

Basic beliefs as context for equity and quality for well- being

David Oldroyd

Poland

Liberal (educational) values

- “ **Quality & equity** are widely espoused goals among liberal educators.
- “ But education must be **related to the broader contexts** that define **well-being** & from which core beliefs are derived.
- “ This applies to **personal, professional & existential core beliefs** (ideologies).

Equity & Quality for Well-being of what?

Planet - our global support-systems
(Natural & Human)

People . civilisationq
(The Good Society)

Person . the Being; Thinking; Doing;
Having selvesq

(The Moral Self – core beliefs)

***All are interdependent & depend on
global ecosystems & resources***

Education for Equity, Quality & Well-being

- “ **Equity** in ed. cannot be achieved while equity in **core ideologies & societies** in which control education are **inequitable**.
- “ **Quality** requires **central focus** on the realities of an **overshot planet & unjust civilisation** on an exponential trajectory towards **collapse**.
- “ **Well-being for all** requires a deep critique of the ideologies and stressors that are damaging to equity & the quality of future life.
- “ **Community & Personal Action** are a necessary outcome of a quality education

The Anthropocene context: Humans vs. Nature & Well-being

“MACHINE WORLD”

maladaptive to

“NATURAL WORLD and GOOD SOCIETY”

resulting in:

*in***EQUITY**

& deteriorating **QUALITY**

and eventually:

COLLAPSE (c. 2030?)

5 Stages of System Collapse

1. Financial
2. Commercial
3. Political
4. Social
5. Cultural

<http://cluborlov.blogspot.com/>

The Anthropocene existential threat to well-being for all

- “ Exponential **expansionist belief** & action infinite growth in finite space
- “ **Concentration of power & wealth** . corporate-political self-serving nexus
- “ Negative selection of **cowboy leadership** driven by power & greed
- “ Unsustainably complex **fragile civilisation** & **wicked problems** at planetary scale

The Liberal Belief in Progress

“ Our **collective impotence** in the face of *climate change* and other environmental catastrophes, the growing *inequality* between rich and poor, re-emerging *racial and religious tensions*, insoluble *economic problems*, the rise of *Artificial Intelligence (AI)* and ‘*surveillance capitalism*’... no wonder **liberalism is withering**.

Cultural Pathology

“ As Pope Francis put it in his much-celebrated encyclical last year, our present ecological crisis is the sign of a **cultural pathology**. We have come to see ourselves as the lords and masters of the Earth, entitled to plunder her at will. The sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life reflects **the violence present in our hearts**. We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the Earth; that we breathe her air and receive life from her waters.+

ACTIVITY

**A relevant curriculum
for quality education?**

Slav Heller

Map of Core Beliefs

BELIEFS RULE SELF & SOCIETY

Beliefs (worldviews, ideologies) determine how we think, explain, behave & make an impact. They are very hard to influence, even by inconvenient evidence-based truths that contradict them.

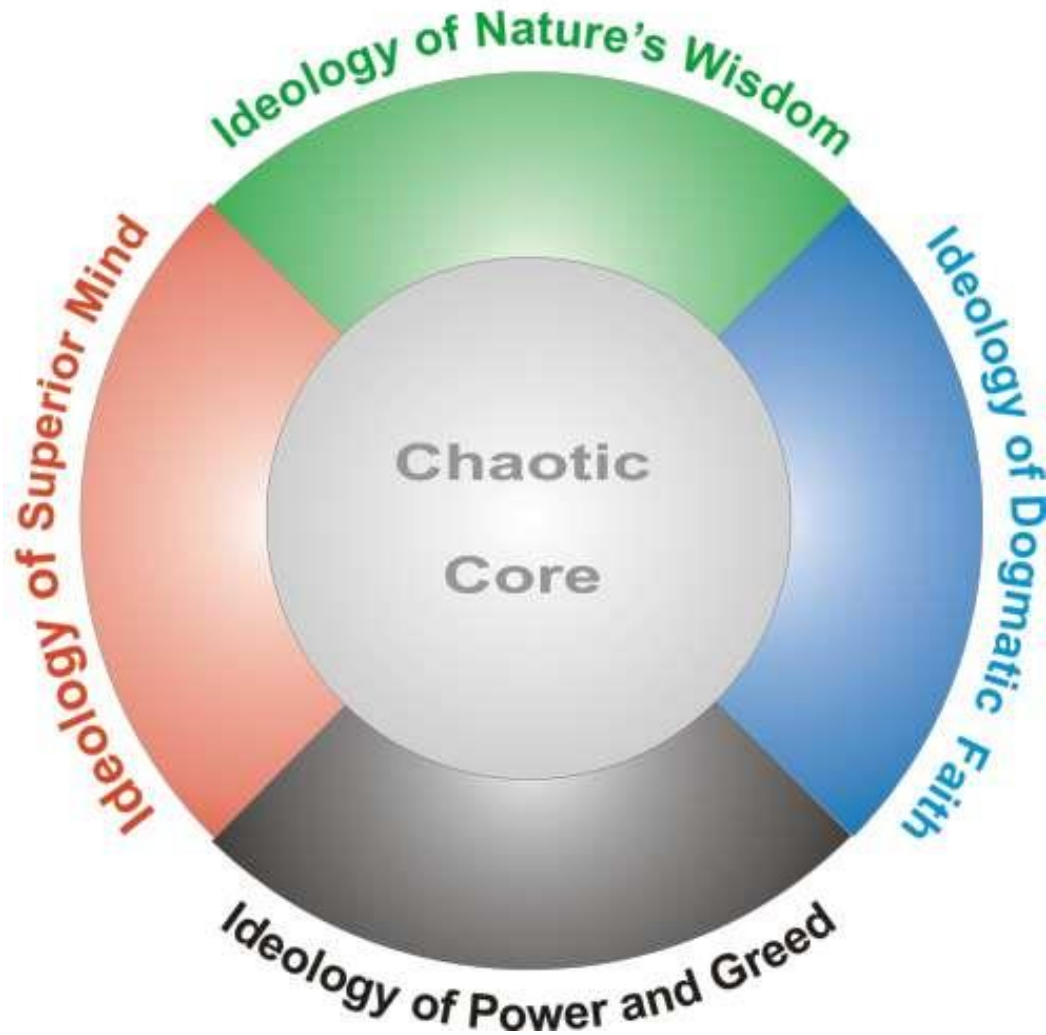
Leaders (political, economic, social, educational, etc.) are responsible for *collective efforts of a group of people pursuing a common purpose*.

