Recalibrating Our Moral Compasses

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A. Introduction

In times when people are trying to resolve multiple crises, it will be most helpful to make ongoing evaluations of education systems, to see if they are serving communities as well as they can. It will also be most helpful if a majority of the residents in a particular community or region understand how many different ways education occurs in our complex world—as once this is understood, efforts can be made to make better use of such pathways.

Here this writer suggests that another essential step in evaluating education systems is for as many of us as possible to evaluate our own personal moral compasses, to see if our most basic understandings about who we are, and the essential elements of what we would call a "good life", are giving us "good readings" about what to do, and how to do it—in response to the many challenges in our cultural landscapes.

Here is one definition of education, from the Catholic Encyclopedia (online), which is helpful on the subject of moral compasses in general:

"The meaning of life, therefore, of its purposes and values as understood by the educator, primarily determines the nature of his work. Education aims at an ideal, and this in turn depends on the view that is taken of (human beings) and (their) destiny, of (their) relations to God, to (their) fellowmen, and to the physical world. The content of education is furnished by the previous acquisition of humankind in literature, art, and science, in moral, social, and religious principles. The inheritance, however, contains elements that differ greatly in value, both as mental possessions and as means of culture; hence a selection is necessary, and this must be guided largely by the educational ideal."[1]

While this post is in some ways going to be a collection of notes and statistics, there are three specific goals which this writer believes can be accomplished here:

1) promoting discussion on the subject of "Recalibrating Our Moral Compasses"
2) offering a more in-depth assessment of the challenges of our times, to supplement the ongoing "IPCR Outreach 2011" effort (the content of which is accessible at the bottom of the IPCR Initiative homepage, at www.ipcri.net)
3) providing a kind of "wake-up call" to readers who may be thinking that the difficult challenges ahead are something that the experts will resolve while the rest of us are doing something else….

Everyone is involved when it comes to determining the markets that supply the "ways of earning a living"; and given the unprecedented nature of the challenges ahead, all of us have important responsibilities in the coming months and years ahead. And one of those responsibilities is surely to re-evaluate our own personal moral compasses to make sure that the cardinal directions on them are still relevant to the landscape of challenges ahead.

The two remaining sections of this post are 1) "Definitions and Premises" and 2) "Statistics and Observations". The first section "Definitions and Premises" provides a kind of "sample touchstone" for re-evaluating moral compasses (with two questions at the end of the section included as a way of "testing" the validity of the definitions and premises being used). Most of the definitions are general observations which are offered as reminders of basic assumptions about education. The section may be summarized by the following commentary by this writer: "education provides a means for cultural values to be incorporated into the moral compasses of people of all ages, so that they can learn—or re-learn—how to be responsible citizens". The second section "Statistics and Observations" provides examples of the sources of information this writer is using to make his risk assessments relating to the challenges of our times. Some of the statistics and observations in this section have caused this writer to make significant recalibrations to his moral compass.

As an exercise to make this post most useful, this writer asks readers to consider the "Definitions and Premises" (or substitute their own definitions and premises in that section); and then consider whether the "Statistics and Observations" confirm that they are getting "good readings" from their moral compass… i.e. that their moral compass is telling them something, and the challenges they see in the cultural landscape in front of them can be overcome by relying on their moral compass, just as it is calibrated.

What this writer would like to know from readers—in posted comments—is

Do readers feel that their moral compass is calibrated to give them "good readings"? If so, what are the "Definitions and Premises" which are the cardinal points on their moral compass? If not, what changes do they think they will need to make in their "Definitions and Premises" to re-calibrate their moral compass? [Note: This writer also accepts that readers may not agree that all the statistics and observations offered are reliable or authoritative enough to be considered a good test of a moral compasses "calibration". If this is the case for more than just a few of the statistics and observations, then this writer calls upon readers who are willing to provide a similar set of definitions, premises, statistics, and observations (or a similar set of statistics and observations)—to create a comparison for readers to sample and evaluate.]

B. Definitions and Premises

Cultural Frameworks—Defining what is Valuable and Important

As young children grow into adults, the everyday circumstances of community life and cultural traditions provide "frameworks" by which they "understand their experiences and make judgments about what is valuable and important". These "frameworks" shape the way people come into contact with each other, and the way they interpret facts, issues, and events—and provide the context by which people decide what are appropriate responses to the circumstances of their lives. These "frameworks" are often the source of a person's thoughts about who they are, how they feel about themselves, how they evaluate other peoples "frameworks", and how other people might evaluate their "framework".[2]

Education—Selecting the Best for Its Use

"… it is the business of the school environment to eliminate, so far as possible, the unworthy features of the existing environment from influence on mental habitudes…. Every society gets encumbered with what is trivial, with dead wood from the past, and with what is positively perverse. The school has the duty of omitting such things from the environment which it supplies, and thereby doing what it can to counteract their influence in the ordinary social environment. By selecting the best for its exclusive use, it strives to reinforce the power of the best. As a society becomes more enlightened, it realizes that it is responsible not to transmit and conserve the whole of its existing achievements, but only such as to make for a better future society. The school is its chief agency for the accomplishment of this end."[3]

Education Aims at an Ideal

"The meaning of life, therefore, of its purposes and values as understood by the educator, primarily determines the nature of his work. Education aims at an ideal, and this in turn depends on the view that is taken of (human beings) and (their) destiny, of (their) relations to God, to (their) fellowmen, and to the physical world. The content of education is furnished by the previous acquisition of humankind in literature, art, and science, in moral, social, and religious principles. The inheritance, however, contains elements that differ greatly in value, both as mental possessions and as means of culture; hence a selection is necessary, and this must be guided largely by the educational ideal."[1]

Teachers as Transmitters

"We want our teachers to be value-oriented because we want them to be rightly equipped as vehicles of values for the benefit of our children and youth. By his/her very nature, the teacher is a transmitter, a messenger, a carrier. Our determination of what he has to transmit will depend on what we determine to be valuable for our children and youth. Every society has a value system of some kind. Indian society is rich in it. But what is the use of such a bank balance of values if it is not useful in solving our current social problems?"[4]

The Structures of the Good Life

"… there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can becomes useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved…."[5]

Work

"Work absorbs most of our waking hours, and many of the problems connected with work and our dealings with our fellow man are what determine the nature of our life. Therefore, it behooves us to sit up and take note of what our work makes of us…."[6a]

"The function of work should be to practice our ideal of life."[6b]

Economy

The ways we exchange goods and services; the nature of the goods and services; the related consequences of our actions on agreed upon definitions of the good life; and the related consequences of our actions on the ecological, social, and cultural resources needed to sustain agreed upon definitions of the good life for a significant majority of the world population

Peace

This writer believes that it is possible for there to be a sympathetic resonance between the example of leaders—serving society by defining, supporting, and sustaining virtue; the personal cultivation of virtue throughout society; the ecological stability and sustainability of natural resources; and the current of Divine Grace. And—that it is possible for people to achieve highly advanced forms of wisdom and compassion through genuine instruction and sincere effort.

Two Questions—for "testing" the validity of the definitions and premises

1. Identifying Experienced Practitioners, Stakeholders, and People Needing Assistance

Consider carefully the references to various challenges in the section "Statistics and Observations" (below). (Note: For this question, readers may wish to construct their own list of the most difficult challenges of our times—but it is not necessary to do that to understand the point of the question.)

a) Who are the Experienced Practitioners, who are most qualified to be educating people on how to successfully overcome each of the challenges identified?

(**Special Notes**: Please be specific, as in times of emergency, it will be most important for leaders to understand which people are perceived as most qualified by the majority of the residents in a particular community. Also, please be straightforward and honest: if you do not know who would be most qualified to respond, please respond accordingly.)

b) Who are the Stakeholders (the people who will be affected by the education provided and guidance given by the Experienced Practitioners)?

c) Who are the People Needing Assistance (the people who do not know how to respond to the challenges you identified)?

