

Pushing a New Paradigm Creative Transitions to Sustainable Futures

across all the well-beings

WEA joined up to the World
14th, 17th, 21st May, 2018

Join the conversation: <https://cwea.arlo.co/courses/288-sustainabilitycreative-transitions-to-sustainable-futures-we-need-to-change-things-but-how-come-and-help-work-on-new-ideas-and-models-for-a-sustainable-future>

Coordinated by Colin Meurk – colinmeurk02@gmail.com

Second Session

- The Psycho-socio-politico-cultural sphere!
- He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata ... It is people, it is people, it is people!
 - the good, the bad and the ugly - but with the ability to do good and repair damage 😊.
- Main sessions Led by Nick Kirk and Ronlyn Duncan



Politics and our capacity to care

DR NICK KIRK AND DR RONLYN DUNCAN

Desired outcomes



- ▶ More sustainable and secure food.
- ▶ Greener urban environments.
- ▶ For 11 billion people to experience rewarding lives within planetary limits.
- ▶ A society based on the ethic of sufficiency and not consumption growth.
- ▶ Creating institutions that are more responsive to ecological change.
- ▶ Enhancing individual and collective capacity to care.

How do we conceptualise power in social science?

1 – Community power literature

Reputational/Elite theories

Decision-making theories

2 – Three faces of power

Observable power

Non-decisions

Manipulation



Power is diffuse and dynamic – it can be created and mobilised in unexpected ways and emerge from different relations in surprising places

Other Materials

Assembled by Colin Meurk

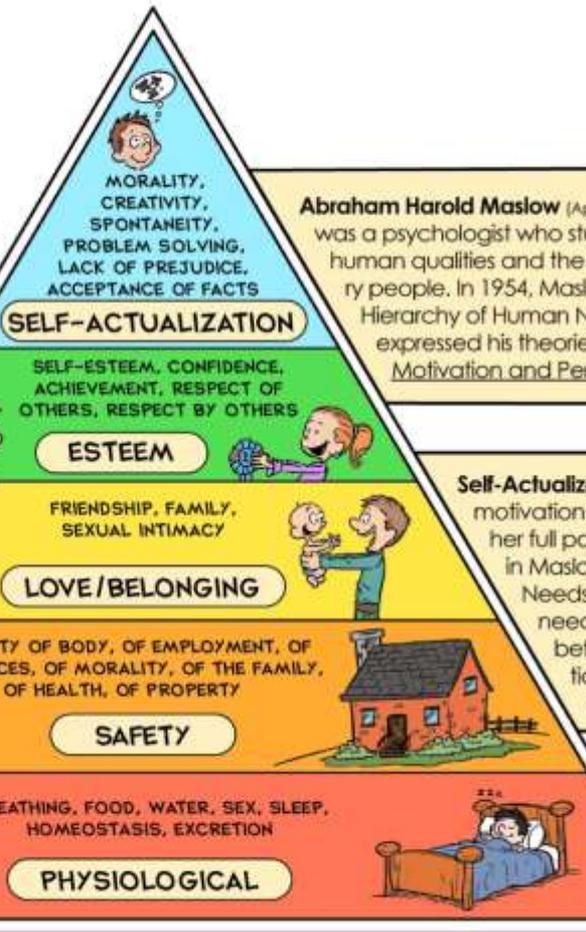
2 Psycho-Socio-Cultural Dimensions

sociological dynamics; **Bi-cultural/Multi-cultural** needs or shifts;
Governance conundrums

- History & Philosophy (Ronlyn, Nick, Franca, Kathryn et al.?)
- Hope versus gloom
- Accommodating personalities and values
- Power of growth, progress, strength, control versus negative connotations of slow, small, messy (more creative)
- Promotional boosters .
- Wilbur's 4 quadrants (individual vs community & internal vs external) – e.g. fear
- Separation of theory and praxis
- Education – Edgar Morin how we construct our world
- Squeaky wheels and lobbyists versus statistical majority view
- Governance, democracy & science – in crisis (Biophysical-Social Processes- Governance triangle; international tribalism)
- Intellectual arrogance vs democratic populism, knowing vs unknowing (denial).
Isaac Asimov: Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political & cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.
- Fake News – 'the post truth era'; science crisis of advocacy vs objective bystander
- One size fits all or 'winner takes all'
- We may have solutions but how to implement against 'enraged citizens'.
- Maslows Hierarchy of needs

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

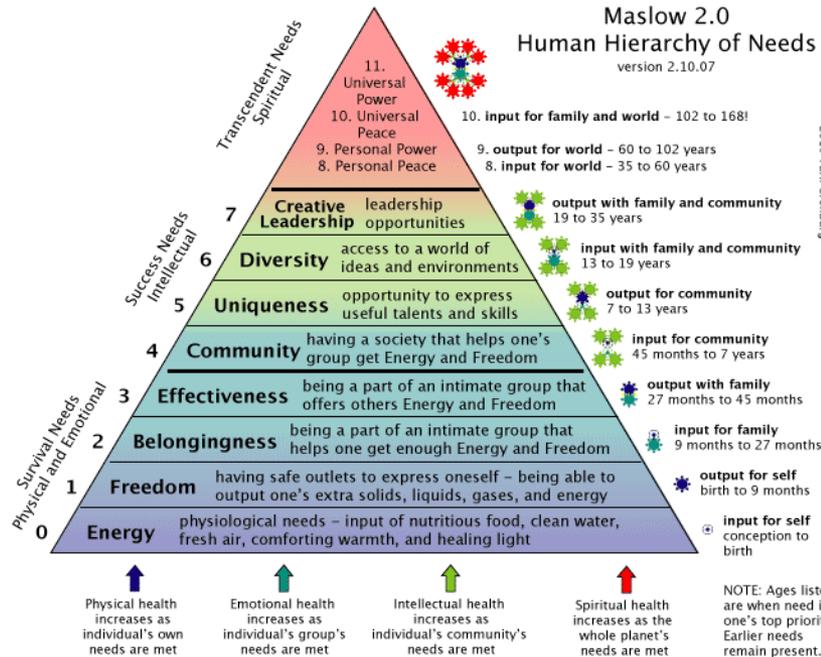
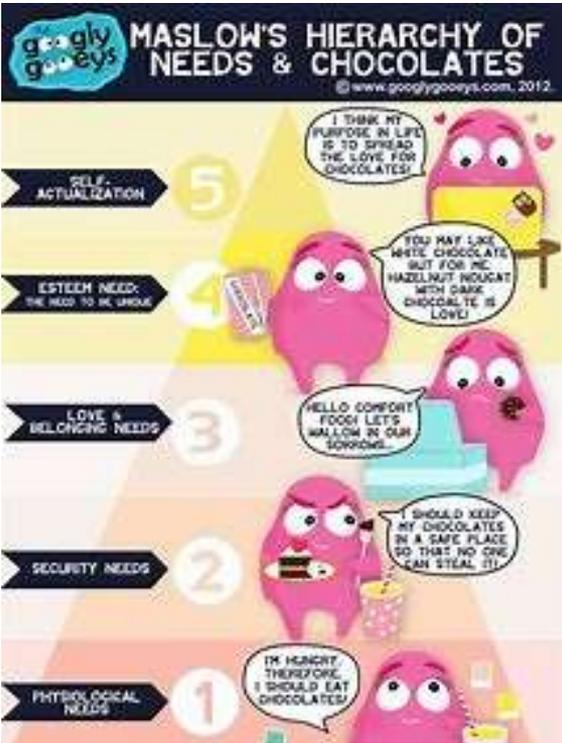
ABRAHAM MASLOW