Purpose arises from what we believe about well-being and progress

['The Titanic Challenge' = change course urgently]

Map of Core Beliefs

Four Core Ideologies



Ideology of Dogmatic Religion (IDR)

If we fully believe and unquestionably follow the message of a particular religion, we will be OK, we will be saved

Worshipping: God

Driver: Faith

Associated words: paternalism, obedience, fundamentalism, evangelism, literalism, fanaticism, intolerance, community, saintliness, sacrifice, service, commitment, etc.

Ideology of the Superior Mind (ISM)

If we trust the potential of the human mind,
it will provide solutions for all our problems

Worshipping: Science

Driver: Reason

*Associated words: progress, technology,
techno-fix, fragmentation, machine, logic,
ethics, morality, rationalism, empiricism,
humanism, etc.*

Ideology of Power and Greed (IPG)

If I can control all around me and have more of everything, that will solve all my problems

Worshipping: Power & Money

Driver: Fear

Associated words: dominance, control, growth, insatiability, indulgence, amassing, hoarding, status, celebrity, independence, appearances, pretense, make-believe, separateness, etc.

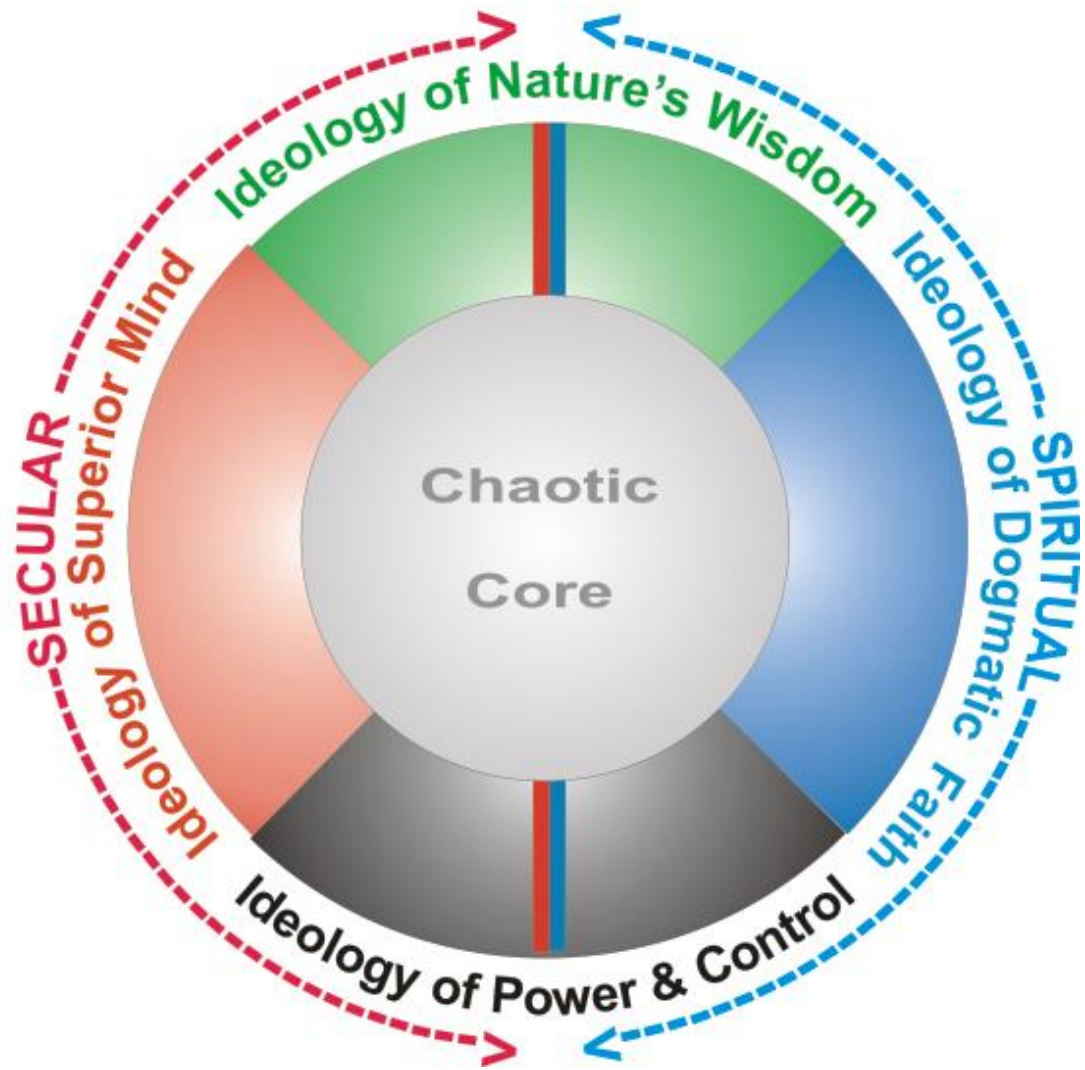
Ideology of Nature's Wisdom

Only if we understand and live in harmony with Nature and follow natural laws, we can solve our problems

