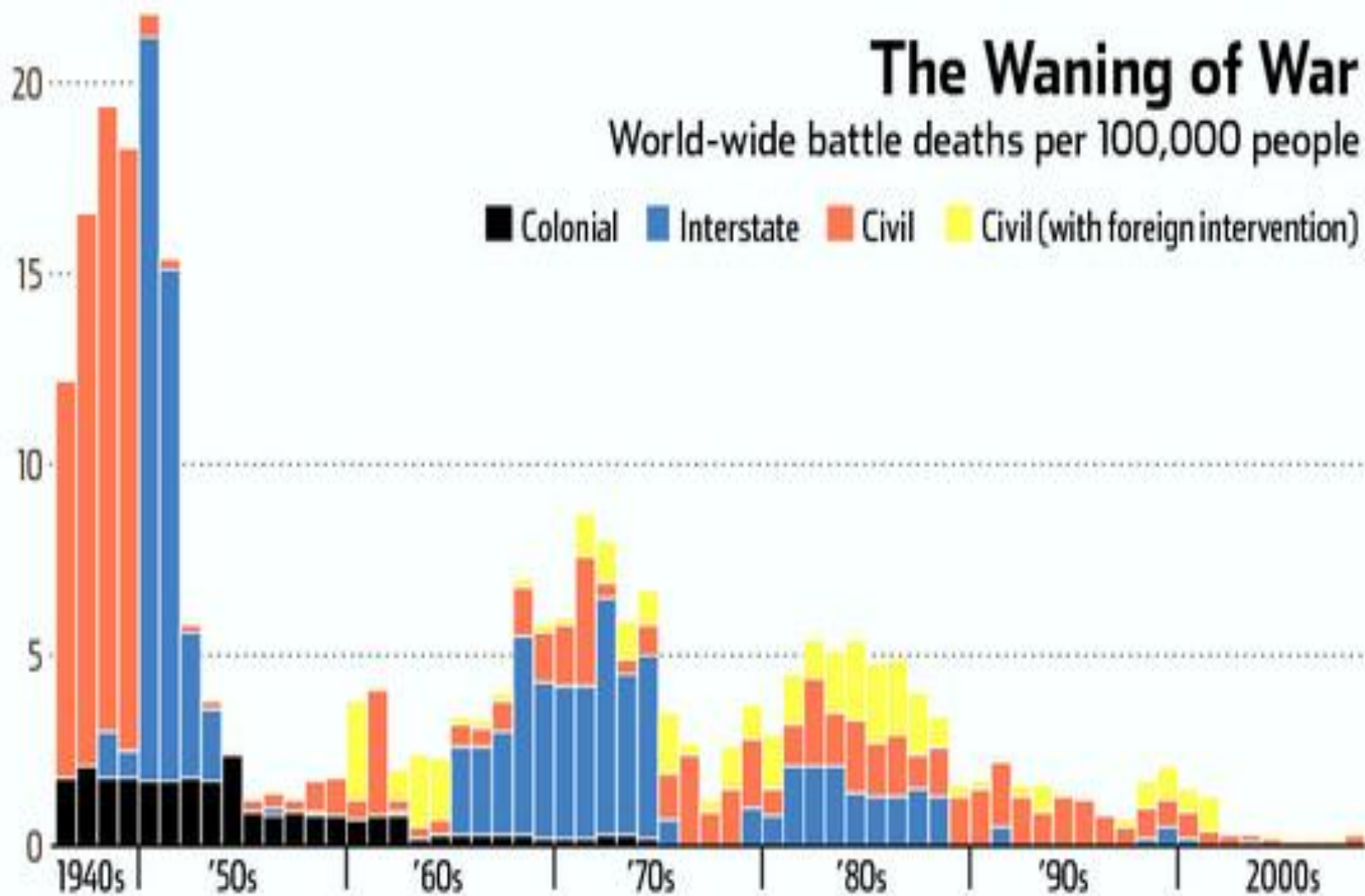
- Adaptation to the natural environment in which we evolved
- Our emotional bond with the natural world
- Overcoming alienation from environment
- Ecotherapy as an integral part of psychotherapy

“The Better Angels of Our Nature”: Evidence that Mankind Becoming Less Violent (Steven Pinker)



The Waning of War

World-wide battle deaths per 100,000 people



Source: Human Security Report Project, the Uppsala Conflict Data Project, and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo

Pinker's "Historical forces" that have favored our peaceable motives"

- The Leviathan- Rule of Law to Diffuse Exploitation
- Commerce- Distribution of Wealth
- Feminization- Respect for the Values of Women
- Cosmopolitanism- Inclusiveness/Diversity
- The Escalator of Reason- Rationality that serves the common good.