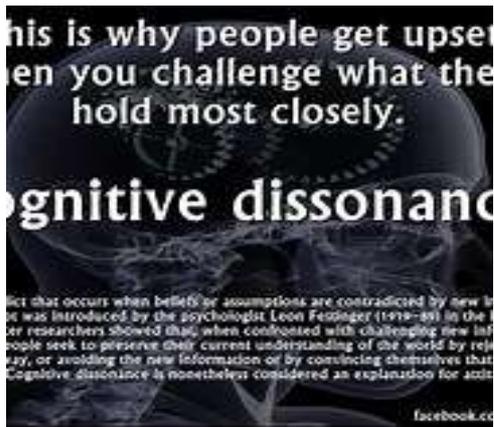


Abraham Harold Maslow (April 1, 1908 - June 8, 1970) was a psychologist who studied positive human qualities and the lives of exemplary people. In 1954, Maslow created the Hierarchy of Human Needs and expressed his theories in his book, *Motivation and Personality*.

Self-Actualization - A person's motivation to reach his or her full potential. As shown in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a person's basic needs must be met before self-actualization can be achieved.

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Henderson's 14 Components as applied to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Maslow's hierarchy of Digital Needs by Samir Konnur

Digital Nirvana

Might be by going offline or letting a bot manage digital assets

Digital Success - from content consumer to creator, from follower to being followed

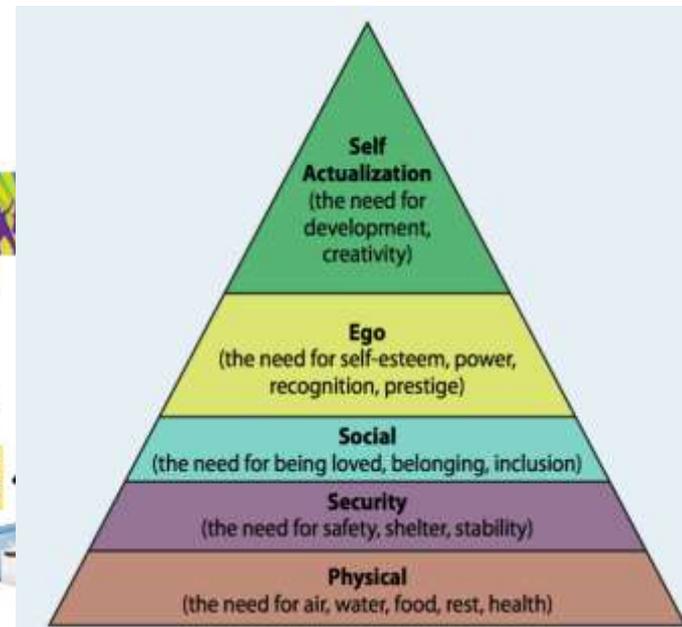
Digital Native or Immigrant alike - Life revolves around Social

Digital Adoption - Offline to Online

Digitally Enabled



Disclaimer - Maslow's hierarchy of Digital Needs, is a figment of my imagination and analysis. Its purpose is to only stimulate conversations.



HOW MUCH DOES YOUR SALARY REALLY AFFECT YOUR HAPPINESS?

The relationship between money and happiness isn't as straightforward as you might think.

Using data from the Cabinet Office's Wellbeing and Policy Report we've plotted the salary and happiness of more than 260 occupations.