Worshipping: Nature

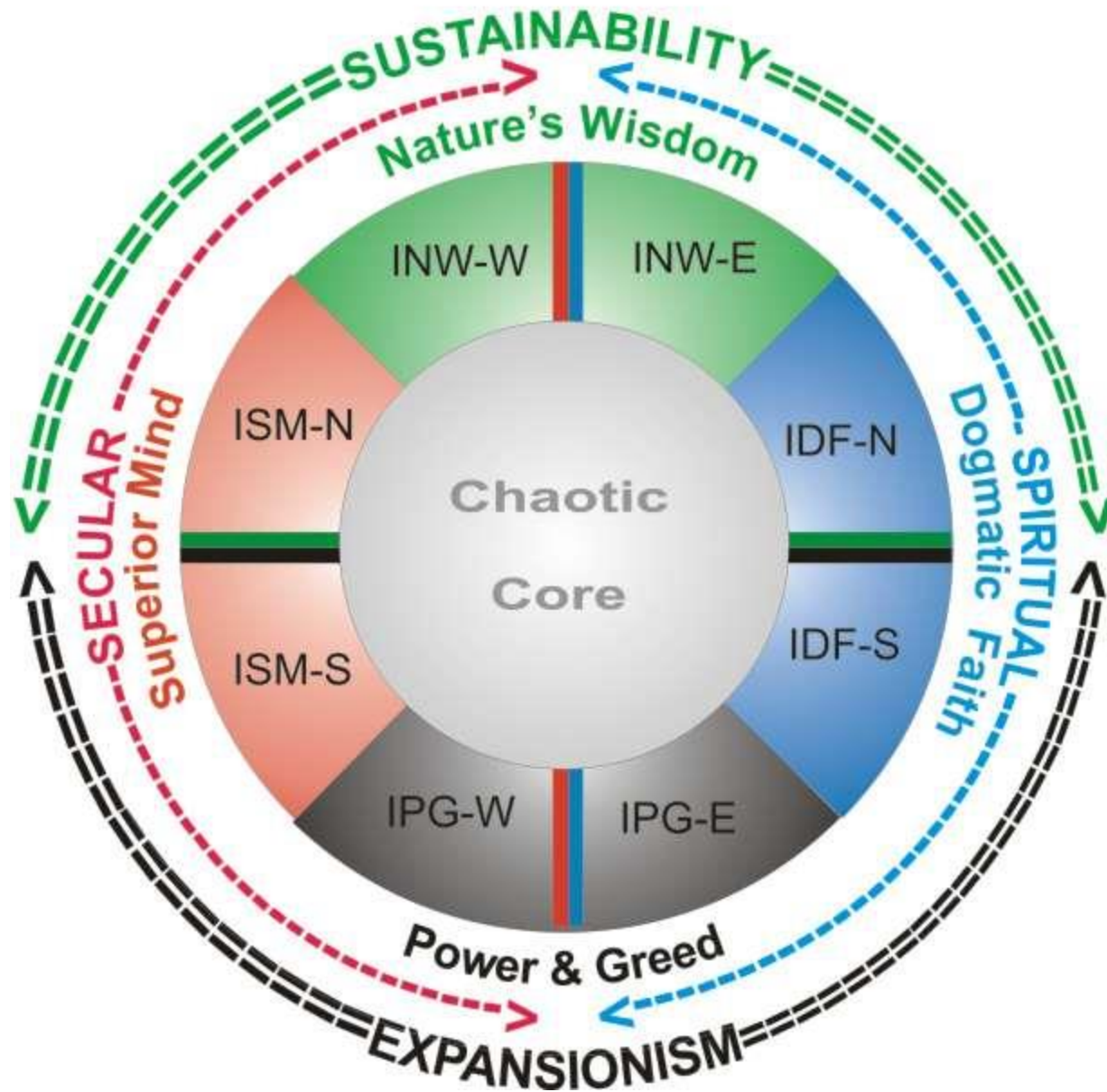
Driver: Trust

Associated words: ecology, holism, intuition, mystery, interdependence, connectedness, spirituality, search, inquiry, humility, sacredness, animism, community, etc.



Map of Core Beliefs

Four Core Ideologies



www.case4all.org

**Inconvenient Evidence of
consequences of
Expansionist Ideology**

The Earth is (over)full



$$I = P \times A \times T + P > P > P$$

Exponential Human Impact =

Population x Affluence x Technology

It is driven by beliefs that value (competitive growth, wealth seeking, anthropocentrism)

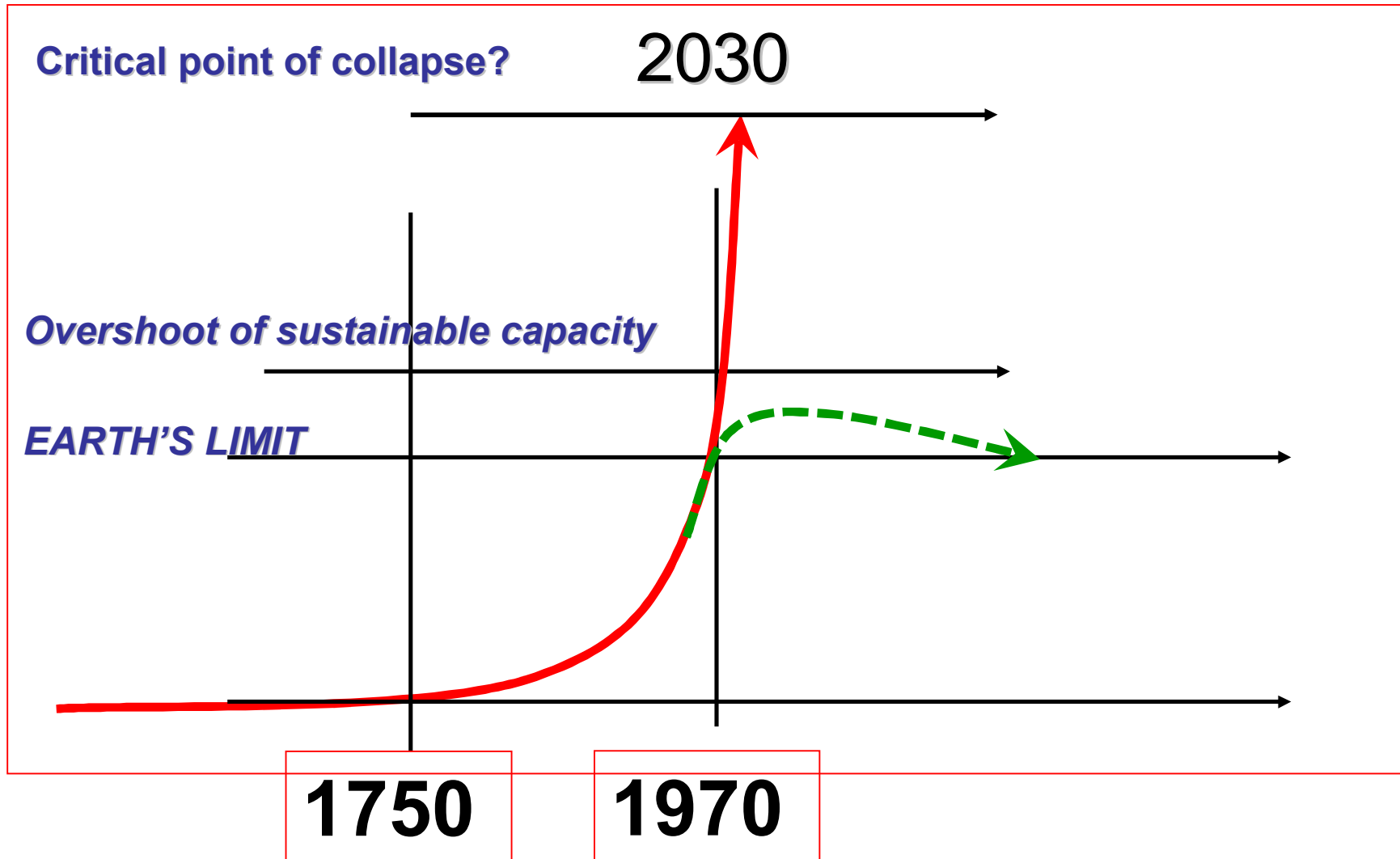
Profit before People before Planet

EXPONENTIAL ANNUAL GROWTH

Doubling times (2x)