Pinker's Conclusions

- “Though conflict is a human universal, so are our efforts to reduce it....
- mutual selfishness is ruinous...
- the highest total payout is when all cooperate.”
- sustaining a less violent history requires reasoning by the “movers and shakers” of the five vectors:
 1. Diffuse Exploitation
 2. Distribution of Wealth
 3. Respect for the Values and Interest of Women
 4. Inclusiveness/Diversity
 5. Rationality that serves the common good.

Robert Triver's “reciprocal altruism”

Six emotions required for reciprocal altruism:

- *Liking* (initiator/maintainer of partnership)
- *anger* (self-protection when betrayed)
- *gratitude* (a special feeling for cooperation)
- *sympathy* (compassionate for one another)
- *guilt* (useful and necessary price of betrayal)
- *shame* (strongest motivator to repair bond)

Reciprocal altruism's two requirements to function long term

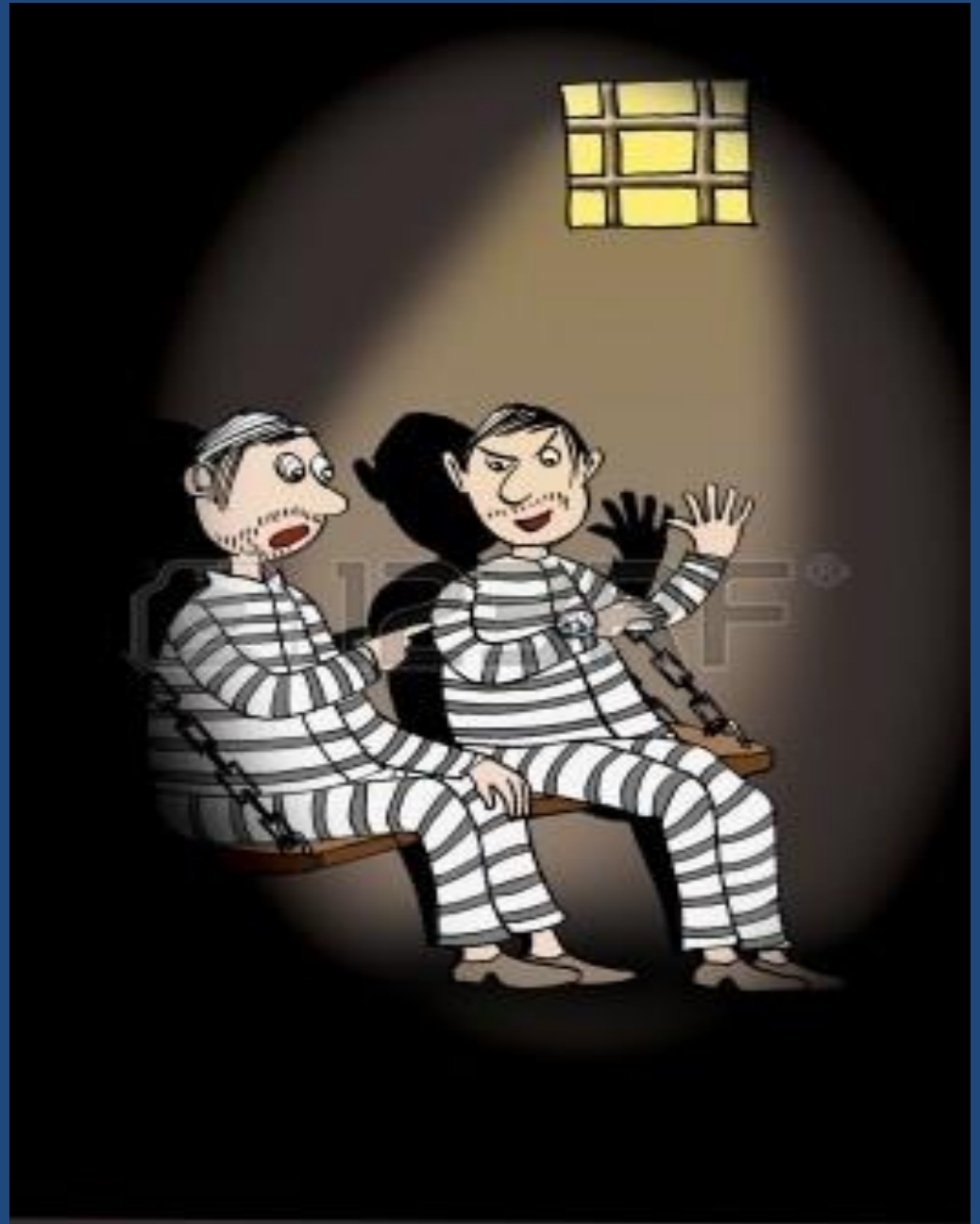
First the engaged individual must possess a “cheater-detector” (Dawkin’s “cheater gene”)