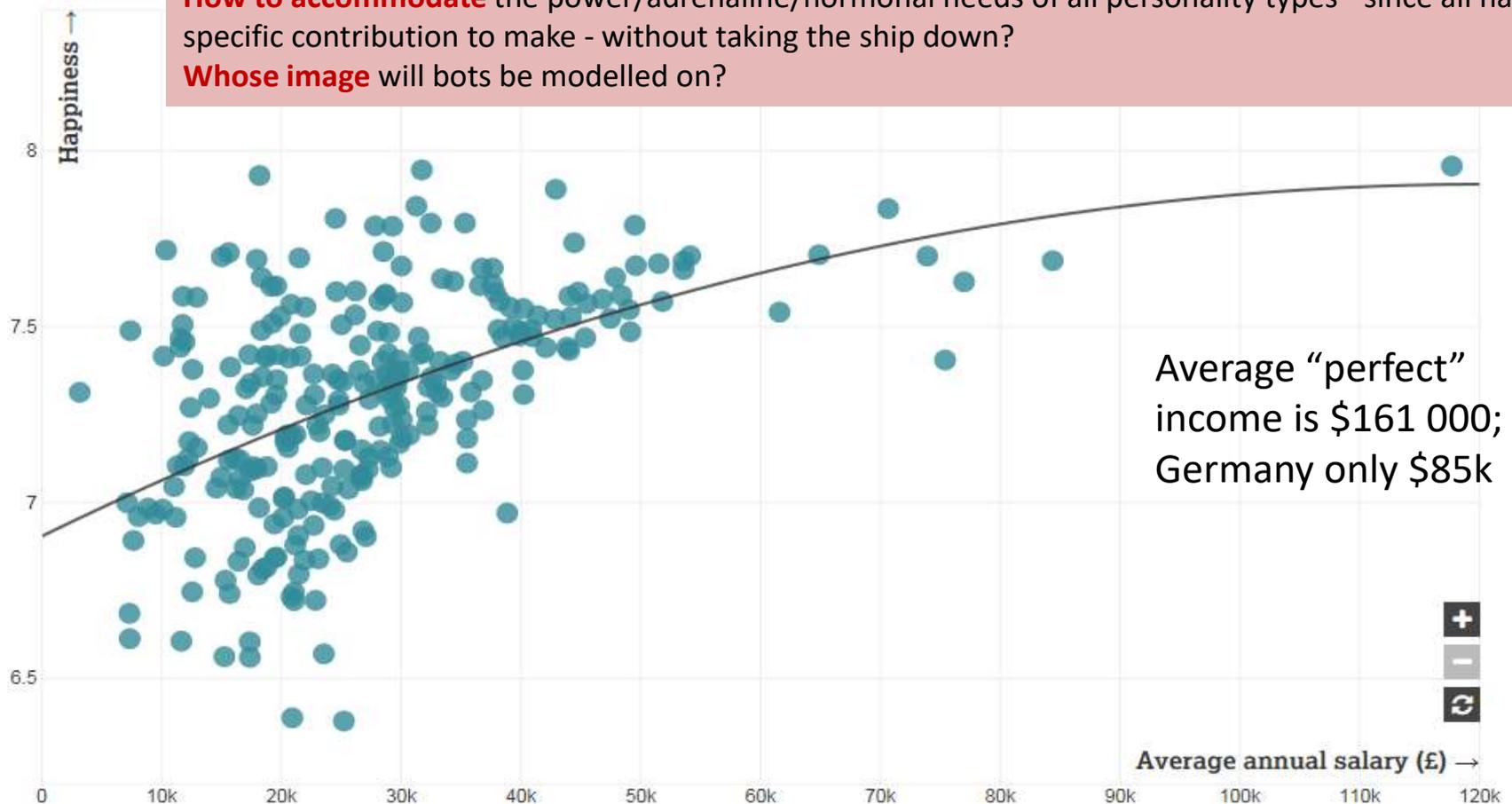
The Problem: narcissistic psychopaths end up running the world (their curve has no asymptote as power is never satiated) – appealing to 'gut-feeling', hot button issues rather than harder, reflective thinking.

How to overcome that nihilism?

Look at the way Jacinda is attacked in media!

How to accommodate the power/adrenaline/hormonal needs of all personality types - since all have a specific contribution to make - without taking the ship down?

Whose image will bots be modelled on?

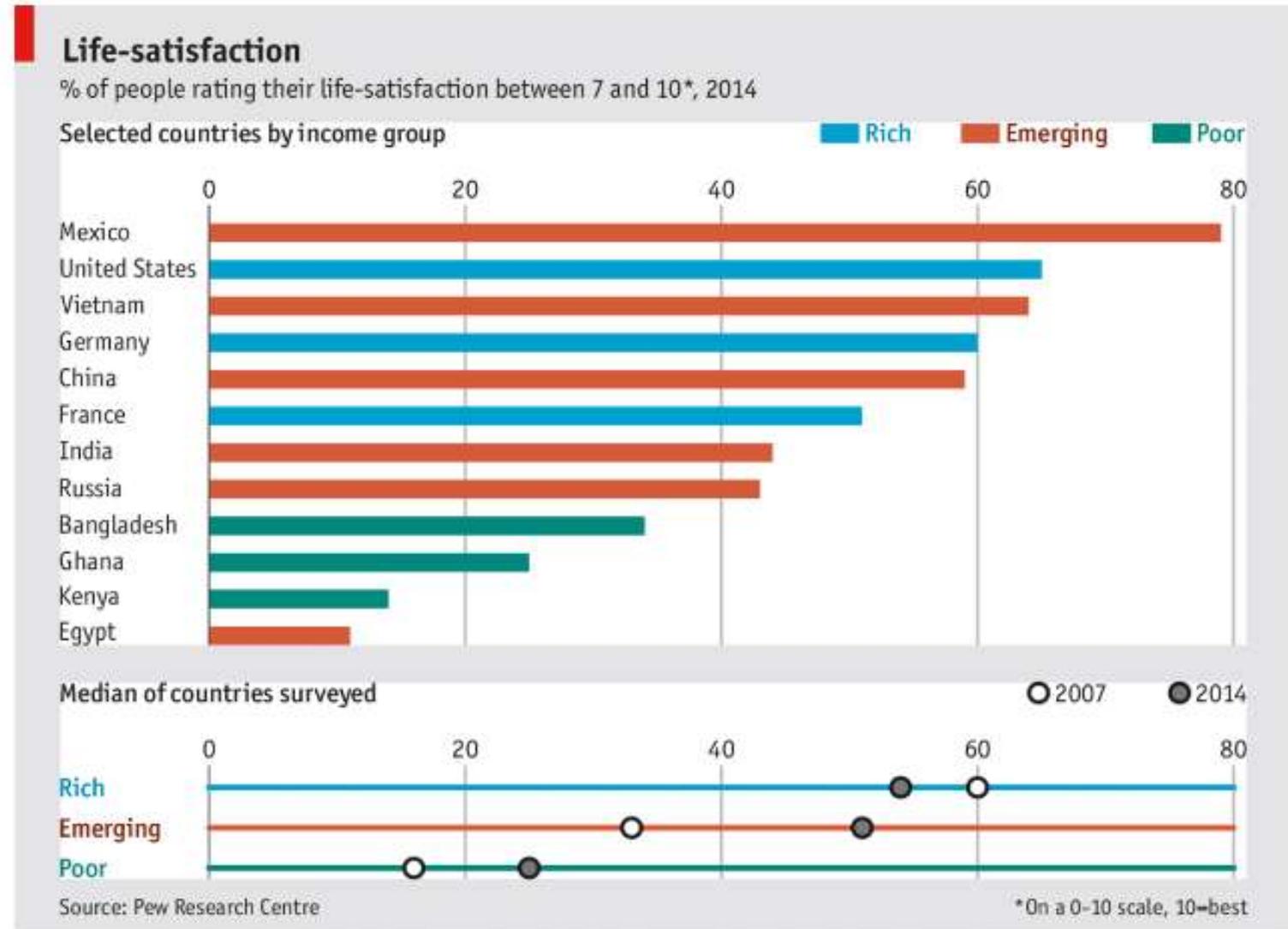




"Let me interrupt your expertise with my confidence."