Annual growth rate		<i>Doubling time</i>
" 1%	=	70 years
" 2%	=	35 years
" 3% (Poland GDP)	=	
" 7% (China GDP)	=	10 years
" 10%	=	7 years
" 35% = (Moore's Law)	=	2 years

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT





- “ On September 25, Swiss voters will head to the polls to decide on a bold initiative to put Switzerland on the path of a green economy. Initiated by members of the Green Party and the Social Democrats, this ballot initiative builds on the Ecological Footprint: **If passed, it will incorporate the sustainable use of natural resources into the country’s constitution, and become the first country in the world to commit to one-planet living by 2050.**
- “ <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/>

A 'Restorative Economy' for a Good Society (quality & equity).

- “ ensures basic needs & well-being for all,
- “ keeps inequality under control,
- “ respects environmental limits
- “ restores environmental damage and fractured communities
- “ Replaces growth economy with steady state ~~u~~ircular economy

**Mike Bottery
(2016)**

***Educational Leadership for a
More Sustainable World***

Bottery 1:

Global Drivers of Unsustainability

- ” Consumerism*
- ” Population*
- ” Energy*
- ” Climate Change*

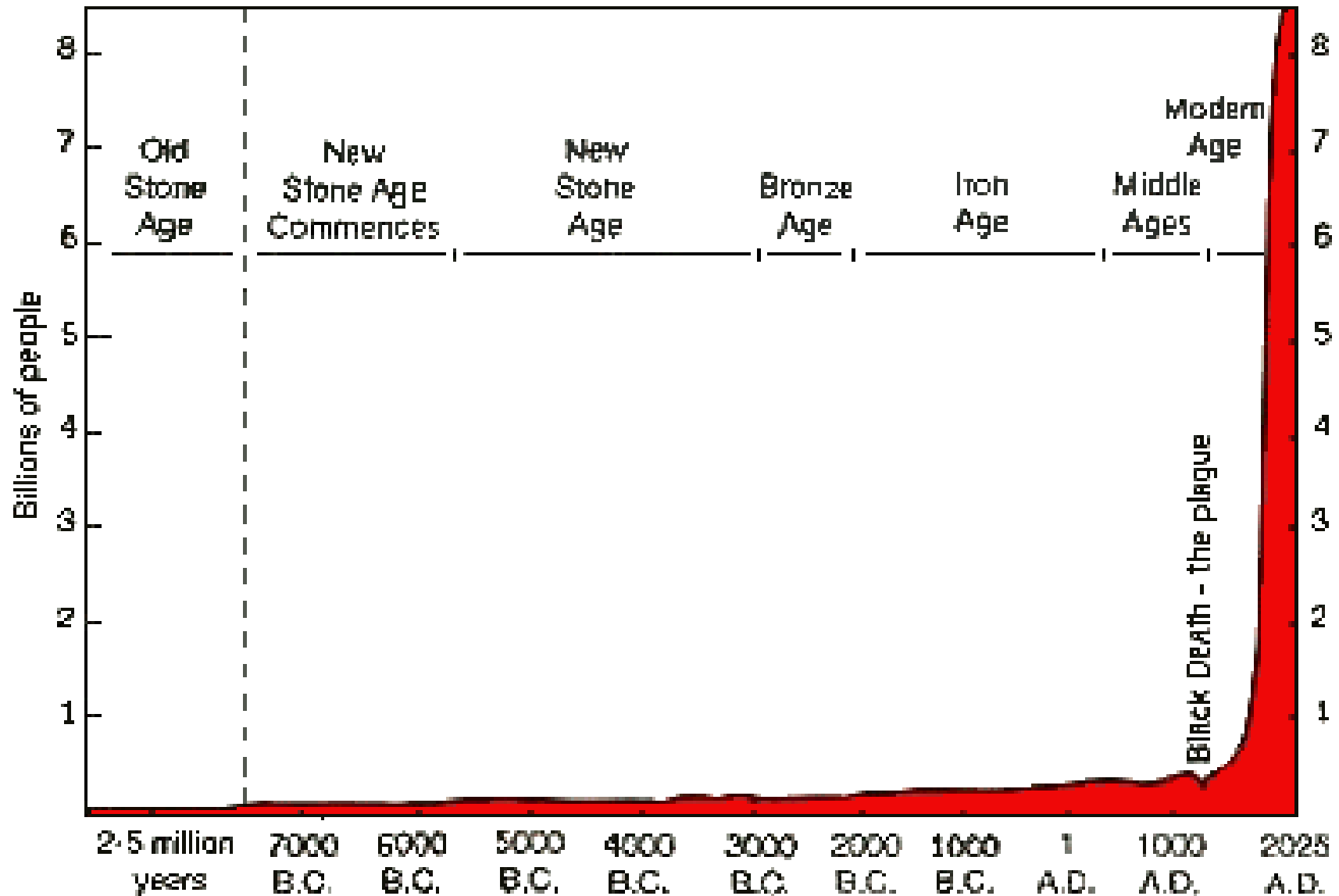


Personal overshoot starts early!

