

The inevitable end

or

A new beginning

The inevitable end

1. The most successful species

There have been increasing, in recent times, concerns and grumblings from all sides that something is wrong with us humans, that we with our behaviour have succeeded in making each other unhappy, that our attitude towards the planet on which we live is not correct and that we are destroying it by our reckless attitude. And so on.

Can we, human beings,
be pleased with ourselves?

In this text, I would like to suggest that we reflect together on what you have already most certainly considered by yourselves, whether all these concerns are justified.

I have imagined this text as a conversation.

A real conversation of course it cannot be, because I can only guess what a reader would like to say.

Nevertheless, it is a kind of communication that through the immediacy which it evokes might perhaps help us to confront of the very serious situation we are facing.

The use of many questions and the deliberate "carelessness" in the sentence construction can help to create this atmosphere of dialogue.

The text has not got the "crystallized" final form of the printed word.

The sentences are trying to imitate the spoken word.

Many begin with "and" or seem to be unconnected, as if the "the speaker" suddenly remembered something and wants to add it in order not to forget it.

We will analyse the situation, make the most objective possible statements, recognize the laws, perhaps find the causes, and possibly reach conclusions or even suggestions.

So, in order to begin this dialogue, I would like to provoke you at this point, by claiming that all these worries are completely unjustified.

We live in paradise, our way of life is great and we have never had it so good.

Don't we see how well we are doing?

Just take a look around us to confirm it.

Don't we see, how much comfort we have today compared with what we had ten or twenty or fifty years ago?

So, we just need to continue to do exactly what we have been doing until now, so that in another ten, twenty or fifty years we will do even better.

These views, which you might call

"The nonchalance of the newly rich"

I have not invented by myself.

You've even heard them many times.

They are systematically disseminated from "reliable sources".

Why do we constantly complain?

Do you not also believe
that we live in paradise?

You will perhaps tell me that such an approach is subjective and we should examine the whole matter objectively.

I have no objection to doing so.

We live on a planet whose atmosphere we can breathe.

The most valuable substance present on the planet, fresh water, falls literally as a gift from the heavens.

The sun incessantly sends us heat and light and makes the plants in our fields grow thus ensuring our life.

What else do we want?

If this isn't paradise, where is it then?

On the other planets we know the situation.

In those nearer the sun, terrible heat.

On Venus, for example, some five hundred degrees. Molten sulphur, molten tar. Like the cauldrons of hell.

In the other more distant ones, indescribable cold.

On Pluto, for example, neither atmosphere nor water, neither heat nor life. Pure death.

Moreover we have made our own contribution, and have developed systems,

- so that we don't feel cold even in winter,
- so we have light at night too,
- so that our fields produce much more and
- we can sit here now nice and comfortable, to talk about paradise and

- not to have to worry that a sudden downpour makes us soaking wet,
- or to be afraid that we get caught by some hungry lion, or a pneumonia bacterium.

We are undoubtedly the most successful species that lives on the planet.

There is no other species that threatens us or keep us in check.

And all this we have achieved thanks to our logic, our intelligence.

We are clever and inventive, and we can find solutions for all the problems we encounter.

We have no more fear of anybody.
Except of ourselves.

This eventuality however, that we are threatened by our own species, cannot be seriously considered.

It would be ridiculous to waste just a single thought on it.

A "neutral observer" from the outside, would absolutely exclude it.

It isn't possible that a species, which based on its ability to think logically won power over a planet, can be threatened by itself, by this same species.

It's absurd.
It can't be that a species, especially
a rational and a very successful one,
puts itself in danger.

Well lo and behold!

**This absolutely unthinkable,
this totally preposterous idea,
this seems to be just the case!**

But how is it possible, what objective data do we have for that?

2. The destroyed paradise

Reasonable people have been sounding the alarm for a while.

Now even the most stupid begin to understand it.

Our paradise is slowly being destroyed.

What do you mean slowly?

In reality, it is destroyed always faster and faster.

With ever-increasing speed.

This fact of the constant acceleration of the phenomena is something we must pay special attention to.

It is this that should worry us.

It is not only that the disaster is spreading continuously.

The speed at which it spreads is increasing.

The speed at which the planet is destroyed is being continually increasing.

Unfortunately, it seems that our paradise is being destroyed.

- The oceans, the lakes, the rivers, the land, the air is filled with trash, with sewage, with mud, with poison.
- The climate has begun to change.
- The raw materials are running out.
- Our fields are exhausted.
- The desert (where life is no longer possible), is spreading over the planet.
- The forests are disappearing.
- At the same time a lot of animal and plant species are disappearing every day.
- In their place, however, new diseases to humans, animals and plants appear daily, and the first monsters of genetic technology have begun to spread freely.

In other words, our paradise is being destroyed continually.

But is it destroying itself, or is someone responsible for this?

This third person singular "destroyed" is a little misleading and I don't like it.

What does it mean to be destroyed?

Is it perhaps being destroyed by itself?

Or perhaps some aliens have come, some Martians for example, and are destroying it?

But if in fact they had come and intended to make the planet unsuitable for the survival of our species, they could not find anything more effective to do.

- They would poison the seas, the rivers, the land, the air.
- They would exploit the reserves.
- They would destroy the forests. And finally
- they would release a couple of new bacteria and viruses.

That's all.

Nothing else is required.

We do not need these malevolent Martians at all.

We are doing all this already ourselves.

**Now tell me, please,
is this behaviour of ours
the behaviour of rational beings?**

If indeed some aliens came, not to destroy the Earth, but to see what kind of creatures inhabited this beautiful planet, what opinion would they form about us?

That we are sawing off the branch we are sitting on, and singing "while our homes burn".

What can anyone say to that?

And the funniest thing of all is that we have a very high opinion of ourselves.

Oh, "***the crown of creation***"!
and "***created in God's image***"!
and "***the wise man***"!

We even awarded ourselves the title ***Homo sapiens***.

Just as some people are self-proclaimed presidents, doctors, barons, or whatever they fancy.

<p>Homo sapiens! A truly very wise creature!</p>
--

Homo hooliganus I heard once, and found it much more appropriate.

But what went wrong? What mistake have we made? Did we not start out properly? Have we not progressed right the whole time? You will surely agree that this is true. With purely objective criteria, we can say, that we were doing fine.

If any doubt exists, we need only to remind ourselves of the development of our population on the earth.

Is there a better criterion for the success of a species, than the increasing of the number of its individuals in its habitat?

3. "Increase and multiply"

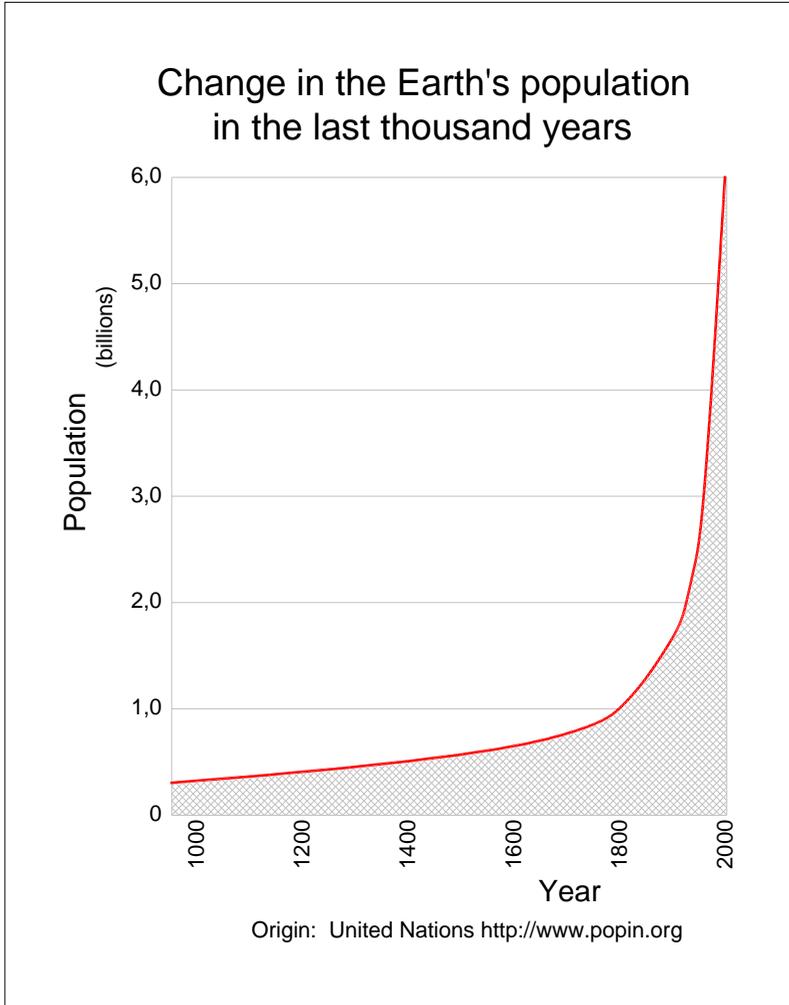


Figure 1

I think it interesting to consider how our population evolved on Earth, so that we have a measure of the degree of our success and have objective data to argue with.

How did our population in the world develop in the last 1000 years?

The diagram in Figure 1 gives the answer.

<p>We can be proud of our brilliant success.</p>
--

Could we imagine an even bigger success?

The first remarkable thing is that starting about one million years ago, we were able to become some 300 million in the year 1000.

This is no small achievement, if we consider that we started from very few individuals, maybe one family only, as some anthropologists believe.

This success however appears not so great when we compare it with our present results.

Today we have surpassed the 6 billion.

And the most important thing, the fact which proves the ever-faster growth (i.e., the growing evidence of our success) is that:

If at the beginning we needed one million years to "create" 300 million people, today we achieve the same increase of the population in only 10 years.

In the seam way as the rich say:

***"To make the first million, it took a long time.
Then it multiplied by itself".***

Isn't it impressive?

This is due to the law that governs the phenomenon.

It's what we said earlier about phenomena that always accelerate. They include the law of constant acceleration.

And this is because the rate of growth is proportional to the quantity growing.

For the population, for example, it is obvious that its growth is proportional to the number of individuals.

With few people, few parents, we have few children; the result is a small rate of population growth.

With many people, many parents, we have many children, thus a high speed of growth.

A year ago, when the population was smaller than today, the speed of the population growth was smaller.

Next year, when the population will have grown even more, the speed will be even bigger.

The curve, which describes such phenomena, has exactly this form.

At the beginning it creeps almost horizontally (imagine the curve of Figure 1 for a million years back. On the scale of our drawing it couldn't be distinguished from zero), without revealing the potential hiding inside it, and finally shoots almost vertically upwards.

What, however, does such a curve describe?

What else but an explosion.

In this case the population explosion.

The increase happens more and more quickly, the end is approaching at an accelerated speed.

But why the end?

Could not this increase proceed ever further?

Proceed where? To the infinite?

Is it possible to have a development
that extends to the infinite?

Of course not.

In mathematics there is the concept of infinity.

In nature, in reality, in life there is no such thing.

For the specific case of population growth, it is obvious that on a finite planet an infinite population cannot develop.

How many should we become?

As many, as cover the entire surface of the earth packed so close to each other, as in the subway?

And what would we have to eat?

Where would we plant our crops?

There is a limit, which is evident purely from energy considerations.

Life is a phenomenon that is only possible when combined with energy consumption.

This is a consequence of the second principle of thermodynamics.

Life can only be maintained under perpetual power consumption.

There cannot be an organized system that grows and multiplies, if it is not continuously fed with energy.

And if it still moves its hands and feet, and talks, and climbs stairs, and maintains its body temperature at a different level from that of the environment, then the first principle of thermodynamics comes into force also and requires even greater energy consumption.

Plants take their necessary energy as light energy directly from the sun.

Animals get it as chemical energy with their food.

By the miracle of photosynthesis, plants convert carbon dioxide into plant tissue and store chemical energy in the form of carbohydrates.

No one else but plants can utilize the sun's energy directly.

The rest of us who live on Earth take ready-made chemical energy and live directly or indirectly at the expense of plants.

If we filled the planet with humans, then they would die of hunger, because there would be no room to grow the plants that are absolutely necessary to feed the population.

**All of us, animals and plants,
acquire directly or indirectly from the sun
the energy that is necessary for life.**

4. A barrel full of must

Now, with reference to the problem of population growth in a limited space, it might be useful to consider the example of a barrel full of must.

The vine has collected light and carbon dioxide through its leaves.

It grew on the one hand it stored sugars in the grapes on the other.

The fermentation bacteria that will make the wine, take from the sugars the energy they need to live.

The space inside the barrel is limited, as is also the food supply.

The few fermentation bacteria, which already exist in there, have of course no idea about the energy supply situation and they start with carefree optimism and enthusiasm (and the "***nonchalance of the newly rich***") to eat the food and to multiply ever faster quite happily.

And the growth is in full swing and the fermentation at full speed, the must is bubbling and everyone is happy.

The must is bubbling in the barrel.

The bacteria are having a great time and multiplying without a care in the world.

But for how long?

The end comes just at the moment of greatest happiness, when feeding is at the height and reproduction out of control.

When the population and with it the speed of its growth has reached its maximum.

And the end may come in one of two ways.

This depends on the sugars content of the must.

If the grape is low in sugars, then the end is death by starvation.

The hordes of hungry fermentation bacteria, which until yesterday found abundant food, and multiplied at a constantly increasing speed, suddenly find nothing more to eat and suffer mass starvation.

A tragic end with a horrible death by starvation.

The dead fermentation bacteria fall as dregs to the bottom of the barrel and we have our fine dry wine.

The other way occurs when the juice is rich in sugars.

Then there is no fear of the food supply failing.

The end comes from a different cause; it comes from the alcohol.

Alcohol is a by-product of the metabolism of fermentation bacteria.

It is, you could say, the leftovers from their digestion, their excrement. And in large concentrations it is toxic for the fermentation bacteria, as well as for many other organisms.

So, high levels of sugars, many fermentation bacteria, much alcohol, equals death by poisoning.

An even more tragic end with an even more horrible death in their own excrement.

Then we have a nice strong sweet wine, because there is still unfermented sugar remaining.

The unfortunate fermentation bacteria die, drowning in their own dirt.

Something similar to that which threatens us, as we have messed up the whole planet with our waste.

The problem of the Augean stables.

His large herds were a blessing.

But if one fails to remove the waste on time, then a labour of Heracles is needed to solve the problem.

Really, is it not interesting that Heracles applied a technical solution and faced the problem by diverting the river?

**Let's keep Heracles, we will need him later,
and let's go back to the problem of
the growth of our population.**

5. A nasty prospect

But is it possible that our own success threatens us?

The fact that we have had such great success, can this be the reason for our extinction?

Certainly it can, say the biologists.

The population explosion
is followed inevitably by
the population disaster.

Didn't the same thing happen in the barrel with the must?

This always happens, and this will also happen to us.

When a species has an abundant food supply, without biological control and without natural enemies, then this leads to a population explosion, which will inevitably be followed by demographic disaster.

The new conditions created by overpopulation, will lead the species either to total elimination or, if it is lucky and manages to develop new attitudes of self-control of its population (where from lack of food even cannibalism cannot be excluded), to a drastic reduction in numbers, in order to come into a balance with its environment.

**The recipe for success in nature
is equilibrium, not explosion.**

Now, these prospects of destruction, of cannibalism and of drastic reduction in population that can lead to the total extinction of our species, I don't like them at all and that is why I am writing this text.

Someone would certainly say,

**that these are the laws of nature, and
no one asks me if I like them or not.**

But here I have one objection:

<p>Our success and our special place on earth we owe to our logic.</p>
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Our success and our unique position on Earth, we owe not only to the laws of nature but also to our logic and our reason.

Not that our logic is something outside the natural laws, but it is a development unique to the planet, an ability found in such a degree only in our species.

In no other.

Therefore, it may not be correct, if we transfer our experience and observations on the fate of other species directly to our species.

There is a fundamental difference between the fermentation bacteria and us.

We can think.

This ability gave us the strength to overcome all the obstacles we have encountered so far and to achieve such a growth in our population.

We must now expect this ability to help us solve the overpopulation problem. If this is the only problem we have to solve, just as our ability to think logically should also help us to solve all the other problems.

I hope that our logic will help us find our own "human" solutions.

Unless of course we have lost our logic in the meantime.

We had it once; it helped us to have the success we had.

Now we have lost it.

We have to endure the fate of fermentation bacteria.

I'm still hoping, perhaps naively, that it is not so, or at least not entirely so.

I think we haven't completely lost our ability to think. And therefore I am embarrassing and boring you with what I write here.

I assume that there is still hope, that we still have a chance. We need only to have the courage to face up to the truth and make the effort to think.

Neither the one nor the other is easy.

We are accustomed to averting our attention from the unpleasant, and the truth in this case, I greatly fear, will be extremely unpleasant.

We have learned to think as little as possible and soon it may be completely forbidden.

Are we still far away from George Orwell's "**1984**", or it has arrived already, and we haven't noticed it, because the methods of thought control through the press, television and the cinema are much more subtle and therefore much more effective than the arrests and the executions of the old days?

**If we expect the solution to come
from the laws of nature, then we know
how painful this solution will be.**

But before we deal with all that, let's first consider the energy issues related to the survival of our species.

For here we are not dealing with conflicting views or statistics which we can interpret as we like.

We are dealing with the basic laws of nature, with the principles of thermodynamics.

This is not to trifle with.

Since there is no: "... yes, but...".

Either we will be allowed to survive or not.

**The survival of the fermentation bacteria
is not allowed in any case.**

Ours?

6. The granting of mercy

Our example with the barrel of must was very clear, but in one point it does not describe exactly the conditions on Earth.

In the barrel all the food for the fermentation bacteria, all the available energy, is deposited in the form of must within the walls of the barrel. No other energy amount will come, and what we already have will diminish continuously, to keep the fermentation bacteria alive.

The fermentation bacteria are doomed either way.

They will go through a phase of development, they will have their population explosion, their final total extinction however is inevitable.

With us on Earth, how is the situation?

In general, the situation is the same and our behaviour exactly the same as that of the fermentation bacteria. We reproduce explosively, we squander the energy resources of the planet (coal, oil, natural gas) and we mess up our whole habitat with our waste.

The end will be either death from starvation or death from poisoning. Or maybe both of them together, as it seem likely.

In the big cities people are cocking on exhaust gases, while in other areas people are starving.

Death by starvation,
death by poisoning or
both of them simultaneously?

But there is a difference and a very significant one.

While the condemnation of the fermentation bacteria is irrevocable, we can be perhaps granted mercy.

The cause of this difference is the sun.

The sun sends us all the time energy at constant rate.

In contrast to the barrel, the Earth is an open system continuously supplied with energy.

Energy that will not run out at last in the near future.

The sun will continue to radiate for some billion years more.

We are not irrevocably condemned as the fermentation bacteria are.

We can continue to live on Earth for a long time.

If something will lead us to extinction, this will be our own stupidity and not the laws of nature.

If we were reasonable, that means if we were worthy of this reprieve, we would sit at our computer and would say:

"Our energy income is just this.

What the sun sends us every day and what our plants can store.

There is no more.

The reserves of the earth, so to say our energy fortune, coal, oil, methane, and the rest, let us leave them as they are, because otherwise the equilibrium will be overthrown, and we will create problems rather than solve them.

As prudent managers we have to live according to our income.

The sun sends us only so much energy, so we can support only so many people¹.

That's it".

This is the limit. Only so many people fit on the earth.

Only so many can live off the energy that the sun sends us. On the condition of course, that we take care of the waste.

This would be reasonable behaviour. There is room for so many, that many will live here.

The other way: we reproduce without limits, no matter what happens, and we squander the resources of the earth, and we drown in our own dirt, this is not the behaviour of rational beings.

This is the **mentality of fermentation bacteria**, and as long as we adhere to this practice, we run towards the same end as the fermentation bacteria with ever increasing speed.

Our future depends (fortunately or unfortunately?) on our own attitude.

So, what we do? On our behaviour will depend it if we get our reprieve granted or not.

¹ The attempt to calculate the "capacity" of the planet has a history of over 300 years.

A very serious and very accurate analysis on the topic can be found in the book:

Joel E. Coen: ***How Many People Can the Earth Support?***
Norton & Company 1996.

Are we behaving wisely or are we throwing a wild party and accelerating the end?

Are we behaving like good landlords of the planet, or are we wasting energy, water, raw materials and filling everything with our garbage?

If we had the corresponding diagrams for the increase in energy consumption, for the increase in water consumption, for the increase in raw material consumption and for the increasing pollution of the environment, we would have the same picture as the chart of population growth.

Everywhere explosion!

**No need to look at any charts,
you know, that it is so.**

7. "Let us celebrate"

We consume more and more energy. We burn more and more fuel.

We deplete the energy reserves of the Earth.

We increase the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, and now we wonder why the climate has begun to change.

Yes, why is it changing?
Could you perhaps
explain that to me,
Mister Homo Sapiens,
since you're so smart?

We are living today in indescribable energy luxury which will become even greater tomorrow.

We need heat in the winter. We use colossal amounts of energy to keep our buildings warm.

But we also need cooling in the summer.

The U.S. which is the pioneer in this field already uses as much energy for air conditioning as it does to heat the buildings.

We could, however, both in winter and summer, have a comfortable temperature, say 25° at home and at work without spending not a drop of oil for heating or cooling the space.

To achieve this it is enough to do what is called **Pasivhaus**.

To insulate the building well, and renew the air in the rooms by passing it through a heat exchanger.

**That's all, and this should be done
as soon as possible.
If we were wise, of course.**

And what can you say about the waste of energy for transportation?
Once, when we wanted to go somewhere, we walked.

If someone was very important, he had a horse and would go on horseback, like the cowboys.

The king, who was even more important, had a carriage with four horses, a "*quadriga*".

Nowadays it is almost expected that everyone will have a carriage with 100 horses! A car with a 100 hp engine.

As for their ability to pull the car, these are real horses. The engine provides the power of 100 horses.

One HP (horse power) is so determined: the power of a work horse.

Have you ever seen 100 horses pass along in a parade, a cavalry regiment?

I have never in my life seen so many horses gathered together.

But I can imagine how dirty the road would be, if so many horses ran over it.

Something similar happens with the 100 horses of the car.

They fill the atmosphere with their dirt, but because it is gaseous and mostly odourless we do not notice it.

Today life without a car of at least 100 hp is unthinkable.

**So, the proud owner comes down from
his apartment on the first floor**

(with the elevator, of course, where a dozen horses have to carry him down),

**gets into his car, turns on the stereo so loud that
the windows of the neighbouring buildings rattle**

(an extra horse power here)

**and whips his hundred horses to bring him to
the next street corner in order to get his cigarettes
from the vending machine.**

<p>Homo sapiens! We've said it already.</p>
--

It is not necessary, I think, to list more examples of waste.

About the food we throw away, about the clothes we dispose of, about the packaging materials we discard, about the bottles

**You will of course say:
but are the bottles the problem?**

I purposely mention it, because it is characteristic of our mentality and because this act of throwing away has its educational effect.

When you get used throwing away something small, than afterwards you will throw away something bigger.

What is the value of a bottle? A couple of cents. We use it to take our whisky home, then we throw it away.

But it is made of a precious material that can remain intact for centuries, that can withstand any chemicals and for its production a tremendous amount of energy was needed (as for the aluminium can of Coca Cola too, by the way).

- *And so what? What can I do? I do not care what the bottle is made of, and neither how much energy was spent on it. I am interested in drinking my whisky. When I have drunk it, I throw the bottle out. What do you want me to do? Would you have me perhaps stop drinking whisky so as not to throw out the bottle and keep the bottle and refill it at the farm again and again with plum brandy?*
- *And with my mentality, I have not understood what it is you do not like? Do I not have the right to do whatever is more convenient and easier for me? Am I not supposed to ensure that my life is enjoyable and comfortable? Am I not free to do whatever I want? Am I not the owner, the ruler of the Earth? **Is it not exactly this the purpose of my existence, was I not created for this reason?***

What should I say here?

Should I ask if it was always so, or whether it is the same in other regions of the Earth?

What's the point asking, when I know the answer?

- *What's it to me?*

Will this not be the answer?

Is this not always the answer, when we try to suggest, that today's excess consumption would have been unthinkable in the past or in other societies?

And unfortunately, behind this simple and usual answer, something very serious is hiding.

**It hides our attitude towards the whole world.
We are absolutely indifferent to what is happening around us.
The only thing we care about is our own welfare.**

8. The equality of opportunities

But let us return to the energy problems that are indeed measurable and let us ask the following question:

Well, world energy consumption increases continuously as does our population.

This consumption however, how is it distributed around the globe?

It is worthwhile, I think, to take a look at Figure 2. The chart contains the answer to the question posed above, but also reveals a side of our behaviour of critical importance.

It demonstrates the size of the problem which our species is facing, at least as drastically as Figure 1.

This diagram is very illuminating.

Maybe it's just enough to explain everything.

And perhaps based on this diagram we can right away find out if we can hope to get mercy or not.

The diagram also has the characteristic shape of an explosion and shows how much electricity the inhabitants of the Earth consume each year.

As one would expect, this varies from region to region. Every inhabitant of the planet, according to the place where he happened to be born, consumes a different percentage of the common energy wealth.

Well, what do you think? Is it not convincing? Doesn't it show everything quite clearly?

It has the same shape as Figure 1. Only the horizontal axis is not the coordinate of the time.

Is it perhaps the axis of the development or progress?

Or is it the axis of inequality, social injustice and exploitation?