2. Arriving at Working Definitions of "Right Livelihood"

Consider what ways of earning a living you would identify as "right livelihood."

Now imagine a local community resource guide relating to employment, apprenticeships, training, and volunteer opportunities associated with "right livelihood."

And further: imagine a committee commissioned to produce such a "right livelihood" resource guide…. And the individuals who make up the committee commissioned to produce such a resource guide….

a) What background (qualifications, experiences, etc.) would you like such individuals to have?

b) What local institutions would you consider most appropriate to commission such a resource guide, and oversee its production?

C. Statistics and Observations

> One of the most persistent ironies in life is that with so many opportunities to provide real assistance to fellow human beings—and with the potential for such assistance to result in happiness "to those who extend help as well as to those who receive it"—there are still many, many people in this world who cannot find a "way to earn a living" providing such assistance.
>
> "Were I to have the least bit of knowledge, in walking on a Great Road,
> it's only going astray that I would fear.
> The Great Way is very level;
> but people greatly delight in tortuous paths."[7]

This section provides an overview of some of the most difficult challenges of our times. Some of the challenges are at the very core of the difficulty of being human beings, and are challenges which people have faced since the beginning of time. Some of the challenges are circumstantial: during times when there is much prosperity many people may not recognize these fields of activity as problematic… and yet, such activities may contribute much to the persistent irony mentioned above. And some of the challenges may be considered the result of a kind of spiritual sickness: people with clear opportunities for walking on a Great Road are instead "greatly delighting in tortuous paths".

As a reminder (from the introduction): As an exercise to make this post most useful, this writer asks readers to consider the "Definitions and Premises" (or substitute their own in that section); and then consider whether the "Statistics and Observations" confirm that they are getting "good readings" from their moral compass… i.e. that their moral compass is telling them something, and the challenges they see in the cultural landscape in front of them can be overcome by relying on their moral compass, just as it is calibrated.

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1. Peak Oil

a) From the "Hirsch Report" ["The Peaking of World Oil Production: Impacts, Mitigation and Risk Management"—Project Leader: Robert L. Hirsch (SAIC) Commissioned by the Department of Energy, and dated February, 2005] [Accessible at the website of Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)(USA) at www.bartlett.house.gov/EnergyUpdates/] (see http://www.bartlett.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hirschreport.pdf) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

(in "Summary and Concluding Remarks")

"Over the past century the development of the U.S. economy and lifestyle has been fundamentally shaped by the availability of abundant, low-cost oil. Oil scarcity and several-fold oil price increases due to world oil production peaking could have dramatic impacts." (see Point #2: "Oil Peaking Could Cost the U.S. Economy Dearly", p. 64)

"The world has never faced a problem like this. Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary." (see Point #3: "Oil Peaking Presents a Unique Challenge", p. 64)

(in "Executive Summary")

"The peaking of world oil production presents the U.S. and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem. As peaking is approached, liquid fuel prices and price volatility will increase dramatically, and, without timely mitigation, the economic, social, and political costs will be unprecedented." (see paragraph 1, p. 4)

"The challenge of oil peaking deserves immediate, serious attention, if risks are to be fully understood and mitigation begun on a timely basis." (see point #2, p. 5)

b) From Dr. Fatih Birol (Chief Economist, International Energy Agency) Interview with Astrid Schneider (Internationale Politik) Posted at www.relocalize.net "News Postings" section on May 3, 2008 (accessible at http://old.relocalize.net/fatih_birol_interview_leave_oil_before_it_leaves_us (confirmed April 3, 2011)

(Excerpt)

"Schneider: If I understand you correctly, you say that the demand for oil could rise 3 % globally every year, while we have to expect a decrease of 4 % in oil production in the time from now until 2015. That would be 7 % each year which are missing.

Birol: The demand might increase a little slower. But there could be a large gap between what should be there and what actually will be there, especially if we do not put massive efforts into improving the efficiency of cars or change to other transportation systems. If we don't take measures on the consumer side, the consumption will continue to grow. And if we have not invested enough into oil production, we will flounder.

Schneider: But when you think of the life cycle of goods, of the long investment cycles of machines, power stations or air conditioning systems: do you think an adjustment of the consumer side to a lower supply path could be done that fast?

Birol: No, but I don't think that prices will go up that rapidly. We can see a gradual incline and that will give the people some time to adapt. But on the long run it has to be clear: if oil will be gone by 2030, or in 2040 or 2050 does not change much.

Schneider: You really say that?

Birol: Yes, one day it will definitely end. And I think we should leave oil before it leaves us. That should be our motto. So we should prepare for that day - through research and development on alternatives to oil, on which living standards we want to keep and what alternative ways we can find."

c) From Interview with Sadad al Husseini—"The Facts Are There" by Dave Bowden and Steve Andrews (Note: Sadad al-Huseini was the former head of exploration and production at Saudi Aramco) (Archived at the Energy Bulletin website September 28, 2009; see http://energybulletin.net/node/50234) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

(Excerpt)

"Question: Assume for the moment that declines in demand have flattened and that we resume modest growth in demand in a year or so. Are there adequate new oil projects in the pipeline to meet rising demand for a few more years?

Sadad: I've been tracking the number of projects, globally, for a long time both in the Middle East and elsewhere—Russia, Brazil, west coast of Africa, and others. A lot of this information is in the public domain, so there is no mystery there. The International Energy Agency recently reported on the same numbers. The bottom line is that there are not enough projects. There is not enough new capacity coming on line, within say the next five to six years, to make up for global declines. And that's assuming a very moderate level of declines—6% to 6.5% for non-OPEC, perhaps a 3.5% to 4% decline rate for OPEC.
Even at these modest decline rates, we are basically going to see a shortage of capacity within two to three years. We're being lulled by this current excess capacity, which has more to do with lower demand than anything to do with supply. So we do have a problem in the near term. In the longer term it's even worse because in the longer term the lead time to discover, develop and put on line production runs into 10 years. And there isn't enough being done in the long term as well. So it's both a short and a long-term problem….

Question: Why do you think there is so much denial that world oil production is approaching or has reached a plateau?

Sadad: There is a push-back to the notion that there is a plateau in world oil supplies which is largely based on lack of information or lack of research. In fact, if you look at published information—for example, British Petroleum's annual statistical report—it very clearly shows that from 2003 forward, oil production has hardly increased. So the information is there. If you look at some of the advertising that Chevron has been putting out for years now, they clearly say we're half-way through the world's reserves. The information is there. The facts are there. Oil prices did not jump four-fold over a three- or four-year period for any reason other than a shortage of supply. Yes, there may have been some recent volatility in 2008, but the price trend started climbing way back in 2002-2003. So, these are realities and the push-back is a sense that somehow the market is not able to deal with these realities, that somehow people can't cope with these realities.
On the other hand, if you don't talk about them, you never will fix the situation. This is not going to get any better. This is going to get worse because you have population growth all over the world, you have a standard of living that is improving all over the world, you have aspirations across the globe for a better quality of life, and people want energy, so it's actually important to talk about the facts and come up with solutions rather than act as if these issues don't exist and then wait for some solution to materialize out of nowhere. That's a role of government—to highlight these issues and to fix them, or at least take a stand and try to fix them. So I think the push-back is probably ill-advised."

d) From “Reflections from Colin Campbell on Peak Oil and ASPO” by Dave Bowden (On September 23, Dave Bowden video-taped Colin Campbell at his home on the southwestern coast of Ireland. Excerpts of that interview are attached below) (Note: Above referenced excerpts were archived at the Energy Bulletin website on October 19, 2009; see http://www.energybulletin.net/node/50427) (confirmed April 3, 2011) [Note: “**Colin J. Campbell**, Ph.D. Oxford, (born in Berlin, Germany in 1931) is a retired British petroleum geologist who predicted that oil production would peak by 2007. The consequences of this are uncertain but drastic, due to the world's dependence on fossil fuels for the vast majority of its energy. His theories have received wide attention but are disputed by some in the oil industry and have not significantly changed governmental energy policies at this time…. Influential papers by Campbell include *The Coming Oil Crisis*, written with Jean Laherrère in 1998 and credited with convincing the International Energy Agency of the coming peak; and The End of Cheap Oil, published the same year in Scientific American…. The Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas, founded by Campbell in 2000, has been gaining recognition in the recent years. The Association has organized yearly international conferences since 2002. The most recent was in Denver, Colorado on 11-13 October 2009.” (From Wikipedia entry for Colin J. Campbell; at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Campbell_(geologist)) (confirmed April 3,2011)

(Excerpt)

“Question: What about the notion of making America energy independent?