Secondly a tit-for-tat strategy that begrudges a gross cheater further help.

“Obstacles are helping forces in attaining our goals”
(Sarkar- Ananda Sutram)

Prisoner's Dilemma- Robert Axelrod

Dilemma because each "prisoner", not knowing the other's moves, must make a bet with considerable cost if the bet is lost.



How The Game Is Played

	Prisoner B Stays Silent (Cooperates)	Prisoner B Confesses (Defects)
Prisoner A Stays Silent (Cooperates)	Each serves 1 month	Prisoner A: 1 Year Prisoner B: Goes Free
Prisoner A Confesses (Defects)	Prisoner A: Goes Free Prisoner B: 1 Year	Each serves 3 month

Dilemma Game Played with Banker

	Player B Cooperates	Player B Defects
Player A Cooperates	Each Awarded \$300	Player B Gets \$500 Player A Fined \$100
Player A Defects	Player A gets \$500 Player B fined \$100	Each Fined \$10

Extended the number of games played “iterated” play

- Many agents interact constantly, giving variations in strategies and a more “real life” look to the game.
- The results gave way to a true reciprocal altruism.
- Repeated play results in lots of time and memory that produced strategies that resulted in minimum punishment and mutual benefits without excessive costs.

Tit for Tat

- Allowed to interact with each other and many individuals in the same group this population adopted the winning strategy of “Tit for Tat”
- Over time with the first move being cooperation followed by whatever the opponent does next.
- This produced a pattern in which Tit for Tat never defects first and only in retaliation.
- Thus non-cooperative moves are always met with retaliation.
- Tit for Tat has proven to be the most evolutionary stable strategy.

A New Science of Morality

- To create a more peaceful and sustainable society on a planetary level we need universal ethical values and institutions that inspire a sense of a common ground for all beings and shared moral activism to support the collective welfare.
- Evolutionist E. O. Wilson suggested in 1975 that ethics would be taken out of the hands of philosophers and integrated into a new “synthesis” of evolutionary and biological thinking.

Science of Morality Forum

- John Haidt, social psychologist suggested that we resort to collective moral decisions to correct the natural “confirmation bias” of individuals.
- Neuroscientist, Sam Harris sites 3 morality projects:
 1. developing a non-judgemental understanding of what people do at a cultural, psychological and neurobiological level in creating a “science of morality”
 2. Understanding how the term morality “relates to human well-being altogether”
 3. How to persuade all people to act in a more consensually agreed upon benevolent manner