<p>The discrepancy in energy consumption is the best measure of the inequality in the world.</p>

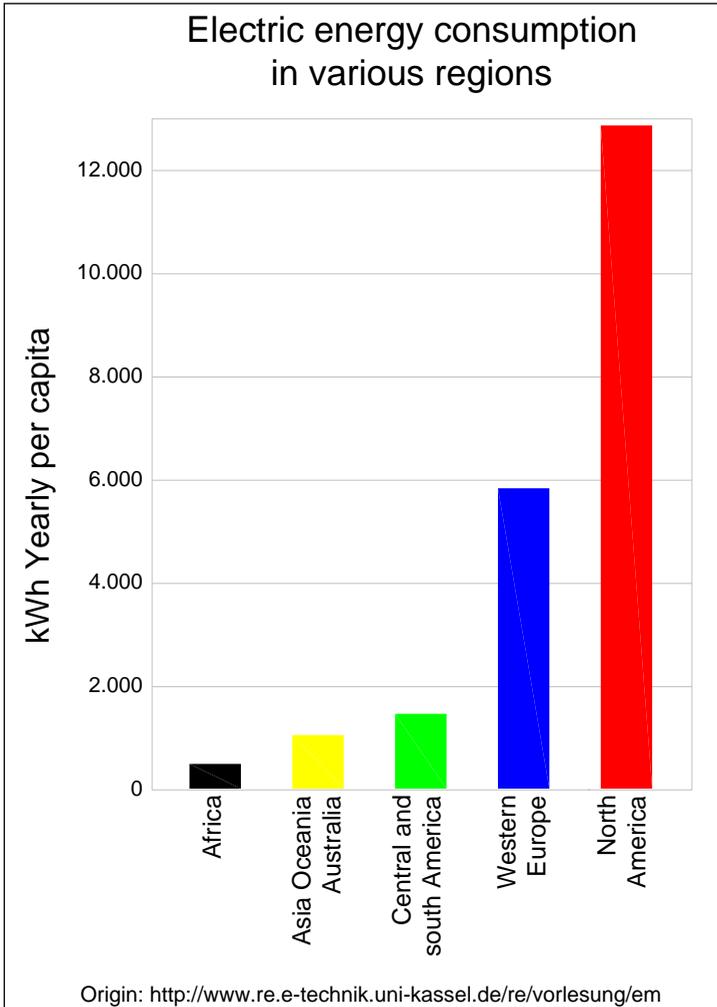


Figure 2

Truly, what has become of this fable of equality, or equal possibilities or equal opportunities or equal rights?

Here let me open a parenthesis, because the names they invent are really to be admired.

Earlier they said that they offer us **equality**. Then they realized that this was too coarse and no one falls for it so they have called it **equality of possibilities**.

Later, as it turned out that this was also fake, they called it **equality of chance**.

- *Play your roulette, ladies and gentlemen, and if you're lucky, you have the chance to be the winner!*

Yes, but what will happen to all those who lose?

- *What do you care about them, are you stupid? You have the chance to win, let the others take care about themselves.*

Has a resident of Africa really the same rights as a North American?

Do you see that we are dealing here with another explosion?

The explosion of greed, the concentration of wealth and power, and of course, the indifference towards the others.

And you realize of course that where it says "Africa" this includes South Africa, where a part section of the population (the whites) is on the level of Europe, as well as Ethiopia, where people don't have a twig to cook their food.

Within each region of this diagram we have a very similar distribution between rich and poor countries.

And of course, still further within each country, we have a similar distribution between rich and poor people.

Where it says "North America", you've seen of course some pictures showing people gathered around a barrel, where they have lit a fire with some old wood, and are trying to keep warm.

This is the real picture of the current state of the world:

Poor people on the one hand who always have less and less, and the rich on the other who always want more and more for themselves.

9. Nero and his lyre

At this point this text could end. Because what I have to tell you, Figure 1 and Figure 2 say it all.

You can draw the conclusions for yourself. You can predict the decision of the Board of Reprieve. We have an explosion of population on the one hand, an explosion of greed and waste on the other.

These are the facts and are what we have to cope with.

Ours is the Earth and ours is the decision.

Either we climb a hill to have better view of the burning city and play our lyre like Nero, or we do something.

And please, don't tell me that it is not our concern and not our responsibility to care about it, because there are *the wise men, the authorities, the trustees, the rulers, the Presidents the Prime Ministers and the others.*

I will not accept it.

It is the responsibility of each one of us.

If you are, sir, actually a highly developed mammal, a thinking primate, and not a gastropod,

and you see this beautiful planet threatened with catastrophe, your own species with extinction, and the civilization that your ancestors built stone by stone with destruction, then you have to do something.

Otherwise, the leaders would do well to treat you like a mollusc, and you do well, to condemn yourself to elimination.

Whoever wants to can take his lyre and climb to the nearest hill.

Isn't this what most people do anyway?

Don't they give this answer at every opportunity?:

"What's it to me?"

The question is, will anyone remain who will want to do something?

But do not ask me to tell you what should be done.

I had no such intentions. I just wanted to open the discussion.

If you want, we can work together to look for the solution.

But it will not be easy.

We have a long way to go, until we get to this point. We have to solve a problem.

And there are not many ways to solve a problem.

There is only one. The other way is to hide our heads in the sand like the ostrich and pretend there is no problem. In other words just as we have been doing until now.

If we want to deal with the problem,

- we need first to understand it,
- we need to recognize the facts that define its conditions,
- we need to analyse them,
- we need to search and, if we can, find the causes of the phenomena,
- we have to agree on these (and I consider this step very important and very difficult, because you will see how those who are infiltrated from the spirit of the system under which we live) will react and
- then begin to make suggestions and discuss the possibility of solving the problem.

**If we can succeed in making this analysis
with a few pages of simple text,
we should be more than happy.**

10. "Freebooters and Plunderers Ltd"

Here, however, someone could be indignant and say:

- *Why are you telling me all this and showing me these charts? Did you perhaps intend to suggest that Europe stops using energy in order to get to the level of Africa? Or maybe you want me, personally, not to use my car because my neighbour hasn't got one?*

What can I say?

He would be rightly indignant at the mere suspicion of such a proposal.

The reference to the two tunics is long forgotten.

No one dares to suggest it seriously nowadays.

The slogan-orders of contemporary society to the modern man.

The prevailing view of freedom, progress and prosperity teaches something different.

Freedom, progress and prosperity!

Are these not the three slogans? (Ah, I forgot, also the equality of opportunity). Is this not what is drummed into us every day?

- *Do what you can to have a good time, and don't ask how it will be tomorrow, or how the others are doing. Look at the earth. If there are any forests, cut them down to make firewood or toothpicks. Look at the sea too, if there are any whales, kill them for their oil. Search under the earth too. If you find coal, burn it to make electricity, if you find oil, put it in your car to go shopping. What is wrong with that?*

Indeed. According to the prevailing perception this behaviour is absolutely correct.

Especially now with the New Order, with globalization, now you will see freedom, progress and prosperity, and let's not forget equality of opportunities.

Only, it seems to me that here something cannot be right.

Is it possible that our attitude towards the world is based on the mentality and behaviour of robbers?

We have entered the treasure chamber and are grabbing everything we find?

Who inspired us with this "philosophy of plunder" and we made it to our standard?

Is it possible for all this to go unpunished?

What lies behind the idea that everything is allowed, provided we have fast, easy and painless profit?

11. A convenient but suspicious excuse

Who taught us that we must hoard money, and to consider it obvious and legitimate that it grows and multiplies by itself?

Perhaps someone would reply to me, that it is not necessary to look for culprits in mysterious explanations dark conspiracies and secret organizations.

- *Things are obvious, clear and very simple: No one causes all this intentionally. It happens by itself. Everything is due to our innate greed. We are by nature greedy and insatiable, and this explains all.*

Man is evil by nature and
this is to blame for all ills.

Now, here I will not agree.

This excuse seems to me far too easy, far too convenient and therefore quite suspicious.

It may have been invented just for disorienting us.

**It is not just that I do not agree,
but I want to protest strongly
against this view.**

I consider it not only wrong, but extremely dangerous.

We do not say: **greed is vile, immoral, unworthy of man.**

We say: it is **innate**.

This is the alibi!

- *What can we do? It is innate. What do you want, shall I change my nature? As I cannot get rid of my spine, neither can I get rid of my innate greed.*

A very nice excuse, indeed! It justifies both the greed and all the crimes arising from it.

You would certainly say that we cannot deny that it is innate, because it occurs also in dogs (though to a lesser degree) and in small children.

You are right.

We carry with us such primitive qualities which are destructive to society.

Like jealousy for example which appears as well in dogs and in little children.

But, are these our sole qualities?

Why overstate the bad
side of our character?

Don't we have other innate qualities which keep society together?

Don't we have instincts of **love**, of **comradeship**, of **solidarity**, of **altruism**?

Do not tell me please, that the moralists only imagined all this, since dogs and babies have these instincts too.

But must our behaviour be kept only on the level of babies and dogs?

Have we not proven, we humans, that we can control some of the inherent characteristics which we got from our primitive life, with general disapproval and that we can strengthen others with attention and refinement?

And since we are in the phase of protests, I want to protest at something else.

There is a Latin maxim that says:

Homo homini lupus
(Man is wolf to man).

The first reason for my protest is the abysmal ignorance of whoever said it, in reference to the social behaviour of the wolf.

The wolf is an exemplary and enviable social animal, showing incredible care and affection for the other members of the pack.

If only we could behave to each other like wolves do.

The second reason for my protest is more serious.

A maxim is something whose
truth is taken for granted.
And if it is moreover in Latin
then it is final, it can't be
doubted anymore by anyone.

But is it not true?

Don't we often show hostile behaviour to each other?

It is true.

But it is only a partial truth, one view of the truth.

Indeed, like all other animals, we have among our other instincts the instinct also of aggression against individuals of the same species.

An instinct which concerns the defense of one's living space.

The wolf too will show his teeth when someone from a foreign pack appears in its territory.

But is this instinct still necessary?

Does our survival depend on it?

Or on the contrary is our existence threatened (and **this is the only threat!**) by maintaining and further cultivating an instinct that has lost its usefulness and now can only be considered as a perversion?

And do not start again with this:

– *"You know, it's in my nature, it's like my spine"*

because I would be forced to remind you that you have already discarded a part of your spine, your tail, when you realized that you didn't need it anymore and that it hindered your movements.

Therefore let's leave behind
and discard this instinct too
and stop hanging it up in Latin,
like an inscription in gold letters.

This is not the only instinct we humans have.

We also, just like the wolves, have instincts of solidarity, of companionship, of friendship, of love for the other man.

**These are the instincts we should point out and highlight,
because at the point where we have now arrived,
our survival depends solely on their cultivation.**

12. The modern religion

Who profited from maintaining and magnifying selfishness and greed, and at the same time allowing love, friendship, respect for man and nature to fade away and eventually to be forgotten?

Why, since the first communities till yesterday in all healthy societies was modesty and self-restraint recognized as a virtue, and why today are we all engaged in the race for luxury and rampant consumerism?

In the phase of decline of course (Roman decadence, Byzantine decadence, decadence of the feudal system) the outstanding element was naturally the luxury, the rampant waste and the abolition of any moral barrier.

This is the dominant symptom of the demise.

The infallible sign that the end is already near.

Our system is coming to its end.

Just as was the case with the earlier systems.

And perhaps this fact should not worry us too much, since the decadent system was replaced each time by a new "robust" system leading the society to new heights and the culture to a new flowering.

What should worry us, which is new and which happens for the first time, is that our system has prevailed globally and that no alternative proposal has appeared anywhere.

How could mankind have existed until now by condemning and isolating the greedy, and today be in the verge of collapse having declared money to be the sole and absolute value, for the sake of which everything is permitted?

This promotion of money as today's religion is, I think, the reason for all the ills that we are suffering and the much greater ones that are coming.

And I think you'll agree with me that for such a serious issue it is worth asking why and how, or even who is to blame for such a development.

And let no one say again that this has happened on its own, simply because mankind is getting old and silly and is returning to primitive and infantile behaviour.

Today, mankind is facing an unprecedented reality and, in my opinion, an unprecedented threat.

We have the global, single, complete and unquestioned dominance of an economic, social and political system based on a unique value:

Money,

which has replaced all other values in which we believed up to now.

The foundations of our civilization (concepts such as: Love, Ethics, Logic, Freedom), which we considered unshakeable, because we needed centuries if not millennia to form them, have been overthrown and in their place there is a single teaching:

**"Money is the measure
of all things".**

I will make no comments regarding the moral and cultural value of this system.

I'm sure you have made these comments already by yourself.

I would claim however that the system is not just dangerous for humanity, for the environment and for the planet.

It is catastrophic.

**It includes in its core
the seed of destruction.**

Of its own destruction first, and of our own afterwards, because we linked our destiny with it.

It leads us to this disaster with ever increasing speed and we may have already reached the point where even if we wake up we cannot avoid the complete ruin.

The basic principle of the current way of thinking is that capital by driving economic development "creates" new capital.

The capital's owner has no need to work for it.

Capital multiplies by itself.

The logical explanation of this concept, and also its ideological and moral justification is based on the concept of growth.

Without growth our system is unthinkable.

The invested capital enables growth, increased production and increased profits.

A part of the profits logically is collected by the capital's owner, the investor so that he, without having worked of course, possesses more capital than before.

I will leave it to you to judge the moral side of this argument.

**I will confine myself to ask a question
on the future of such a system by making
a simple fun mathematical game.**

13. A serious joke

Let's calculate, just for fun, what would happen if a capital of 100 euro was invested in 1800 with a yield of 10%.

This capital would, by continual growth, have arrived today somewhere in the order of billions.

If we want to make a chart for this growth, we must use such a large scale that at the beginning of the chart it is not possible, to distinguish the curve of the capital from the zero line.

The result can be found in Figure 3, where the course of the curve after 1900 is shown.

In 1900 our capital would have been 1. 378. 000, but the size is indistinguishable on the scale of the chart from zero. Therefore only the last 100 years are designed on the chart.

Is the shape of this curve somehow familiar to you? Do you recognize the law that is hidden in such a development?

Even values in the order of millions are too small on this scale to be detected at the beginning of the diagram. Only after 1950 can we recognize the explosion inherent in the system, which by the year 2000 would have made 19 billion from the initial 100 euro.

If you found this development to be excessive, as it is indeed, do not attribute it to an overstated assumption of a growth of 10%.

This assumption is a very "moderate" one. Investments which yield less than 15% annually are considered to be absolutely uneconomic. They are abandoned and their shares are sold.

Our example is purely hypothetical.

But we can ask ourselves how far from the truth this lies.

Could we not, just to have a sense of what is going on, assume that at some time, say in 1800, this process of accumulation of capital began?

Mustn't we imagine that this accumulation of capital has led to the existence today around the world of more goods and more money?

You would tell me that there is nothing more pleasant than this.

We are becoming constantly richer.

What else do we want?

It's true.

Today in the world a lot of wealth (houses, factories, ships, airports) has accumulated.

Of course, how this wealth is distributed, is another story and it is very interesting and characteristic of the law which developed in parallel, that fewer and fewer people have more and more capital.

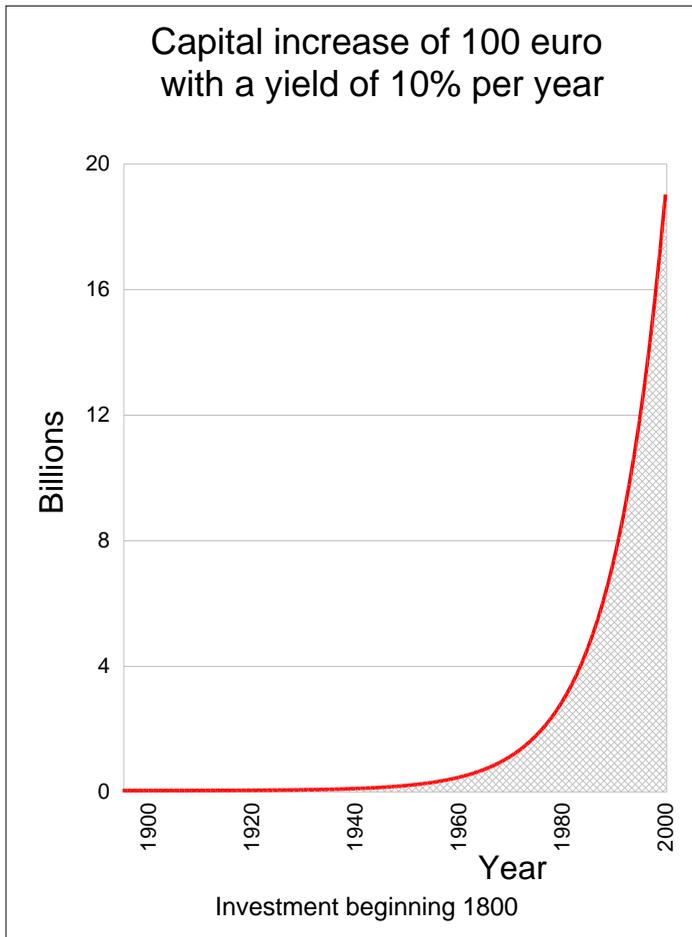


Figure 3

This fact of the ever greater concentration of capital has not only its moral and social dimension. It shows something very important about the development of the system that will soon help us to better understand the phenomenon.

For now, what we need to consider is:

Where can such a development lead the system?

We are dealing here with an
explosion, the capitalist explosion.

Where will it lead us?

There of course, where all
the explosions lead:
To disaster.

There is no system that can accelerate forever.

Isn't it clear that on a limited planet no unlimited growth is possible?
If this trend continues for another 20 years, the initial 100 € will increase to 128 billion.

You would tell me: And so what, where is the problem?

The problem is this:

Where can we invest the billions
"born" new every day in order to
yield the "normal" 10% for us?

And if we just manage it today, what will happen tomorrow, when even more billions must be invested profitably?

In 1800 10 new euros were "produced" within one year, from our original 100 €.

During the year 2000 two new billion should be added, should be "born".

**If this trend continues, in 2020 our capital
should "produce" 13 billion within one year,
i.e. almost as much as accumulated
during the first 200 years!**

14. An unsolvable problem

This is the dead end:

– *Where can we invest our money profitably?*

The proposal to increase consumption is only a temporary solution.

The question is not what we will do with the surplus goods.

There the answer is quite clear:

We will throw them away.

This is what we have been doing for quite some time.

Why do you think the spirit of reckless waste was cultivated, and the landfills flooded?

The problem is not the goods, it's the capital.

The question is what we will do with the excess capital.

That we cannot throw away.

It has to be invested somehow, to "produce" new capital.

If capital ceases to generate capital, our system simply ceases to exist too.

It is as simple as this:

**Ceases to exist profit?
Our system ceases to exist.
Full stop.**

Due to continuous growth over the last decades, an enormous, an unprecedented amount of capital has accumulated around the world.

**The volume of this thirsty-for-profit-capital
is so huge that it now is developing
its own dynamic.**

It is desperately looking for "markets", for investment opportunities, just to find someone to sell him no matter what.

Are you not surprised that now the big market is China?

But there they have communism ...

- *And so what, what do I care? I just want to "invest".
When I say to "invest", to dress, you know what I mean:
to strip them, to leave them quite naked.*

Have you noticed that lately even small children have been found under the fire of consumerism?

This is called selection of the appropriate target group in the language in advertising. Very true. This group is the target, the point on which the rifle fire of advertising must concentrate. It is a section of the population that can still be exploited.

Have you seen how the commercials refer more and more to very young children?

Have you seen that now even perfumes and colognes are being promoted for children of five or six? Do you understand the frustration and the despair of capitalists who can no longer find where to put their money?

But neither China nor the babies can save the situation.

The amount of money that must be invested profitably is colossal, and it is not possible to find other "growth gaps" for the investment of so much money.

There is no room for the investment of so much money either in the weapons' trade or the drugs' trade or in the trade of the human body, whether whole for prostitution, or in pieces for transplants.

In the past the logic of our system actually functioned.

A capital owner bought a fallow field with his money he built a factory there and began production. That means creating goods not existing before and so creating wealth. He kept a portion of the profit to increase his capital and built an even larger factory which allowed for greater profit so that he could build an even larger one and so forth.

It was also very convenient for us that we had the population explosion.

We had more and more workers, more and more consumers.

What a happy coincidence, indeed!

Or perhaps it was not coincidence and simple negligence that we hadn't looked to control the population in time?

But how long can this continue on the finite planet?

The unfortunate fermentation bacteria could also have the question:

***"Until yesterday everything was going so well,
and we are multiplying at an ever-increasing rate.
Why do we have to die now?"***

15. A nightmare scenario

But if it isn't possible any more to increase my capital with further growth, I can still increase it by acquiring the capital that my neighbour has already accumulated.

Of course this has always happened but it was not so obvious, because at the same time there was the creation of new capital from the continuous growth that confused the picture.

If further growth is no longer possible,
the only way to increase my capital is
to grab capital from someone else.

That's why it was so important to note, that ever fewer people possess ever more capital.

This new phenomenon that shows how close we are to the end, it has become evident lately.

Have you ever played the entertaining game *Monopoly*?

It could be found everywhere and many people played it in the evening with friends. And it was not only a fun pastime for people to spend an enjoyable evening. It was something much more serious. It was the transfer of the basic principles of our system to the level of a game.

At the beginning of the game all players start from the same economic position (do you remember this with the equal opportunities?) and begin to build virtual houses and hotels, where the other players, when they land on that square, have to pay rent.

Gradually all the economic power is concentrated in one single player who finally owns all the money, all the houses, all the hotels.

– *And after that?*

What after that? There is no afterwards.

The absolute ruler has no reason to continue to build. The investment is no longer profitable.

The game is over.

This is the stage
we have reached now with
the global economy.

Since the magic recipe "growth" obviously cannot work anymore,

the "need for the multiplication
of capital" (something like
the need for animal reproduction)
is perverted into self-destructive
cannibalism.

And this is not simply limited to the owners of capital or the companies in one line of business or in one area which are "bought out" or "merged" every day.

This now covers the entire planet.

This is globalization.

Globalization of the economy.

Giant amounts of capital move uncontrolled across the globe at the speed of the Internet, like robber bands with the sole purpose of absorbing any economies in different countries through the fall of the local stock exchanges or the overthrow of their currency rates.

There is no longer any way of increasing capital except by looting.

We have seen this in the events of recent years, and we will see it to a more frightening extent in the coming years.

We have seen the plundering of the economically weaker countries. Soon it will be the turn of the stronger ones.

And I do not think anyone wants to claim that all this has nothing to do with the general decline, with the plundering of the natural resources of the earth, with the imposition of the will of the powerful through "humanitarian bombing", or with the corruption into which the world is sinking, as in a marsh.

**The end is coming.
It's coming with an ever
increasing velocity.**

The curve in Figure 3 confirms with the undeniable validity of mathematics,

**the inevitable future of our system
and its impending collapse.**

16. The nightmare reality

The only objection (or the only hope?) that one might have, is whether the mathematical game of this curve in Figure 3 is not true. That it has nothing to do with reality.

That it's a simple game that could have been fun if had not proven so scary.

- *Do not worry. It is not true. These aren't serious things. They have nothing to do with reality. If it were so, our leaders, the "wise men" who govern the world would have realized it and they would have warned us.*

Our system is not in
danger of disappearing.
Neither directly nor indirectly.

- *All this about the curve in Figure 3, is a fairy tale to make the young children scared. Naive thoughts from someone who has no idea of economics. This has nothing to do with reality. It is a simple nightmare. We will wake up to see the real world around us totally different.*

Our system is invulnerable and
will continue to exist unchanged
forever and ever.

- *Instead of making funny math's games to predict the imminent collapse of the system and scaring people, we would do well to open our eyes to reality and at last be serious.*

All right, let's look at something serious. Something that is no game and is not laughable.

Let us look at Figure 4 (for the same period as in Figure 3) the progression of the Dow Jones index on the New York stock exchange.

By this time even the housewives have heard of this:

**This index is the "barometer"
of the world economy.**

I will not comment on this diagram.

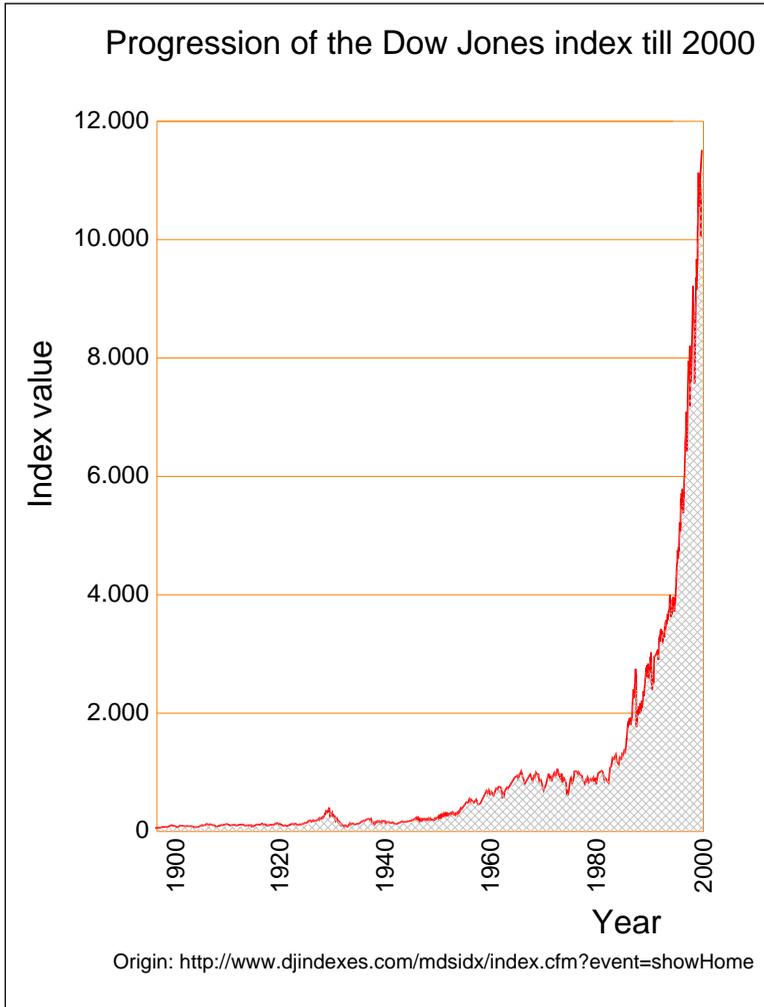


Figure 4

I leave it to you to find out whether there is any relationship between serious reality and the entertaining, amusing, mathematical game of Figure 3. How do you like that? Was Fig. 3 a fairy tale? And if that was a nightmare, then what is Figure 4?