Campbell: It can’t be done voluntarily. To make America energy-independent is not something I think any government can achieve. But within 50 years that’s what nature will deliver. Countries will have to be energy independent. They have no alternative. Some may get there quicker than others, but it’s not something some government will say, well this is our plan of action. It will delivered to them by the force of nature. So America will indeed be energy independent and probably quite soon if these imports dry out. What that means and how they react to such a situation is another day’s work.”

e) Less and less availability of cheap oil will directly impact much more of the infrastructure of modern industrial society than most of us can easily imagine. (For some examples, see “The Oil Crash and You” by Bruce Thomson at www.oilcrash.com/roe.htm (confirmed April 3, 2011) Note: Bruce Thomson is a technical writer in New Zealand, and moderator of the RunningonEmpty2 Internet Discussion Forum, which assisted in creating the document.)

f) As to the adaptions we—collectively—must make to live in much less energy intensive human settlements in the future, here (below) is one summary statements which may be a helpful indicator of steps towards sustainable human settlements:

From an article titled “The Green New Deal” by Richard Heinberg, published on the website of Energy Bulletin on October 20, 2008 (at http://energybulletin.net/node/46934) (see paragraph 3) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“Peak Oil and Climate Change present threats and imperatives of a scale unprecedented in human history. By taking up these imperatives through a de-carbonized retrofit of the nation’s (and ultimately the world’s) transport, food, and manufacturing systems, policy makers can address a number of crises simultaneously—environmental decline, resource depletion, geopolitical competition for control of energy, unemployment, balance of trade deficits, malnutrition and food related health problems, and more.”

g) It is possible to have high quality of life while using much less resources (this writer)

This writer understands peak oil in the following sense: the increasing awareness that the era of "cheap oil" is over is one element among many (including global warming, widespread resource depletion, ecological footprint analysis, etc.) which are pointing to the need for much less energy intensive human settlements in the future. As high level investment portfolios shift in response to these indicators, the likelihood that the vast sums of investment necessary to produce "very costly oil"—and the likelihood that there will be customers willing to pay a high price to use it—will very likely diminish, and continue to diminish, *as more and more people discover that it is possible to have high quality of life while using much less resources*. Thus, while there may yet be more oil on this planet than we have used thus far, it is becoming more and more likely that we have arrived at a "peak" in terms of how much oil we—collectively—will use in one year.

2. Global Warming

a) From TimesOnline article "Global warming must stay below 2C or world faces ruin, scientists declare" on May 28, 2009 (see http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article6380709.ece) (confirmed April 3,2011) [references document "The St James Palace Memorandum" from Symposium "Action for a Low Carbon and Equitable Future" London, UK, 26 – 28 May 2009) (for that document, see http://extras.timesonline.co.uk/pdfs/sjp_memorandum_290509.pdf) (confirmed April 3, 2011)]

(Excerpts from the news article at TimesOnline) (see paragraphs 1-4)

"World carbon emissions must start to decline in only six years if humanity is to stand a chance of preventing dangerous global warming, a group of 20 Nobel prize-winning scientists, economists and writers declared today.

"The United Nations climate summit in Copenhagen in December must agree to halve greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 to stop temperatures from increasing by more than 2C (3.6F), the St James's Palace Nobel Laureate Symposium concluded.

"While even a 2C temperature rise will have adverse consequences, a bigger increase would create 'unmanageable climate risks', according to the St James's Palace memorandum, signed today by 20 Nobel laureates in physics, chemistry, economics, peace and literature.

"The temperature target "can only be achieved with a peak of global emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2015", the document said. If emissions continue to rise after that date, the required cuts would become unachievable."

(Excerpts from the actual "St. James Palace Memorandum") (see paragraphs 1, 4—and last paragraph)

"The robust scientific process, by which this evidence has been gathered, should be used as a clear mandate to accelerate the actions that need to be taken. Political leaders cannot possibly ask for a more robust, evidence-based call for action."

"Leadership is primarily required from developed countries, acknowledging their historical responsibility as well as their financial and technological capacity. However, all countries will need to implement low carbon development strategies. *In this spirit of trust, every country must act on the firm assumption that all others will also act."*

"All scientists should be urged to contribute to raising levels of public knowledge on these threats to civilization and engage in a massive education effort to popularize the principles in this Memorandum."

b) From the "UN Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World" Director and Lead Author: Kevin Watkins Published for the United Nations Development Program Released November 27, 2007 In "Summary" of Complete Report (see http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_20072008_Summary_English.pdf) On p. 19, in section "Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change: Strategies for Mitigation" paragraph 1 (confirmed April 3,2011)

"Avoiding the unprecedented threats posed by dangerous climate change will require an unparalleled collective exercise in international cooperation."

c) From Lester Brown's "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization" Published by Earth Policy Institute 2008 (See http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm for free download of whole book, or parts) From "Introduction", in section "Plan B—A Plan of Hope" p. 20, paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 (see http://www.earth-policy.org/books/pb3/PB3ch1_ss7 (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"Plan B is shaped by what is needed to save civilization, not by what may currently be considered politically feasible. Plan B does not fit within a particular discipline, sector, or set of assumptions. Implementing Plan B means undertaking several actions simultaneously, including eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, and restoring the earth's natural systems. It also involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80% by 2020, largely through a mobilization to raise energy efficiency and harness renewable sources of energy. Not only is the scale of this save our-civilization plan ambitious, so is the speed with which it must be implemented. We must move at wartime speed, restructuring the world energy economy at a pace reminiscent of the restructuring of the U.S. industrial economy in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pear Harbor. The shift from producing cars to planes, tanks, and guns was accomplished within a matter of months."

d) From the "About Focus the Nation" section of the "Focus the Nation" website (see http://www.focusthenation.org/about) (confirmed October 20, 2009—no longer accessible on the Internet, per search on April 3, 2011)

"Our 2008 Civic Engagement campaign organized 1900 climate change teach-ins on college campuses on Jan. 31, 2008, engaging 64 members of Congress in direct dialogue with youth activists during the height of the early presidential primaries. Between teach-ins and web-casts, we directly engaged more than 240,000 people in climate change educational forums. The teach-ins generated more than 900 press hits, including articles in TIME, Grist, New York Times, Newsweek, NPR, USA Today, MSNBC, Los Angeles Times and nearly every major daily from the Houston Chronicle to the Boston Globe."

3) Cultures of Violence, Greed, Corruption, and Overindulgence

(Cultures of violence, greed, corruption, and overindulgence—which have become so common that many of us accept such as inevitable; which are a significant part of the current crises of confidence in financial markets; and which are in many ways slowing the restructuring of investment priorities needed to respond *to an increasing number of other critical challenges)*

a) World and U.S. Military Expenditures

Worldwide Military Expenditures (2009)-- $1,531 billion (Total Expenditures are in U.S. Dollars)[8]

U.S. Military Expenditures (2009)—Over $663 billion[9]

b) Small Arms Proliferation

From the "Publications" section of the Small Arms Survey website, in the subsection "Small Arms Survey 2003", (in "About the Small Arms Survey 2003, see "Key Findings" box)
(at http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2003/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2003-About-1-Press-Release-EN.pdf) (Confirmed April 19, 2011)

"There are at least 639 million firearms in the world today, of which 59% are legally held by citizens."