Money and happiness

The link between happiness and income is fraying



- But we don't have enough to take us in the right direction. We need as our political decision-makers people who have deep insight into environmental issues, the disastrous trajectory of economic growth, threats of war, and social well-being... and a positive way forward.
- For such people to get elected, lots of **the rest of us must also have insight into environmental issues, the disastrous trajectory of economic growth, threats of war, and social well-being... and a positive way forward.** Otherwise they will not get enough support. Let's make democracy work!
- A healthy society will operate on good willed 'partnership/respect values' (caring for people, community and nature), rather than continuing with self-aggrandizing domination-control. Partnership respect values apply at every level; is not just a matter of government.

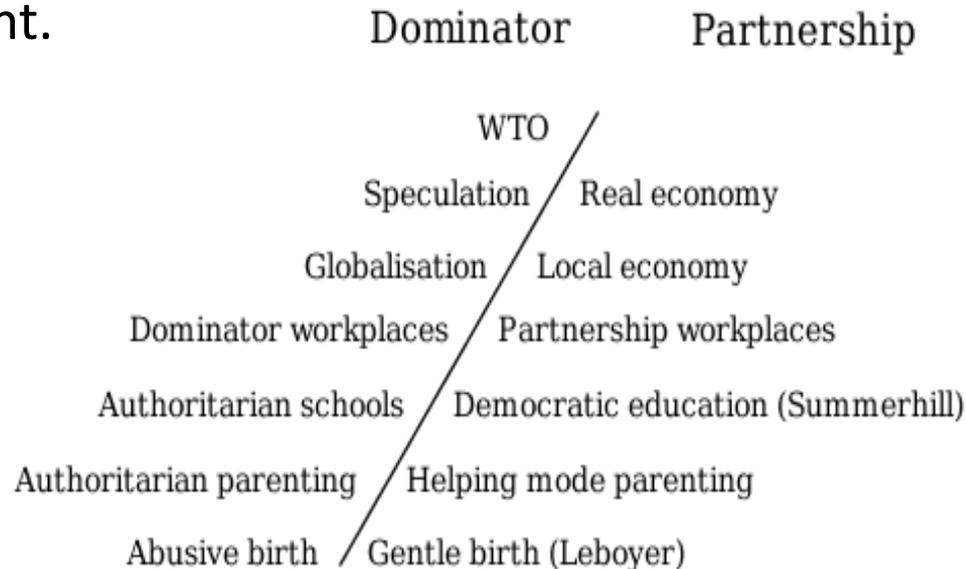
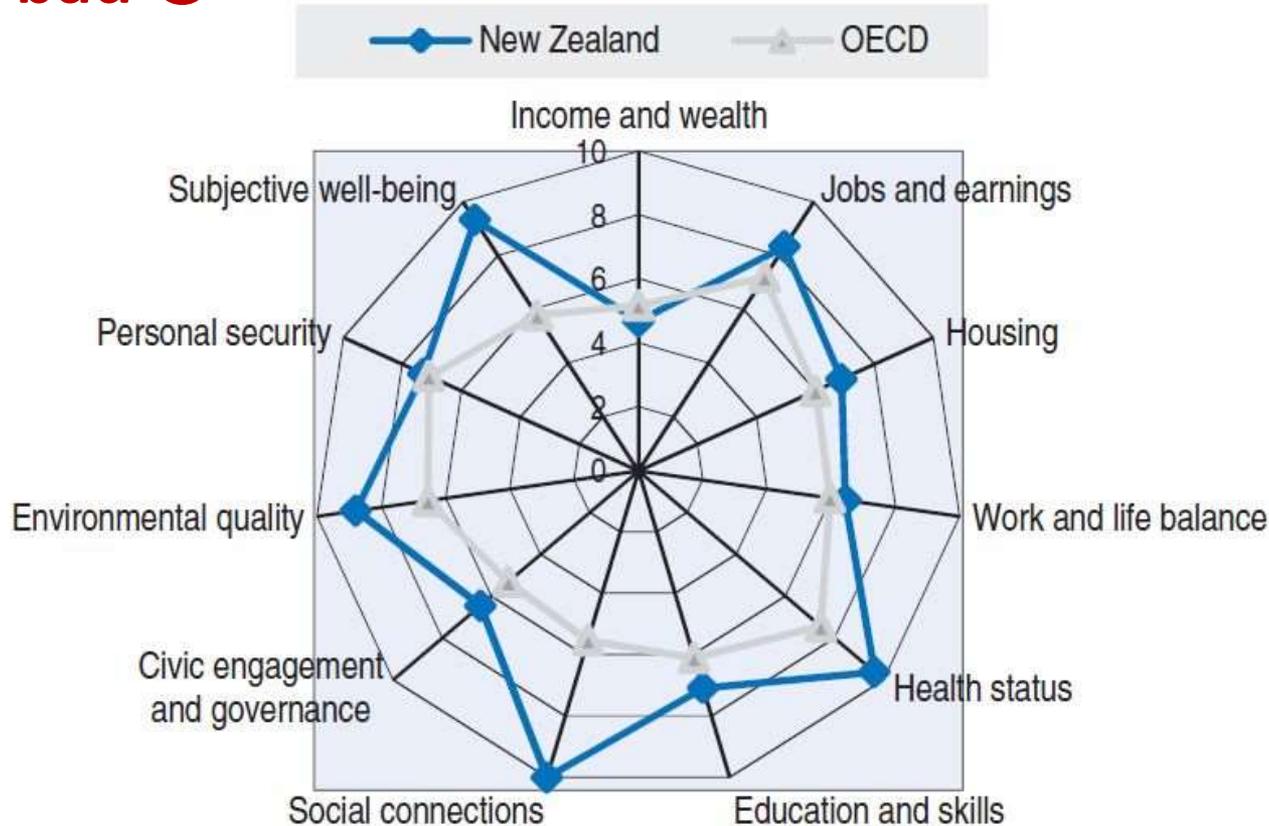