õ and excessive consumption continues



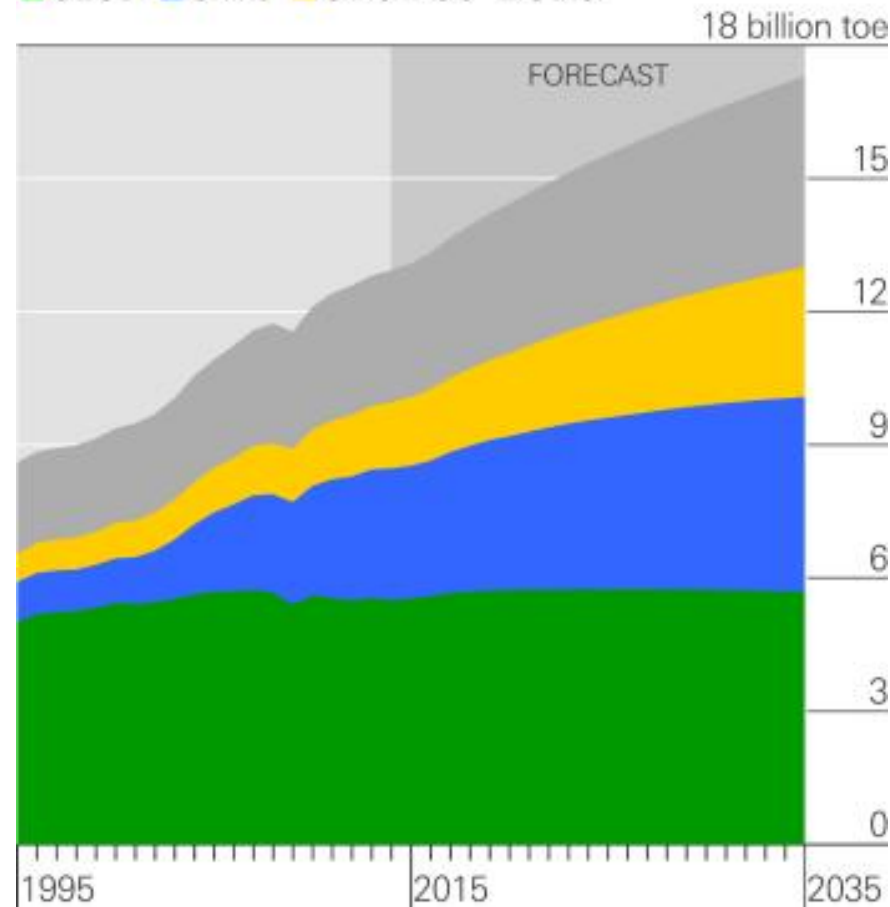
World Population Growth Through History



Global energy demand 34% increase by 2035 (BP)