"At least 1,134 companies in 98 countries worldwide are involved in some aspect of the production of small arms and/or ammunition."

c) Global Drugs Trade and Global Arms Trade

From the "World Report on Violence and Health" (World Health Organization Geneva 2002) in Chapter 9 "The Way Forward: Recommendations for Action" p. 254 (at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/9241545615.pdf) (Confirmed April 19, 2011)

"The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however—and despite their high profile in the world arena—no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems."

d) Number of Vehicles, Worldwide

"In 1900, only 4,192 passenger cars were in existence (there were no trucks, buses, etc.)"

"In 1968, there were 169,994,128 passenger cars in the world, and 46,614,342 trucks and buses—for a total worldwide, of 216,608,470 motor vehicles."

"In 1996, there were 485,954,000 cars registered worldwide, and 185,404,000 trucks and buses—for a total, worldwide, of 671,358,000 motor vehicles."

[from Glenn Elert's webpage "Number of Cars"—(statistics attributed to various sources) at http://hypertextbook.com/facts/2001/MarinaStasenko.shtml) (Confirmed April 19, 2011)

e) Global Entertainment

"PricewaterhouseCoopers' Global Entertainment and Media Outlook: 2010-2014 (Outlook), forecasts that global entertainment and media spending is expected to rise from $1.3 trillion to $1.7 trillion by 2014."[10]

All excerpts below are from "International Communications: A Media Literacy Approach" by Art Silverblatt and Nikolai Zlobin M.E. Sharpe July, 2004 (most content accessible at Google Books) (confirmed October 21, 2009)

"Popular programming reflects a level of acceptance and shared values among large numbers of people. People tend to watch programs that meet their approval. If they are truly offended by violent programs, they would not watch them. In that sense, media programming can be regarded as a text that reflects the attitudes, values, behaviors, preoccupations, and myths that define a culture." (p. 66)

"At the same time, media programming reinforces cultural attitudes, values, behaviors, preoccupations, and myths. Media messages are communicated through the countless hours of media programming that repeat, directly or indirectly, the cultural script." (p. 68)

"Finally, the media do not merely reflect or reinforce culture, but in fact shape attitudes, values, behavior, preoccupations, and myths." (p. 68)

"The international market is saturated with American entertainment programming. Hollywood films account for approximately 85% of movie audiences worldwide. Further, American programming makes up approximately 65% of global prime-time TV viewing." (p. 69)

f) Professional Sports, U.S. (Annual Revenues)

National Football League (season ending 2010)—$7.8 billion[11]
Major League Baseball (season ending 2010)—$6.8 billion[12]
National Basketball League (season ending 2010)—$4.0 billion[13]

g) Alcohol, Gambling, Tobacco (United States)

United States retail sales of alcoholic beverages (2003)-- $115.9 billion[14]
United States Casino Gambling Revenue (2007)-- $92.27 billion[15]
United States expenditures on tobacco (2005)--$88.8 billion[16]

h) Lottery Revenues, United States (2007)

43 states—Total Revenue: $21 billion[17]

i) Maintaining Prison System, United States

"U.S. has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world."[18]

"On any given day, 2.2 million people are incarcerated in the United States…. 750,000 men and women work in correctional facilities."[19]

The annual cost: $60 billion[20]

j) Worldwide and U.S. Advertising Expenditures

Worldwide Advertising Expenditures (2009)-- $421 billion (Total Expenditures are in U.S. Dollars)[21]

"The United States will lead the world in total advertising expenditures and online advertising expenditure with forecasts for 2011 at $265 billion and $45 billion."[22]

k) Growth of "Consumer Class"

From the "Online Features/Consumption/State of Consumption: Trends and Facts" section of the Worldwatch Institute website at http://www.worldwatch.org/node/810) (see paragraphs 1 and 2) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"By virtually any measure—household expenditures, number of consumers, extraction of raw materials—consumption of goods and services has risen steadily in industrial nations for decades, and it is growing rapidly in many developing countries."

"By one calculation, there are now more than 1.7 billion members of 'the consumer class'—nearly half of them in the developing world. A lifestyle and culture that became common in Europe, North America, Japan, and a few other pockets of the world in the twentieth century is going global in the twenty-first."

l) Commentary on Advertising

The following passage is from "People of Plenty: Economic Abundance and the American Character" by David M. Potter (first edition 1954) University of Chicago Press 1958 (p. 177) (accessible in preview at Google Books)

"What is basic is that advertising, as such, with all its vast power to influence values and conduct, cannot ever lose sight of the fact that it ultimately regards man as a consumer and defines its own mission as one of stimulating him to consume or to desire to consume."

m) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

--From Washington Post article “Report on Global Ecosystems Calls for Radical Changes: Earth’s sustainability not guaranteed unless action is taken to protect resources” (Shankar Vedantam, March 30, 2005 p. A02 (see http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10966-2005Mar29.html) (paragraphs 1, 2, and 4) (confirmed April 3,2011)

“Many of the world's ecosystems are in danger and might not support future generations unless radical measures are implemented to protect and revive them, according to the most comprehensive analysis ever conducted of how the world's oceans, dry lands, forests and species interact and depend on one another.”

“The new report collates research from many specific locales to create the first global snapshot of ecosystems. More than 1,300 authors from 95 countries participated in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, whose results are being made public today by the United Nations and by several private and public organizations.“

“The effort brought together governments, civil society groups, industry and indigenous people over a four-year period to examine the social, economic and environmental aspects of ecosystems.”

--From the “Overview of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment” at the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment website (see http://www.maweb.org/en/About.aspx) See section “What are the main findings of the MA?” (see 4 “bullet” summaries) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fresh water, timber, fiber and fuel. This has resulted in a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on Earth.”

“The changes that have been made to ecosystems have contributed to substantial net gains in human well-being and economic development, but these gains have been achieved at growing costs in the form of the degradation of many ecosystem services, increased risks of nonlinear changes, and the exacerbation of poverty for some groups of people. These problems, unless addressed, will substantially diminish the benefits that future generations obtain from ecosystems. “

“The degradation of ecosystem services could grow significantly worse during the first half of this century and is a barrier to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

“The challenge of reversing the degradation of ecosystem while meeting increasing demands for services can be partially met under some scenarios considered by the MA, but will involve significant changes in policies, institutions and practices that are not currently under way….”

n) Ecological Footprint Analysis

From "Revisiting Carrying Capacity: Area Based Indicators of Sustainability", by William E. Rees, 1996, (at www.dieoff.org/page110.htm) (confirmed April 3,2011)

"Ecological Footprint—The corresponding area of productive land and aquatic ecosystems required to produce the resources used, and to assimilate the wastes produced, by a defined population at a specified material standard of living, wherever on Earth that land may be located." (in subsection "'Footprinting' the Human Economy"; in Box 3 "A Family of Area-based Sustainability Indicators")

"Cities necessarily appropriate the ecological output and life support functions of distant regions all over the world through commercial trade and the natural biogeochemical cycles of energy and material. Indeed, the annual flows of natural income required by any defined population can be called its 'appropriated carrying capacity.' Since for every material flow there must be a corresponding land/ecosystem source or sink, the total area of land/water required to sustain these flows on a continuous basis is the true 'ecological footprint' of the referent population on the Earth." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 5)]

"… as a result of high population densities, the enormous increase in per capita energy and material consumption made possible by (and required by) technology, and universally increasing dependencies on trade, the ecological locations of human settlements no longer coincide with their geographic locations. Twentieth century cities and industrial regions are dependent for survival and growth on a vast and increasingly global hinterland of ecologically productive landscapes." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (paragraph 4)]

"Ecological Deficit—The level of resource consumption and waste discharge by a defined economy or population in excess of locally/regionally sustainable natural production and assimilative capacity (also, in spatial terms, the difference between that economy/population's ecological footprint and the geographic area it actually occupies)." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (Box 3: "A Family of Area-Based Sustainability Indicators")]