Figure 1.2. **Well-being perception is generally higher in New Zealand than in the OECD**

Not all bad 😊

Better Life Index, 2016 or latest available year



Note: The OECD Better Life Index framework is based on 11 topics considered a good measure of the concept of well-being. Each dimension is based on one to three indicators with equal weights and then normalised to range between 0 (worst performance) and 10 (best performance). The environment dimension of the well-being indicator focuses on citizens' satisfaction with local water quality and on annual population exposure to fine particulates (PM_{2.5}).

Source: OECD (2016), OECD Better Life Initiative 2016.

The universe, we are told, is winding down. Nothing escapes the remorseless grasp of the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics—and with each passing moment, our world, our solar system, indeed our entire galaxy slowly approaches its inevitable heat-death. However, this is not the full story, for while the universe is winding down, it is also winding up, bringing forth new forms from old, adding new layers of complexity where there was once only an empty vacuum—from atoms to molecules, to living cells, to multi-cellular organisms, and all the way up to the complex triune brain enjoyed by human beings. But it is not just physical matter that is evolving! Alongside the increasing complexification of the material world, evolution brings forth novelty in at least three other dimensions, particularly evident within human evolution: we see the evolution of systems, the evolution of cultural worldviews, and the evolution of consciousness itself.

Taken together, we notice a rich mosaic of evolutionary emergence, in at least four important dimensions: subjective and objective development in both individuals and collectives. This gives rise to Wilber’s famous “Four Quadrant” map, one of a handful of basic components that comprise the Integral model. The Integral approach helps to reveal some of the deepest patterns running through all human knowledge, showing the relationships that exist between physical evolution, systemic evolution, cultural evolution, and conscious evolution.



New Scientist Guide to Sloppy Thinking

16 December, 2017

- **Zero sum** – winners and losers
- **Folk knowledge** – our childish intuitions haunt us
- **Stereotyping** – we pigeonhole people
- **Sycophancy** – suckers for celebrity
- **Conservatism** – deep down status quo fans
- **Tribalism** – everyone wants to be in THE gang
- **Religion** – the god-shaped hole inside us
- **Revenge** – we want to get our own back
- **Confabulation** – we are all fantasists

Democracy Collaborative – Research Action

Research

We build knowledge and leadership for the community wealth building field with cutting-edge research.

Distinguish material & socio-spiritual wealth ?

How can policy makers and neighborhood stakeholders learn what strategies work most effectively to build wealth in their communities? How can practitioners learn about emerging best practices to rebuild local economies?

Our research at the Democracy Collaborative focuses on providing high-quality information and analysis that can be put to work in the field and on the ground. Our reports and publications are based in extensive interviews with leaders from communities across the country, offering sophisticated and pragmatic assessments of strategies for local wealth building. With a focus on measurable impacts and institutional experience, we build empirical cases for innovative approaches to community-focused economic development, highlighting the key challenges faced in this work. In particular, we are a leading research center for the growing "anchor institution" movement that looks to use the economic power of place-based nonprofits to support and sustain their surrounding communities.



Building off our extensive surveys of ongoing community wealth building efforts nationwide, we also develop recommendations to advance the state of the art, helping anchor leaders to better align institutional activity with community need, and providing policymakers and community development advocates with gamechanging approaches that stabilize neighborhoods and localize wealth.

Our research portal, community-wealth.org, provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the field, drawing together advances in community wealth building across sectors and silos. Through interviews with leaders in the field, profiles of organizations and efforts incities across the country, and our continuously updated directory of models and best practices, we provide critical research support for anyone interested in effective strategies to fight poverty and democratize wealth.

On the ground, our work alongside initiatives like the [Evergreen Cooperatives](#) (a trailblazing effort to link anchor procurement to a network of green worker cooperatives lifting low-income neighborhood residents out of deeply entrenched poverty) gives us a uniquely practical perspective: our analysis and recommendations are deeply informed by real work in communities across the country.

If you'd like to find out more about the research we do, have a question you think we can help you answer, or would like to explore the possibility of engaging the Democracy Collaborative for a research project, please contact Thomas Hanna, Director of Research, at tmhanna@democracycollaborative.org.

Landing Points & Transitions

- Landing points – what are they? “happiness” vs well-being (defined by whom?) “you will enjoy this!”
- Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
- Stepping Stones/Transitions/empowerment/hope/resources
- Soft (passive) and hard approaches (control freaks – perfectionist – micro-managers – versus not doing things!)
- Forest bathing
- Synergy of music, art & science; beauty – place-making - Jean Cocteau - *Art is Science made clear*
- Policies based on compromise (where no one is happy) versus shared values and also accommodating wide range of values.
- Carrot and stick – Bureaucratic slippage and agency capture
- Change material expectations
- Power sharing/wealth sharing
- Equity, Community & Iwi (locally, nationally & internationally)
- <http://www.earthslimits.org/resources/2014/5/24/is-a-peaceful-just-and-sustainable-future-possible> (John Peet)
- Sten Nadolny – *The Discovery of Slowness*
- Grieving process that follows depriving people of their conditioned & cherished expectations.
- Charity begins at home – get our own house in order and then can be a model.
- Governance & Democracy in crisis
- International engagement – we are not immune