This is something much worse. It is nightmarish reality.

These are no longer suppositions and funny games.

**This is the reality.
Whether you like it or not.
This is it.**

What does such a sequence describe? The development of an explosion, of course.

Why don't the "wise men" warn us?

Is it possible that they do not see that our system is busting in the air?

If this curve had shown the temperature of the reactor in Chernobyl nuclear power plant, shouldn't the security officer have pressed the alarm button, so that people could leave the site, as long as there was still time?

If the gauge had shown that in the steam boiler of the ship the pressure was continually increasing faster and faster, shouldn't the captain have given the command to abandon ship, before the boat blow up?

What do you think?
How much longer will capital
"give birth" to new capital?
How long can our system
continue to exist?
The end is coming, if
it hasn't already arrived

All right, the naive admirers of the system do not see it.

They keep chewing the "*stupidity cabbage*", which is fed to them daily by the "wise men", they believe in the immortality of the invulnerable system and delude themselves.

The "wise men" however, why don't they tell us that the end is coming, perhaps, is already here?

But just a moment.

Where does the idea come from that 12,000 index points is the absolute limit, which once reached causes us to blow up?

Perhaps the limit (I cannot imagine that someone ate so much "*stupidity cabbage*" that he believes that there is no limit) is at 24,000 or 120,000 (such "predictions" were heard at the time that the Greek stock market was galloping to its own abyss).

Why is Figure 4 so alarming?

After all since 2000 some years have gone by.

No disaster has occurred yet.

Hasn't it?

**Really, how did the Dow-Jones index
react over the past years?**

17. The new millennium

The answer can be seen in Figure 5.

In the year 2000 the index seems
to stumble across an obstacle,
an invisible wall.

And it is still vibrating under
the influence of the collision.

**Its beautiful upward trend
is suddenly interrupted.**

If you could see the curves before and after 2000 separately, you would not believe that the one is the continuation of the other.

Figure 6 shows (in some magnification to highlight the differences) the actual curve of the index from the year 2000 and thereafter.

Has this diagram anything to do with the diagram in Figure 4?

Is it possible to be its sequel?

Figure 4, regardless of some vibrations, shows a clear accelerating upward trend.

In Figure 6, the accelerating rise has disappeared, and the only thing that is left are the vibrations.

The curve in Figure 4 was a typical "success curve".

It was the proof of the success of our system. It showed its dynamics, its trend for continued growth.

Figure 6 shows what? Nothing specific you would think.

The system has an initial decline becoming ever more pronounced, but then something happens, a happy coincidence intervenes and, like magic, gives it the strength to rise again.

**The acceleration of growth,
however, is lost forever.**

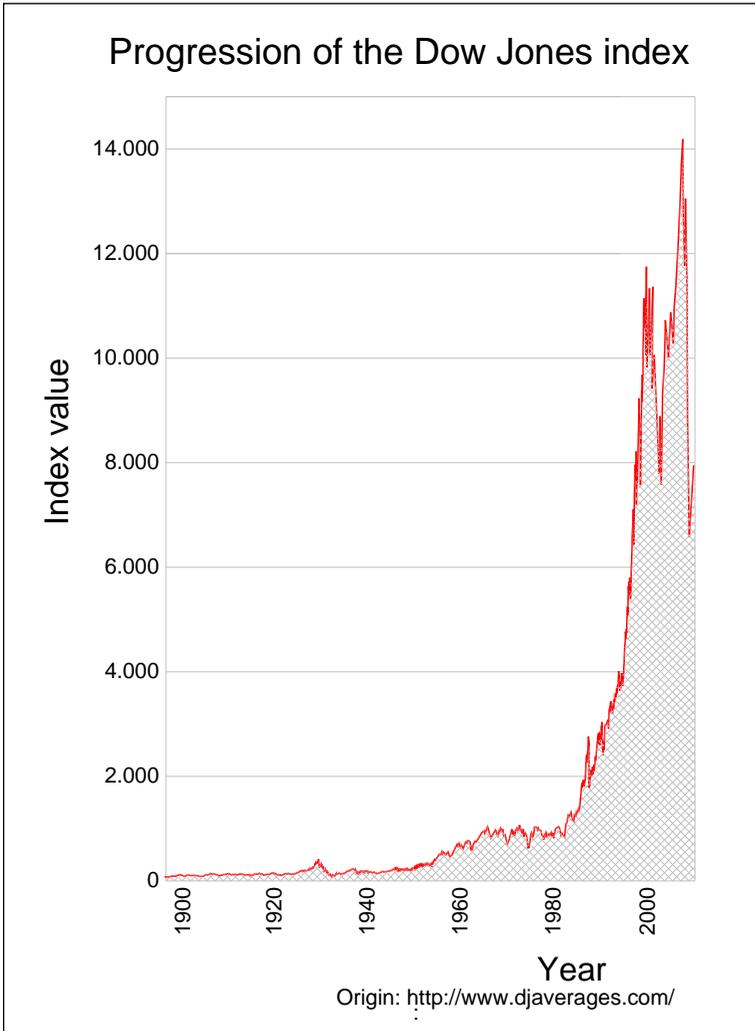


Figure 5

The rise begins suddenly
but instead of accelerating
it slows down continually.

**As if something happened
around 2000 which changed
fundamentally the law
of the phenomenon.**

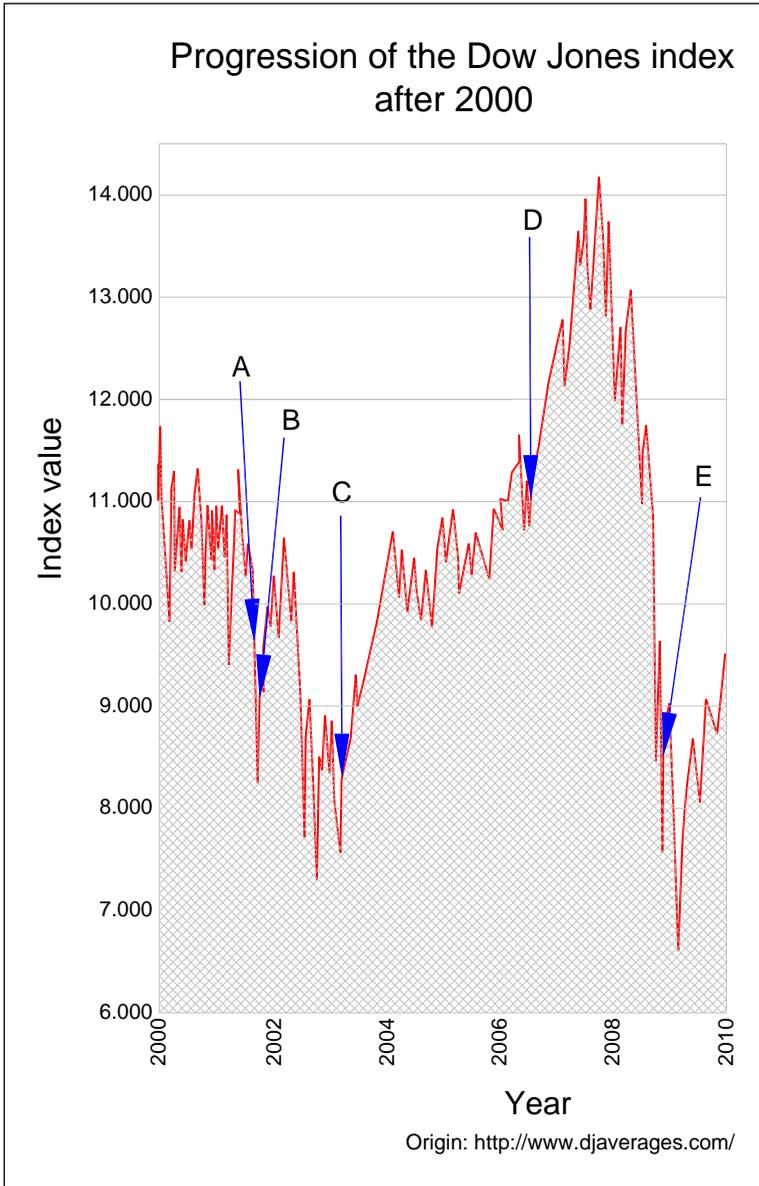


Figure 6

At point B (or shortly before) we have the first rise, but it does not last too long and is followed by the worst drop ever.

At point C (or shortly before) we have the second rise which is maintained for almost four years and to which is added the increase that starts at point D and leads the index to a height greater than the maximum in 2000.

"Apparently the system does not know what it is doing, someone told me when I showed him the curve, it suffered a hard blow to the head and is still staggering".

- *Why are you so surprised, say the advocates of the system. This blow is nothing other than the impact of terrorism. We hardly had the time to celebrate the arrival of the new century and our system was attacked. An unprecedented attack of unbelievable cruelty, with thousands of dead. The axis of evil began to move. The forces of darkness started their dirty war against the forces of light. They shattered the twin towers, the symbol of globalization! What did you expect? That this would have no impact?*

I'm sure this argument can convince you very little, because you are able to see that the decline of the system does not follow but precedes the destruction of its symbol, the twin towers.

However, because this opinion illustrates very nicely the quality of the arguments with which the world is governed, it is worthwhile dealing with.

18. How stupid do they really think we are?

Do they believe that we are not even able to count on our fingers?

From 1.14.2000, when the index peaked at 11,723 units until the eve of the terrorist attack on 9.11.2001, when it had fallen to 9,605 units, 20 months of continuous fall had intervened.

Who stopped the rapid rise of the index for so long, transforming even the rise into descent?

Certainly not the premonition that a terrorist attack was coming 20 months later.

The attack of the twin towers happened at point A of Figure 6.

In fact, after 9.11.2001 the decline of the index accelerated.

But until then the index had already lost 2,118 units from its maximum, almost as much as it had gradually accumulated over ninety years from 1900 until 1990!

And one more thing.

Yes, there was a decrease immediately afterwards.

Shortly afterwards, however, still in September, there began a nice smooth upward trend which until the end of the year led the index higher than the day before the strike.

If it wasn't too farfetched, you could say that the hit on the twin towers was a happy coincidence for the economy.

How fortunate indeed that we had this stroke.

- And we thus received a nine-month "delay" in the slippery slope which has tormented us since 2000.
- And in addition to this we had the advantage of saying, that the system itself is not to blame for the decrease, but the forces of evil.
- And the advantage of finally knowing who the enemy was, something we had missed since the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- And the advantage of being able to "tighten the belt" both at home and with our allies.

That shortly after 9.11.2001 a nice upward trend of the index started, is very interesting and well worth investigating closer.

Imagine if we could find a correlation between the events that followed the attack and the increase in the index!

We'd have in our hands the magic recipe for what to do every time we wanted to raise the index.

What happened after 9.11.2001 we already know.

In less than a month on 10.7.2001, at point B in the diagram, the invasion of Afghanistan began.

The most terrible military machine the world has ever seen, the united forces of U.S. and NATO attacked the poorest, the most wretched and miserable country in the world, which even before the attack, only existed with our charity.

I admired, of course, the speed of our response.

It seemed like we had foreseen or expected the hit on the towers and we were prepared.

I confess however that I did not quite understand in what respect the people of Afghanistan were so guilty that they had to be punished so harshly.

I could not figure out how all the people of Afghanistan decided to destroy the West and what machinery they had available to achieve their devilish goals.

But for our leaders to decide thus, it must have been so.

**The entire Afghan people,
young, old, men, women, children,
everyone had collaborated in the murder,
and they should be punished exemplarily.**

19. The "New Order" liberates

It was our right to protect our civilization from the cowardly attack by the forces of evil.

And not only that. We had not only the right but the obligation to do so for purely humanitarian, liberating reasons, as explained by the philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy in his interview to SPIEGEL (49/2001 - 03.Dezember 2001):

"My generation has imposed a great principle to international law: the right to interfere. This right has recently authorized three liberation wars in Bosnia, Kosovo and now Afghanistan. Our children must go further and turn the right into a duty".

Good thing we were given the philosophical explanation of Mr Levy.
We attacked Afghanistan not to punish the Afghans, as I naively thought.

We went there to liberate them!

We have done them a service.

They must be very foolish if they have not understood it. And ungrateful too.

The humanitarian bombing and then the liberating soldiers must have been received with great gratitude.

We had to liberate the Afghans from the tyrannical regime in which they lived.

Who supported the Taliban for years, in their control of the Afghan people, that's another story.

Now, if our humanitarian action happened to be followed by an increase of the index, what can we do?

As with the previous liberation wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, but also the Gulf War, which we shouldn't forget, because there "the great *principle of interference*" was tried out for the first time.

We didn't try to increase the index.
We tried to liberate the Afghans.
It must be pure coincidence.
Many strange coincidences
happen in life.

Someone would naturally want to associate the increase of the index with the increased activity caused by the war, not only in the weapons and ammunition industry but in general.

From the plastics industry (**increased demand for condoms, elastic bandages and body bags**) to construction of any kind, since the infrastructure of the liberated country (**roads, bridges, networks, factories, telecommunications, airports**) disappears completely (**it seems that liberation is not possible without complete destruction of the country's infrastructure**), and must be rebuilt from scratch.

Can you imagine a better opportunity to develop our economy?

Just a pity that this gain for the index did not seem to last long.

It dissipated rapidly.

Indeed, we had a very nice rise until the first months of 2002, but after that we fell back to the misery of descent, which in the autumn of 2002 led us to much lower values than before the beginning of the Afghanistan liberation.

If there is any relationship between a war of liberation and the progress of the index, wouldn't it be better if the land to be freed is not so "bony"?

Afghanistan has only stones.

Only that these stones may be far more interesting than we thought all the time.

In June 2010, eight years after the beginning of our efforts to liberate Afghanistan, a curious article appeared in the press:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/14/world/asia/14minerals.html?scp=1&sq=afghanistan,%20lithium&st=cse>

The subsoil of Afghanistan holds such mineral treasures that could transform the country into "one of the most important mining centers of the World".

Do you see now how right we were to try to liberate Afghanistan at any cost?

Divine justice, who doesn't punish only but also rewards noble intentions, may be late, but it never forgets.

In this case it let eight years pass before rewarding our noble intentions.

Of course, those who believe neither in divine justice, nor in the noble intentions of the great powers, will find another explanation.

They will claim: that all this was known to the intelligence services, there were even maps of the deposits from the 1980's, and that the existence of these deposits explains finally the desire of the great powers, each on its own way, to save poor Afghanistan by force.

"You can't get blood out of a stone!"

Where will Afghanistan find the money for the reconstruction of its ruined infrastructure to boost our economy?

If we liberated a more "juicy" country?

20. Our rescue

Fortunately it seems that Divine Providence took pity on us.

While the index was in the most terrible decline of all time so far, the favourable coincidence reappeared. Terrorism struck again. Not with a direct hit this time, but with a terrible menace to all humanity. The threat from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

And so we were forced, at point C in diagram 6, to start the next war of liberation:

To rid Iraq of its dictator.

Who supported the dictator for years, in his control of the Iraqi people, that's another story.

The Iraqis, I guess, have already realized how indebted they must be.

The humanitarian bombing and then the liberating soldiers must have been received with great gratitude.

You know of course that the big winners are those liberated by this effort of ours.

They now live happily in long-lasting peace, freedom and democracy surrounded by the delights of the western way of life and the liberal economy of the New Order.

**Whether our index again
(purely by accident of course)
also showed a profit,
that can be seen in Figure 6.**

From point C and onwards (or a little bit earlier, because the index, as in the previous wars, seems to "smell" upcoming events) there began a wonderful smooth upward trend that lasted over four years.

Certainly, alongside this fabulous increase of the index there was some "**collateral damages**", as it is so nicely called.

A non-governmental independent research group of professors² at the Johns Hopkins university, calculated that up to October 2006 650,000 Iraqis had died because of the invasion.

**Well, what can we do?
In order to save mankind from the
Iraqi weapons of mass destruction,
we had to accept some losses.**

Because there had been observed some not at all promising ups and downs in the index, and in order to find out if (as long as we were in an upward phase) a further increase was possible, it would be worth repeating the experiment, and starting the next war of liberation before the beginning of the next drop.

Fortunately Divine Providence
(purely by accident of course)
came again to our help.

And so at point D of diagram 6,
after the terrorist kidnapping of
two soldiers we were forced to
begin the liberation of Lebanon.

Although this humanitarian action didn't last long (the basic infrastructure of a country can obviously in a short time be reduced to a state which demands immediate reconstruction), and there was no direct involvement of the great transatlantic ally, again, miracle of miracles, the impact on the index was impressive.

The already ongoing rise was maintained and intensified.

We exceeded the maximum of the year 2000, we passed the milestone of 14,000 points and we broke the all-time records.

Until the autumn of 2007 we could be optimistic.

We had nothing to fear anymore. If the next big fall should start, Divine Providence (which is known to be on our side) would ensure that the

² Gilbert Burnham, Riyadh Lafta, Shannon Doocy and Les Roberts:

Mortality after the 2003 invasion of Iraq: a cross-sectional cluster sample survey.

The Lancet Early Online Publication, 12 October 2006

next terrorist strike would take place, so that we could start the next war of liberation.

We had the magic recipe.

And we would not miss the opportunities for humanitarian actions.

**There are lines of unhappy people
yearning to be freed, and the world is full of
state-nests of terrorists who are ready to
drown all mankind in blood.**

21. Deadlock

Let's get real though. Let's stop occupying ourselves with the hopes of supernatural intervention and with the (real or fictional) terrorist threats and look at what happened afterwards.

Since autumn 2007 our index showed an unprecedented decline.

What happened? Have we no longer any instrument available to stop the collapse?

Has the miracle medicine - war - lost its effectiveness?

In the armed actions of the recent years in question, the misleading use of the term "war" is imposed deliberately in order to confer a semblance of legality.

**War is waged between states
that are able to cause mutual
damage one to the other.**

When a powerful military state or a coalition of states, as in the case of the United States and NATO, uses its unparalleled military supremacy, to invade a practically defenceless country,

**this is not called war,
it is called assault.**

Or is its effect only of limited duration? How long can a war actually revive the economy?

Just take a look at the performance of the Dow-Jones index to find it out.

The respite it brings is actually limited. Once a war begins the index begins to rise forcefully. This increase however becomes smaller and smaller with each passing day. As time passes the curve loses its original momentum. After a few months or a few years (depending on the financial strength of the involved country) it tends to level out and then the inherent ominous vibrations begin to appear.

Nor can the solution of
constantly starting new wars
operate ad infinitum.

Even the richest country
in the world is unable to live
constantly in a state of war.

Although in comparison to the disaster that the attacked country suffers, the losses of the invading superpower are minimal, they accumulate nevertheless over the years.

**Public opinion in the country begins to get impatient,
world public opinion turns against the superpower.**

And the economy may initially show growth because some firms will benefit from government contracts, the state however spends money which it does not possess and which it must borrow for the most counterproductive purpose imaginable, for war.

Who could afford an even bigger war with a financially stronger state, which would last longer and benefit the economy for a longer period?

Because with invasions that involve only a few hundred dead in countries that depend on outside help to survive, the situation cannot be saved.

At Christmas 2008 we had the "elimination of the terrorist threat in the Gaza Strip".

Did it ever help the index, even though nothing was left standing in the area?

At point E of diagram 6 you can discern a slight rise, which in the terrible fall that prevailed after the end of 2007, and because of the negligible economic size of the "liberated country", is so small that it is difficult to connect it to this war.

So what solution is left?

Haven't you understood yet?

There is no solution.

We're stuck at a dead end.

The new millennium has revealed
that it cannot continue.

Our system has reached its end.

Certainly, anyone who didn't want to deceive himself could have foreseen this one hundred years ago. He had just to do the simple calculations that we did in chapter: "*A serious joke*".

Or even at the last minute prior to 2000 when in just five years the index increased from 4,000 to 11,000.

We had a real explosion.

What do you expect to find after an explosion?

After an explosion there are only ruins.

22. Money multiplies

For those who perhaps have not yet understood the extent and the significance of this explosion, it would be useful to take a look at Figure 7.

It shows how much money is transacted each day in the New York stock exchange. Of all the "explosive" curves we have seen till now, the curve of Figure 7 is the "most explosive".

It demonstrates most clearly and incontrovertibly what we calculated in chapter: "*A serious joke*".

Namely that the existing capital is growing explosively.

And this Capital must be, accordingly to the basic principle of our system, profitably invested.

And perhaps this diagram gives the answer to the question, what happened to our system somewhere before 2000 and started the vibrations in the system and in its "barometer", the Dow-Jones Index.

Figure 7 shows exactly that around 2000 the hyper-concentration of capital began to reach astronomical dimensions in the range of billions.

That's where it all started.

All the evils that followed in the new century, and the even more terrible things which will follow.

As we predicted in our amusing mathematical game, there comes a moment when the accumulated capital has become so large that there is no longer any possibility for productive investment.

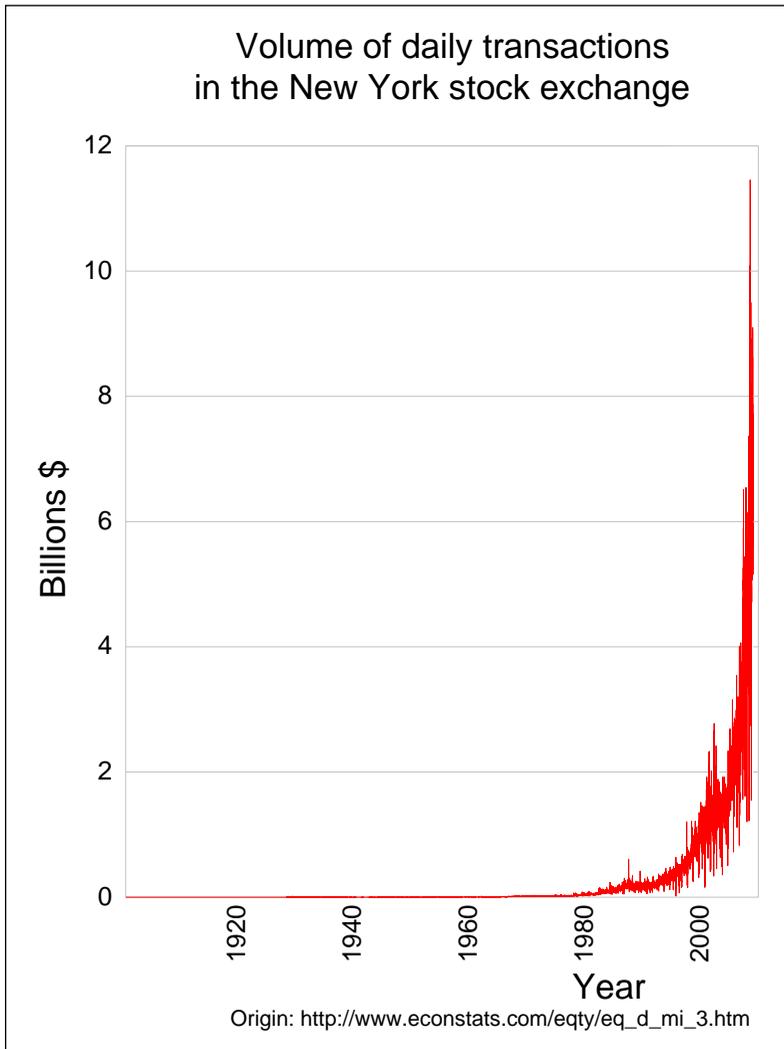


Figure 7

Now, its urge to increase
degenerates completely
into what we called
self-destructive cannibalism.

Figure 7 shows this change exactly.

After 2000 a gigantic amount of capital shifted to the stock market.

**In the stock market nothing is produced,
wealth isn't generated there.**

**There you can become rich only by taking
the money from someone else's pocket.**

Previously, someone could claim that bringing his money into the stock market was a productive investment.

The company whose shares he bought, would have more capital, would expand its business volume and thereby create new wealth. But now this is no longer possible. We all know: companies are limiting their cycle of work.

**In spite of that however, since people continue
to work and the corn in the fields continues
to grow, wealth is produced daily in the world.**

This wealth accumulates continuously in the hands of a few people who cannot know where to invest their money. So they take it to the stock market.

**They hope, through the ups and downs
of the share prices, that they will win what other
shareholders will lose. Exactly as in roulette.**

The money that has accumulated
around the world is a lot of money,
a great deal of money,
a huge amount of money.
It has increased tremendously and
continues to increase rampantly.

The number of billions of these amounts is so difficult for us simple people to perceive that we need to make a special effort to understand its size.

I suggest nevertheless that we make this effort, because our usual answer:

"It's too big to understand" is exactly what the system expects.

It doesn't want as to understand. It hopes that we will give up trying.

Haven't you noticed that not only are the numbers inconceivable, but also the language used is incomprehensible?

All this is not for us ordinary mortals.

This is the business for the "**priests**" of the system, for the people in Banks and the Stock Exchange.

We just have to work so that this money is constantly produced. Its management is the job of the "priests". For us; the less we understand the better.

23. How much money is played in the stock market?

Well, the roughly 10 billion dollars "played" every day in the New York Stock Exchange is a quantity which exceeds our imagination, because it is entirely beyond our everyday measure of comparison.

If we want to get a "feel" for this amount of money, we need to compare it to massive economies.

For example, with the economic strength of a big industrial country like Germany.

According to the World Bank, the gross national income of Germany³ for the whole year 2010 was \$ 3.537 trillion.

If we divide this amount by 365, we have a daily gross national product in Germany of about \$ 9.7 billion.