"….However, our analysis of physical flows shows that these and most other so-called 'advanced' economies are running massive, unaccounted, ecological deficits with the rest of the planet (Table 1)…. These data emphasize that all the countries listed, except for Canada, are overpopulated in ecological terms—they could not sustain themselves at current material standards if forced by changing circumstances to live on their remaining endowments of domestic natural capital. This is hardly a good model for the rest of the world to follow." [see section "Appropriating Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprints" (and subsection "'Footprinting' the Human Economy", paragraphs 10-11)]

"Ecological Footprint Analysis supports the argument that to be sustainable, economic growth has to be much less material and energy intensive than at present." [in subsection "Addressing the Double-Bind of Sustainability", see "Bullet" #6]

4. Urbanization

Current trends indicate that we are creating more and more "urban agglomerations" (cities with a population of more than 1 million people—more than 400), which require more and more complex and energy intensive infrastructures, where it is more and more difficult to trace the consequences of our individuals investments of time, energy, and money—and which are the least appropriate models when it comes to implementing resolutions to many of the other challenges included in this section.

a) Shift from Rural to Urban Habitats

From website of Population Reference Bureau-- see
http://www.prb.org/Educators/TeachersGuides/HumanPopulation/Urbanization.aspx)
(see paragraphs one and two) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"In 1800, only 3 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas."
"By 1900, almost 14 percent were urbanites, although only 12 cities had 1 million or more inhabitants."
"In 1950, 30% of the world's population resided in urban centers. The number of cities with over 1 million people had grown to 83."
"In 2008, for the first time, the world's population was evenly split between urban and rural areas. There were more than 400 cities over 1 million and 19 over 10 million."

b) Urban Slums

From "Financing Urban Shelters: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005)"
(see article "Sustainable Urbanisation: A Shack by Any Standards")
at http://www.unhabitat.org/documents/media_centre/ghs/GRHS05F3.pdf (Confirmed April 19, 2011)

"A shack, about 2 metres long and 2 metres wide, is home to a family composed of husband, wife and four children. It is just one of 7700 such shacks in a street behind the residential area in Delhi…."

"The circumstances described above are very similar to those experienced by the vast majority of the more than 900 million slum dwellers all over the world…"

c) London Ecological Footprint, 2002

From Press Release (August 13, 2002) "Londoners Running Up Massive Debt on Earth's Resources"
at www.citylimitslondon.com/city_limits_press_release.htm (see paragraphs 2, 6, and 8) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"The City Limits Report reveals each Londoner has an ecological footprint of 6.63 global hectares…. The current calculation for a sustainable footprint is 2.18 global hectares."

"Paper and plastics are the biggest hitters in the material and wastes footprint. Paper's large contribution is accounted for partly by the large quantities Londoners use, 2,908,000 tonnes (per year)…. Londoners consume less plastic than paper—691,000 tonnes (per year)—but because it is derived from fossil fuel and very little is currently re-cycled, plastic makes up a large part of the average Londoner's footprint."

"Forty one per cent of the Ecological Footprint (2.80 gha) is accounted for by the food Londoners eat…. In total, London consumes 6.9 million tones of food (per year), more than three quarters of which is imported. London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."

["London throws away 560,000 tonnes of food (per year) as waste."]

d) Failing Infrastructures, United States

From Press Release titled "Failing Infrastructure Cannot Support A Healthy Economy: Civil Engineers' New Report Card Assesses Condition of Nation's Infrastructure" (subject: the 2009 ASCE Report Card on America's Infrastructure) From the website of the American Society of Civil Engineers (paragraph 1) (at http://apps.asce.org/reportcard/2009/RC_2009_noembargo.pdf (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"Decades of underfunding and inattention have jeopardized the ability of our nation's infrastructure to support our economy and facilitate our way of life. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) today released its 2009 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*—assigning a cumulative grade of D to the nation's infrastructure and noting a five year investment need of $2.2 trillion from all levels of government and the private sector. Since ASCE's last assessment in 2005 there has been little change in the condition of the nation's roads, bridges, drinking water systems and other public works, and the cost of improvement has increased by more than half a trillion dollars."

5. Increasing Population

An increasing world population requiring more resources when many resources are becoming more scarce (*with a special emphasis* on the increasing number of people who are consuming resources and ecological services *indiscriminately*)

From www.infoplease.com at www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0883352.html ; and U.S. Bureau of the Census POP Clock estimate at www.census.gov/cgi-bin/ipc/popclockw)
(Both confirmed April 19, 2011)

"In 1804, the world population was 1 billion.
In 1927, the world population was 2 billion (123 years later).
In 1960, the world population was 3 billion (33 years later).
In 1974, the world population was 4 billion (14 years later).
In 1987, the world population was 5 billion (13 years later).
In 1999, the world population was 6 billion (12 years later)."
"As of April 19, 2011 at 22:46 UTC (EST + 5), the world population was estimated to be 6,913,250,075."

6. From "World on the Edge" by Lester R. Brown

From "World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse" by Lester R. Brown Earth Policy Institute W.W. Norton and Company New York 2011 Accessible for free at the website of the Earth Policy Institute (see http://www.earth-policy.org/books/wote) (Confirmed April 19, 2011)

"Food price stability now depends on a record or near record world grain harvest every year. And climate change is not the only threat to food security. Spreading water shortages are also a huge, and perhaps even more imminent, threat to food security and political stability. Water-based "food bubbles" that artificially inflate grain production by depleting aquifers are starting to burst, and as they do, irrigation-based harvests are shrinking. The first food bubble to burst is in Saudi Arabia, where the depletion of its fossil aquifer is virtually eliminating its 3- million-ton wheat harvest. And there are at least another 17 countries with food bubbles based on overpumping." (p. 13-14)

“Further complicating our future, the world may be reaching peak water at more or less the same time that it hits peak oil. Fatih Birol, chief economist with the International Energy Agency, has said, “We should leave oil before it leaves us.” (Note: excerpt from that interview on p. 7 of this paper). I agree. If we can phase out the use of oil quickly enough to stabilize climate, it will also facilitate an orderly, managed transition to a carbon-free renewable energy economy. Otherwise we face intensifying competition among countries for dwindling oil supplies and continued vulnerability to soaring oil prices.” (p. 14-15)

“Once the world reaches peak oil and peak water, continuing population growth would mean a rapid drop in the per capita supply of both.” (p. 15)

“We are facing issues of near-overwhelming complexity and unprecedented urgency.” (p. 15)

“Among other things, the situation in which we find ourselves pushes us to redefine security in twenty-first century terms. The time when military forces were the prime threat to security has faded into the past. The threats now are climate volatility, spreading water shortages, continuing population growth, spreading hunger, and failing states.” (p. 15)

(from Press Release for “World on the Edge”, at http://www.earth-policy.org/books/wote/wotepr)
(Confirmed April 19, 2011)

“The new reality,” says Brown, “is that the world is only one poor harvest away from chaos. It is time to redefine security. The principal threats to our future are no longer armed aggression but instead climate change, population growth, water shortages, spreading hunger, and failing states. What we now need is a mobilization to reverse these trends on the scale and urgency of the U.S. mobilization for World War II. The challenge is to quickly reduce carbon emissions, stabilize population, and restore the economy’s soils, aquifers, forests, and other natural support systems. This requires not only a redefining of security but a corresponding reallocation of fiscal resources from military budgets to budgets for climate stabilization, population stabilization, water conservation, and other new threats to security.”