**DESIRED
OUTCOMES**
**1. More secure &
sustainable food**

**Summary
Notes
from
Discussion
Groups**

Problems/Barriers	How?
Country and farmers obsessed with feed growing	Attainable goals
Much is low quality, wasted	Plant rich diet
Too many animals and many crops grown for them	Education
Overtreatment with antibiotics which we have to eat	Vegetarianism – very healthy as athletes show
Pesticides	Reduce over-consumption
Farming uses <u>huge</u> amounts of energy	Reduce waste (as in Switzerland)
Population increasing too fast	Local community and home gardens
High input agriculture – mostly animal based (dairy)	Food sharing
Advertising! Creating “needs”	Continue to encourage school gardening
Dependence on very narrow range of food species/crops	Locally grown and marketed at source
	Promote organic gardening, farming of animals
	Education of population to accept change for <u>their</u> benefit
	Shift towards greater horticultural exports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less water used - less energy used - lower C, N, etc footprints
	Not building on arable lands – high rise towns (good architecture)
	Changing standards of what is eaten (no reject)
	Diversification of commodity production / not monoculture
	Less waste leads to more security
	Companion planting encouraged – greater yield
	We have a right to have knowledge of how the food is produced
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traceability - Labelling
Disease	

DESIRED OUTCOMES

2. Greener Urban Environments

Problems/Barriers	How?
Imposed constraints Egrma	Guerrilla gardening
Centralised control of budgets	Urban farming/community gardens
No transparency in budgets or decisions	Community budgeting ? green dollars ?
High costs of some green solutions	Eco hubs – Time banks
Unclear benefits	Incredible edible (creating a fun social aspect)
Private greed	Subsidies etc. – grey water recycling, water catching, solar power
Perceptions about tidiness	Educating community of the benefits (fun short films)
Time – more time / labor intensive	Inviting people to have ownership of the local environment, park, rivers, etc.
Poverty	Eco social enterprises
Infrastructure	Community owned eco business
Planning restrictions	Bold ideas for open spaces including “eco-sanctuary” type ideas
Isolation of the people	Use our existing built infrastructure and turn it back into eco-systems, e.g. roof gardens, wall plant art features, vertical gardening
Certain companies having investment contracts that would oppose certain eco movements	Less maintenance by restoring grass areas to natural native plants
Traditionalism – people stuck in their ways	Indoor gardening
	School programs
	Urban wild
	Municipal governance (community governance?)
	More ownership on corporations/councils
	Eco dating
	Community nurseries – learn to grow natives at home

3. DESIRED OUTCOMES For 11 billion people to learn to live rewarding lives within planetary limits

Problems/Barriers	How?
We need optimism	Regulation based on responsibility and accountability at all levels
Power of corporates 1	Science
Measures used	Stories are contextualised and reality checked
Global decisions needed	Alternative measures
Food supply – Oceans	New Zealand influence on negotiators
Energy	Use institutions that we have
Individualism and Nationalism	Future earth
	Educate women, opportunity to work
	Stop compromising productivity of oceans and land
	Grow food on Trump's golf courses
	Reduce salaries not workers (CDM)

DESIRED OUTCOMES
4. A society based on the ethic of sufficiency – not consumption growth

Problems/Barriers	How?
Excessive materialism	Private sufficiency / Public luxury
	Sustainable transportation
	Bikes, busses, trains, walking, ships

Dissatisfaction with life-seeking status	Key: Loving kindness / appreciation
Envy	Altruism
Powerful lobby groups (advocating greed for upper echelons)	Progressive taxes to redistribute wealth to reduce wealth to reduce envy
Addiction-forming activities / substances	Begin young (pre-school)
Selfishness / individualism	Share
Artificial fabrics, fertilisers, substances	Common good to counteract consumption
Anti-intellectualism / fundamentalism	Natural fibres
How to get people engaged	Value humans/animals/plants/and indigenous endemic biodiversity
Education	Get experts and everyone to speak out
	Narratives made understandable by old/young XXXX – including value opinions to encourage/ good / challenge destructive
	Educate, ?Regulate?
	Multiple perspectives
	Teach people how to think about and consider the consequences of their actions

DESIRED OUTCOMES

5. Creating institutions that are more responsive to ecological change

Problems/Barriers	How?
Short sightedness	Inspire people
<u>Existing</u> small institutions/grassroots groups	Work from bottom up
	Use influence
	Personhood for natural environment / nature rights
	Persistence
	Making connections
	Using and encouraging kindness
	Building relationships/connections – <u>all</u> sorts of people
	Not assuming
	Networks
	Conversations
	Representative, collaborative decision-making (six bottom line)

DESIRED OUTCOMES

6. Enhancing individual capacity to care

Problems/Barriers	How?
We are here! Lots of us.	Foster mental health
Problem that we don't have a common belief in culture	Look at how faith communities are engaging with environment
Good thing – Multicultural so [redacted] us	Increasing our move toward education system that will increase our capacity to deal with it
Neoliberal / individualisation loss of community	Schools encouraging children to care
Gap between rich and poor/Focus on individualism	Community action and recognition and community action
Loneliness / social disconnection	Individualism
Lack of cohesive community	Peter Turchin
More paid work	Individualism war
More debt	Income gap
Less time for community	Wellbeing
How do we manage fair distribution?	Focus on maximum wage ? rather than minimum ?
	Revolution without Blood...?
	Connect, Understand, Act
	UBI
	Exchange trust community that cares
	Community Development
	Great Urban design
	Ego centric
	Altruistic
	Ecocentric
	Inspire others
	Work with integrity
	Model care

Centre of joined-up learning, awareness,
creativity, innovation, community,
sharing, beauty, peace, caring, harmony,