Now comparison is possible

In the New York Stock Exchange as much money is "played", as is the entire gross national income of the fourth largest economy in the world.

The same happens every day in Frankfurt, London, Tokyo and all the other market centers.

The questions now posed by the common man are:

- Where is this money?
- Why don't I see it?
- Why does this money increase daily, while mine decreases?
- Why do I get the impression that the others around me also have less and less money?
- Why do I constantly hear that the market has no money to do business?

³ Origin:
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/GNI.pdf>

You already know the answer of course.

We have less and less money because some others constantly get more.

Money is transferred from our pockets to their's.

**This is the famous "money flow"
which is the basis of our system.**

The money produced from the work of the majority who are becoming steadily poorer is transferred through the mechanism of the system to the minority who become fewer yet richer.

So each of them possess amounts reaching astronomical proportions.

**The interesting thing now is that these people,
who have this money, don't need it.**

It is money that at least for now is not needed by its owners.

If they needed it, for example to build a house for their family, they wouldn't put it in the stock market.

They would build the house.

Or, if they had no personal need, but they needed the money as an investment for increasing the production of their own company, they wouldn't take it to the stock market either.

They would put it into their business.

These colossal amounts of money which are moved around daily in the stock market are capital that there owners do not need.
It is absolutely useless to them.

Nevertheless, they want to increase it by any means possible so that they have more tomorrow

Only, unfortunately, they not know how to achieve this increase.

They can't think of a wise investment that would secure this increase of capital.

And this is not because of a lack of imagination.

It is because there are no meaningful investments any more, since no growth is possible.

Do you now understand their despair?

So they send their capital around the globe with the speed of the Internet from one market to another, in the hope of achieving somewhere a lucky break.

Just as the roulette players gamble their money in the casino.

Any idiot knows that roulette in the long run leads to ruin. These unfortunate sick people however refuse to see it.

They keep playing.

Just as our capitalists.

Don't we say?

"He is playing the stock market".

24. "Rien ne va plus"

As long as the shares rose, one could understand it.

Those who bought the stock hoped that its value would rise and thus would resell with a profit. But what has been happening with shares for some time now, we saw in Figure 6.

Has this fact possibly deterred the players in the stock market from putting their money there?

Since in Figure 7 it is not easy to discern what's going on due to the huge increase of daily invested capital, let's take a look at Figure 8 which describes the situation after 2000.

The result is truly incredible.

The volume of the invested capital continued to increase uncontrollably, completely unaffected by the fluctuations and finally the collapse of the Dow-Jones index after 2007.

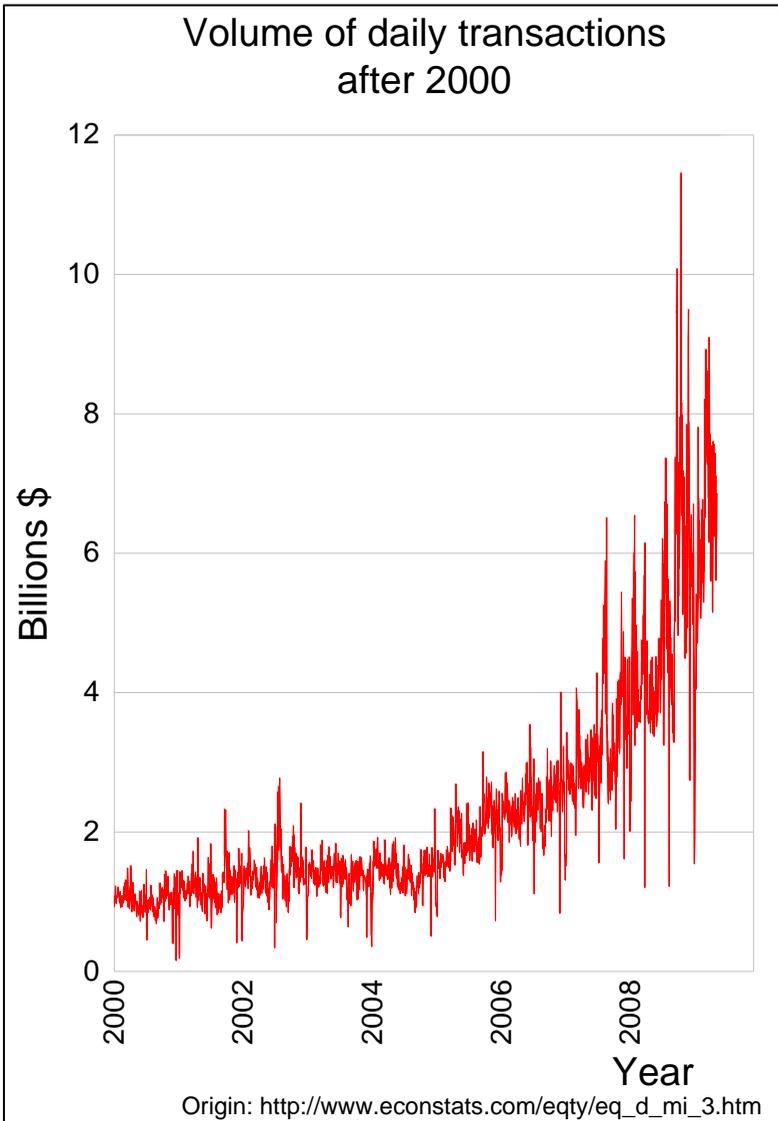


Figure 8

Although in the chapter: "**A serious joke**" we had exactly predicted the explosive growth of the available capital, it seems incomprehensible that in a stock market that is fluctuating severely more and more money is invested in shares which are constantly losing their value.

It is not only the colossal size of the amounts - in the order of billions - that are played, but also the incredible fact that these sums grow steadily even though the shares fall.

Figure 8 provides us with additional proof that this billion-dollar-game is played by a few people.

What impresses in Figure 8 is the huge variation in values. One day they have played 8 billion, the next only one.

This can only be explained by the fact that only a few players invest these huge amounts. Yesterday they played a lot of money, Today, they have not played.

If we had a lot of players, the differences would balance out, because instead of those who have not played today others would have played.

The more players there are, the smoother the curve would be.

The fewer the players, the greater the fluctuations from one day to another.

**The game of billions is a
game for a few players.**

Well, among the other "brilliant inventions" of our system there is also the possibility to make a profit on falling shares. This works as follows: you go to the stock market and rather than buying shares, you borrow them. Just like someone borrows money, you can also borrow shares.

The bank instead of lending you money, lends you a number of shares, which you must return after a certain time and of course pay the resulting interest.

So you borrow the shares when they are high, you sell them immediately at this high-price, and as soon as they fall, you buy them back again cheap and you return them to the bank.

It's that simple.

– *"This is a distorted face of capitalism". I often hear.*

Wrong.

**This is not the distorted face,
this is the true face.**

**Now there is no growth to confuse
the picture, we see its true face.**

The capitalist isn't at all interested in how the money is created which he considers as justified to rake in with the only excuse that he already has too much money.

- *Since I have money that I do not need, I have the right, without any effort, to get more.*
- *I am not a loan shark who lends money to some poor soul and later takes the house he inherited from his grandfather. I am not involved in dirty business. For these jobs, there are the banks.*
- *Banks are legal, honourable and respectful organizations. You've seen how handsome their buildings appear from the outside and how palatial are their offices from the inside. So I bring my spare money to the bank. The bank will take care to lend it and return it to me with interest. Who worked for the production of this additional money, or whose house was auctioned off, I cannot know, and I am not interested.*
- *And again, if I find the interest rates of the banks to be too low, and I'm in a hurry to earn a lot of money in a short time, then I go to the stock market. There the money flows like a river. I've heard that many people have acquired a fortune there. Who has worked to create these assets, how should I know? Those who hold them today however possess them legally. They haven't stolen the money. They have won it on the stock market.*
- *Of course, for them to have won, means that some others have lost. Well, what can we do? That's how it is, one wins, the other loses. It is a matter of talent and luck. I am talented and have good luck. The other has none. Am I to blame? He shouldn't have put his savings in the stock market. Did I advise him to do that?*

However, the comparison of the diagrams 6 and 8 still raises questions.

It is as if the financiers who are throwing these astronomical amounts of Figure 8 in the stock market take no account of Figure 6. Why pay more and more money to buy shares knowing that tomorrow they will fall?

Is it possible that they do not know that the shares have been falling for a long time now?

Did they listen to the various "gurus" who said buy, buy now that is cheap?

What do they hope for?

That the shares they have bought will go up?

Where will the extra money they hope to gain come from?

Will the car company whose shares they bought, build an even larger factory to produce still more cars?

25. The absurdity of the situation

Is it possible that they are so foolish as to hope that by some magic influence growth will begin again, and the shares will rise again?

Haven't they realized that the global economic giants are collapsing one after another? If they had bought the shares of one of these "stalwart" giants yesterday, because they found them cheap, what would they do now when the giant has declared bankruptcy?

Of course it isn't possible not to know all this. Of course they know that the Dow-Jones is falling.

As of course they know that the chances of winning in the stock market game are smaller than winning at roulette or the horse races.

But they know also something else.

<p>They know that they have nowhere to invest their money profitably.</p>

They hold this astronomical amount of money that has been produced by the work of others (because it would have taken thousands of years to save it up from their own efforts), but they don't know what they can do with it.

And like we said.

This money which they do not need at all, they still want to increase it further. They are desperate. And more than that, they are sick. They are seriously ill with incurable insatiable greed.

Just like those who gamble at roulette and horse racing.

**And the nonsense in the
official statements continues.**

These pitiable sick speculators are called investors, and the impending economic recovery is shown to be absolutely guaranteed.

The fact that since 2000 we are actually in a permanent crisis is ignored.

We behave as if we have not understood it.

Instead of admitting that something very serious is happening to our system (exactly as we predicted in the chapter, "**A nightmare scenario**"), we talk about independent "crises" in the plural and invent nonexistent excuses and imaginary culprits.

The indication of the culprits is of very great importance, because it is against them that the wrath of the people will turn, for otherwise they could identify the real culprit, the system.

For the fall of the Dow-Jones
after 2000, what was to blame?

- *The attack on the twin towers, though it came one and a half years later!*

For the terrible decline in
mid-2002, what was to blame?

- *The "intuition" that we would find the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq!*

For the sinking that started
in 2008, what was to blame?

- *Some bank employees!*

For the 2010 crisis and the threat
to the euro, what was to blame?

- *The Greek civil servants and pensioners!*

It is always someone else's fault.

The system itself, which from its internal law of functioning is always in crisis and has now reached its end, is never to blame.

In order to save the banks, the representative par excellence of the system, so that they could continue to carry out their charitable social role, the states, that is the taxpayers, gave them (and some failing companies) some billions in 2009.

This, however, as was to be expected, only stimulated their appetite, and now they are trying to get even more money from the state, by attacking the euro.

What can we say?

The system's ability to continually discover new ways to acquire wealth is admirable. It now orders the governments to take the money of their citizens and to give it to them.

Only that the states, living on credit already, don't have this money and must borrow it.

But where can a state borrow money, have you any idea?

Where else except from the banks that manage the money of private individuals.

So for the banks to help, the state borrows money from the banks and gives it back to the banks.

That's a joke, you will say.

The state has taken money from the banks and has given it back to the banks. There has been no change. The money was in the banks, and now is again in the banks. Nothing happened.

On the contrary, something very important happened.

The state now owes these gigantic sums of money to the banks and must take the money from its citizens to pay the banks.

26. The case of Greece

In recent times, Greece has come to the attention of speculators.

They have, of course, just as we predicted in the chapter "***A nightmare scenario***", as the real target another much more valuable objective, **the Euro**.

But they need a "scapegoat" to carry the responsibility for the disaster which they are preparing for the entire European continent.

When you are planning a crime, your first obligation is to ensure the timely fabrication of a suitable "guilty party".

The attempt to identify the "**enemy**" in the person of the Greeks is obvious. A huge wave of severe accusations rose against the Greeks, because they allegedly receive from their government excessive salaries and pensions.

The first thing to say here is that this is not true.

Neither the salaries of the civil servants in Greece, nor their pensions are larger than for other Europeans.

The "trick" of the Greek government of giving them two additional monthly salaries as a gift, instead of giving an increase in salary, should not be charged to them.

Even if we add the 14 salaries together and we divide then by 12, still the Greek incomes are lower than those of other Europeans.

That Greece has too many civil servants, and the Greeks retire earlier than other Europeans, are the Greek civil servants and pensioners to blame for that?

If the government offers a safe position in the civil service and an early retirement, do you know anyone who would refuse it?

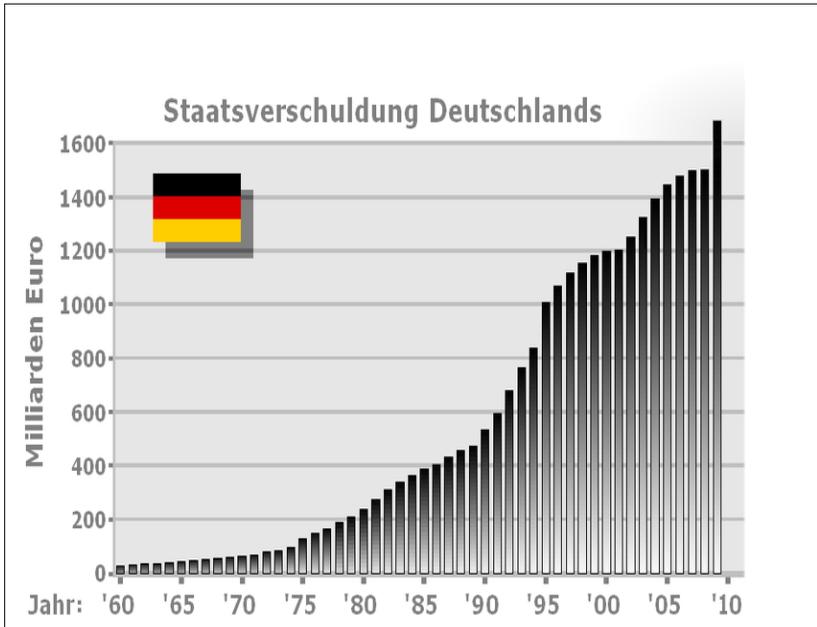
And if irresponsible rulers borrowed money to curry favour with the voters, are the civil servants and pensioners to blame for the debts?

– *But while we have to work hard and save, the Greeks are lazy and let their debt grow immensely by living well on borrowed money.*

Right. The debt of Greece has grown immensely.

But is this the case only in Greece? Have the debts of other countries not also grown tremendously?

Since Greece is regarded as an unreliable and irresponsible state, it is worthwhile to consider in Figure 9 the course of public debt in Germany, a reliable and reputable state.

Figure⁴ 9

**Did you expect this?
Did you know that the economically
strongest country in Europe, the
"locomotive of the economy" owes six times
more than contemptible Greece?**

Are the Germans to blame for this,
because they are lazy and they let
their debt grow immensely by living
a good life on borrowed money?

Did you know that this debt, just as the debt of all other countries, grows explosively, as shown in Figure 9?

Because this debt is constantly increasing and has already passed 2 trillion, it is worth watching how the debt grows in Germany at any one time at: <http://www.staatsverschuldung.de/schuldenuhr.htm>.

⁴ Origin: <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/de/1/18/Staatsverschuldung5.png>

**Exactly the same thing is happening to all lands
not only in Europe but all over the world.**

Now all Europeans are giving money (which they did not have and must borrow) "**to assist Greece and the Greeks**".

At least, that is what the peoples of Europe have understood. Or more correctly, what they have given them to understand:

**From now on you will have to work
harder and make sacrifices, so that
the Greeks can continue to live well.**

For my part unfortunately I have not understood anything.

**First of all, this money is not donated
to the Greek government, but it is lent.**

It is lent at a higher rate than the European governments themselves pay. That means that they expect to profit from this business. When I borrow money at 1% and lend it to you at 5%, then I put the difference in my own pocket.

**And secondly, what kind of help
are we really talking about here?**

Greece owed some 300 billion that it could not pay back (as no state can any longer pay its debts) and now after the European assistance (... **salvation of the fatherland** ... the Greek Prime Minister called this) it owes some 400 billion. Do you call this "Help"?

**How will Greece ever be
able to pay off this debt?**

Will Greece perhaps use the huge amount of the new loan to develop a great export industry, which will surpass in its dynamism the champion of exporters Germany, which already owes over 2,000 billion, and of course does not see any way to pay it back?

Wrong. Far from it.

But the gigantic amount of this loan went somewhere. The Greek government gave the money somewhere.

Perhaps to the Greek pensioners, so that they could continue to live well at the expense of the European workers?

**But the Greek pensioners
(along with all the other Greeks)
have been squeezed dry by**

**their government like no one has
been squeezed dry until now.**

Then, what's happened to the money?

We really do not know?

Do we not know that the Greek government got the money from Europe one day and the next day passed it on to its creditors?

**Don't we know why all the ministers
(Greeks and Europeans) were running
around for weeks to find the money?**

Yes, we know that.

The reason was to guarantee payment to the creditors of Greece.

We have not understood this yet?

We have not understand, that the whole operation had as its sole objective, not to help Greece, but to satisfy the financiers who had put their money in Greek government bonds, because they gave the highest interest in the market?

If Greece could not pay its debts, then would the Greek pensioners suffer?

But they cannot suffer any worse than what they are already doing now.

Those who would lose are the financiers.

They would lose their profits.

Not their capital, as is wrongly stated:

***" the small depositors in the
banks will lose their savings".***

This is not something important; Greece could repay this (if it had done it already long ago). This is only a small part of the debt.

What financiers risk losing is the profit from the interest. And this is indeed a huge amount.

These are the exorbitant profits of the moneylenders, who demand devastating rates from needy people.

These amounts are about one 100 times greater than the amount which the Greek government borrowed 30 years ago.

Just so that the capitalists don't lose these profits, the people of Europe must now be squeezed dry.

27. The absolute absurdity

And the funniest thing is that all this fraud which was set up at the expense of the peoples of Europe was baptized:

"Assistance to Greece".

This is what they call it both in Greece and all over the world. All of them, both the printed and the electronic press, all the politicians of all persuasions, and finally all the common people who cannot do otherwise.

But this is a monstrous lie.

Doesn't even the most naive of all the people know that from this huge, this startling amount of billions not one euro came to Greece?

You would say to me:

Why are you so upset?

Is it the first time that we are being lied to?

Do you not know that the world is ruled by lies?

You are right.

But this time the lie is too tough to be swallowed without chewing.

And the money is so incredibly much.

So much money has never been moved around at any time before. Is it not legitimate to wonder what became of it?

Where this money comes from, we know.

It comes from the pockets of European taxpayers, especially those in the rich Central European countries.

The question is, where is this money going?

Not to Greece, at any rate, we've said that already.

Money constantly flows out of Greece.

This is the money which the Greek government seizes from workers and pensioners, from the increased taxes and soon from selling off at half price all its remaining assets.

Where then is all this money flowing?

Where does the giant so-called aid to Greece go, together with what results from the squeezing of Greece?

These are colossal sums.

Wherever they have been channeled, they must have caused a huge financial boom, an explosion of prosperity and consumerism mainly of luxury goods.

So if you want to know where "***the aid to Greece***" went, you just need to look where in Europe or elsewhere the economy is blooming despite the financial crisis.

In this direction flows the gold river. Like a new Marshall Plan to strengthen ... the strong economies.

And Greece?

Greece, which already had so many debts, is charged in addition with this huge amount which goes to support the wealthy states!

Instead of saying "*the aid from rich countries to Greece*" it would be more appropriate to say:

"The aid from Greece to the rich countries"

What can you say about this now?

How can you not admire the ability of the system, to discover new sources of enrichment?

Since the growth which would create new wealth for the system is no longer possible, the system now forces the governments to take money from their citizens and give it directly to it.

The reasoning of the system is very simple and logical:

I have this huge amount of money available, which should earn me a profit.

Investing it in development is no longer possible, because I can't find such large "development gaps" to invest so much money in.

I have no other choice but to find out where as much money as I need has already been amassed and go and get it.

Where is there as much money as I need?

The answer is: only the State produces so much money.

Thus using the power of money which I already have,

I will force those who govern the State to hand over its money to me.

It's that simple.

We have long known that those who govern us are not the servants of the citizens, as they claim, but the servants of the system.

But only a few of us would expect that our governors would descend to such a level of shamelessness to put their hand directly in our pocket and take what little bitterly earned money is still there, in order to throw it into the gaping, bottomless, insatiable mouth of the system.

We must accept with patience if not with joy the fact that for this purpose we need to tighten our belts even more and work even harder.

It is a matter of salvation of the greater good. It is a matter of salvation of the profits of the speculators.

It was of course no different in the past. The state has always made sure that the money was transferred from our pockets to the system.

But at least It happened in disguise.

We gave the money which was transferred directly to the system voluntarily, stupid as we are, by buying all the useless rubbish it is selling.

What the state took from us compulsorily by the various constantly rising taxes seemed to be used for our benefit.

It was used to build schools and hospitals.

Of course, the money finally came back into the system, into the pockets of the financiers who undertook not without profit each project. But at least this transfer was not done so openly and explicitly.

Now they tell us that the system lacks money and for our own benefit we have to become indebted and to indebted the future generations of our descendants in order to strengthen the system with even more money.

They pretend to ignore Figure 8 which proves beyond doubt that the system not only has no lack of money

**but rather is drowning in money,
like the fermentation bacteria
drowning in their own feces.**

They are not ashamed to tell such big lies to our faces.

The shame is totally lost.

The last trace of logic is totally lost and we have reached the ultimate absurdity:

The purpose of the existence
of the system is not to serve
people and their needs.

The purpose of man's existence is
to serve the system and its needs.

28. The indebtedness of the states

If there is a phenomenon that characterizes the current economic condition of the countries of the world, it is the phenomenon of their indebtedness.

So it is worth to briefly deal with the issue of government borrowing, because it gives us perhaps the clearest picture of what will follow in the future. What our future will be like, the future of our children, the future of our society.

Probably there is no one who doesn't
know that all nations in the world, some
less and others more, are indebted.

**And that with each passing year the states
are obliged to borrow more and more money
(because the ever-growing interests are
added to the previous loans).**

Two questions should concern us now:

- First, who do the states borrow from?
- Second, where does this ever growing debt lead?

The first question is easily answered (the second we will deal with in the next chapter).

The state borrows money from certain individuals.

From who else?

Money can belong either to the state or to private individuals. Since it doesn't belong to the state, then it belongs to private individuals.

The government borrows money from private citizens⁵.

Either through the banks where they have deposited their money (and the banks then purchase the government bonds for them) or through the stock exchange, where the individuals themselves or their representatives buy the bonds.

To these private citizens the government must now pay interest. And because the interest increases the amount of the money it owes, the state is forced to borrow from the same people even more money and of course to owe them more and more. The state is forced to borrow from the same individuals ever more money to pay back what is owing them.

When the financiers lend their money they receive a certificate stating that the state is obliged at a certain date to pay them, not the

⁵ Very interesting data on the debt of the various countries are located at:

http://www.economist.com/content/global_debt_clock

These data are very instructive. Especially if you have time to make comparisons.

To compare, for example, the debt of Greece with the debts of other countries.

	Total debt in billions \$	Debt per capita in thousands \$	Debt as % of gross domestic product
Greece	380	35	126
Germany	2.352	28	75
France	2.023	33	81
Italy	2.324	39	118
Belgium	436	41	99
U.S.A.	8.777	28	60
Japan	10.476	83	196

amount borrowed, but that amount plus interest (which after some years can be a multiple of the capital).

When the time comes, the state is obliged to pay back the money. But it hasn't got it. So it is forced to borrow from the same capitalists an amount many times greater than the previous one.

This money the state returns immediately to its creditors because it was obliged to borrow it exactly for this purpose, giving them also new certificates for the new debt.

In reality it is the same money (on paper, don't imagine suitcases full of banknotes) which is transferred back and forth, augmented with the steadily growing interest.

Nothing is left in the state from this transaction.

What remains is the ever-growing debt.

29. The transfer of state power to private individuals

The secret, as you well know, is in the interest rates.

The interest rate is the crystallized, actual, the tangible form of the basic idea of our system:

This is how money gives birth to money.

The capitalist, based on the fact that he has money that he doesn't need and therefore can lend it, has the justification to accumulate over time more and more money without having to work for it.

Others will work for him.

The interest rate is what enables someone to get richer and richer.

Without interest, our system would not be feasible.

Without interest we would not have all the curves seen so far.

Without interest no explosion is possible.

And of course the interest rate is the reason that makes the debt grow continuously, with the result that after some years it cannot be repaid.

Since in the case of state indebtedness it's a matter of long-term debt, the interest rises to enormous heights.

After several years, the debt due to interest becomes many times the original amount.

For example, if in 1981 Greece had closed a loan for thirty years with an interest rate of 17% (which at that time was very realistic), it would in 2011 owe one hundred times the original amount.

The debt can no longer be paid off and the state is increasingly obliged to follow the decisions of its creditors.

If you're in debt, and every year your debt grows, you don't have the luxury of making the decisions yourself.

Your creditor will make the decisions and you have only to obey meekly. Otherwise you know what will happen to you. At the slightest disobedience, he will cut off the loan, and you will collapse.

Isn't it funny?

**The state,
that is where wealth is created
(because of course wealth is not generated
in the vaults of the capitalists)
is enslaved to its creditors.**

The state, which represents
all the potential of production

- with the work force,
- the factories,
- the cultivated fields,
- the research institutes,
- with the ships, trains and planes,
- with the schools, the hospitals
- and the legislative parliament,
- even with the police and the army

is absolutely powerless before its creditors, and works exclusively for a single purpose, to make the private financiers richer every day.

The true power doesn't belong to the state.

It belongs to the creditor. He makes the decisions, and the state is obliged to execute his commands.

The second question, namely where this story with the public debt leads to, is also easy to answer:

The debt will continue to rise.