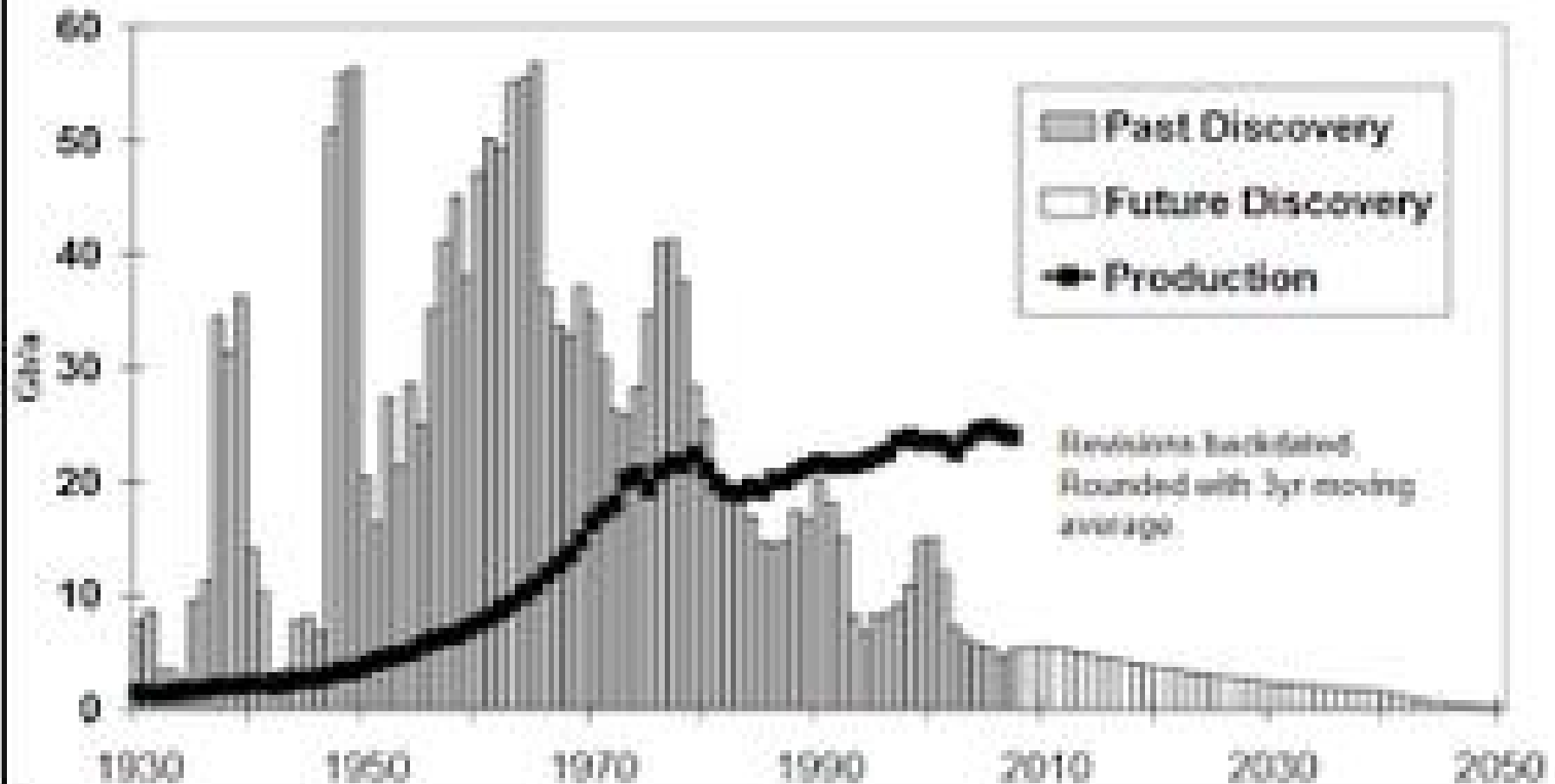
Consumption by region

■ OECD ■ China ■ Other Asia ■ Other



THE GROWING GAP

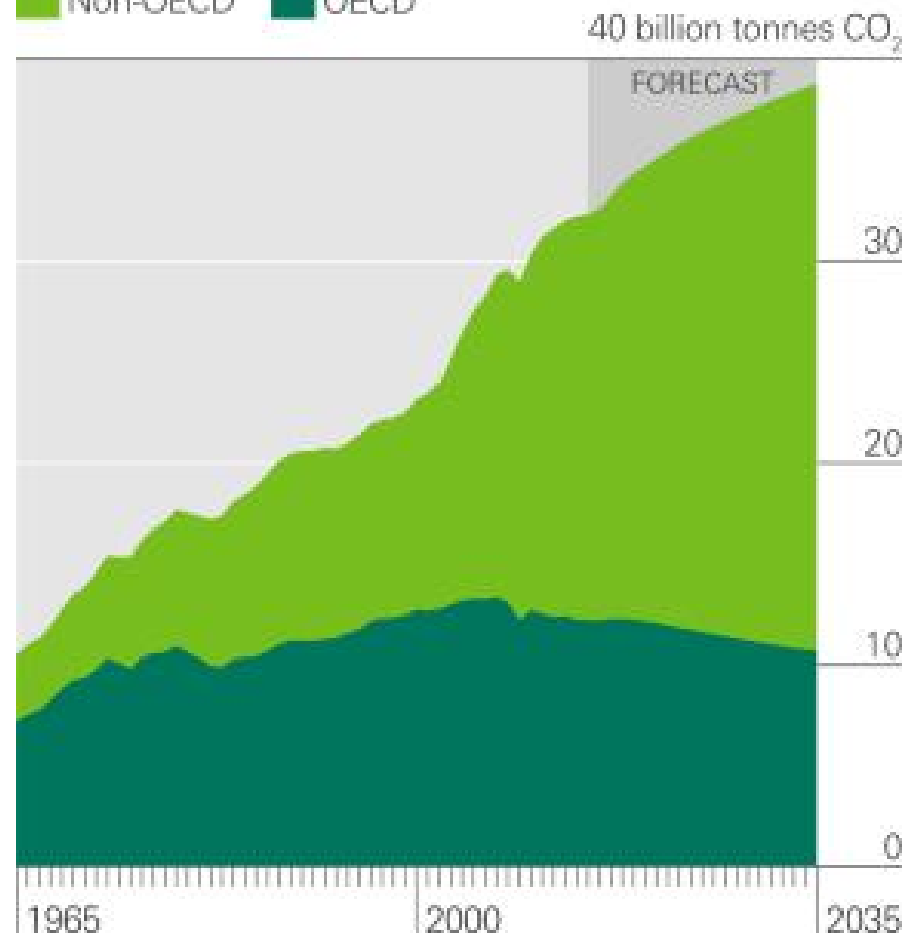
Regular Conventional Oil



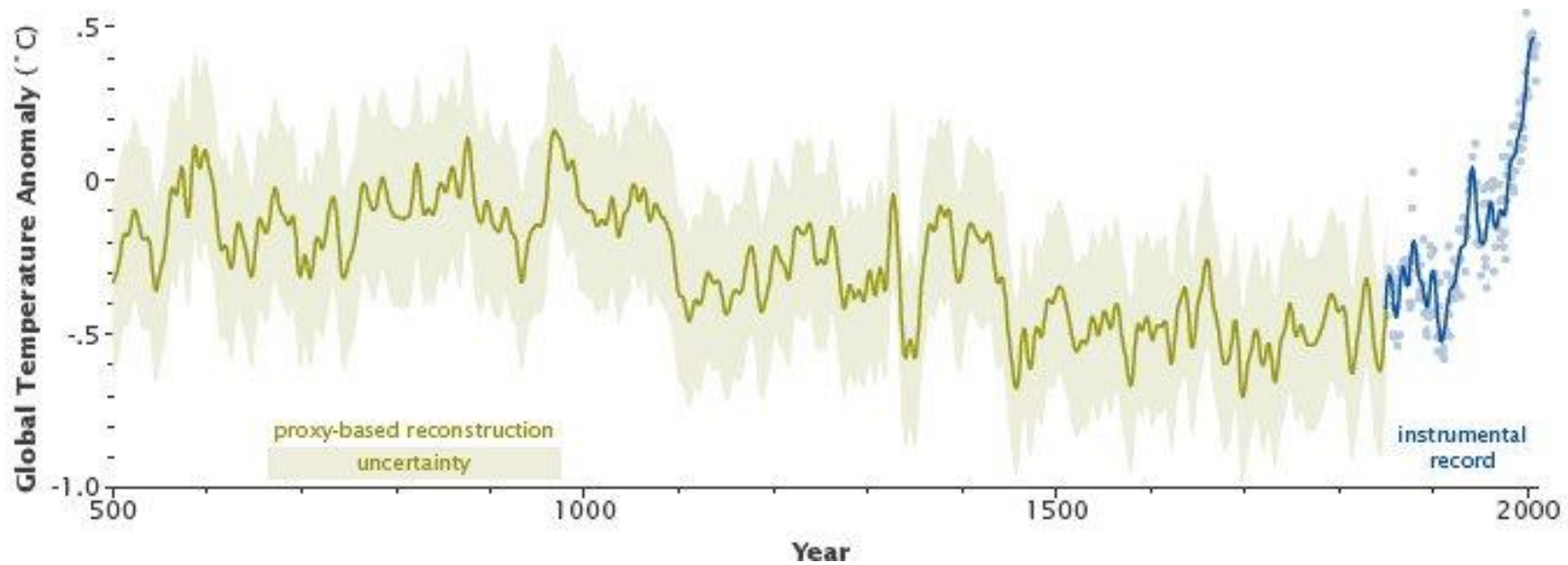
Carbon emissions 20% growth by 2035 (BP)

Carbon emissions

Non-OECD OECD



Acceleration of global warming



'Inconvenient' IPCC Evidence

Human influence has been detected in **warming** of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global **water cycle**, in reductions in **snow and ice**, in global mean **sea level rise**, and in changes in some **climate extremes**. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.

Bottery 2: Three futures?

- “ **Business-as-Usual** . expansionism; market forces; individualism; nationalism; consumerism; competitive self-interest.
- “ **Dark Scenarios** - fortress response; collapse due to stressors.
- “ **Development Scenarios** – acting with urgency on all fronts to develop sustainable solutions; rural & global ecology scenarios.