Some thoughts on
CHCH as a brains trust
& beacon of inclusive
enlightenment

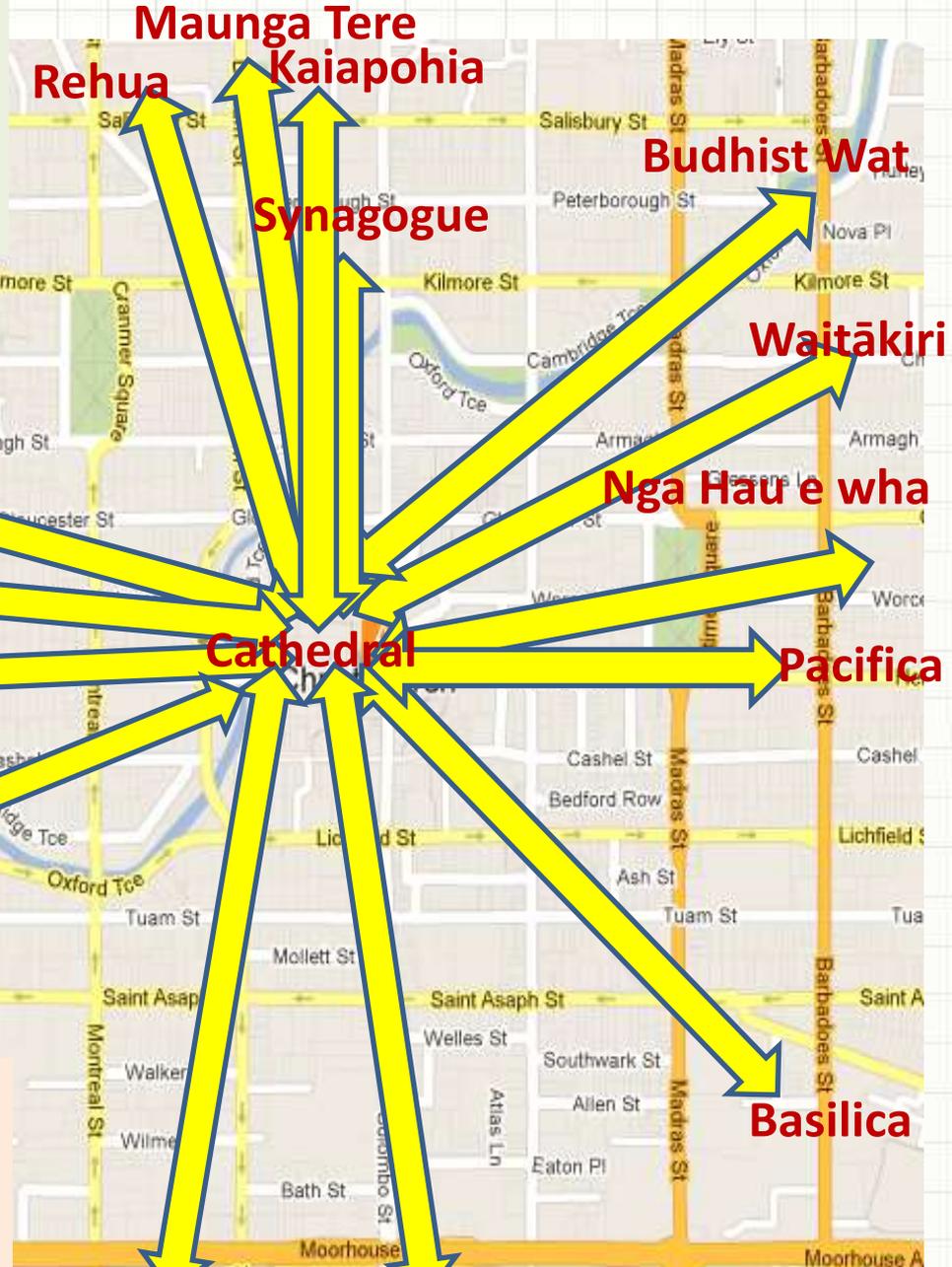
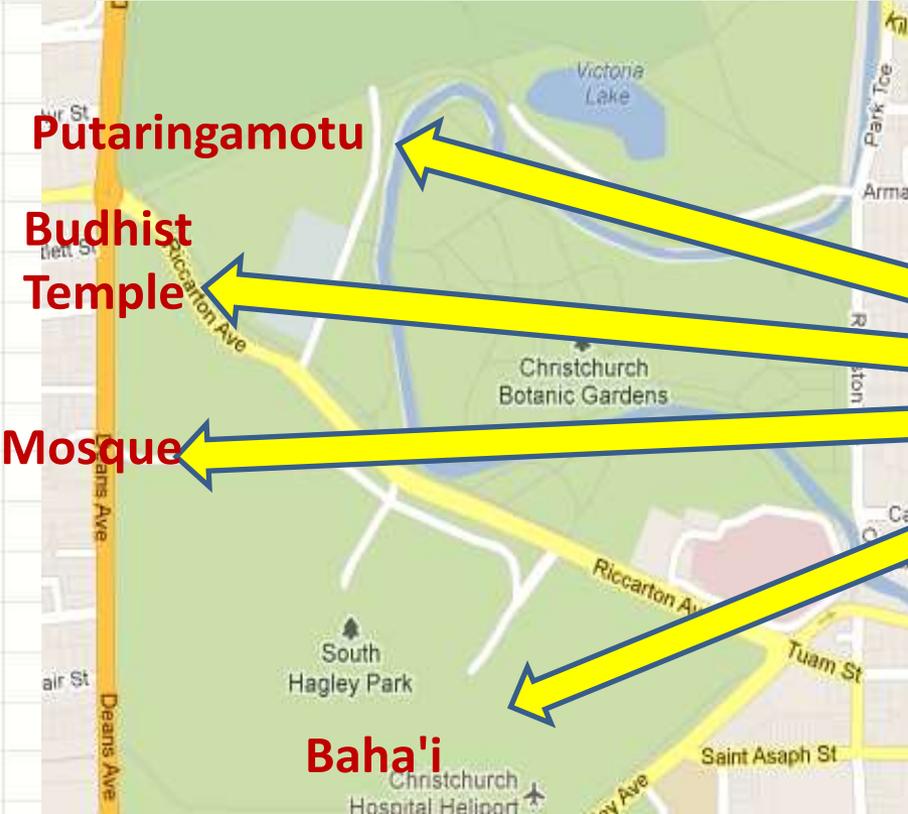
Logic Models

Getting started

This is a stepping stone –
where's the next one?