Like all other important dimensions of our world which are constantly growing explosively:

- population,
- environmental pollution,
- amassed wealth,
- so the national debt will continue to grow.

Just as we have all the other explosions, we have the explosion of national debt.

The explosion is universal because it is woven into the nature of our system.

If someone is so naïve as to believe that the states would one day pay off their debts and become independent from their creditors, he need only take a look at the budget of any state to learn the truth.

What is foreseen and what is making the ministers anxious, is not how to pay off their debt (that was forgotten long ago), but where to find the further, even larger loans, required in the following year.

And the funniest part is, they all pretend to be ignorant and astonished:

- *The disaster hit us all of a sudden. While everything was going fine, the crisis suddenly came. Totally unexpected. We do not know who caused it. But we have to pay the debts. So we are forced to take some extraordinary measures. We must cut salaries and pensions. Extraordinary, as the crisis was extraordinary.*

Bravo, extraordinary!

- When you got the loan, which you squandered (and some of your people put a part in their own pockets) didn't you know, that we would repay it a hundredfold thirty years later?
- Did you not read the papers that you signed at that time?
- Didn't they teach you the calculation of compound interest in elementary school?
- Wasn't it absolutely certain that the banks would get our money? (Not their money, our money, because at that time they gave us one thousand and now they take one hundred thousand).
- What is this extraordinary event that gives you the right to take extraordinary measures?
- Wasn't the crisis of capitalism entirely predictable, with the elementary considerations we made in Chapter "**A serious joke**"?

But where does that lead?

Will the states be in debt more and more to a few individuals, who will become in this way ever stronger and stronger, acquiring continuously more power over the states?

Will the sovereign rights of the state more and more be transferred to its private lenders?

30. World domination

Yes. This will happen. And it has happened already, long ago.

What we sometimes say in the anger of the moment that our rulers are not the servants of the people but the servants of the system, is not because they are bad and corrupt.

It's because they are forced to.
They cannot do otherwise.

They are trapped within the system.

A system that is collapsing dragging
with it the governors and the states
and all of us into the abyss.

One question may still remain to be answered:

How will the financiers get back all that money owed by the states?

The answer is:

Simply, they will not get it.

They will never get it.

**Because it is not possible anymore
to generate so much new money.**

Where will all the trillions come from which are owed by the States to the financiers?

- But if it is so, that the financiers will never get their money back, why do they continue to lend money to the states?
- Don't they know that they will lose their money?
- Don't they realize what we, with our simple minds, have already understood?
- Are they stupid?

No they're not.

They already know that they
will lose their money.

But they also know that this money
from the moment it became too much
to create more, is practically useless.

What good is money if it stops growing?

Of course you can always buy something with the money but what is there that these people don't have already?

Unless you use the money to acquire something else.

No more material goods, because they have already everything, no more money, because it is no longer possible, but **more power**.

Economically subordinating one country after another, to acquire absolute control, absolute power.

To "buy" world domination!

When you buy something you lose the money you give, but what you get in return interests you more than the money spent.

**World domination would actually be a target which
is worth spending large sums of money on.**

The dream of world domination is very old. Both in history and in literature it is often repeated.

One tried it with swords. Another with canons. A third with tanks. But each time it lasted only briefly. Soon, something went wrong, and it fell apart. Just as dreams do.

But this time it seems to be happening.

Neither cannons nor
tanks were needed.
Only money.

A lot of money, of course, but it was finally available. This is why we amassed it for so many centuries.

**All the power and sovereignty over all the nations
of the world has passed into the hands of Capital.**

This is what "*decides and orders*" now.

Complete global dominance has finally been achieved.

There is no escape for the states. With each passing day the problem exacerbates, because the interest is adding up.

From the moment when a state has to borrow money to pay its creditors, it is lost.

If it now has to borrow money to pay the debts of yesterday, tomorrow it has to borrow still more money, because the new interest will be added.

This is a vicious circle. There is no escape.

The states will fall more and more deeply into debt. They will become more and more enslaved to their creditors. And the authority will increasingly pass into the hands of the wealthy individuals they borrowed from.

**And of course democracy which accompanied us
so many centuries in the course of the evolution
of our society goes down the drain.**

It lasted till now. Now it's over.

31. A "bad" precedent

This impasse, however, in which the countries seem to be stuck today, is it indeed true, or does it only appear so to us, because we look at it from the wrong angle?

Could there be a solution perhaps? Suffice it to dare to think differently and see things from another angle?

**Imagine that there is a solution,
and we do not see it because we observe
the problem from the wrong perspective,
believing certain things as facts and inevitable,
while in fact they are not.**

Imagine that this situation has happened before, that is, that democracy ceased to work in a state because of excessive concentration of wealth, and people found a solution to the impasse.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to find such an example in history and copy the solution?

**Well, there is actually such an example,
and it is worth remembering.**

Around 600 BC the still young democracy of the city of Athens was in a similar dilemma.

Not the state itself, since the state still hadn't its present-day structure, but the citizens were all indebted to a few rich creditors.

Indebted to such an extent, that after they had given whatever they had, (their land, their livestock, their own houses) they were at the end sold as slaves to the rich.

Just as today, the states are enslaved to their creditors.

Democracy was not functioning anymore.

The rich had acquired all the wealth, all the power.

The game was over.

Can you remember the game Monopoly? If you acquire all the wealth, then the game is over.

Something like that is the picture today.

Only that it is not limited by the boundaries of a city (which was then for its inhabitants, the whole world), but covers the whole world.

All the wealth of the world had been gathered in a few hands.

Back then, in ancient Athens, the situation was very bad.

Democracy was no longer able to regulate the relations among the citizens. The conflicts between the rich and the poor took explosive dimensions. The city had lost its old power and activity. And the external enemies were lying in wait.

Confronted with this impasse and facing the danger of total destruction, in 594 BC the Athenians by mutual agreement called on **Solon** and giving him absolute power, authorized him to legislate for the salvation of the state and the restoration of democracy.

**Solon completely overturned
the condition of society.**

It was a revolution
without revolution.

**There was no need for arrests, deportations,
or imprisonments and executions.**

Everything was regulated
by legislation.

**That is, the same thing each
parliament does today.**

Each parliament today has exactly the same unlimited power to legislate, as was at that time awarded to Solon.

Nobody can prevent a parliament from legislating as it thinks right. When the deputies are of the opinion that a certain proposal serves the interests of the state, they vote it into law, and after that the government makes sure that the law is applied and respected.

The solution which Solon applied to the problem was very simple.

**With only one law he cancelled
all debts once and for all
(Seisachtheia⁶).**

The basic problem of society was solved in a flash. A number of other laws regulated the details later.

The rich were very sad.

You can imagine it.

⁶ Seisachtheia (Greek: σεισάχθεια, from σείειν seiein, to shake, and ἄχθος achthos, burden) i.e. the relief of burdens.

These measures, however, built a society that brought the most magnificent benefits to civilization, lasted for centuries and even today is admired by all.

**On the foundations of the legislation of Solon,
was based the Athenian Democracy that led to
the most amazing period of human history,
*the Golden Age.***

32. A funny thought ...

Imagine, just for fun, that today's parliaments decide to follow the example of Solon and the states declare suddenly:

«We're tired.

We will not play this game of borrowing anymore.

We are tired of begging every year the same ten or twenty richest men in the world to lend us again the money which we gave them last year and which was never theirs. Because they have of course not worked to produce the billions that we are begging to borrow today, so that we give them back tomorrow plus interest.

Our people have worked for this money, and it belongs to them.

You know something, my rich lords?

There is a word invented by a certain Solon 2,600 years ago:

Seisachtheia.

Our debts are cancelled.

You will not be wronged though. The money you lent us, we will give it back. But without interest. You didn't work to earn the interest, and you cannot demand that our citizens work for it.

Good bye.»

You can imagine that some people would be very upset. For example, Mr. X who, as the newspapers reported, last year made \$ 4,000,000,000, betting on the stock market that the government would help the banks. (And of course he did everything in his power to make his forecast come true). Or Mr. Y, who hopes this year to make even more by betting on the bankruptcy of Greece. (And of

course he does everything that lays in his power, so that his forecast will come true)?

Let's try to get an idea of the size of this sum:

If a worker was able to save from his salary \$ 4,000 a year,

**he would need to work a million years
to collect this sum.**

You can understand now how hard Mr. X must have worked to win this sum in a single year.

**Unless this money has not been
earned from his own hard work.**

Unless this money of which he is so proud, and for which he is admired by the whole world, is the fruit of the labour of others.

If he found, say, one million workers, each of whom was able to save in a year \$ 4,000, and managed to take their money, because he is so smart.

They will be very upset. They and the ten or twenty of their peers who have achieved world domination. But why? Because they will lose their money (or more exactly their profits)? Of course not. That this money was at risk, they already knew when they gave it.

But they gave it willingly since thereby they bought world domination.

This is what they would lose, world domination, and they certainly don't like that at all.

But what can they do, if the states make the decision for debt relief?

Exactly the same as the rich Athenians in 594 BC.

They will sit politely there and watch how the law is applied.

If the decision for debt relief
becomes the law of the country,
then no one can transgress it.

Because then the real power will belong
to the nation, and not to Mr. X and Mr.Y,
as they tried to make us believe.

To the nation which keeps gendarmes, judges and jail ready for those who violate the law.

Whoever violates the law is marched off to prison.

If these gentlemen want to violate the law, they will go to jail.

And it may be that these men and their fellows would indeed be upset, but on the other hand billions of people would, perhaps for the first time in their life, laugh wholeheartedly.

33. ... and some serious considerations.

What we now need to think seriously about is why we consider this idea a joke?

What would prevent a parliament, the Greek, the German, the French, the Italian to take the decision for seisachtheia / debt relief?

That such a decision would be for the benefit of the state and its citizens; we do not need to argue about.

It wouldn't simply be good. It would be our salvation. It would free us from an insolvable problem, which is leading society to certain disaster.

**After all, Solon tried this measure,
and we saw what wonderful fruit it yielded.**

Then what are our representatives in Parliament waiting for?

**They have exactly the same absolute
legislative power which Solon had.**

Why don't they exercise it?

Why don't they apply this sure and tested solution which would save us?

Don't they see that the state and society are falling apart?

Don't they represent the interests of the citizens and the state in Parliament?

Aren't they elected for this purpose?

Aren't they obliged to fight for these interests?

**In this regard, there is an
opinion that this is not so.**

<p>The deputies do not represent the interests of the citizens, but the interests of the capitalists, because they are dependent on them.</p>

When they were elected, they are indeed selected by the people but under the management of the mass media

As the mass media belong to the capital owners the deputies are now obliged to carry out their commands.

But this I can't believe or I don't want to believe.

At least I can't believe that it applies to the majority.

Maybe there are some among them who are "remote controlled", but they can't form the majority.

Is it possible that honest people are a minority and therefore it is impossible to carry a law through parliament for the salvation of society?

But even if there is a considerable number of delegates who do not want the good of the country, again it seems to me difficult for them in a debate in parliament to stand up and say:

– *"We are here to represent the interests of capital, and therefore we are voting against the proposal for debt cancellation".*

They will say something else.

They will say that there are difficulties which make the proposal unrealistic.

So to be ready for such a discussion we must look to find these difficulties ourselves.

We need to analyse them and see how serious they are. We have seen the pleasant effects of such a decision; we don't need to examine them. Let's look at what the unpleasant consequences will be.

What can happen to a country if it refuses to pay its debts?

The first thing that happens is that nobody will now ever lend it a single penny.

The country must learn to live without credit.

Let us consider then how bad this would be.

If anyone, whether individual or state, borrows money, this is done for two reasons:

- The first is that he needs the money for an investment to increase production. When this growth occurs, he will not only be

able to pay off his debt, but will be able to lead a better life, as well.

- The second is that, although he can't increase production, he wants right now to live on borrowed money a richer life than his income allows, without worrying how to pay back the money.

This second reason is why states currently borrow money.

We can't have more growth.

However, as we are accustomed to the constant improvement of our living conditions and its excessive luxury, we want a better life than our income allows.

**And this will probably stop if we
decide to apply "Solon's patent".**

34. To stretch our legs as far as the blanket reaches

But tell me now, please, how bad will it be?

Was it right to do what we did until now, living in unheard of opulence (compared to earlier times), with an incredible waste of resources, unreasonably burdening the environment and mortgaging the future of our children?

Should not this stop sometime?

Of course we won't want to lose some of our comforts. But if we thus could avert the total collapse of our civilization, wouldn't it be better for us to put up with this restriction?

And one more thing: If we don't do it today and (with further borrowing) leave it for tomorrow there won't it be even more difficult?

Another difficulty in thinking about the implementation of "Solon's patent" is that this patent is contrary to the principle of ownership.

In today's society, in all countries, property owning is the cornerstone of the state and is protected by the most basic laws.

**No matter how the capital owners
acquired their money,
nobody has the right to dispute it.**

<p>Application of debt relief violates the sanctity of property.</p>
--

It contradicts the basic principle of our system.

Opposing this principle means opposing the system itself.

Abolition of interest is equivalent to the death of the system.

I fear that this will be the biggest obstacle we meet if we tell a deputy: Why don't you apply the "patent of Solon" to save ourselves and secure for mankind a new permanent **golden age of culture**?

The answer will be:

- *What you say is not possible. Debt repudiation would mean the overthrow of capitalism, and this is not just the only system we have, but it's a very good one. We owe the prosperity in which we live to this system. May be it is in a temporary crisis, but it will come through it. The system will recover and the growth that will follow will restore the permanent **golden age of pleasure and comfort**.*

In reply to such a position, which (if it isn't just a mere excuse) is rooted more in faith than in the logical analysis of data, what can we say?

The only thing we can do is to quote patiently again and again the data that will help him to understand that capitalism has finished its historical cycle, and that if we don't stop obeying it soon, we can expect a tremendous social disaster that will lead us to an unprecedented cultural barbarism.

The most serious problem, however, that a country which wishes to apply the "patent of Solon" will face is that it will come into confrontation with the other countries.

35. Severe punishment

States which are under the control of capital will react.

They will isolate the renegade of "*the established order*". His disobedience is something very serious and must be punished in an exem-

plary fashion. The evil must be uprooted. Imagine if this would become the thing and all over-indebted countries one after the other would do the same.

**We would have a total overthrow
of the world order!**

That's why the offender should
suffer very severe penalties.

**As a first measure other countries
should stop trade with them.**

In the time of Solon a city-state
could be almost self-sufficient.

**Today a country, even the largest,
needs the cooperation of others in order
to maintain its standard of living.**

If the embargo is not sufficient to bring the rebel to his knees, the capital owners may even consider war.

They may not have swords and rifles themselves, but their vassals do.

They will be asked to bring the rebels to their senses.

And this could cost the lives not only of many of its inhabitants, but of the rebel country itself.

**Therefore, if a country wants to embark on this,
it should think very well in advance
and above all be well prepared.**

It needs to find other countries which can be persuaded, if not to join in the rebellion, at least to assist when the embargo or even the war begins.

**This attempt, however, to build alliances
could prove to be much easier
than you might think.**

This famed globalization, which in reality is nothing other than the subjugation of all countries under the sceptre of capital, could prove to be the appropriate ground for the growth of resistance.

**If a slave revolts, his end is well known.
If many slaves revolt, this could mean
the end of slavery.**

Perhaps it wouldn't be so difficult to find in all countries (**since they are all subjugated by the same lords**) honest people who would wish for a change, but don't dare to do anything, because they believe they are alone.

Is perhaps what the reasonable honest patriots, say of the Greek parliament, wish for the same as what the members of the German, French and the Italian parliament want too?

**Isn't the desire to free themselves
from the yoke of debt and the capital owners
common to all righteous people?**

Maybe every country would be willing to do something for its liberty if it wasn't afraid to stand alone?

**Perhaps there should be an attempt,
to bring all these honest people into
contact with each other?**

And finally, perhaps this attempt to establish contact between the delegates would be much easier, if it is about countries which already belong to a group, however loose, such as the European Union?

**If such arguments can convince honest people,
there is perhaps still some hope.**

I apologise, I'm getting carried away. It would be far too good to be true.

Tell me please honestly, what percentage of success do you give this hope?

Do you really believe that it could be realized?

If it is so, why haven't we heard this proposal before now from any representative of any parliament either in Europe or in the other heavily indebted countries?

Let's drop the whole thing.

Let's not delude ourselves with false hopes that will not be realized.

Do not worry.

The countries will ensure that the capital owners won't lose their profits. They will borrow more money from those same people and will immediately give it back to them. And simultaneously they will scrape together all the money they can, and give it to the private lenders.

To this purpose, they will wring more and more from their citizens.

That is to say, from the "little fish" which can be caught in the net of the Tax Office, because you can't catch the big ones.

They have long since torn the net and swum away.

**The world is governed by capital
and must obey its orders blindly.**

36. Fathomless naivety

And of course, the naïve ones

(the system is based on them anyway)

still expect that after the crisis the system will recover, thanks to its magical, supernatural powers.

These powers give it the ability to oppose the natural laws which forbid unlimited growth.

And the growth, to which our politicians continue to refer, will begin again. And the capital will continue to create new capital..

It's as if this crisis resembles the common cold, which a healthy organism can overcome with its own strength.

<p>If our estimate about the impasse of our system is true,</p>

**if money ceases to produce money,
if the indexes of the stock markets continue to fall**

**and the interest rates of the banks
are getting continuously lower,**

then we are running at full steam
to meet a crisis that the world hasn't
seen before. The previous crises
(like 1929) would be like
breezes compared to a hurricane.

Whoever does not believe this should take a look at Figure 5 and compare the "the funny little dip" displayed near 1930 with the "abyss" that we have since 2000.

Here we don't have a temporary crisis due to overproduction of some goods which we could treat with some economic or monetary measures, or if necessary with a small or even a big war.

**Here we are dealing
with over-concentration
of capital itself.**

A capital that can no longer be invested profitably and therefore is, according to the principle of our system, completely useless.

We are in the final act of the drama, just before the complete collapse of the system itself..

**Or more correctly,
before the completion
of its historical course.**

The game is over.

If money does not bring more money, if my shares don't rise any more and the bank ceases to give me interest then what is the good of the money which I have tried so hard to collect all my life?

Since it no longer brings me any income, it is useless.

It is as if I no longer own it.

It is as if it has been taken away, as if it were confiscated.

Of course, the money has not lost its value.

I can still invest it, but without profit. I can if I want, build, say a school.

Just as some have done before, people we call now "**benefactors**".

They collected money all their life, by hard work maybe even depriving themselves, and at the end instead of making a good investment and earning even more, they built a school.

But if I do this, then I have to realize that my money will not benefit me personally. It wouldn't "give birth" to new money. If anyone benefits from the new "enterprise", it will not be me. It may be the students. Certainly not me.

As if my power, my money, my capital is no longer mine.

As if I just manage it for the advantage of others.

**Then why should I do it?
What motive have I
to do anything at all?**

Profit, the only driving force of modern society, will be no more.

**Unless the desire for additional wealth
is replaced by the desire
for additional power.**

37. A new motivation

The driving force behind each activity was till today the profit.

If profit is no longer possible, then will each activity automatically stop? Or could some other objectives exist which would replace profit as motivation?

Let's say the desire for strength and power.

– *Since I cannot be richer, at least I can become stronger.*

The strongest of all. All must obey and serve me. Whatever I say is law. I'll always be right, and they should bring

the most delicious food to my table and the most beautiful girls to my bed.

Had the system that existed before the emergence of capitalism not resulted like that?

Had the feudal lord not always been right and had he not the privilege of enjoying the first fruits?

Only here again there is no necessity for activity.

– *To achieve all this I have no need to do anything more.*

No "investment" is needed. I have achieved power automatically at the moment when I acquired the money. No more effort is needed.

By the way, now I can tell you why I was going after money with such a passion.

I did it for the power. Now that I have got it at last, I can tell you what follows.

- *From now on the game changes.*

If I lulled you into acceptance, with slogans like "equal opportunities", I did it because I needed your work to enrich me more. Now I don't need you anymore. I cannot get richer anyway. It makes no sense to build a new factory and hire new workers.

I'll declare redundancies; because I don't need even the workers I already have in my factories.

- *We have said it already; I can no longer make a profit anywhere.*

Truth is, I need a few of them, to lay my table and make my bed. And of course, to drive my car and my tractor, and to care for my safety, and to push the buttons to start my plants,

which for the most part, as you well know, are fully automated.

- *I need only a very small percentage of the huge number of workers I needed before.*

At that time, to increase the sales and thereby to increase my profit, I had to overwhelm the consumers with huge amounts of useless and unnecessary products. To produce them I needed lots of workers. From the moment when I stopped making a profit, I didn't need them anymore. And finally, I have made it clear to you; I don't even need the profit anymore.

I have finally got the power, which was my real goal. The continuation of the old game has no meaning for me anymore.

- *Now we play a new game. The new game has a new name.*

It is called the game of obedience. Whoever is obedient and submissive will survive, because I will allow it. He will know that he owes his existence to me, and

he will praise me by burning perfumed sticks in front of my picture.

- *And I will finally stop hearing this silly word, **democracy**, again and again.*

I was sick of hearing it constantly. All have used it, but no one has really ever believed in it, because no one can be so stupid not to have understood that it was the purest fraud.

It seems however that this empty word was a kind of taboo, and we had to use it every so often.

– *Finally it's over; it's passée, so we can breathe again.*

So, now we turn to the future. Well, I have described it to you. The system will change. It will be much as I told you. There will be those who will serve me and who will be happy to adore me. Except for them, no-one. The rest? The rest will simply cease to exist. When I dismiss them and they have nothing more to eat, when I stop giving them medicine, **they will follow the fate which nature reserves for the week.**

Thus, the problem of overpopulation and the environment will be automatically solved and everything will be fine.

Of course there may be some hidden problems in the transition to this new period of equilibrium, of perpetual unclouded happiness, without changes, flare ups, explosions and development, without liberty, equality, democracy and other such nonsense.

Do not worry though. Everything is under control.

We have taken our measures, we have foresight.

I know that there is no doubt about it.

You know very well that no-one acquires world domination, just to lose it by simple negligence.

**Let's see it however in detail,
so that you can be sure and
you can sleep peacefully.**

38. "Quiet, order and safety"

The possibilities of overthrowing the system are minimal.

The traditional ways, which we know from history, no longer exist. There are no external forces. We have a unique system that has prevailed worldwide. The internal forces which could lead to a change (social forces, revolution) are negligible.

The world is clearly divided into two parts.

The hungry and the well fed.

Most of them are hungry and therefore unhappy.

The others live in excessive luxury, they have become so fat that they must run to the slimming institutes, and are so anxious to maintain and increase their material wealth, that they are unhappy too.

From the hungry
no threat can come.

**Hunger, disease, misery, and above all
the complete inability to understand and
use modern technology make
them completely harmless.**

In the mutant environment that we have created they are not even able to survive without our help.

They are reduced to a kind of pet, like the dog whose existence depends on the bone we throw him.

Neither should we be afraid
of the well-fed.

They are constantly busy.

**They use every second of their lives
chasing after money and the passive
enjoyment of the comforts that it offers.**

Soon, their concern with finding
a job and pleasing their boss
will be so great that they no
longer have time for anything else.

Deprived of any real education, with an untrained and lethargic mind, they are unable to react and they are increasingly immersed in the trash of the subculture which the media constantly offers them.

So in order to keep them unparticipating and apathetic, we don't even need to apply the drugs with which, we generously provide them, but chiefly for our love of profit.

They are lulled into believing that they are free and can decide about their system of government. We have convinced them to call this system democracy, although it is in fact, the absolute dictatorship of money and the press.

**Some totally harmless voices of objection
with absolutely limited local scope are tolerated.**

**Either because they offer a harmless distraction,
or because they serve as proof of the
alleged existence of freedom.**

Now with the layoffs to come, we have studied the possibility that something goes wrong in every detail.

First of all, the layoffs will not take place all together in one night. They are to come gradually. Today, one company closes a factory, tomorrow another dismisses 5,000 workers, the next day a third 20,000. And to make it even more "palatable" we let the media announce in advance:

– *"50,000 are threatened with dismissal".*

When finally 30,000 are fired, as had been pre-decided, then they will say:

– *"Triumph, thanks to our efforts and the generosity of Big Brother, 20,000 jobs have been saved!".*

It is not to our advantage when crowds of unemployed suddenly appear everywhere.

If they all find themselves unemployed suddenly, they could organize themselves and cause us trouble.

"Suddenly", this is what can hurt.

**If you dismiss them one by one,
they are completely harmless.**

The longer the period of unemployment, the more humble and obedient they are.

Take a look around you. Do we have only a few unemployed today?

Do you get the impression that they were ready to start riots?

On the contrary, they are totally docile and willing to serve anyone.

They don't want to get organized.

**Their only concern is to find some job,
regardless what, get a piece of dry bread, and
they will gratefully kiss the hand that gives it.**

39. Troublemakers and terrorists

In case we should have mass protests, with street demonstrations, shouting, placards and slogans, we have also taken precautions.

Did you notice the recent confrontations between the demonstrators and the forces of law and order on different occasions? Who is the one who always wins and proves himself every time to be better organized and more efficient?

The protesters maintain their tactics unchanged and still use the means available to Neanderthal man: mostly loud shouts, sticks and stones.

Can you prevail with these means against an organized, trained and equipped army, whose arsenal of conventional, mechanical, chemical and other (even psychological) resources is daily growing?

In the next clash, the forces of law and order will be even more impressive and effective. As each confrontation is for them an exercise which builds up its military clout.

Really, how are these conflicts caused?

Some influential and important persons want to meet somewhere, exchange a few words and maybe have a quiet drink.

And the ungrateful mob, though it should know that they work hard for its wellbeing, gathers outside, makes a racket, doesn't let them think in peace and spoils their appetite, if not their digestion.

But I wonder. Why are these meetings necessary?

Haven't their secretaries thoroughly edited everything and already discussed the slightest detail?