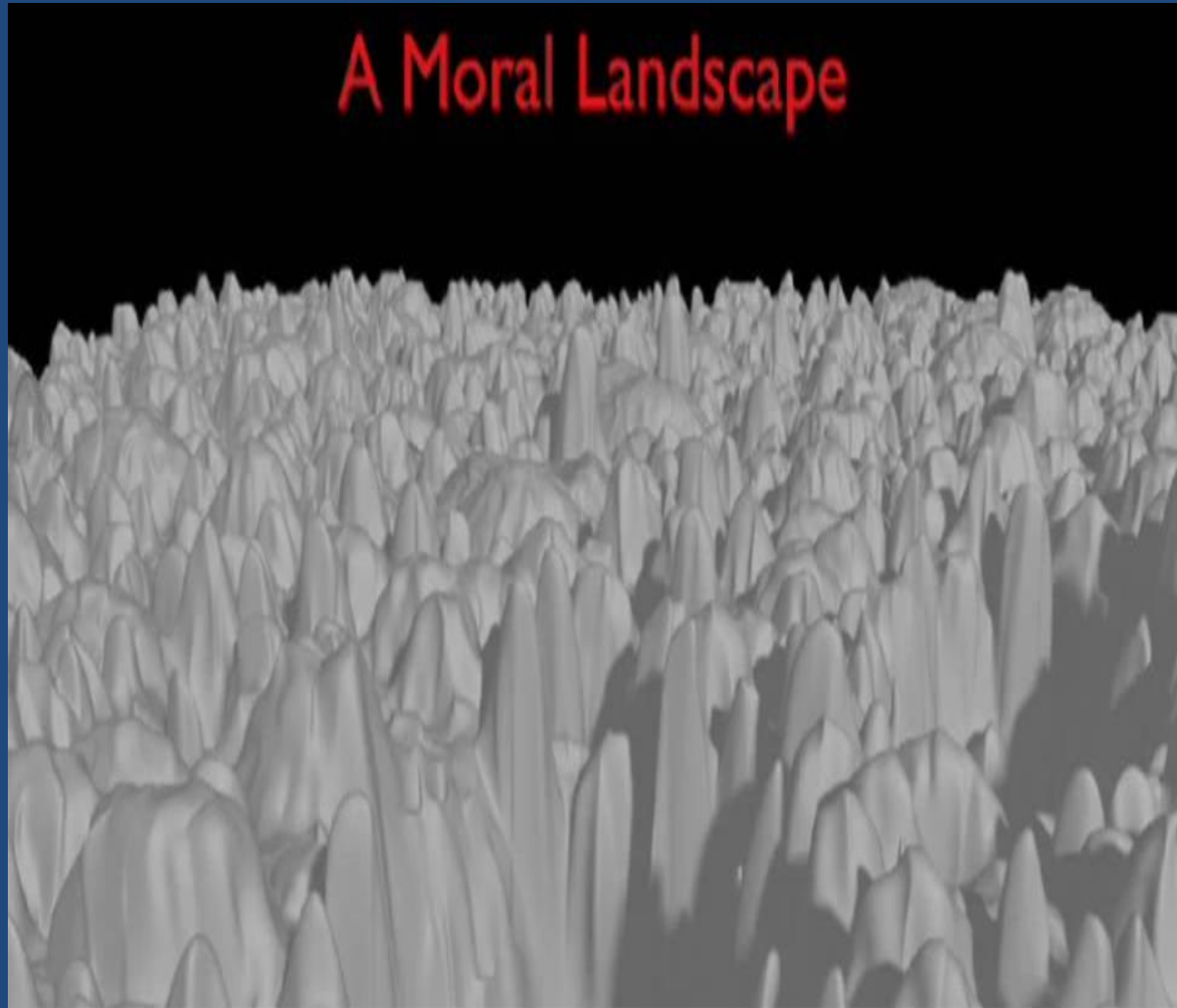
Harris' Moral Landscape

- we must begin with project number two-
“understanding right from wrong in universal terms”
- “that the concept of well-being captures everything we care about in the moral sphere.”
- “ there are a thousand different ways to tune the variables of selfishness versus altruism, to land us on a peak of the moral landscape.”

Systaltic Moral Landscape

Peaks represent the flourishing of well being and the valleys reflect the deepest depths of misery.

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Era of Neohumanism

Liberation of Intellect

- Who then will answer the call to refine the definition of a universal morality and persuade the masses to adopt this benevolent and universal morality?
- Sarkar's Neohumanistic philosophy and education along with his Progressive Utilization Theory offers a synthesis of spiritually based morality and a path towards social equality.