7. Debt (United States)

a) Federal

From the introduction to the segment titled “Debt Commission Meets: Recommends Dramatic Budget Cuts” (December 1, 2010) at www.cspan.org (see http://www.c-span.com/Events/Debt-Commission-meets/20027/) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“The Presidential Debt Commission charged with finding bi-partisan solutions to erase the United States' $13.8 trillion budget deficit issued their recommendations which includes dramatic cuts in military spending, a higher retirement age and tax reforms. “

From the Preamble to the Presidential Debt Commission’s final report “The Moment of Truth” Accessible at the website of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (see http://www.fiscalcommission.gov/sites/fiscalcommission.gov/files/documents/TheMomentofTruth12_1_2010.pdf) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“Throughout our nation’s history, Americans have found the courage to do right by our children’s future. Deep down, every American knows we face a moment of truth once again. We cannot play games or put off hard choices any longer. Without regard to party, we have a patriotic duty to keep the promise of America to give our children and grandchildren a better life.

“Our challenge is clear and inescapable: America cannot be great if we go broke. Our businesses will not be able to grow and create jobs, and our workers will not be able to compete successfully for the jobs of the future without a plan to get this crushing debt burden off our backs.

“Ever since the economic downturn, families across the country have huddled around kitchen tables, making tough choices about what they hold most dear and what they can learn to live without. They expect and deserve their leaders to do the same. The American people are counting on us to put politics aside, pull together not pull apart, and agree on a plan to live within our means and make America strong for the long haul.

“As members of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, we spent the past eight months studying the same cold, hard facts. Together, we have reached these unavoidable conclusions: The problem is real. The solution will be painful. There is no easy way out. Everything must be on the table.”

b) State

From “Executive Summary” of report “The Fiscal Survey of States: Fall 2010”, accessible at the website of the National Governors Association (see p. vii, paragraph 5, at http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/FSS1012.PDF) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“Although nearly every state is required to enact a balanced budget, 11 states are reporting nearly $10 billion in budget gaps that must be closed by the end of fiscal 2011. However, fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2013 also represent significant challenges for states as revenues remain well below their 2008 levels and emergency funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will no longer be available. Although not all state budget offices have completed forecasts, thus far 23 states are reporting $40.5 billion in budget gaps for fiscal 2012 and 17 states are reporting $40.9 billion in budget gaps for fiscal 2013.”

From a report titled “The Big Reset”, accessible through the website of the National Governors Association (see p. 2, paragraph 1, at http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1002STATEGOVTAFTERGREATRECESSION.PDF) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

“The post-recession economy may look very different in terms of leading and lagging sectors, concentration of industries, trade patterns and quantity, and countries of influence. Many workers will face new challenges to maintain or grow their income and pressures to learn new skills that match available jobs. The U.S. and many other countries will enter the next 15 to 20 years burdened by substantial public debt, possibly leading to higher interest rates, higher taxes, and tighter credit. Finally, American consumers—having lost substantial wealth—may not revive their spending spree, which helped drive the U.S. and many other economies before the recession.

c) Consumer

From an article titled "Taking Advantage of Debt Reform" at the website of the Center for Consumer Debt Reform (see paragraph 3, at http://www.centerforconsumerdebtreform.com/how-to-eliminate-your-debt-with-debt-relief/) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"As of June 2010, the total U.S. consumer debt has reached the astronomical amount of $2.42 trillion, and 58 million Americans are having problems every month to pay their monthly bills."

d) Student Loans

From an article titled "Student Loan Debt Clock" at the website "R and B Solutions: Financial Literacy" (see paragraphs 1 and 2, at http://www.randbsolutions.com/financialliteracy/news/debt-clock.html) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"The U.S. reached a very disturbing threshold this year when the amount of money owed for student loans exceeded the money piled up in credit card debt for the first time ever.

"In June 2010, the amount that Americans owed in revolving credit — most of which is credit card debt — was $826.5 billion. Student loans outstanding just edged out that figure, adding up to $829.7 billion. About $300 billion of that was added in the last four years."

e) Commentary from Richard Ravitch (former Lt. Gov., New York) from a video accessible at cspan.org. Program was titled "Urban Institute: Challenges for New Governors: Budgets and Employment" (date of program: November 2, 2010) (timing of excerpts included at end of excerpts, video at http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/event.php?id=187736&timeline)

"If you believe the rate of growth of our economy is going to be what it was in the prior two decades, then there is arguably some justification for kicking the can forward and using borrowed money to cover today's expenses. If you don't believe that growth rate is going to be that great, then you have to ask yourself some very fundamental questions…. it requires questioning every assumption you've ever made about what is good and worthy in public expenditures (ending at 48.16)….(and)… you have to question whether or not everyone, everyone is this whole economic system, isn't going to have to—to use the vernacular—put some "skin in the game" to avoid a real catastrophe for our federal system." (ending at 48.40)

We have to make some very, very touch choices in this society, the likes of which we've never had to make before… because austerity is now so compelling a fact in every micro decision that government makes…. I can't begin to tell you how this process is going to work out, but I can tell you if it doesn't there's going to be some terrible things happening—because at some point somebody's going to run out of cash." (ending at 1:21.52)

8) Commentary on the Study of Economics in the United States (Warren A. Nord)

The following passages are excerpts from the article "Moral Disagreement, Moral Education, Common Ground" by Warren A. Nord in "Making Good Citizens: Education and Civil Society" Edited by Diane Ravitch and Joseph P. Viteritti Yale University Press 2003 (excerpts below accessible at Google Books) (confirmed April 3,2011)

"It is a little surprising that there has been no controversy over economics education, because economics is, in our culture, deeply controversial, often on moral and religious grounds….. A part of the problem is what the texts and the new national standards leave out. They say little about poverty, especially as a moral or spiritual problem. They are usually silent about the moral relation of the First and Third Worlds. They typically ignore the effects of economics and technology on the environment. They are oblivious to the moral and spiritual problems of consumer culture. They ask no questions about dehumanizing work. They emphasize the important of the profit motive and competition, but say nothing about the possibility of excess profits or the possible costs of competition…." (p. 159)

"(Furthermore)… the economics world (is) defined in terms of competition of self-interested individuals with unlimited wants for scarce resources…. (and) decisions should be made according to cost-benefit analyses that maximize whatever it is that we value and leave no room in the equation for duties, the sacred, or those dimensions of life that aren't quantifiable. Economics is one thing; morality is, quite clearly, another." (p. 160)

"The texts and the standards approach economics not as a subject, open to various moral, political, and religious interpretations; but as a discipline, as a 'hard' social science. In the process, they convey uncritically to students a particular way of thinking about values, human nature, and social institutions…" (p. 161)

9. Moral and Value Conflicts

Some thoughts on conflicts which arise when groups of people have different ideas about morality and the best way to live.[23]

[Note: Most of the quotes below are from the article "Moral and Value Conflicts" by Michelle Maiese (July, 2003) (see http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/intolerable_moral_differences/?nid=1036) (see also Note #23, in "Notes and Source Reference" section at end of this paper)

"Because systems of meaning and ways of thinking differ from one culture to another, people from different cultures typically develop different ideas about morality and the best way to live…. These cultural differences become even more problematic when groups have radically different expectations about what is virtuous, what is right, and how to deal with moral conflicts."

(Some of the problems:)

a) "Because identity describes who we are as a person, we tend to protect those things (beliefs, values, group affiliations) that help create our sense of self."

b) "Each party may believe that its ways of doing things and thinking about things is the best way and come to regard other ways of thinking and acting as inferior, strange, or morally wrong."

c) "They may form negative stereotypes and attribute moral depravity or other negative characteristics to those who violate their cultural expectations, while they ignore their own vices and foibles, perceiving their own group to be entirely virtuous."

d) "They may view any compromise about their most cherished values as a threat to their very identity and a grave evil."

e) "In some cases, one group may come to view the beliefs and actions of another group as fundamentally evil and morally intolerable. This often results in hostility and violence and severely damages the relationship between the two groups. For this reason, moral conflicts tend to be quite harmful and intractable."

f) "Since resolving conflict necessarily involves some kind of change, it is essential to understand the operation of worldviews. When people are asked to change their identity or things they find meaningful, they will resist, sometimes even when the alternative is death."