With today's telecommunication facilities, if eight (or eighty, it is the same thing) important people want to communicate with each other, must they wait a year to be in the same room together?

Don't they have phones? Don't they communicate daily with image and sound? Don't they exchange fax and e-mails incessantly? Don't they use video conferencing?

Do they really need to be in the same room to communicate with each other? Why should they meet anyway?

Is it to cause riots, to break windows and open heads?

Unless of course the riots have their usefulness and therefore are welcome.

On the one hand the security forces exercise in real action, each time testing the effectiveness of their new weapons and their advanced strategy, and on the other hand the rioters are taught that they have no hope of succeeding ever.

In the event that the protesters are stupid enough to use force, we have also made provision for some time.

We have explained
systematically for years
(long before the providential 9. 11. 2001),
and all mankind believes it,
that there is no greater
threat than terrorism.

So we have the right to remove immediately anyone who opposes us in this way, if needed by a drone attack of surgical accuracy.

Notwithstanding the fact that terrorist attacks are doing nothing but good to us and therefore,

we should wish them to continue or to provoke them.

Not only does our economy seem to benefit, but our position is generally strengthened, because as a result of terrorism we will be "**forced**" to take the strictest measures, which we have long designed and simply waited for the right opportunity to apply.

Whoever expresses his objection by dynamite has no chance.

He is condemned as a terrorist, isolated and completely eliminated.

**If the opposition starts to become even louder,
say at state level, then we will send the B-2s,
we offer them a humanitarian bombing and we have
all the benefits seen so far from the liberation wars.**

40. The prohibition of thinking

A real threat to the system can't be discerned anywhere.

Except maybe one last possibility.

**A threat that can come from free
thinking, from mental activity.**

If we suddenly start to think, we could actually cause the system trouble.

**You would perhaps say:
well, what are we doing now,
aren't we thinking?**

What can I say? I don't know. I'm not so sure. Do we really think freely, or only as much as our system allows? Do we doubt what the system tells us, or do we accept it without asking questions? Are we not ready at a moment's notice, to buy the most useless stuff when fashion prescribes it? To ruin our health with harmful substances, so that we are "in"? To harm ourselves and others, as we pointlessly whiz around in our cars? To ruin the environment, by destroying the forest and wasting water and electricity?

If we start to think this could even cause a change.

**I believe that we can see the development
of our society as the result of mental activity.**

The old workers' slogan:
**"All wheels stop, when
our strong arm wants it"**
refers to other times and
other production methods.

Today, those who can
"stop all wheels" are not those
who will use their strong arm,
but those who will use their
strong brain to tap in some
coded numbers on a keyboard.

If we look carefully, we will see that the real social changes, that means those which lasted (not those which can bring impressive but transient effects) are always the result of doubt created by thought, which led to some new production method, a new discovery, a new theory.

We owe our development to those who think, who pose questions, who doubt the conventional.

**Whether we invented a new machine or
a new philosophical theory, it was always
the work of those who weren't content
with the solution which was commonly**

accepted in their time, and were looking for something new, something more effective.

Changes are caused by the "restless",
the thinking people.

They represent a potential threat to the system.

And the worst thing is that they are absolutely necessary. The system can't exist without them. Its operation depends on them. They are the only ones who know how the complicated mechanism on which the system is based works. They are in "key positions".

Fortunately they are not (yet?) conscious of their power.

**The system has to control them,
and indeed it has already taken care of this.**

41. Changing the nature of the University

For the purpose of controlling people's thinking there are two ways and they have applied both of them.

The first method is to integrate them into the body of the system. This has been practiced for many years and will continue to be applied in the future. We choose some highly able people, we train them properly so that they can't put the system itself into question and we use them by placing them in important positions.

The second method is to reduce their number.

**As long as we were in the upward
phase, in the phase of growth,
we needed a lot of "restless" people.**

They were the ones who would
make the new inventions
and build the new factories.

Now that growth is no longer possible, why do we need them?

They are not only useless, but they could even cause problems for us.

We will reduce their number to the absolute minimum.

We will change the nature of the universities which are their "breeding grounds"

(Don't all riots begin in the universities?).

Instead of cultivating thinking people and free creators, in the future they will train only able users and obedient subjects.

Some few selected universities, which are under our absolute control, will be kept as nurseries for the renewal of the system. There the best of the best from around the world will study and from there will come the pillars of the system.

**Have you heard anything
about the "excellence initiative"
or the "poles of excellence"?**

How do you like this perspective?

Is it an absurd scenario of a sick imagination, or has it already been put into practice?

Is the project for the shortening of study time perhaps a done deal and has it already started?

**Have you heard anything
about the "Bologna process"
or the "Bologna declaration"?**

- *Why do we keep the students so long at the University? Is it to give them time to plot subversions? Let's reduce the study time to three years.*

But in three years we hardly have time to teach them the fundamentals of thought. When will we show them all the new advances in technology that continuously proliferate?

- *What are you saying? You will teach the fundamentals of thought? That is exactly what we need! To educate thinking people so that they can blow up the system! That's in the past, forget it. From now on you will teach them in three years the "tricks" of technology to help them find a job, and whoever wants to, can start post-graduate studies afterwards, remain there as long as it pleases him to deepen his knowledge and learn the fundamentals.*

**In other words:
Build first without foundations,
and whoever wants to, can put the
foundations on top of the roof afterwards.**

That is the future of the university.

It is decided. It's all over.

There is no return.

The system possesses the two powerful tools to control (in reality to ban) thought: This is what euphemistically is called "Education" and "The Media".

42. A "depository" for children

Is there one person who seriously believes that our current education system bears any relation to education?

Is its purpose the education of integrated personalities and the formation of the character of the free man?

Don't we all know that its purpose is entirely different?

In the first, the basic level, where the future personality of the new man is determined, the principal intention of the school is to guard the children, in order to allow their parents undisturbed to commit all their energy to their work.

It is basically a "depository" for children.

There the children will learn some things (most of them outdated and useless) in a way that can only generate disgust for knowledge, but is this the most important thing?

Whether the children learn something, or whether they have the opportunity to come know themselves, to recognize their abilities and to become acquainted with the freedom of creation?

- *Freedom? Are you mad? Should the school cultivate free people? We need the word freedom (only the word, not the concept) so that our politicians can repeat it constantly and we can keep the sweet taste of it in our mouth.*
- *Free personalities? For God's sake, they will overthrow everything.*

Something else, much more important will happen in elementary school.

**The children will learn there
(and they will keep it as a guideline for their whole life)
the fundamental principle of the system:**

Competition.

The school will mark,
will grade the children!

Each child gets a grade, a mark, a number that characterizes him.

Our smart education system has the means (as we measure the temperature and express it by a number) to measure and express by a number

- the personality,
- the spiritual effort,
- the creativity,
- the imagination.

From now on, every child will learn that it should strive to reach the highest number, to be top of the class.

**If the main cause of all the evil in the
wrong path that our species took in
its development, is that we have neglected
comradeship, you can now admire how early,
from the tenderest infancy, our system
takes care to implant individualism.**

43. "*Man is always alone*"

Before seeing what happens on the second level of education, it's worth, I think, to take a look into the problems of puberty, because this is indeed the most important event for that age.

While the young man is going through such a difficult and decisive phase of his life, he attends school at the same time and must study the lessons and he must pass the exams.

What is the attitude of our educational system toward adolescence, this phase that determines to such a degree all the rest of our life?

When the storm of puberty begins, which will literally dissolve the personality of the child, to build the personality of an adult (just as the caterpillar dissolves in the cocoon, so that the butterfly is formed) what does our education system do to assist the child?

When the body is changing so rapidly that the poor teenagers don't have time to learn to use it

(have you seen how awkwardly the poor things move hands and feet, and their parents, instead of pitying them, insult them for their inelegance), how is the school helping?

When the body is flooded with the unfamiliar sex hormones, which ignite the senses, the mind, the imagination, so that the child sees the world with completely different eyes, as if it were born a second time, what does the school do?

Absolutely nothing!

It doesn't care at all about the problem.

It ignores it absolutely.

It pretends not to know it.

It behaves as if the problem does not exist.

Let the child cope alone.

Won't he be alone anyway throughout his whole life?

Isn't this the great lesson that the school must teach?

Man is always alone!

Bravo, nice sayings they have taught us. And we repeat them daily like parrots.

Why alone?

What has happened to the other people?

Are we not social animals?

That's exactly the problem. It may be that we are by nature social animals, but the system doesn't approve this sense of community.

It will crush it.

The system is based on individualism.

It will change our nature.

It will teach us that we are alone.

That we shouldn't trust other people.

**They are wolves,
they will devour us.**

Homo homini lupus.

Does it surprise you now why the roots of phobias, psychoses, abnormalities are found in adolescence?

Or why their relationship to their parents (who themselves have no idea how to behave, because the poor things were also left alone in their own adolescence) and to society is destroyed beyond repair?

Why the children in this phase turn to alcohol, drugs and "bad company"?

What can you do? This is "*collateral damage*".

**In order to destroy the sociability
of people and install individualism,
we must take some losses into account.**

44. The second level of education

Amid this storm, the children must complete the secondary school.

After the foundations were laid in the first stage, as we have seen, the next big lesson will follow in the second stage.

**Here the children will
be trained to memorize.**

Rote learning is a basic foundation of education for the system.

Whoever learns by heart doesn't need to think. He is the ideal student, and he will be the ideal subject for the system.

When later in life he needs something, instead of thinking (which he can't because he has never learned how to) he will resort to the ready recipes which the system taught him, and he will have them as a guide all his life.

In the second level of education the children will learn to recite whole books by heart, like parrots, and not only wise slogans such as: "man is always alone" and "Homo homini lupus".

Whoever succeeds best in memorization will get the highest marks, and based just on this ability he will enter the University.

What awaits him there, we have seen. No need to repeat it.

At no level of education will the children learn to think.

*— To think? Are you quite mad?
Shall the system itself cultivate
thinking people, its unique threat?*

There are other special things for the child to do in the second stage.

At the time when he attends high school, he will start something else very important.

He will start with private lessons, preparatory courses and foreign languages.

The parents will do some extra overtime or look for a second job, and the children will begin to run from dawn far into the night, from one school to another.

How otherwise could they prepare for the life that awaits them?

Recently I heard an advertisement:

***"Send your child to our school,
and at 15 yrs. old he will have two
diplomas in foreign languages".***

Two diplomas at age 15!

And when will this hapless child have time to play?

**Why aren't the pedagogues on their feet,
grabbing bats and breaking heads?**

Two diplomas at age 15!

Who has the right to abuse a child like this?

**Why isn't the prosecutor on his feet,
to catch them all and put them in jail?**

Poor kids!

**All mammals,
from the kittens to the wolf cubs,
have the right to play.**

Our little ones, no.

45. Tigers, spiders and crows

But why, you would say. Our son has a lot of toys.

His room is full of them, plastic and metal. Just yesterday his uncle bought him a real robot, which walks, has flashing eyes and shoots.

I agree. Toys, yes he has. But does he play?

Let's see how long he will really play with this robot.

If he knows how to play, and if the robot is suitable for playing.

Of course he will show it to his friends to make them jealous, he will let it run a couple of times, but afterwards he will get bored. The robot can just run and shut. You can't do anything else with it.

**If you know how to play,
you do not need the robot.**

A nutcracker is enough.
It can be a robot, or a crocodile,
or a crane, or a spacecraft,
or whatever you want.

If you know how to play.

I have the impression that our children are playing less and less.

I no longer see them playing, either in the gardens or on the streets or the squares.

I see them of course in the bus when they are going from one school to another.

Each one is holding a small box with a mini screen and a few buttons.

If you press a certain button, then you shoot a "death ray" that eliminates some villains who suddenly jump up.

And I know that in the evening, staying up late, they play similar games on their computer

Games that require speedy reactions, that are full of tension and excitement (if you see the kids playing, they do not even breathe properly) and whose purpose is to kill as many enemies as possible.

That's education and that's training.
 Training in the most terrible act of all.
 Training in murder.

I myself have played such a game, and I know.

The first "enemy" that I met was a tiger.

He was so handsome and his movements so natural, agile and graceful, that I did not have the heart to kill it.

But what could I do? I was in a dilemma. If you do not kill it, then it devours you.

With great effort and a lot of time, I managed to avoid it, and progress in the game, without having to kill it.

But I had little time to appreciate my success because there appeared the next enemy.

Some terrible black spiders which began to climb my legs and bite me.

What should I do? You tell me!

I was obliged to kill them. But they were also extremely ugly.

Immediately afterwards, with hair-raising screams, several hideous black birds rushed at me and tried to gouge my eyes out.

So, I gave them the right answer.

Gradually I got used to it.

Later, when some tigers appeared again, I didn't stop to think how graceful their movements were.

I sent them right back to where they came from.

And when later, as the game progressed, the bad guys appeared, some wretched armed gangsters, who slay you right away if you don't shoot first, I had no problem dealing with them.

By the end of the game I had advanced so much that I inwardly wished there were more villains, so I could show who is the best.

They have such beautiful graphics and such vivid sound, that you think you're in a movie and that you are the hero of the adventure you experience.

I hear that in the newer, more advanced games, the picture has improved to such an extent that the blood of the victims gushes out and splashes around in a very natural way.

And the victims are not always necessarily the bad guys.

They could just be some passers-by. But worth killing, because apart from the pleasure which the act itself of hunting and killing gives, you collect points when you kill.

You increase your score.

The "collateral damage" also has its good side.

This education is exactly what the system requires.

Each child sits all alone at his computer, against a world full of enemies, or at least people worth destroying.

The young pilot, who by pressing a button launches a missile which eliminates an entire family that has gathered to celebrate the marriage of its daughter, must have started his training at a very young age.

46. The miserable Nayirah

The second pillar of disorientation (and essentially banning) of our thinking, is the so-called "information media".

To show you what kind of information they provide, I will remind you of this example which is so shocking, that

by itself it most impressively proves

the absolute ignorance in which the so-called "Informed citizen" lives today.

You will perhaps remember, that in the first war against Iraq, the Gulf War (where the miracle drug "war" was tested with brilliant results against the sickness of the economy), the world did not know exactly what was happening.

We could not understand who the "good" were and who the "bad".

Of course we knew that we were the "good", but, what exactly was going on there?

A decisive role in informing people and educating public opinion was played by that tragic documentary, which was repeated for days on the televisions around the world.

The film showed how the unfortunate young nurse Nayirah, who had escaped from Kuwait, described before the American Congress with tears in her eyes the brutal manner in which the Iraqi invaders seized the new born babies in the hospital where she worked, and threw them on the ground to die.

She added also that the soldiers, **after throwing the babies on the floor, as they left took with them the incubators for the premature infants.**

And I can still remember that I racked my brains to imagine what use soldiers who were constantly on the move could have for incubators.

Where would they find the current to operate them during the marches, and what for God's sake, did they want to put in there?

The event was so atrocious that U.S. President Bush (senior) used it many times in his speeches in favour of war, and the members of Congress who were initially against the war, voted at last in favour after hearing Nayirah's story.

After the war which cost thousands of dead, and the embargo which cost the lives of thousands more Iraqi children, it turned out⁷ that the girl who appeared before Congress, was neither a refugee nor a nurse, but

**the daughter of the Kuwaiti
ambassador to U.S.,**

who of course was not in Kuwait at the time

The whole campaign (shooting the scene in Congress, production of the film and distribution worldwide) was organized by the advertising agency **Hill & Knowlton** who was responsible for shaping public opinion.

⁷ John R MacArthur:

Remember Nayirah, Witness for Kuwait?

The New York Times Op-Ed, Monday, January 6, 1992.

Phillip Knightley:

The disinformation campaign.

Guardian, Thursday October 4, 2001

And others.

Hill & Knowlton is one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, and knows very well, with what "indisputable truths" the public can be convinced of anything.

Information about the amount of the Company's remuneration for such an important work ranges from 10 to 14.5 million dollars.

A sum which seems rather modest in comparison to the cost of the war itself and to the economic gains that it brought.

When journalists and **Amnesty International** (who initially believed the story and used its Influence for the punishment of the criminals) researched in Kuwaiti hospitals, **nobody knew anything, either about the "nurse" or the "episode" with the discarded new born babies.**

Did you know that before a war, just as before the release of a new product on the market, you must first assign a big advertising firm to "inform" the public?

When the system wants to advance Mr A (or the product A, or the opinion A, it is the same thing) or condemn Mr B (or the product B, or the opinion B) it starts some time before to have the TV show the "undisputed documents" which prove how good A is and how bad B.

The same information is given in the press of course.

Then there follows a phase where various specialists taking part in debates on television and writing articles in newspapers, make thoughtful analyses that demonstrate the correctness of the already preannounced decision.

Finally we ask some poor passers-by or we make a poll and we learn the public opinion, which is of course nothing other than the rehashing of all the media has fed them all this time.

If someone is asked: what is your opinion about Mr A? He always has an opinion. And it may be that the poor fellow actually believes that it is his own opinion, and has no idea that it has been "implanted".

I have never heard anyone interviewed say:

"What nonsense are you asking? How can I have an opinion? Do I know the man? Have I ever spoken to him? Do we live in the same neighbourhood, so I might know his behaviour? Have I seen his behaviour while driving towards the other drivers? How he behaves towards the saleswoman in the store or the waiter in res-

taurant? Have I've spoken to his wife and children, to know about his attitude towards them? Have we spent an evening together, to find out what lies beneath the mask of propriety, when he has had a few drinks? How can I have an opinion about him?".

47. The ultimate manipulation

The system has entrusted the shaping of our thinking to powerful forces:

- To the mass media, which offer undisputed truths, as we have seen,
- to the video games we have mentioned (the system knows the meaning of the game very well, while our official education has forgotten it),
- to the social environment and
- to television.

These are the teachers who will teach us how we should think, what to believe and how to act.

The social environment, yes, it teaches too.

No matter what all the wise men of the world say about the value of frugality.

Really is it not strange that no philosopher, neither old nor young, neither from the West nor from the East, has ever taught that man **will be happier, the more he lives in great luxury?**

**The real lesson is given
by the social environment.**

It teaches that anyone who has money and shows it, is somebody.

Whoever has two suits from this particular couturier enjoys double the admiration of him who has only one.

And whoever drives the latest model car of that particular company with 350 Hp, is admired by all.

And at the end, television.

What end? Only the end? Beginning and end.

The alpha and the omega of education that's television.

TV is the University of Mankind today.

From which the youth will learn everything.

It will teach them about **extravagance, selfishness, greed, robbery.**

Whatever television shows, this is the absolute, the incontrovertible truth.

It is the rule of life.

**The picture never lies
(as in the case of Nayirah!).**

Please take a little look at TV and try to understand what it teaches, what it propagates, what it advertises.

And advertising is not only the "commercials".

It is also done with films, with the news, with everything.

Consider the movies.

The entertainment they claim to provide, is actually teaching, propaganda for the principles of the system.

They teach that money is everything,
and that in order to get it any
means is allowed.

Selfishness, greed and even
murder are always present.

Whoever can draw
his gun first, is right.

Just out of curiosity, ask yourself if a day goes by without the movies on TV showing luxury, violence, robbery and murder.

These are the lessons that our children receive.

Are perhaps the so-called "live" broadcasts any better? Do you see the objects they refer to?

Can you understand the profound educative importance of the details of the latest erotic adventure of Mrs. X, which are described and analysed in every detail?

Have you seen the moderators too?

Have you noticed what they wear, how they speak, what they say?

Have you seen that the men are always dressed in the latest fashion and wear such "loud" ties that are more impressive than their whole personality?

Have you observed the women too?

Have you remarked that they are wearing less and less just to show off their figures?

"What else have they got to show off?" said a friend of mine.

The richness of their soul, or the depth of their thinking? Have you not noticed that, when they open their mouths, they just repeat some common phrases without content which they have memorized, and which more often than not, have nothing to do with what they are supposed to discuss?"

These are the people who serve as models for our children. They are the actual teachers of our children.

And what can I say about the "news" that often has nothing to do with any news?

If there is no shocking news, they artificially "inflate" a completely insignificant event which we do not know whether it has actually taken place, and we have to listen to this story for hours:

"Dog bites mother in law".

And then the special commentators appear in the "windows" and give us their profound opinions.

And they begin supposedly to argue whether the failure of the government or the statements of the opposition are to blame for what has happened.

And then we have a live direct link to the channel's special correspondent.

Indeed, there appears in a "window" an unfortunate man in someone's yard with a microphone in his hand, waiting patiently for his turn to speak.

And beside him is an even more unfortunate woman, waiting too.

And when their turn comes, the newscaster asks:

"Well, dear lady, you are an eye-witness?"

"Yes", replies the woman.

"So, tell us, please, what you saw".

"I saw nothing, says the woman, because I wasn't there. But I heard the dog bark".

"And you are sure that it was this dog?" Insists the speaker.

"I can't be sure because, as I said, I was not there. However I think I heard a dog barking".

This is the intellectual diet on which our children are brought up, and on such truths is built their personality.

48. The "Higher Education" of advertising

And now we reach the crowning point of education. "Higher education" equals advertising.

But maybe someone will tell me: "We don't watch advertising at home".

Wrong. You must see it. Because this is what our children see the most.

They don't just look at it, they "suck" it up. And by repetition they identify entirely with it.

They learn the slogans of the commercials by heart, and they repeat them in the school breaks.

Advertising isn't done by fools.

It is done by very capable people with special training and great experience. And, do not forget this, it has our children as the target. We should watch it, and watch it with great attention. Advertising teaches us many things.

Observe carefully a commercial.

Let's say, about the canned radishes of brand X. Does it only refer to the radishes? Isn't it teaching us something else? Didn't you see how the faces of all the members of the family shone with happiness, as the tin with the radishes appeared?

Haven't you understood that it is wrong to believe that happiness is a mental state, independent of any material goods, which can be reached only after a very serious internal process?

We believed wrong.

The commercial teaches us the truth.
Happiness is something very simple, that
everyone can buy in the supermarket,
and indeed for the price of a can.

Under some preconditions, of course, which are all listed by the same commercial.

Look carefully what the family is wearing. They are all dressed in the latest fashion.

If you are not dressed according to fashion, do not expect happiness. The dinnerware on the table, did you see it? Did you notice how expensive it is?

Without magnificent dinnerware, happiness does not exist.

The furniture in the kitchen and the equipment, and the finest appliances, did you notice? The huge garden with the swimming pool which can be seen from the window, did you see it?

The lesson, I think, is quite clear:

**Happiness is something you can buy with
little money, as long as you have the
prerequisites which need a lot of money.**

Compared to the power of this teaching,
what do you think the efforts of an
idealistic teacher can achieve,
when he dares in his lecture to
praise self-denial and modesty?

Exactly the same lesson is taught in the advertising for brand Y cookies and brand Z washing powder.

All commercials teach exactly the same thing.

**Our mind is trapped in lies, in cheap
gossip and the pursuit of luxury.**

**Space for free thought, which could
threaten the system, does not exist.**

49. What's next?

Why "next"? There is no "next". There is no continuity.

Didn't we say it before? It's all coming to an end.

The answer to the question "where are we going?" is clear I think: "we are going over the edge of the cliff".

We are moving towards the abyss.

We are following our
system to its collapse.

All signs point in that direction..

None of the actions of our leaders shows contrition, questioning of the system or a willingness to change direction.

Quite the contrary.

They show persistence to continue in this direction. Continue at any cost.

The cost will be high from now on.
Let's get ready.

But why should we be led to disaster?

Won't those who govern us see that we are going over the cliff, and even at the last moment turn the steering wheel round?

**Do you think that they
have not seen it yet?**

Do you know how old the voices are which decry the hopelessness of the system? Not only since the time of the "*Club of Rome*"⁸ but a century before.

⁸ The Club of Rome (<http://www.clubofrome.org>). deals with issues concerning the future of humanity.

The first study, published, just referred to Limits to Growth:

THE LIMITS TO GROWTH, Dennis L. Meadows et al., Universe Books, New York, 1972.

Recently he has released a new study on the same subject:

LIMITS TO GROWTH – THE 30-YEAR UPDATE, Dennis Meadows et al., Chelsea Green, 2004.

Do you think that anyone cares?

Have you ever heard a politician or one of our leaders say that we are on the wrong track, because our system is condemned by its nature, and that we should leave it quickly before it draws us into the abyss?

On the contrary, they are still talking about growth which will begin soon. You will not find a single political speech which doesn't talk about growth. Growth! This means increasing energy consumption and increasing damage to the environment.

And for what purpose?

Only to increase profits and develop the economy.

A growth which they well
know is no longer possible.

They laugh in our faces.

Unless they have
something else in mind.

They hope to find a way to make growth possible again so that investment might be profitable again.

Let us find a way on the one hand to reduce the earth's population to one tenth, so that we have a new population explosion, and on the other hand to decrease the accumulated wealth of the earth (houses, factories, ships, airports) to one tenth so that growth starts again, and we have a new capitalist explosion.

To start the *Monopoly* game anew.

**Do you understand how important
it is to achieve both these
goals with one "shot"?**

50. War ...the end of all

"Shot" is not written by chance.

**War!
This is the solution.**

The magic recipe for the renewal of the system.

And I think there are some who would like to apply this solution.

With a nice big war, with the means now available to us, we can decrease both the population and the wealth in the shortest possible time to one-tenth, so that growth can start again.

**Those who govern us are unscrupulous.
They are capable of "*walking over corpses*".**

If they were not, they wouldn't have obtained world domination, and we wouldn't have had so many wars with so many corpses.

They will not change their mentality.

They will not suddenly convert from predators to benefactors.

They know, of course, that war is not a final, a permanent solution. But in order to provide some albeit small or temporary profit, they know the recipe and they will use it. They will make wars.

Isn't this what they have been doing all this time? Little or bigger wars.

The one after the other.

**Why do you think they continue
to spend so much money on the
development of ever more effective,
that means even more lethal, weapons?**

To use them as firecrackers
on New Year's Eve?