All faiths, cultures & taonga
– symbol of unity & community
... a city ... a beacon



Pathways/Sight Lines of Light
view from tower/steeple plane table
Linked to CHCH Integrated Centre of
Holistic Peace Studies & enlightenment

**Te Poho-o-Tamatea-Te Pohue
Rapaki ...**

**Less Stress - More Serenity !
water, exercise & forest-bathing**

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/356841/native-bush-keeps-asthma-at-bay-study>

**Less Bland, Less Stuff - More Beauty
& Well-being!
More Haste, Less Speed!
More Meaning, History, Legibility &
Literacy**



Looming Crises – From The Great Transition Initiative

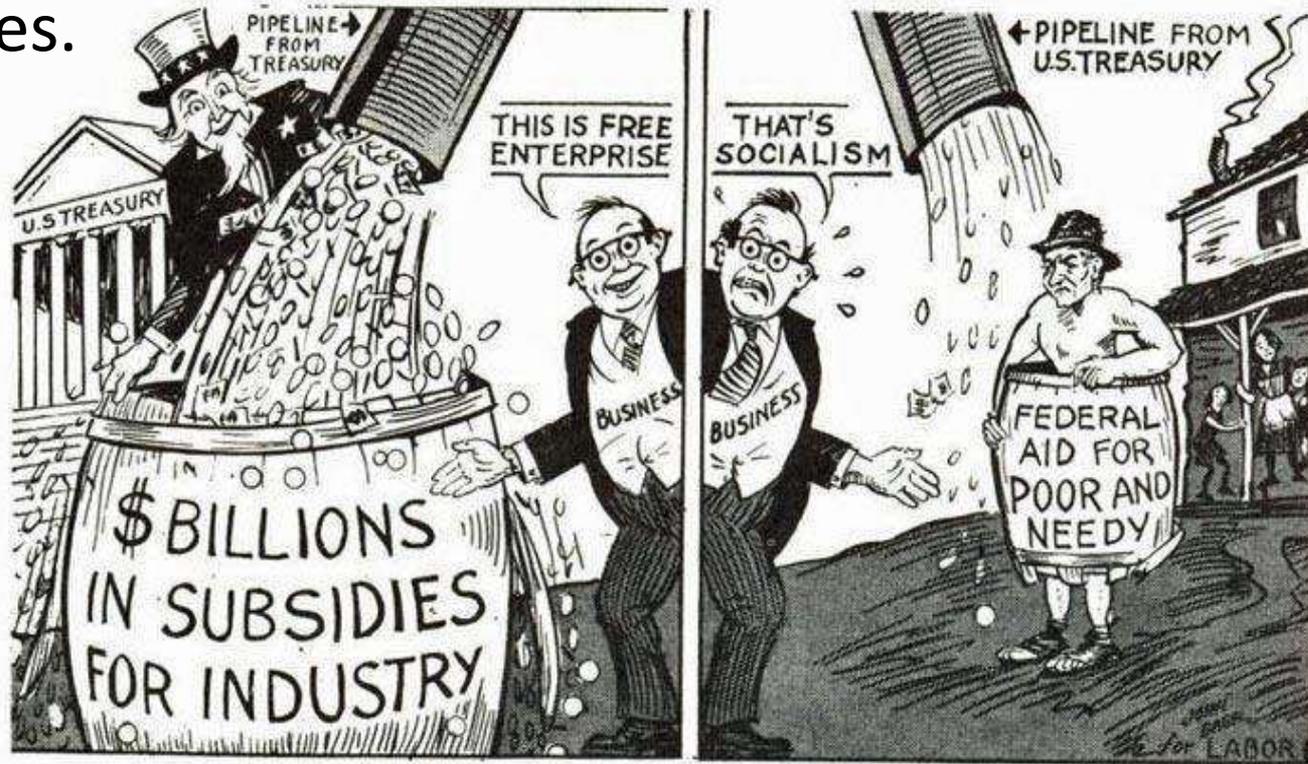
**Relating mainly to global conflicts &
domestic governance**

Corporate control of governments & the media

Corporations have massive influence on governments



This diagram is focused on the US, but in Australia big businesses, such as coal mining, also get massive subsidies.



Corporations with support of the Australian government are trying to get a new TransPacific Partnership trade agreement. It will allow **corporations to sue governments** if governments change laws to protect the environment – or social well-being – in ways that cause the corporations to **lose anticipated profits**.

Global militarization & the threat of nuclear war

One nuclear bomb can ruin your whole day!

- America, Russia, China, India, Pakistan and now North Korea have nuclear missiles at the ready. One mistake in judgment or reality and they would be launched.
- An all-out nuclear attack and counterattack would not only exterminate millions of people, it would create a 'nuclear winter' with clouds blocking sunlight from reaching the Earth several years. All crops would fail ...
- America and Australia have **refused to ratify** the recent proposed *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. Why not?

America spends about 54% of its discretionary budget on the military – about \$600 billion. They destroy other governments that do not support America's commercial or ideological interests. Australia is America's ally, even when America does terrible things.

Ringed Russia and China with American bases

- The United States has placed bases around the borders of both Russia and China. This is threatening to them. Missiles from US bases within Poland can hit Moscow within 13 minutes.
- The US has bases in Australia.



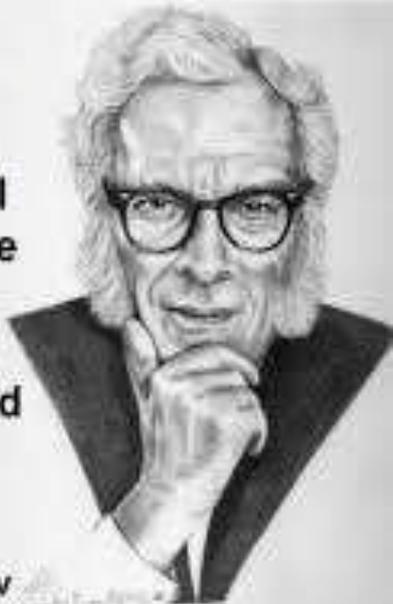
Democracy should be about **community self-regulation for community well-being!** Read Liz

Elliott's *a New Way Now* for a clear vision
Citizen ignorance !

- Healthy democracy is about **community self-regulation for community well-being.** For it to work we need
 - Thoughtful informed citizens
 - Who have a vision for healthy future and how to get there
 - And who are willing to work for it.

Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'

Isaac Asimov



There *are* good politicians ?