10. "A more equitable distribution of resources is in our best interest…."

From an Army Corps of Engineer's Report (Engineer Research and Development Center) titled "Energy Trends and Their Implications for U.S. Army Installations" Donald F. Fournier and Eileen T. Westervelt September 2005 Accessible from the energycrisis.org website (in section "Issues" subsection "Security" of the "Executive Summary" (p. 5); see http://www.energycrisis.org/us/army/EnergyTrends2005.pdf) (Confirmed April 3, 2011) (Note: quoted by Roscoe Bartlett, Congressman, House of Representatives (R-MD) (USA) in his March 14, 2006 special presentation) (not currently accessible) (Report "Energy Trends and Their Implications for U.S. Army Installations" also accessible from the website of Congressman Bartlett (see http://www.bartlett.house.gov/uploadedfiles/U.S.%20Army%20Corp%20of%20Engineers-Energy%20Report.pdf) (Confirmed April 3, 2011)

"The United States currently has 5 percent of the world's population, but uses 25 percent of the world's annual energy production. This disproportionate consumption of energy relative to global consumption causes loss of the world's good will and provides a context for potential military conflicts, at the cost of lives, money, and political capital. A more equitable distribution of resources is in our best interest for a peaceful future. "

11. "…there are billions of people in the world who are called desperately poor…."

From an article titled "The World Economy After the G-20 Meeting"—which is the transcript of a conference call involving Norbeck with Martin Wolf, Associate Editor and Chief Economics Commentator, Financial Times, London April 15, 2009 (Accessible from the website of atkearney.com) (see 2nd participant question, about three-fourths way down the article, and response by Martin Wolf; at http://www.atkearney.com/index.php/Publications/the-world-economy-after-the-g-20-meeting.html?q=norbert+jorek) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

"Participant Question: It seems that we came from decades of excess and imbalances. From a corporate point of view, do you believe that in the long run we will need to reset at a lower level in terms of global consumption and we'll need to scale down, assuming that, at least for Western economies, we will on average all become less wealthy, or am I being too pessimistic?"

"Martin Wolf: It's a very pessimistic view, because it means that in a world of clearly very considerable need and want still—I'm leaving aside here environmental constraints, global warming and all these issues—it's clear when you look around the world, there is a great deal of need or want. So what we are saying is that we somehow can't organize the spending side of the world to ensure that the available productive capacity of the world is actually used. Now, that's a pretty depressing sort of situation to be in. One feels that one ought to be able to avoid that.

"I think it would make sense, therefore, to consider being quite radical about using the IMF as a means of transferring purchasing power. Essentially, this is about transferring purchasing power to people who want to use it. I have no doubt that there are people who want to use it—there are billions of people in the world who are called desperately poor. So I consider this ultimately a huge organizational problem, not a problem where we've gotten to the point of saturation at the world level, we can't find anything that anybody would actually want if we could provide it to them."

12. A marginalization of the treasured wisdom associated with religious, spiritual, and moral traditions

--From article "The IPCR Initiative: Creating a Multiplier Effect of a Positive Nature" (by this writer) in "The IPCR Journal/Newsletter (Winter 2010-2011 issue)" (58 pages; written, compiled, and edited by this writer) (see p. 9) (for free version of Winter issue, see http://www.ipcri.net/The_IPCR_Journal_Newsletter_Winter_2010_2011.pdf) (confirmed April 20, 2011)

"Many people may think it is naïve to imagine that people from so many diverse religious, spiritual, moral, and cultural traditions can decide to come together in such a way as to not only encourage, but participate in, a high percentage of constructive thinking and constructive action in response to the difficult challenges ahead (as in the high levels of participation encouraged by comprehensive Community Visioning Initiatives). From this writer's point of view, such skepticism and cynicism depend for their existence on doubts as to whether it is possible for people to achieve highly advanced forms of wisdom and compassion through genuine instruction and sincere effort. *Thus it is that there is a great responsibility on those people who are in any way representatives of religious, spiritual, and/or moral traditions—to demonstrate what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion, to provide genuine instruction when sincere efforts are being made, to contribute to the greater good of the whole, and to help restore confidence in the higher values of life.*

"And what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? How many of us would say that we are fully aware of what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? What would the everyday circumstances of our community life be like if many of us *were* fully aware of what is possible along the lines of wisdom and compassion? Many of us *could be* much more familiar with what is possible… unfortunately, much of the real treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions now seems to be hidden—and thus in need of being re-discovered. These "hidden" resources include teachings which inspire and encourage people to

a) place a high priority on the development of truth, virtue, love, and peace—and live disciplined lives for the purpose of adhering to truth, cultivating virtue and love, and maintaining the pathways to enduring peace
b) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole
c) find contentment and quality of life while consuming less material goods and ecological services
d) prefer peacebuilding which supports and actualizes mutually beneficial understandings, forgiveness, and reconciliation—*and which abstains from violent conflict resolution*—as a way of bringing cycles of violence to an end
e) use resources carefully, so that there is surplus available for emergency assistance
f) support community life and cultural traditions which "… bring to the fore what is often hidden: how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it."

--In a presentation titled "Systematic Moral Teaching" by Prof. J.S. Mackenzie, which is part of a document titled "Papers on Moral Education—Communicated to the First International Moral Education Congress" (*Held at the University of London, September 25-29, 1908*) Edited by Gustave Spiller (Hon. General Secretary of the Congress)(accessible through Google Book Search)

"The subject of religious education is one on which it is difficult to say anything at present without appearing to take sides in those unhappy wrangles to which there seems to be no end…." (p. 224)

"How to find suitable teachers is, therefore, the really important question with which we are confronted. And I doubt whether they can *be found*—at least in sufficient numbers. They will have to be *made*; and how this is to be done is the real problem that faces those interested in moral education at the present time." (p. 227-228)

13. The Transition to Sustainable Systems

From the article "Permaculture and Energy" by David Holmgren, co-creator of the "permaculture" concept) (article first written in 1990, published in "Permaculture Activist" Issue #31 May, 1994) (see paragraph 4 in subsection titled "Mollison", at
http://www.permacultureactivist.net/articles/holmgren.htm) (Confirmed January 9, 2011)

"The transition from an unsustainable fossil fuel-based economy back to a solar-based (agriculture and forestry) economy will involve the application of the embodied energy that we inherit from industrial culture. This embodied energy is contained within a vast array of things, infrastructure, cultural processes and ideas, mostly inappropriately configured for the "solar" economy. It is the task of our age to take this great wealth, reconfigure it, and apply it to the development of sustainable systems."

Notes and Source References

1. From the Catholic Encyclopedia entry on Education (section at the beginning subtitled "Education: In General") (at http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05295b.htm) (see paragraph 1). (Note: Could not identify which edition of the Catholic Encyclopedia this source represented; thus cannot identify editors or publisher.) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

2. By this writer, with ideas (and one partial quote) from article "Moral and Value Conflicts" by Michelle Maiese (July, 2003) (see paragraph 3) (see http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/intolerable_moral_differences) (confirmed April 3,2011) The Beyond Intractability Knowledge Base Project is "A Free Knowledge Base on More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict ", and is affiliated with the University of Colorado, Colorado (USA) Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess, Co-Directors and Editors c/o Conflict Information Consortium (Formerly Conflict Research Consortium) [Note: Excerpted from "The Twilight of One Era, and the Dawning of Another" (22 pages text, 22 pages notes) by this writer. Accessible from the homepage of The IPCR Initiative at www.ipcri.net (specifically, p. 13 at http://www.ipcri.net/The_Twilight_of_One_Era_and_the_Dawning_of_Anoth.pdf)

3. From "Democracy and Education: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Education" by John Dewey New York The Macmillan Company 1916 (p. 24) (whole text accessible through google books)