Are the weapons we already have today not deadly enough?

Can't they destroy the entire planet ten times over? Why do we need more deadly weapons?

This method involves, of course, the danger that things can go wrong and end up out of control.

Because the nuclear weapons, which daily multiply and spread ever wider could be used on a large scale (as long as it remains small, it doesn't hurt). Then we would finally have the disaster which humanity has feared for over half a century.

If this happens we don't need to worry about the future, because there will simply be no future.

The human race (together with
some other species) will gloriously
disappear in a majestic fireball.

If this does not happen, the smaller wars will continue ad infinitum, and at the same time an immovable global dictatorship will be established which will become ever more absolutist and will prevent any free thought or action in order to stay in power.

**People will stop thinking.
That is, they will cease to be human.
We will have a slow inglorious end.**

Our species will disappear sinking
in the swamp of misery, subordination
and enforced stupidity.

At this point this text is over.

It was an attempt to evaluate the direction in which we humans are going.

I am very sorry if I have displeased you, but it seems that we aren't doing well.

We are going the wrong way.

We have selected only one side of our character, the selfishness and the greed, and we have built on it the economic and social system to which we linked our fate.

**If this leads us to the edge of the cliff,
than we go over with it.**

Perhaps, after many years, space travellers will visit the Earth and study what is left.

Then they will find that there had been a species that had started with very good prospects, but one day had decided to stake everything on one card.

The card called "selfishness".

And it had lost everything.

What a pity!

51. Unless ...

But I wouldn't like to say farewell, leaving you in the darkness of this black perspective.

So I have added to the text a second part with the title:

"A new beginning".

Something like an annex, which aims to show that we could imagine other approaches too, different from what our system offers us.

The black perspective refers to the system.

This is irreversibly doomed.

But us?

Let's say it again:

<p>Our fate will depend on our attitude, and I think that we still have the opportunity to make a choice.</p>

And at this point we should perhaps remind ourselves of Heracles.

The choice he had to make between the way of Vice and the way of Virtue. Each one praised his own way.

One suggested to take the easy way, with comfort, with wealth, with delights, with the best things man could imagine for himself.

The other one, the hard way, with deprivation, with effort, with self-restraint for the sake of others.

Heracles was free to choose and he chooses what free strong men always choose.

He chose the difficult path.

The way of duty to others

(He must have been a stupid fool, someone who thinks he's very smart, said to me).

For many years we have been on the easy path of egoism.

**Will we perhaps decide to
change to the way of Virtue?**

<p>Everything will depend on this decision.</p>

A new beginning

52. Thoughts for common people

The following pages are not an attempt to estimate what would likely happen.

Trying to predict the future was what we saw in the first part of this document titled "The inevitable end".

Nor do the following pages aspire to suggest how a society should be organized and should function.

Such proposals have often been made before, and have found smaller or larger appeal depending on their time.

The following pages are simple thoughts which are not addressed to "serious" scholars, who are accustomed to thoughtful analyses with many strange words the rest of us do not understand, and with numerous references to the works of various "wise men".

Many people believe that the more incomprehensible the words and the more references there are in a text, the more thoughtful and therefore more valuable is the study.

I do not agree with them.

For me, a study is as valuable as the number of people it causes to think.

Therefore, the following pages are kept as simple as possible.

**Yet, the following considerations
may seem strange to you.**

The reason is that we are accustomed to think that what our system teaches us is the undeniable truth.

Something like the laws of nature which allow no denial.

But if we want to think about a new beginning, we must be aware that the new beginning cannot be built on the foundations of the old system, because otherwise we would make the same mistakes again.

We must make the effort to avoid thinking in the way that has been imposed on us until now.

**Not to be trapped into thinking that what
was drummed into us was the absolute truth.**

If something you read below shocks you do not be too quick to reject it.

**Please, examine first whether
it is contrary to logic.**

**If it is contrary to logic, then it is
indeed to be thrown out.**

**If it is against the principles of the system,
then perhaps it is just what we are looking for.**

Perhaps these ideas are suitable for us ordinary people.

Maybe some people would say when reading:

- *"Look. That's what I've been thinking.
It would be so easy to make our lives happy".*

If some of the readers say this, and some go even further and ask themselves:

- *"Well, why don't we form our living conditions on Earth something like that? Who will prevent us? Don't we ourselves, we humans, determine how we live? Our life isn't after all dictated to us by aliens.*
- *Wouldn't right now (when the old system is collapsing by itself) be the opportunity to try something new?".*

**Then we must consider
that the purpose of this document
has been more than successful.**

53. The castaways

After the sinking of the luxury cruise ship where the lights burned day and night, the music played incessantly and the feasting and dancing had no end, we were shipwrecked on an island-planet called Earth.

What can we do now?

The first thing to do is to evaluate the situation. To see if the island is habitable, and what was saved from the shipwreck.

Well, from both sectors the news is encouraging.

The island is habitable.

On the understanding that, from now on, we treat it with respect (we don't set fire to it or stuff it with trash), we could live for a long time on it.

**And from the wreck, everything
was saved that was worth saving.**

Our experience was saved, our knowledge, our art, our philosophy, our science, our technology, our machines. It is not necessary to

drive the mill with the power our muscles (harnessed like Samson), nor pick the cotton by hand, (bent crooked like Uncle Tom).

The prospects are not at all bad.

The only thing we need is to control our behaviour, because on this, and only on this, will depend our survival now.

**There is no other danger
from anything else,
except from our behaviour.**

We must not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Provided we know what they were.

But we know them anyway. I don't think there is anyone who doesn't know. In reality it was only a single error, and from that the whole catastrophe began.

We hadn't worked as a team.

Each man worked for his own benefit and to the detriment of the next.

<p>Instead of providing for the welfare of others, and then, of course, to being provided for by the others, everyone took care only for himself.</p>

That's all.

More was not necessary.

That alone was enough.

This caused the disaster.

Instead of writing on our ship the name

"Argo",

as a symbol of the joint effort of a team which set out on a common adventure, we wrote in large letters

"EGO"

and we ran the ship aground on the reef.

Assuming we could agree on this statement, and decide not to use selfishness as the motive for our actions, then from now on, all our problems are solved.

You'll see that there is a solution to every problem.

So, go! Let's get started. There is much to do.

**The first thing to be done
with absolute priority and without delay
is to stop waste immediately.**

If we don't do this right now, it is possible that the destruction of the island reaches such a point, where it is no longer reversible and we haven't the time to undertake any other action.

What do the actual castaways do when they get into this situation?

The first thing they do is to measure the amount of available water and determine how much is each person's share per day.

There is no other way.

Because if someone begins to say:

– *"I need more than the others, because I want to shower twice a day",*

then others will be left without water and die of thirst.

You could say, however:

That's okay. We agree. Waste must be stopped.

But won't we cover basic needs?

**I agree, only we must determine what
we mean when we say "basic needs".**

54. Basic needs

I suggest that you make a very interesting and very instructive experiment.

Ask your friends what it is to cover basic needs and what is wasteful and excessive luxury.

You will get very interesting answers.

I am afraid that no one will admit that what he does involves waste and excessive luxury.

What he already has and uses is what just covers the basic necessities of civilized life, and represents the minimum necessary for the preservation of his social acceptance.

What he doesn't have and he doesn't plan to acquire soon, that would be wasteful and excessive luxury.

Anyone who has an air conditioner will assure you that it covers a basic need to survive under our current living conditions.

He will say the same for his TV, his stereo, his car, his summer house, his swimming pool, his pleasure boat and everything else he owns.

Those who don't have them and don't plan to get them soon will tell you that such things are wasteful and excessive opulence.

Tell me now, how should we determine basic needs?

If you are foolhardy enough to claim that

**covering of basic needs means only
not starving and not freezing,**

they will look at you with that gaze that says:

"How sorry we are for this mental state you are in".

And one more thing.

If you say to someone:

- Why do you consider a car a basic need? How did your grandfather live without one?

He will answer you that in his grandfather's time, when there were few cars, because they were made by hand, there was only one car in the neighbourhood, and with good reason it belonged to the doctor so he could visit his patients.

Today, when technical development has come so far that cars are manufactured in thousands by automatic machines without a man lifting a finger, and everyone in the neighbourhood already has one, why shouldn't he have one? Is a car perhaps a bad thing?

What can you answer?

And if you say to someone else:

- Why, my dear, do you think an air conditioner is vital?
How did your grandmother live without one?

She will answer that her grandmother lived in a small house in a garden surrounded by other such houses with their gardens, allowing the sea breeze to pass unhindered between them and enter from the open window.

She on the contrary lives in an apartment in a huge block, surrounded by other huge blocks which burn up in the sun.

The sea breeze is something she has heard used to exist once.

Now if she opens her window, the only thing that will come in will be the noise from the road and the exhaust fumes of the cars.

What can you answer her?

Trying to determine basic needs is futile.

On the one hand everyone sees things differently, and on the other hand continuing technical development provides us with new possibilities to meet needs beyond the basic ones, while our ever-changing life style constantly creates new needs.

What can we do then?

**If we are unable to determine our basic needs,
where can we find the measure to understand
when the waste that must be limited starts?**

55. A very simple solution

Finding the measure for our basic needs is very easy.

We have used it already when we thought about how to distribute water to the castaways.

**The measure arises from the data about
the environment and our numbers.**

That's all.

As simple as that.

If we have enough water for
everyone to use 200 litres a day,
then this is the measure.

Beyond that is wasteful
and shameful extravagance.

If the 200 liters are too much for someone, he doesn't need to use it all. That will be to the advantage of the rest.

If the water supply allows only for 10 litres a day, then the measure is 10 litres, because if one person uses 11, then he steals a litre from someone else who will only get 9.

The same applies to air conditioners, to cars or anything else.

If we have enough air conditioners for everyone who feels hot to have one, and we have enough energy to operate them day and night without further burdening the environment, then why not, so shall it be.

But, if we have only a few air conditioners, then it is obvious that we must give priority to those who belong to the so-called "sensitive groups in society", the elderly and those suffering from heart problems.

And if we don't have enough energy, or damage to the environment doesn't allow it, then we have to operate the air conditioners for only a few, highly critical hours.

But here arises a question that is so central that the success of our whole effort depends on the answer we will give.

Our whole dream of a new society that is not based on robbery stands or falls on the answer, we will give to this question.

If there are not enough air-conditioners, nor enough energy to spare, and the environment can't tolerate a further burden (and unfortunately, this is the situation today), who makes sure that the air conditioners only go to those who actually need them, and that they use them only when it is absolutely necessary?

Will we perhaps need a very strong police force?

**We will not need the police at all,
is the answer I would suggest.**

- *But if there is no police force, then every cheat will bribe a doctor to give him the "certificate of sensitivity" and will from then on have the air conditioner running day and*

night, even in winter, to counteract the heat, because he will also have the heater on high.

Very true.

According to the prevailing mentality this is exactly what will happen.

We have the mentality cultivated by the system in which we live, and if we don't change this mentality, it is futile to dream of any change in society.

56. More stringent than the gendarme

Without a change in mentality, absolutely nothing can be done.

I do not think, however, that police and repressive measures are the appropriate means to change attitudes.

On the contrary. The existence of a police force will reinforce the mentality of any "potential trickster" who will always try to find a way out. And the stricter the police get, the worse this mentality will become. Apart from that a strong police tends to be autonomous, to become independent from the state and then it begins to oppress the citizens.

Don't all dictatorships end like this? I don't think that at the beginning they intended to torture people. They are gradually forced to result to this because they rule is based on enforcement rather than on persuasion. A good society should educate its citizens in such way that a police force would be superfluous. If it needs the police to enforce civilized behaviour, then it lost the game long ago.

– *But, will we let the criminals do what they want?*

Of course not. We need to find out why some people are led to illegal behaviour.

Ουδείς εκών κακός.

No one is voluntarily evil, Socrates said.

Something has forced him to do this. It is our duty to identify the causes and to cure them. Foreseeing and prevention. If someone has loaded his rifle and has shut some pupils, then it's already too late.

We need to have an department with educators, psychologists and doctors whose aim will be to timely diagnose and combat the reasons for crime. Not to fight the criminals since there will not be any.

Not because we have put them all in jail or executed them, but because we have not let people develop into criminals.

But let us now return to the issue of waste.

**Everyone should decide
on his own, to limit himself.**

And that's not so easy.

There are perhaps some people already today, amid the general rapine and pillage, who from self-esteem consider it beneath their dignity to be wasteful.

It is not necessary for the gendarme to tell them anything.

Their sense of dignity is stricter
than any gendarme.

They wouldn't deign to take one
extra litre of water from someone else.

How many of these are there though? Five, ten?

The great majority, in whom the system has implanted the spirit of wastage, of selfishness and of greed, where will they find the strength to limit themselves?

They do not have this power in themselves.

Otherwise they wouldn't deign to be plunderers.

They would stand apart, like the few strong characters and would restrain themselves.

These weak types need some support.

Not, however, from the forces of law and order.

They cannot change people's mentality.

We have to look for these
forces elsewhere.

**And I think that there are two such forces
which are worth taking a closer look at.**

The force of public opinion and
the power of education.

Both have the disadvantage that they take a long time to bear fruit (while the police grab you by the collar and immediately enforce the law), but whatever is slow to take effect, is that which lasts longer.

Besides, a change of attitude is a process that takes a very long time anyway.

What can we expect though, from today's public opinion, which is completely misinformed, basically clueless and indoctrinated?

Steeped as it is in the robbery- and consumer-orientated spirit of the system, what can you expect from it?

**The answer is:
absolutely nothing.**

When I said, public opinion, I meant another kind of public opinion.

The opinion of the close social environment in the neighbourhood, in the village, in the workplace.

Where everyone knows everyone else.

There the weak man could find support, in order to become strong. To be able to decide by his own free will and without having it imposed on him, to give up some of his comforts.

**For this public opinion, let's look
at an old and a new example.**

57. A 2500 year old example

About two and a half thousand years ago, Pericles in his "*epitaphios*" (his famous funeral oration) praises his country, because the Athenians respect not only the written but in particular the unwritten laws.

And he was right to be proud.

Because obedience to the written laws needs no great bravery.

If you do not follow them, the policeman nabs you.

**Compliance with the unwritten laws,
this is something special.**

This presupposes the existence of a force which is greater than that of the policeman.

A force that some people carry in themselves and others draw from the society in which they live.

And the society at the time of Pericles possessed this power.

What are these unwritten laws then?

Nothing but the general perception of society for certain types of behaviour

For example, in Athens at that time, as in other places and at other times, the unwritten law required frugality.

Here, perhaps, it's worth remembering a charming episode in Plato's "**Symposium**", where Alcibiades describing his admiration for Socrates mentions that Socrates used to wear only one garment, summer and winter.

**Being able to live in the same clothes
winter and summer was considered
admirable at that time.**

Today someone deserves greater admiration, the more clothes he owns, especially clothes with the label of a famous couturier.

The label is of particular importance, because it confirms how expensive it is, and thus proves the great social and moral virtue of the one who wears it.

That's why the label (which was previously sewn on the inside of the dress) is placed in a most prominent place, so that it can be recognized from afar.

In Texas, with the large cattle herds the animals are branded with a hot iron, so that everyone can immediately recognize which animal belongs to which owner.

You will tell me of course:

If you have the inner world of Socrates, why do you need many clothes?

You feel neither cold nor hot, for you one tunic is enough.

If you are aware of your inner emptiness,
then you're forced to adorn yourself with
borrowed plumes, and furs.

It was shameful then to live luxuriously.

"Φιλοκαλούμεν μετ' ευτελείας",

(we love beauty with simplicity) Pericles boasted.

For example, luxury construction, although it was the standard for public buildings, was completely unacceptable for a private home.

If someone dared to put the slightest luxury on his home, public opinion would immediately say:

"Look at that mess!

He's decorating his house like a public building".

And of course no one dared, because Athens was then a village where everyone knew everyone else and his way of life.

And there was always the danger that Aristophanes would expose you in one of his comedies, and then you would find nowhere to hide from your shame.

One of the worst symptoms of the grave illness of today's society is that shame has been lost.

**"Ἡ μεγίστη τῶν ἐν ἀνθρώποις
νόσων πασῶν, ἀναίδεια",**
(The greatest of all diseases in humans
is shamelessness), said Euripides.

There is no worse disease for
humans than losing shame.

Look around you: Politicians, university professors, journalists, ordinary people are not ashamed to live with provocative luxury, to lie, to evade taxes, to waste public money or even to put it in their own pocket.

And if they get caught, they assume a pose and play the censors and the guardians of honesty, as if they are proud of their achievements.

And some naive people admire them for their "skill".

It does not matter how they acquired so much money.

Since they have so much money, they are to be admired.

**The society at the time of Pericles and Euripides
was healthy, and in such societies the
"code of honour" that is imposed on those who
want to have the approval of their fellows, is much
stricter than the law imposed by the policeman.**

58. A contemporary example

Allow me now to refer to a personal experience in modern times.

I think that a concrete example often says a lot more than a lengthy analysis.

Several years ago I worked for some time at an institute in a small university town in Germany.

Every morning I went to work in the car which I had brought from Greece, and was always very happy to be able to park in the yard, because there were only a few cars (of employees who lived several miles away, as I learned later).

Bicycles were in abundance, but they take up very little space.

After a few days, one of the new friends I had made there, approached me and said:

- *"I can understand that you couldn't bring your bike from Greece, and for the short time you stay here it isn't worth buying another one. We have our son's bike in the basement; he lives in another city now. You can have it, if you want it".*

What had happened?

In the small town society, and especially in the university society, there was the understanding that to protect the environment you shouldn't use your car if you could avoid it.

It was unacceptable to
come to work by car.

That's why students and professors, young and old, from the cleaners to the directors, they all came every day by bike, even in winter in snow and ice at temperatures far below freezing point.

**From that shame my
friend tried to save me.**

And one more thing.

On the German motorways there is no general speed limit.

If your car can do 200 km/h (and most cars can) or even 250 km/h, no policeman will stop you.

But if you want to be accepted in this small circle of the Institute people, then it is not done to drive over 120 km/h, because the CO₂ emissions are much higher

And most institute people (and those who want to copy them) obey this unwritten law.

Such is the power of public opinion among people who know one another, and this power could support the weak individual in reducing his extravagance.

And I don't think that they need to be academics to do this.

They could just as well be beekeepers, or tailors, or "**Fans of Manchester United**".

Any group where people know each other has its unwritten moral rules which the members keep faithfully.

Before finishing this chapter, I think it right to remind you of something that has to do with self-restraint and shame.

Some time ago, the nations of the world signed the "**Kyoto Protocol**", whereby committing themselves to reduce the emissions of "**greenhouse gases**" (mostly CO₂) by a certain amount at a certain time.

All the nations signed, except one.

The U.S. refused to sign. The U.S., which is by far the main culprit for the increased emissions of CO₂.

The U.S. alone produces about one third of the total amount of CO₂ produced **by all other countries together**.

They haven't signed and they aren't ashamed of it.

**"I am ashamed to be an American"
a friend told me.**

I hear that recently the U.S. government is concerned by the fact that

**more and more Americans are
ashamed for the same reason.**

59. Brainwashing tool

The issue of education is probably the most serious.

And it's complicated.

It includes both the "education" as we know it today, which is anything but education, and in particular television, which with the "truths" of the type of Nayirah and with advertising, educates our society to a great extent.

If we do not civilize the No. 1 abuser of consciences, television, and we don't make fundamental changes to our education system, we

can't expect any change in mentality and we can't dream about a different society.

About the first point, to civilize television, you know that numerous attempts have been made, none has been successful, and we are going from bad to worse.

Under the existing system, it's likely nothing can be done.

Television will remain the main
instrument of the system,
an instrument of propaganda
and brainwashing.

All that could be suggested is to avoid it.

There are already some, only a very few to tell the truth, who have refused to let television invade their family.

Incredible as it may sound, they can live without TV!

- *Obviously they have no idea of what they are missing. We cannot do without TV. And we don't have just one. We have one in each room. And they are all playing simultaneously, so that we don't miss anything when we go from one room to another. TV is absolutely necessary. TV keeps us company. It relieves us from the worries of the day.*
- *We want to watch something light. Sometimes there are nice films. We follow the serials and watch in suspense how the story continues.*

Very well.

**Then use it,
but not to watch shows.**

Instead of watching lies, gossip
and movies of the lowest quality,
you can view a DVD which
you have chosen yourself.

You can watch a play from beginning to end.

And for a change, you could read a novel.

There are some much more exciting than any serial.

Regarding the second point, education, the moulding of conscience and the shaping of personality, perhaps you know, and certainly you suspect that many educators have made numerous proposals in this respect.

It is not now the time to judge these proposals and to find out which of them is the better one.

But I would suggest visiting such a school in our imagination,

**to see how different from the usual one
an educational system could be,
that is designed to develop free thought
and independent personalities.**

60. An imaginary school

Some fifteen kids (that's the maximum allowed) are running around in a large room barefoot (they have left their shoes at the door), and everyone is doing what he likes.

There are tables and chairs, but the children don't like those things and they have pushed them aside. Everything takes place on the floor.

One girl is lying face down on the floor painting something that, judging by the colours, is a great adventure in the frozen north.

Another is sitting on the floor with a xylophone, and is hammering out her own original composition whose melodic qualities only she is able to appreciate.

A third, sitting cross-legged like a fakir is threading some colourful beads on a string. He is working with great concentration because the order of the colours hides a secret code of the utmost importance.

Further along, three others are working together on their knees. They are building with wooden blocks something so strange and unearthly that can only be a space station.

On the walls of the room there
are shelves full of toys.

Plastic dolls however and tin
robots have no place there.

**There are solely planned games
designed by experts.**

One inspires the imagination, another observation and understanding, a third promotes co-operation as it can work only with the help of many hands, a fourth demands such logical and synthetic thinking, that even an adult would have great difficulty managing it.

The children choose the game they like, and play until they are tired of it (and you know already how fast kids get bored), then they bring it back to its place and take another.

When a child is very tired, which happens very rarely, he lies down on the floor on his back and looks at the ceiling until he is rested and can continue the game.

– *Is there no teacher to keep them in order?*

There is a teacher, but she sits in a corner, writing or reading something and does not seem to be concerned about them.

After completing her Diploma in Education at the University she has made special studies and knows how she should behave, so the kids do not realize they are being observed or guided.

The main objective is to let the child know himself, to find his capabilities and to utilize them by his own free will.

This goal is not achievable if the teacher is constantly standing over the child and saying: "**do this and leave that**".

<p>If you want to develop free thinking, you have to leave the thinking free.</p>

In the classroom (which only the Good Lord could call a classroom) there are three or four other young ladies, assistant-teachers in training.

They have also already graduated in Education Studies at the University and parallel to their special training, they are getting practical experience at school.

Thus, for every three or four kids there corresponds one teacher.

When that small girl cannot decide which game to choose, the teacher or an assistant comes "to help her pick out one together".

And lo and behold, as chance would have it, the game, which they "found together" is just what strengthens his decision-making ability.

And when another, who in no time at all and with one hand behind his back can finish the games for which the others need hours, begins to get bored and starts annoying the rest, the teacher comes "to help him download a game from the top shelf".

Now, "by sheer chance" this game is one of the sort which even an adult would have great difficulties with, and the troublemaker will need all his attention to succeed with this game.

61. Reading, writing and arithmetic

- *All very well, but don't they have lesson? When they will learn reading, writing and arithmetic?*

What lesson?
Even more lessons?

**What do you think
they have done so far?**

is there a more important
lesson than play?

As for writing, reading and arithmetic, they don't need to learn it, because they have already mastered it long ago.

They learned it without realizing they were being taught.

**The entire "curriculum"
was hidden in the games.**

This is one of the key tactics: learning without realizing that you are learning. Only "in passing".

Your main interest is the game, but "on the side" for the needs of the game perhaps you must read, write or calculate something.

Well, you do it, without being distracted from your serious occupation, the game.

Writing, reading and arithmetic are the very useful tools that you need for the game, not goals in themselves.

The girl who painted the "adventure in the frozen north" perhaps wants to write a message on the snow, to be read by the other members of the mission, who are following in the balloon.

If she can't manage it herself, another child will "in passing" help her, without interrupting his game, or if necessary she will ask the assistant, who "accidentally" at this moment just passes by.

And the other one with the beads and the secret code, he has to solve a very difficult problem of reading, writing and arithmetic, to

convert the words of the message to a succession of colours in the necklace, which will be given to the Indian chief.

If he has difficulties, then, "the council of elders" must come from the camp to help him.

And if they cannot agree on the correct solution, then this is the "golden opportunity" for the teacher.

She will pass by "accidentally" to see "why all this fuss", she will open up the discussion asking for each child's opinion, so that the whole class starts to pay attention and then she will "let them alone" to find the solution through discussion.

When the discussion is over, no one, neither the composer on the xylophone, nor the constructors of the space station, or the Indian chief, who will all continue their work, that means their game, would have realized that they had just attended a very serious and very difficult lesson about writing, reading and arithmetic.

When all children are tired, the teacher will gather them around her, to tell them a story or to read them something from a book.

Perhaps about the adventures of the Peary mission to the North Pole.

62. Examinations, tests and grades

– *And when will the exams and the tests take place? How will the grading of the students be done?*

Examinations, tests and grades?

You are kidding, surely.

There are no such things.

What constitutes the darkest pages of our school years is unknown.

Didn't you understand that the purpose of this school is to cultivate free personalities and not slaves of the system?

The parents are in contact with the teacher all the time and receive regular analytical reports describing in detail the child's progress and any problems he meets.

But there are no grades.

**To characterize a person
with a number is considered an
offense against human dignity.**

– *And so, is all the time spent playing games?*

Yes.

Just that the games change, because the interests of the children change.

The game with the coloured beads will be replaced by difficult, complex and very demanding experiments in physics and chemistry.