David Holmgren & Pat Murphy futures

- “ Brown Tech
- “ Green Tech
- “ Earth Stewards
- “ Lifeboats
- “ Plan A - business as usual
- “ Plan B - clean energy technology
- “ Plan C - curtailment and community
- “ Plan D - die off

(2009) “Future Scenarios”

(2008) “Plan C”

Radical quality transformations:

From:

Power & Greed Ideology

Expansionism

plutocracy/oligarchy/theocracy

non-renewable energy

psychopathic corporations

credit-based casino banking

inequality (1%-99%)

GNP - Gross National Product

growth economy (no limits)

national competitiveness

To:

Nature's Wisdom

Sustainability

democracy

renewable energy

regulated corporations

citizen-based banking

distributive justice

GNW- GN Well-being

restorative (circular)

global cooperation

2 Types of Pessimism

“ About the **FUTURE**

e.g. James Lovelock (2010)

The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A final warning

“ About **HUMAN NATURE**

*e.g. Inherent desire for dominance (original sin?) “violence present in our hearts”
inevitably overcomes kindness*

Selfishness vs Selflessness



Human Nature?

- “ Acquisition of Power & Wealth > **Altruism**
- “ Psychological denial or ~~disavowal~~ > **Accepting & Acting upon reality**
- “ Trapped in the Here & Now > **Focused on the Future**
- “ Preference for the Status Quo (Inertia) > **Desire for Radical Action**

Central focus for quality education

Personal, social and professional ideological choice between

**BUSINESS-AS-USUAL [EGO-centric]
[EXPONENTIAL EXPANSIONISM]**

Greed, credit/profit-driven, exponential growth,

or

**A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE [ECO-centric]
[SUSTAINABLE PLANET/SOCIETY/SELF]**

Radical rethink: pro-ecological, restorative well-being 4 all.

IGELSTA SCHOOL, SWEDEN



The 9 Billion Lives Initiative, Canadian Consultancy Venture

BIG PURPOSE: “providing a reasonable standard of life for the world’s 9B people”.

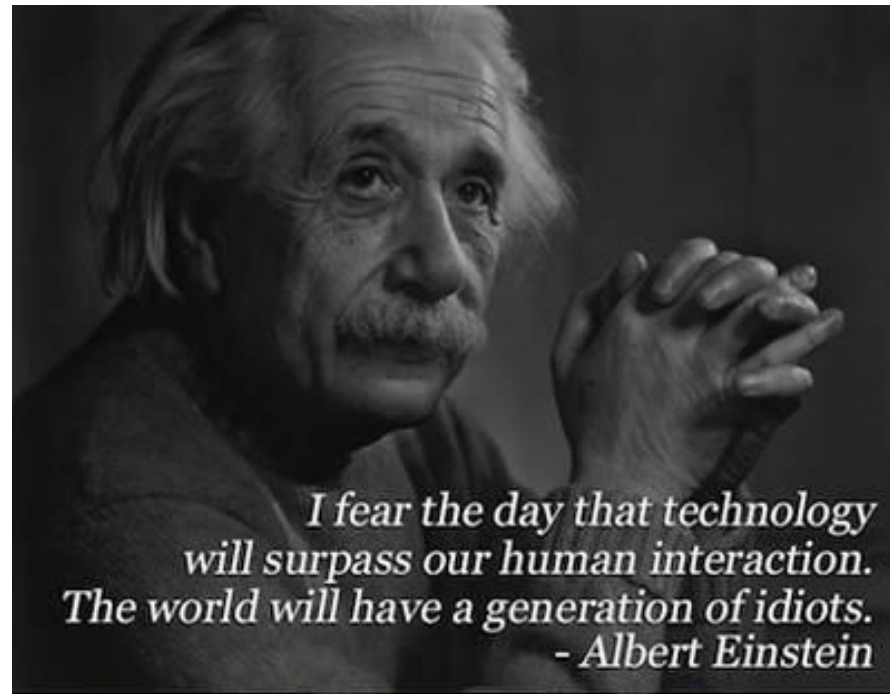
3P TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE: reverse the bias towards profit by adding concern for people and planet to ensure a sustainable future

SPECIFIC SERVICE: Providing venture capital, consultancy and impact evaluation to ***activities which will have the most impact on the sustainable development challenges they are intended to effect.***

BUT:

how to impact ‘wicked problems’ and global stressors so deeply embedded in neo-liberal; nationalistic; self-first ideologies & worldviews?

Extra slides if needed



Kubler-Ross Stages

1. **Denial:** This problem is not real.
2. **Anger:** It's not fair, it's not my fault!
3. **Bargaining:** I'll change if I can!
4. **Depression:** It's hopeless, pointless!
5. **Acceptance:** The evidence is clear. I'll be as resilient as I can.

Bottery 3:

Prescription for educational leaders

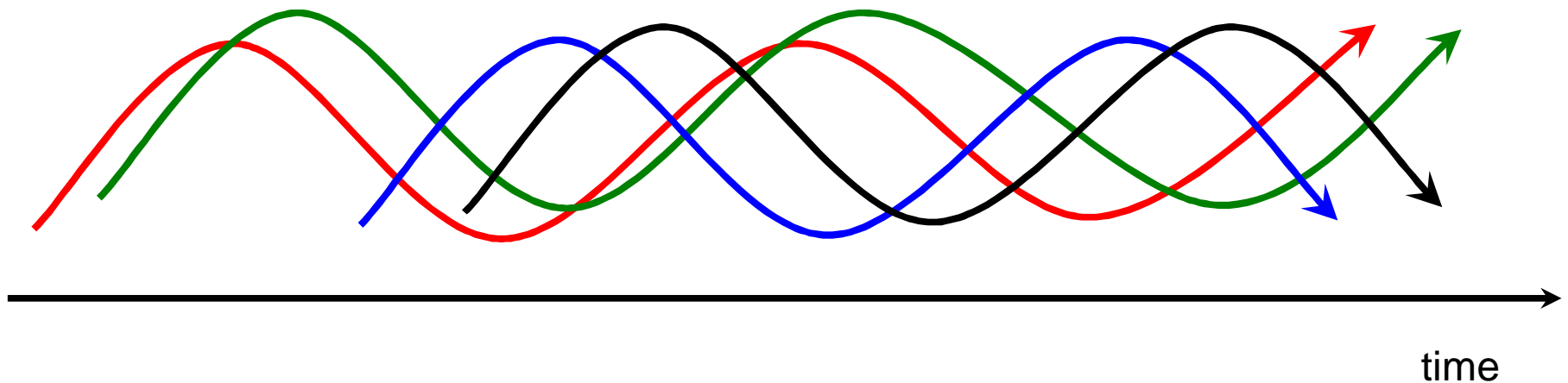
- “ ***Humility*** . in the face of complexity & ambiguity (Servant Leader?)
- “ ***Sufficiency*** . as an antidote to overshoot (against greed and domination)
- “ ***Equity*** . (against aggressive unfairness)
- “ ***Well-being*** . basic needs satisfied; freedom from fear, stress & grief; psychological wholeness.