Yama and Niyama

Inner and Outer Ecology

- Neohumanism makes use of an ancient universal code of morality and ethics called Yama and Niyama that is dedicated to the welfare of all beings- animate and inanimate.
- Achieving personal and social balance based on considerations of time, place and person beyond any dogma.
- Systaltic movement of morality is the bedrock of spiritual progress

Awakened Conscience

- “Awakened Conscience” answers the call for a discriminating intuition based on rationality, study, and proto-spiritualistic mentality.
- Transcends emotionally based sentiments such as geo-sentiments, socio-sentiments and human sentiments; establishing devotional sentiment towards all animate and inanimate beings.
- Through “study” seeks consensus to overcome confirmation biases in arriving at choices that serve social equality.
- Achieving reciprocal altruism beyond tit for tat

Sarkar's PROUT, Progressive Utilization Theory

- “One must not forget that collective welfare lies in individuals and individual welfare lies in collectivity.”

Prout Values

- “Cosmic Inheritance”: everything is the patrimony of all living beings.
- Individual and collective progress defined on physical, mental and spiritual levels.
- Minimum necessities of life provided to all.
- Surplus wealth distributed according to merit.
- Living standard of vital society constantly increases.

Prout's Social Cycle

- Sadvipras, who possess positive qualities of workers, warriors, entrepreneurs, and intellectuals (actors in the revolving social cycle), stand at the center of the social cycle to prevent exploitation of one group by another.
- The Social Cycle, like Eisenstein's cyclical economy, evolves or becomes revolutionary to accommodate needed progress.
- Sadvipras, like Pinker's "movers and shakers" apply the necessary force to keep the cycle moving.

Neohumanist Education

- Neohumanist Education (NHE) from pre-k through university levels is based on the philosophy and principles of Neohumanism- "the practice of love for all creation including humans, plants, animals, and the inanimate world".
- NHE incorporates a flexible blending of Eastern subjective philosophy and Western objective science making it adaptable to different cultures of the world.
- NHE and Prout are vehicles for creating the needed shift in consciousness towards a more cooperative and spiritual society.

NHE Values

- Holistic Development of the Child
- Universal Love and Values
 - Astaunga Yoga
 - Ecological and Social Consciousness
- Academic, Practical and Personal Skills
- Knowledge of Self and World
 - Applied for Universal Welfare
- Joyful Learning through the Arts
 - Culturally Sensitive Approach
 - Integrated Curriculum
- Exemplary Role of the Educators



“Humanity at the Threshold of a New Era”

P. R. Sarkar

- “Humanity is now at the threshold of a new era. We do not want any dogma. The age of dogma is gone. What we want is an idea based on Neohumanism.”
- “In this new era dogmas are being replaced by rationality and reason that serves the entire humanity rather than a particular tribe or a particular clan or a particular nationality.”
- “Moralist of the World Unite!!”

Thesis Reviewed

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Beginning of
Era of Neohumanism

End of Presentation
Two Slides of Readings Follow

Era of Neohumanism: Bibliography: In the order presented on PP

“Sacred Economics: Money, Gift & Society In The Age of Transition”,
Charles Eisenstein

“Blessed Unrest”, Paul Hawken

“The Healthy Aging Brain: Sustaining Attachment, Attaining Wisdom”, Louis Cozolino

“Biophilia”, Edward O. Wilson

“Basic Principles of Deep Ecology”, Arnie Naess and George Sessions, in “The Nature and Possibility of an Environmental Ethic,” (1984)

“Ecopsychology: Restoring the Earth, Healing the Mind” ,Theodore Roszak

“The Better Angels of Our Nature”: Why Violence has Declined”, Steven Pinker

“The Evolution of Cooperation”, Robert Axelrod

Bibliography Continued:

“Thinking: The New Science of Decision-Making, Problem-Solving, and Prediction”,
John Brockman

[John Brockman](#)

“The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values”, Sam Harris

“Ananda Sutram”, Shrii Shrii Anandamurti (P.R. Sarkar)

“Liberation of Intellect: Neohumanism” P. R. Sarkar

“Prout Economics”, P. R. Sarkar

Added Based on Discussion Period:

Thomas Berry (1990) The Dream of the Earth. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco,
Chapter 10.

Jeremy Ravetz (2004) ‘The Post Normal Science of Precaution’ in Futures, Volume 36,
Issue 3, April 2004, Pages 347–357