4. From a Chapter titled "An Outline Programme of Value-Oriented Education and Relevant Pedagogical Suggestions", (see paragraph 1, at http://www.education.nic.in/cd50years/r/2Q/92/2Q920501.htm) (confirmed April 3, 2011) [Note: This chapter is part of an Internet document titled "Report of the Working Group to Review Teachers' Training Programme (in the light of the need for value-orientation)". From website of "Government of India Ministry of Human Resource Development--Department of Education (in cooperation with the National Informatics Centre") presents "Compilation on 50 years of Indian Education :1947-1997")]

5. From "General Education in a Free Society" by The Harvard Committee, 1945 in "American Higher Education Transformed, 1940-2005: Documenting the National Discourse" Eds.Wilson Smith and Thomas Bender Johns Hopkins University Press Baltimore, Maryland 2008 Selections from "The Harvard Report" on p. 14-20 (Excerpt is from p. 20) Editor's introduction to "The Harvard Report", which may also be of interest to readers, begins "The dominant curricular statement of James Bryant Conant's presidency of Harvard University (1933-53)…." (whole section accessible through limited preview of "American Higher Education Transformed…." at google books) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

6. From "Why the Village Movement?" by J.C. Kumarappa The edition this writer has includes the 1939 edition foreword byMahatma Gandhi, and was printed on handmade paper in Rajchat, Kashi in 1960 [Excerpt a) is from p. 65; excerpt b) is from p. 183]

Note: This writer has incorporated insight and inspiration from "Why the VillageMovement?" into the IPCR Initiative in many ways, one in particular being the description of "Spiritually Responsible Investing", one of The Eight IPCR Concepts (see IPCR document "Brief Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts", p. 8, at http://ipcri.net/images/1-Brief-Descriptions-of-The-Eight-IPCR-Concepts.pdf). Here also is some biographical information about J.C. Kumarappa:

"In 1935, the India National Congress formed the All India Village Industries Association (AIVIA) for the development of (the) rural economy (in India), with Gandhiji as President and Kumarappa as Secretary and Organiser. Between 1935-1939, Kumarappa established the AIVIA headquarters at Maganwadi, developed various experiments of rural technologies, and helped others to reorganize village industries all over the country. (At Maganwadi), he edited a monthly journal, 'Gram Udyog Patrika,' and wrote a book, 'Why the Village Movement?' for AIVIA."
[Note excerpted from "Brief Life Sketch of J.C. Kumarappa (1892-1960) at the website of the Kumarappa Institute of Gram Swaraj (KIGS) (see paragraph 8, at http://www.kigs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=20) (confirmed April 3,2011)]

7. From Chapter 53 of "Te-Tao Ching" by Lao Tzu (possibly written in 6th Century B.C.E., sufficient evidence unavailable) (translation by Robert G. Hendricks) Ballantine Books New York 1989

8. From the "SIPRI Yearbook 2010" section of Wikipedia's "List of countries by military expenditures" (at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_military_expenditures) (confirmed April 3,2011)

9. From the "SIPRI Military Expenditure Database" section of Wikipedia's "List of countries by military expenditures" (at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_military_expenditures) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

10. From article "PricewaterhouseCoopers releases Global Entertainment and Media Outlook 2010-2014" (June 15, 2010), in the "World News Report" section of the EIN website (An EIN News Service for Global Professionals) (see http://www.einnews.com/pr-news/90509-pricewaterhousecoopers-releases-globalentertainment-and-media-outlook-2010-2014-) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

11-13. From a table titled "Sports Industry Overview", at the website of Plunkett Research, Ltd. (Industry Statistics, Trends, and In-Depth Analysis of Top Companies) (see http://www.plunkettresearch.com/sports%20recreation%20leisure%20market%20research/industry%20statistics) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

14. From article "Economics of Alcohol and Tobacco—U.S. Alcohol Sales and Consumption" at the libraryindex.com website (see http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/2127/Economics-Alcohol-Tobacco-U-S-ALCOHOL-SALES-CONSUMPTION.html) (Excerpt: "According to the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, retail sales of alcoholic beverages totaled approximately $115.9 billion in 2003, up from $102.4 billion in 2000.") (confirmed April 3, 2011)

15. From article "Gaming Revenue: Current Year Data" at the website of the American Gaming Association (see http://www.americangaming.org/Industry/factsheets/statistics_detail.cfv?id=7) (Note: The article includes a chart which identifies 8 different categories, and the 2007 gross revenues for each category— Source: Christianson Capital Advisors, LLC) [Note: This link is no longer available, however the information it provided is still active at the Wikipedia page titled "Gambling in the United States" (Excerpt: "Gambling is legally restricted in the United States, but its availability and participation is increasing. In 2007, gaming activities generated gross revenues (the difference between the total amounts wagered minus the funds or 'winnings' returned to the players) of $92.27 billion in the United States." (confirmed April 3, 2011)

16. From the website “Mahalo Answers”—an answer provided to the question “How much money do Americans spend on cigarettes each year?” (see http://www.mahalo.com/answers/how-much-money-do-americans-spend-on-cigarettes-each-year) (link no longer active) (Answer included: “Total United States expenditures on tobacco were estimated to be $88.8 billion in 2005, of which $82 billion were spent on cigarettes”, and the cited source for this statistic was—“Capehart, Tom. Expenditures for Tobacco Products and Disposable Personal Income, 1989–2005. Compiled from reports of the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 2007 Mar 13 Available from http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Archive/Tobacco/ “) (details of link unconfirmed)

17. From article “Top Ten Lottery Revenue Producing U.S. States” (27 October, 2008) in the “Gaming News” section of the website “Casino City Times” (see http://www.casinocitytimes.com/news/article/top-10-lotteryrevenue-producing-u-s-states-175639?ContentId=175639&issue=10-27-08) (Excerpt from article: “Forty three states across the U.S. operated some sort of lottery in 2007, generating an astounding $21 billion, according to the fifth edition of Casino City's North American Gaming Almanac, the mother of all gaming almanacs.”) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

18. From the introduction to Wikipedia’s “Incarceration in the United States” (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incarceration_in_the_United_States) (confirmed April 3, 2011)

19-20. From report “Confronting Confinement” by Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons (released June 8, 2006) (see homepage of Commission, at http://www.prisoncommission.org/) (Excerpt from homepage: “On any given day, 2.2 million people are incarcerated in the United States, and over the course of a year, many millions spend time in prison or jail. 750,000 men and women work in correctional facilities. The annual cost: more than 60 billion dollars. Yet within three years, 67 percent of former prisoners will be rearrested and 52 percent will be re-incarcerated.” (confirmed April 3, 2011)

21. From article “Worldwide Advertising Spending by Media” (July 22, 2009) at the website “BitBriefs” (Marketing Trends, News, Stats) (see http://bitbriefs.amplify.com/2009/07/22/worldwide-advertisingspending-by-media/) (Excerpt: According to the “Global Entertainment and Media Outlook 2009-2013” (PricewaterhouseCoopers) (PwC), worldwide advertising spending will reach $421 billion in 2009.” (Also included: a Table which breaks down the spending into categories.) (confirmed April 3,2011)

22. From an article titled “Worldwide Internet Advertising Spending to Surpass $106 Billion in 2011”, at the website “Marketing Charts” (at marketingcharts.com) (Excerpt in paragraph 2) (see http://www.marketingcharts.com/television/worldwide-internet-advertising-spending-to-surpass-106-billion-in-2011-5068/) (Confirmed April 3, 2011)

23. Most of the quotes are from the article “Moral and Value Conflicts” by Michelle Maiese (July, 2003) (see http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/intolerable_moral_differences) (See specific source references below) The Beyond Intractability Knowledge Base Project is “A Free Knowledge Base on More Constructive Approaches to Destructive Conflict “, and is affiliated with the University of Colorado, Colorado (USA) Guy Burgess and Heidi Burgess, Co-Directors and Editors c/o Conflict Information Consortium (Formerly Conflict Research Consortium) (confirmed April 3, 2011)