Anthropocene Age: Two Worlds

1. The Natural World

3.8 billion years evolving

Self-regulating diverse ecological balance
of *adaptive systems*



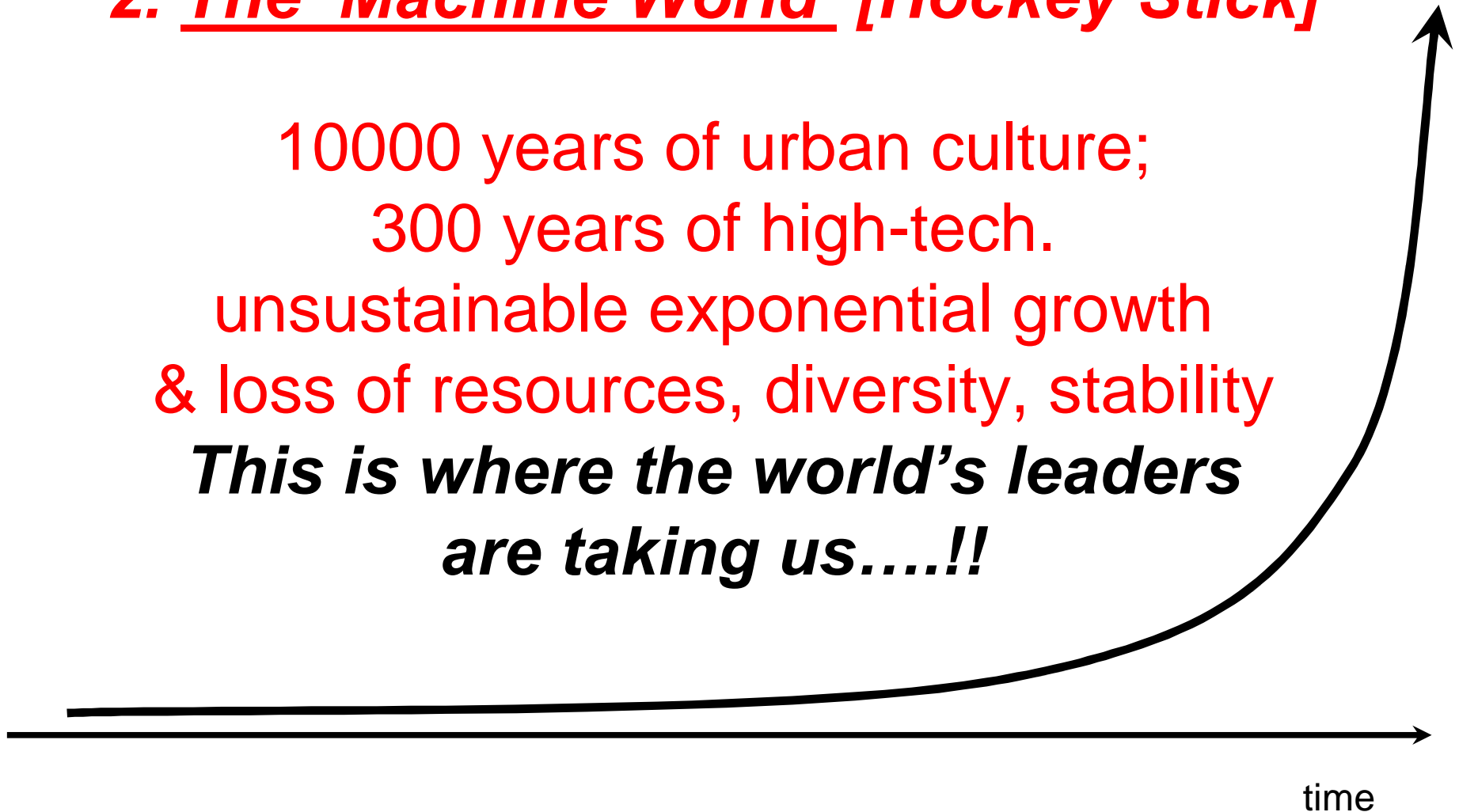
Anthropocene Age: Two Worlds

2. The 'Machine World' [Hockey Stick]

10000 years of urban culture;
300 years of high-tech.

unsustainable exponential growth
& loss of resources, diversity, stability

***This is where the world's leaders
are taking us.....!!***



INNER SELF

(known only to ourselves)

” THE ‘BEING’ SELF

The ~~Soul~~ ~~Core Beliefs~~ in our sub-conscious minds, which we can adapt to guide our thinking, feeling and identity, our self-image and our self-esteem, our ~~comfort zones~~ and our purpose and worldview.

” THE ‘SEEING/THINKING/FEELING’ SELF

Our consciousness, which makes us human and which we can use to control the other three selves and much of our lives. Our ~~focus of control~~

The Four Self Model

OUTER SELF (seen by others)

“ THE ‘DOING’ SELF

How we act, especially our verbal and non-verbal communication which along with the ~~Having~~ Having Self defines our personalities & impact on the world

“ THE ‘HAVING’ SELF

Our physical and material self . what we possess: clothes, property, our appearance

DELUSION or **REALITY?**

- “ **Belief** does not equate with **Truth**
- “ **Wealth** **Well-being**
- “ **Growth** **Prosperity**
- “ **Capitalism** **Democracy**
- “ **Huge complexity** **Resilience**
- “ **Infinity trajectories** **Finite planet**
- “ **Power & Greed** **Sustainable Future**

On what does well-being (GNW) depend?

- “ **EQUITY** = fair intra- & inter-generational opportunity for well-being
- “ **QUALITY** = that which ensures well-being for all (freedom from destruction, suffering)
- “ **SUSTAINING** = preserving what is of value; eliminating that which threatens

GNP = poor measure of GNW