And the ones who built with the wooden bricks, have moved on to serious design studies, where it is proved that the diagrams, the equations and the very complicated calculations are very useful tools that the children will learn to use "on the side" because they help a lot in their work, which is the construction of the bridge linking Treasure Island to the opposite shore.

Working is shifted from the floor to the tables and drawing boards, because there you can spread your PC, your papers and your books more easily.

More and more books will appear on the shelves, as children are now turning their interest to them.

Either because they enjoy reading the text that they have "chosen by themselves", or because they find the answers there to the questions which occupy them now.

Because if you go and ask the teacher something, she never gives you a clear answer to what you are asking, but she gets you to think by yourself and sends you to search in the encyclopaedia or in certain book.

<p>That is of course if you're lucky, since otherwise she might start up an entire discussion involving the whole class,</p>
--

**and you will spend hours discussing it until
you find the correct answer "by yourself",**

and you will regret it bitterly,
cursing the moment you asked her.

The time which the teacher spends with the children around her, becomes ever greater.

The discussions are more heated, and the teacher "reveals" more and more.

Either the story of the photon which fell on a leaf and finally formed a glucose molecule ("in passing" the children will of course hear all the details of photosynthesis), or the story of the little turtle which emerged fully formed from an egg, which initially contained only a yellow liquid (and of course the children will learn "in passing" all the details of the mechanism for protein synthesis under the instructions of the DNA).

There is no scientific domain which
the children can't understand and
follow if they are interested in it.

This school begins without fail with the kindergarten (because what we call the pre-school age is crucial to the intellectual development of the child) and ends with the high school, when the child has already matured so much that he can **decide on his own** (without quotes now) whether to take a job or to study further.

But enough of all this.

**Time to go back to our "castaways"
and their problems.**

63. The population

Assuming that we have succeeded, with the help of the local community and education to reduce extravagance, is the problem of the environment solved, is the planet and our species saved?

Not yet.

This was only the first step.

A very important step, of course, without which we cannot continue our discussion,

**because it includes the
most important point of all:
the change of mentality.**

But it must be followed by further steps to tackle the next problem.

If however we have managed to change our mentality, then we can master all problems. There everything will be played out.

If we can change our mind set.

For this reason I expanded so much on the themes of social environment and education.

If we can switch from the singular
to the plural, from "me" to "we",
all problems can be solved.

And the next problem, you know, is the problem of population.

We cannot have a balance in nature and talk about saving the planet, as long as our population is right in the middle of an explosion.

If we do not stop this explosion, the disaster will happen sooner or later.

Rather sooner than later.

The first question to be answered is: How many should we be on earth?

A continual increasing in numbers is stupid, and we will not let that happen.

We must stabilize our population.

Agreed, then what is the best number?

Are today's 6 billion enough or should we rather be 60 or 600 billion? Or perhaps we are already too many and it would be better if our population diminished?

So that we become 600 million or 60 million.

We are talking in theory, hypothetically, at the level of a wish.

What we would like it to be. What can be done is another story.

What limitations exist in the realization of this wish, we will see later.

In the first part of this study we saw a proposal for how we could compute "how many people fit on Earth".

We said that there is room for as many people as can survive with the energy that the sun sends us.

Under the present levels of technology, of course.

If the data change tomorrow (and they will change), if new inventions offer us new opportunities, if for example controlled hydrogen fusion is realized, and we are not far away from this,

with the result that we have unlimited energy available, then we should re-think the whole situation.

The size of our population should be adjusted to our technological level at any given time.

But must they be as many as fit on the earth, or would it be wiser to stay satisfied with fewer?

I don't think we need much effort to agree that we are already too many.

It would be better if we were fewer and not more.

Many of us already don't have enough to eat and we have burdened the environment unacceptably.

An interesting fact is that those of us who have enough to eat no longer increase their population (some have even already reduced it).

Those who don't have enough to eat are the ones who are multiplying at an alarming rate!

How can we find out what is right?

Should we follow the biblical commandment?

"Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it"?

But that is what we've done so far, and we have seen where it led us.

64. The enemy of mankind

Under the present conditions our reproduction instinct is not the right guide.

As long as our population was under the control of external factors (lack of food, large carnivores, child mortality) we needed a high reproduction rate to keep constant our population, small as it was.

Back then it was good that we developed this readiness for reproduction.

But now why do we need this terrible rate of reproduction?

Especially now when the growth of the economy stops, we no longer need many workers or many consumers.

Besides, we no longer need many foot soldiers as "**cannon fodder**" for the wars.

Now it's enough to have a few well trained soldiers to press the buttons.

Why do we need now so many people, especially the poor and the hungry?

There was the old view that they were required as slaves for the wealthy, to exploit them and have a comfortable life.

That was probably true, and it is perhaps still true in part.

But only in a small part.

The continuous improvement of our living conditions (not just for the rich but also for the poor) is only to a small percentage based on the exploitation of human work (the exploitation has taken other, more subtle forms).

**The large, the crucial percentage
is based on the development of
technology, and on inventions.**

We do not need slaves anymore.

We have machines.

Anyone who wants a slave "to fan him fresh air" can very easily buy a fan.

Especially now when the automatic machines (those that do not even need supervision to do their job) have spread more and more from industrial production to household chores,

**the margin for exploitation of slaves
has narrowed tremendously.**

There are some who say that the progress of technology and machines are the enemy of mankind.

The enemy of mankind
is the stupidity that led us
to repeat words whose meaning
we neither understand nor who
benefits when we speak them.

I know who these people are.

They are the ones who spread the phrases "*homo homini lupus*", "*man is by nature evil, predatory and greedy*", "*man is always alone*" and other similar ones.

If someone proclaims nonsense, of course I am sad, but I can't get angry with him.

Everyone has the right to be stupid.

What annoys me (it does not simply annoy me, it makes me mad) is when the spreading of such views diverts our attention from the actual perpetrator, the system.

And of course the system is rubbing its hands with glee and cultivates these views.

If you step out and preach such nonsense nothing happens to you. Most likely you will even gain applause.

**But dare to encourage people to think
before they speak or do something,
and I'll tell you what will happen to you.**

65. The automatic machines

50 years ago, there was still

the profession of washerwoman,

who, with great physical effort and damage to her hands and her spine, used to wash the clothes in the tub rubbing them on a scrubbing board (not to mention that in some places she had to get water from the well or wood from the forest).

Today there must be very few households without an electric washing machine.

An automatic machine which only needs you to put in the laundry, add soap and then press a button.

If you happen to visit a modern factory, say, a car manufacturing plant, the guide will tell you:

"Here in the production section in the main factory, we produce 2400 cars a day. We have 1200 employees who oversee the 8300 assembly machines. In the development section, that little building in the garden, there are working some 5500 engineers and designers".

**You will not see the worker, as we imagined
him, with his strong arms lifting the heavy
hammer to shape the steel.**

**Likewise neither will you see the farmer
in his field, under the blazing sun, harvesting
the wheat with the sickle. Today's farmer
simply drives the combine harvester.**

This is today's reality.

Production requires less and less of our muscle power.

And don't let anyone tell me: "*Look how production goes in the third world*", because I know it.

I know what the reality is there.

And exactly because I know and I do not like this reality, that's why I am writing all this.

Because I would like this reality to change there too.

Since we already have the machines, and today no one needs to slog away physically anymore.

– *And where should the excess energy of the people be channelled? If they no longer need to work with their muscles, they will become lazy.*

We have already said this: They will work with their brains.

They will occupy themselves with art, with literature, with philosophy. As for their bodies, they will exercise it in sports.

Just as during the "**Golden Age**" of ancient Athens.

The Athenian citizen at that time did not have to work.

There were the slaves for that.

There were about 10 slaves for every free citizen.

That certainly shocks us today, we should however bear in mind that at the time **the slaves were what the machines are for us today.**

And perhaps now there corresponds for each of us, in terms of engine power, 100 or 1000 slaves.

He wouldn't however sit around idle. That would be a shame.

After the gym and the music, where he spent a lot of time, he "used to work" chiselling the marble to create a sculpture or painting a vase.

He would write or watch a play, and more than anything else, he philosophized.

In the two and a half thousand years since then, neither in art nor in philosophy have we achieved something comparable.

We still admire this art, and we continue to draw from this philosophy.

If we want it,
such a golden age can begin
for us from tomorrow.

**The conditions are in place,
more than enough of them.**

Only our decision is still missing.
It is in our hands.

But the problem remains. How many should we be?

If I can't rely either on my reproduction instinct, or on the command of the Bible or the demands of the system, which until yesterday needed many hammers and sickles as well as many consumers and now is indifferent to all that, how can I answer the question?

How can we orientate ourselves to solve such an important problem?

How can we be guided?

And if you think about it carefully, you will see that in other serious problems too we don't know how to steer, which secure landmarks we can use to calculate our position, how to find our bearings.

**The "lighthouses" guiding
us until now are in doubt.
My instincts, the command of the Bible,
the wishes of the king, the orders of the system,
these don't help anymore.**

What then?

66. Self-evident truths

On what bases should a society be built, and what should guide us?

For this question, you know, there have been numerous proposals so far.

It is not the purpose of this text to analyse these proposals and find the best and most workable.

Just so that we begin to think about it ourselves, I would suggest setting two goals.

To consider that our actions must be directed to the following two axioms:

1. The human species should continue to exist and evolve.
2. Each person should spend his life on earth happily.

Axioms need no justification. They are self-evident.

But if you absolutely insist that I justify them, I would say for the first one: that it is necessary.

Because the solution that our species becomes extinct is no solution and because the development that this species has made until now has been so stunning that it would be very interesting to see how this progress continues.

For the second axiom the justification is just as easy too: everybody prefers to be happy instead of unhappy, and the same should apply to everyone.

**Based on these two axioms we can find
the solution for any problem that exists,
and any problem that might arise.**

Of course it is not entirely clear, and we need to discuss the meaning of "happy" in the second axiom and the meaning of "evolve" in the first.

Let's start from the first axiom and the concept of evolution.

I think we can agree that we have the right to call **progress** the change that took place in our species (since we began to use our hands and our brains to find more food and to obtain greater security) with the "positive associations" that this term has.

We showed a continuous improvement in our attitude towards the other species, the environment and nature.

There is a widespread opinion (I do not know who has "implanted" it in us), that nature is a "loving mother" who cares for our good.

Nature cares for the good of no one. It has no feelings.

It has only one tool which is the cause of the evolution of the species, and with that it controls everything:

The death of the weaker one.

The disappearance of any individual or any species, which is not able to adapt and is not strong enough to survive.

And the decision of who is fit and who is not happens not with affection and compassion, but with incomparable cruelty and relentless war.

This development is
the fruit of our labour.

It hasn't been donated
to us by somebody.

**Neither did it fall into
our lap by accident.**

We have worked at it with
our hands and our brains.

And more especially with the latter.

It was a completely different evolution from the evolution of the other species.

There you have to wait till a good attribute appears by chance (among the thousands of bad qualities, which also continually appear randomly) and then becomes established through natural selection.

This is a very good way for development, I can't say the contrary. You see all the species around you that evolved just with that method. But it takes a very long time.

Some million years.

We reversed the rules of the game.

We did not wait for the influence of the environment upon us, we influenced the environment.

We made decisions that changed the situation and improved our position much more quickly.

A thousand
times faster.

**We moved from the order
of millions of years to the
order of thousands of years.**

We made
inventions.

Inventions that allowed us to achieve the same result (to produce the same products), with less effort and less work.

But by working less we had the time to think more, that is, make more inventions to reduce even further our work, so that we think even more ...

– *But this is a vicious circle! This is the cause of our population explosion. The cause of all evil is our ingenuity.*

Indeed it is so. The population explosion is due to our ingenuity.

Now is the time, if we still remain rational beings, to stop the explosion and bring our population into balance.

For this purpose the second axiom will help us.

The first axiom, which determines evolution, gave us the start, the rising leg of the population curve.

The second, which requires happiness for all people, will lead us into balance.

Just that here again we have an ambiguity: what is happiness?

The ancient philosophers (such as Epicurus, for example) were concerned with such questions and each presents a different opinion. If we look now at the analysis of these views, we will be hopelessly entangled, and this would contribute nothing to our purpose.

**So, let us see things
in the simplistic method
we used so far.**

67. The conditions of change

If you make the experiment and ask your friends what is happiness, you will, I believe, receive very interesting answers (similar to the question of basic needs). But I do not know whether you will be much wiser from it.

One New Year's Day, when we all wish "Happy New Year" I started asking around, what is happiness. I received the most varied answers.

One said: Happiness does not exist.

Another: Happiness is some rare moments in life that last for an extremely short time.

In a strange way, although the command of the system is clearly: Chase after money, only a few people told me that happiness is to have money.

Even a saleswoman in a pastry shop told me: *"I do not know what happiness is, and I do not know if it exists."*

All I know is that it has nothing to do with money".

You see that we have again reached an impasse, and perhaps we should give up trying to find a universally acceptable definition.

Everyone has his own definition, and I assume that if we asked him at another moment in his life, he would say something else.

What can we do now? What else can we do?

Should we give a command for what everyone should consider as happiness?

Should we send the police to impose it?

We don't have much choice.

We have to accept the definition that everyone chooses for himself.

Everyone should give the answer which he thinks is right.

One may say: ***"Happiness is to understand what a wonderful thing it is to breathe".***

Another: ***"Happiness is to know yourself and to be at peace with it".***

A third: ***"Happiness is being able to offer yourself the luxury to love the entire world".***

Whatever anyone believes is happiness that is happiness for him.

We have to respect it and according to the second axiom, this is what we should offer him.

– *But won't that be enormously difficult? How will we know what everyone wants, to get it "tailor made" according to his wish?*

Why? Do you imagine that when I say "we will offer the happiness he wants", I mean we will have a service that goes from house to house and delivers happiness, like Santa Claus with his gifts?

We will offer something else:

The freedom that everyone can be happy in his own way.

Remember these little ones in the imaginary school, where everyone did what he wanted?

Do you doubt that they were happy?

- *And how will the axioms help us to find out how many we should be?*

It is very simple.

The first axiom gives us what is called the lower limit.

The population isn't allowed to fall below the threshold which ensures the conservation and evolution of our species.

The second axiom determines the upper limit.

As long as all the inhabitants of the earth are happy, we can increase our population.

As soon as the first unhappy people appear, we need to stop.

- *And how will we do this, will we send a policeman to monitor what the couples are doing?*

Haven't we already said that it would be well to forget the police force? We will not need them.

We will leave the responsibility of procreation to the well-informed, properly educated citizens who understand social controls.

Either way, it's the future
parents who carry the grave
responsibility for the decision to
bring a new life into the world.

Already, even today, where none of these

"Three conditions of change" (information, education, society)

are in force, we hear young couples say:

- *"We are thinking of not having children. Why should we bring more unhappy creatures into the world?"*

No need, I think, to expand further.

If you wish, you can think of any social problem, and see if by using the two axioms and the three conditions it couldn't be answered and easily solved.

But we should gradually come to a close.

Just one thing remains perhaps to discuss yet.

**How are the economic relations
in this free society regulated?**

How will work be rewarded?

68. The payment of labour

**How about the proposal that
there is no payment at all?**

I know, I surprise you with such a proposal, but please don't rush to discard it immediately as nonsense and throw it out together with your computer.

Let us first discuss why we find such a proposal unacceptable at a first glance.

There is no doubt this proposal is shocking, and the first objection that comes to mind is that if there is no reward for labour, the lazy who live at the expense of the working people are rewarded.

This threat, however, from the
"danger of the lazy", how real is it?

Is it perhaps also only one of
the fairy tales of our system?

Undoubtedly there are people with a greater appetite for work and others with less.

**There are some who
should "be put in irons"
to stop them working.**

You know them surely.

They come home from their professional job, and immediately start to dig the garden or paint the fence.

Those who have a hobby and spend hours painting or carving.

Or the researchers who work non-stop in the laboratory and don't know whether it is day or night, and with their enthusiasm carry along their poor co-workers who lose the sense of time too, and if you ask them, they can't tell you if they have eaten anything, or when they last slept.

**And on the other hand
there are those who get
tired with the least effort**

and can't bestir themselves to stand up and get a beer from the refrigerator.

However are these people healthy?

Can a normal healthy person be so lazy and have no appetite to do anything?

**Isn't work, activity and
creativity in our nature?**

If someone prefers to sit apathetically rather than do anything, it's probably because he is sick, either in body or in mind.

It's a different matter, of course, if he is forced to do work that he don't like, because it fatigues the body and dulls the mind.

**Who would not be bored
if he was forced to turn
the hand mill all day?**

But we don't need to force anyone to do this anymore. We have our machines.

**No matter how many times we repeat this,
we cannot perhaps emphasize it enough.**

Today, the working conditions
have changed on Earth.

We no longer need to work like slaves.

Our machines work for us.

Our ancestors have worked,
our inventors have worked.

Our grandfather, old **Rudolf Diesel**, worked and built the engine which drive ships and tractors, so that

**none of us today need to row the boat
or dig the field with a spade.**

Our grandfather, old **Fritz Haber** worked and made the synthesis of ammonia,

**without which we wouldn't have the fertilizers
we need and we wouldn't have enough to eat,**

now that there are so many of us.

– *We do not need to work? You are kidding. I must work from morning to night like a horse, and my family barely makes ends meet.*

In fact, modern man does work like a horse in the rich world in which we live (not to mention those in the poor "third world").

**But does he work for his own survival?
Or in reality does he kill himself,
so that the assets of the
"hundred richest people in the world"
can continue to grow?**

69. The growth of the fortunes

Really, how do you think these assets grow every day (at the horrendous pace we have seen in the first part of this text)?

**Through the work of the
billionaires themselves?**

Or do you still believe in the fairy tale that money multiplies by itself, just like that, without anybody needing to work for it?

<p>It's our work which increases these assets daily by billions.</p>
--

We are convinced that if we do not buy the brand-name shirts which our children beg for, it is as if we let them go hungry.

And if we do not send them to expensive private schools, we condemn them to spend their lives in poverty.

The truth is, however, that thanks to the work of the grandfathers that we mentioned (and all the others that we haven't mentioned) at the present time nobody on earth needs to work like a slave and no one should go hungry.

– *But in the third world the people are indeed hungry.*

Of course they are hungry. They must be hungry.

If we do not work as we do and if they are not hungry, how will the futures we mentioned be created?

And how would Mr X, the actor, as I recently heard on television, spend 5,000 dollars on a dinner for two in a restaurant in Beverly Hills?

If you still find you don't understand, please, have a look back at Figure 2, and all your questions will be answered.

– *And we will work only as a hobby? Only doing the jobs that we like? Are there no jobs that nobody likes? Who will do this work?*

If we haven't yet got a machine for this unpleasant work, be assured that it will soon be built. Until then, however, we should do it ourselves.

In the current system the problem is solved by paying. If I do not like the job which must be done, say collecting the trash, I pay someone else and he does it for me.

This causes absolutely no ethical problems to the existing individualistic system.

Consider, however, the same problem of sharing tasks in an environment where everyone cares for everyone else and not for himself.

There, would it be right to make another do what you do not want to do yourself?

Really, in a family or in a group of friends why does nobody think about asking payment for doing something?

Even under the inhumane individualistic regime in which we live, no one comes up with the idea of charging fees for bringing the rubbish down, or washing the dishes.

– *But there I do it for my brothers, for my friends.*

When we move from "me" to "we" will we not feel the same for all people?

Why should I ask for payment?

By the way, the work that I perform is a work which I have chosen myself, a work that I like.

I imagined three cases of highly successful professionals who in three hypothetical letters refuse to accept money "*for services rendered*":

- A very great doctor, who accomplishes "miracles" and saves lives. Does he not find satisfaction enough in his work? Is it not for him reward enough that he saved a child?

Letter Nr. 1

... and of course I accept no money for treating your son. I did this out of love.

Not so that you will love me, but because I know that the greater happiness is to give and not to take.

You are not obliged to me. I owe you thanks for giving me the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of offering you something.

Anyway, I myself am a debtor too.

My medical skills I owe to my teachers and to the state which enabled me to study for free.

I would be unworthy of the title of doctor and I should feel ashamed if I used this ability to enrich myself by exploiting the misfortunes of others.

I would furthermore be unworthy of the name of man, if you really want to know.

It has been a long time since we humans escaped from the behaviour of hyenas.

And if you need me again (hopefully this should never happen), I will always stand by you.

With lots of love, your brother

C. B.

- A very great inventor, who has such great ideas that may change the way we work and further relieve people's toil. Is the satisfaction from the success of his invention not enough?

Letter Nr. 2

... as for the software, I wrote it not because I intended to take advantage of some people and get rich, but because the problem challenged me.

Just as some people solve chess problems or crossword puzzles, which have no practical use.

I racked my brains to find how to make smarter use of the hard disk with less memory usage.

I will give it to you, of course free of charge, because it does not cost me anything either.

The main work (real work and not for fun, poor me, I was sweating, until I solved the problem) I did a long time ago, and as I said, I did it exclusively for my own amusement.

It does not cost anything to send you a copy now through the Internet.

By the way I am very pleased to hear that you like the programme and that it is useful.

As I have your address, I will send you the new programme I'm writing now as soon as I finish.

Always at your disposal.

Yours

B. G.

- A very important banker, who runs a very large bank. Doesn't he love his job and isn't he satisfied if he manages correctly the huge amounts entrusted to him, providing what is needed to buy a tractor which will increase the production of wheat?

Letter Nr. 3

... and the amount you needed to purchase the tractor has already been approved.

I have checked everything and found that you have the will and the ability to increase your wheat production with the help of the tractor that has been built for this purpose.

And it's much better if the tractor is working and wheat is being produced, instead of the money lying useless in the bank.

And, listen, you do not need to thank me because the money is not mine.

It is our common wealth which we have inherited.

Our grandparents, your people and mine, have created it with their work.

I'm just the manager and must be careful not to give the money to some crooks who would squander it.

And let me tell you something else, I am personally very pleased when I have the opportunity to help somebody like you who will use the money entrusted to me creatively.

For anything else you need I'm always at your disposal.

Your friend

A. G.

Why should they all ask for a reward? Is their job itself not reward enough for them? A job that they love (otherwise they wouldn't be so successful), is it not something like a hobby?

Does anybody demand payment to pursue his hobby?

70. Productivity

Here, of course, arises the simple question:

- *All these people who offer their services for free, how do they live? What will they eat?*

But that the answer is equally simple too:

They will live off the wheat that is produced with the help of the tractor.

Just as the services of the physician, the inventor, the banker are available to all, so all the produced goods are available to all.

And surely you cannot doubt that the coordination between production and people's needs is not a problem in the era of the computer and the Internet.

Already today, as you well know, through e-commerce, without taking a step out of your room, you can purchase goods offered in another country or another continent, and the postman will bring them to your door a few days later.

- *Yes, but I don't want to eat only dry bread, I want cake.*

No objection. If we have enough cake for everyone, why not.

But if you want to eat cake, when the others don't even have dry bread, then you know very well that this is nothing else but a return to our old selfish system which we had until now and which is responsible for the state we are in.

And please don't start with:

"You know, I have special skills and I offer more".

Skills that are presented selfishly are the skills of predators.

And since you say that you are offering something, why are you looking for a reward? Unless you didn't mean an offer, but a transaction, that means a return back to the old situation.

Did you know that there are giant offers for the welfare of humanity which are not valued in cash?

The inventor of penicillin, for example, refused to accept even a single cent from his discovery, which saves millions of lives every year.

The objection to the proposal of abolishing the wage is known:

An economic system not based on reciprocity (I give you, so that you give me) would necessarily have reduced productivity.

Is this not proved by the communist experiment?

Absolutely correct. We don't even need to make an experiment.

<p>That the capitalist system has higher productivity is beyond doubt.</p>

If you use the carrot (the extra wage) and the whip (the dismissal) you can get much more from the workers than if you appeal to their human or patriotic feelings.

We could have predicted long ago the outcome of an experiment in which are compared two systems with such a fundamental difference concerning productivity.

When they came to the point of spending gigantic and ever-increasing amounts in competition for armaments (the most unproductive expenditure), logically the system with the lower productivity collapsed.

In a system without the reward of labour we will actually have reduced productivity.

But is this fact enough to condemn it?

If we are going to repeat the competition, then yes. The system with the reduced productivity is doomed.

If next to it there is another system that has higher productivity, then this will dominate. No matter how inhumane or destructive for the environment it might be.

As the competition is based on productivity, the system with higher productivity will win.

You do not need great intelligence to predict this.

71. High productivity at all costs?

But if we have no such competition, if only one system exists in the world (like now, where we have the global dominance of the single system), how bad would it be if we had reduced productivity?

Do we necessarily need high productivity?

- *Why not. It is after all a good thing, right? The higher our productivity is, the faster we can meet our needs.*

Right. Only, perhaps once more we haven't posed the question properly.

A better formulation would be:

Must we strive for high productivity at any cost?

Is high productivity a value in itself, over human existence, over the happiness of man?

A kind of deity (like money) at whose altar any sacrifice is worth it?

Now, we probably need to think about it a bit before answering.

We should measure the cost of high productivity against the benefit we gain from the rapid meeting of our needs.

If we destroy the environment to such a degree that our own existence is threatened, and we make people miserable by forcing them to work 12 hours a day under stress and anxiety, requiring medication and psychiatrists, then we should think about whether it is correct to make high productivity the target with the utmost priority.

In the case, of course, where we are facing an extraordinary emergency situation, say a natural disaster, and we have the people homeless, injured and hungry, then yes, of course, we all must work incessantly.

But, you know, this happens anyway.

Even under the inhuman regime in which we live.

People rush to help and stay sleepless and hungry for days.

And then you see the rescuers, in a more pitiful condition than the victims themselves, and they can hardly stand on their feet from fatigue, and their faces glow when they say:

"We saved a little girl!"

Really, what has happened with the famous saying "**homo homini lupus**" in these cases? Why don't all these "wolves" attack and eat the girl, as hungry as they are, but rather risk their own life to save her?

And we need neither carrots
nor whips to make them work
until they are exhausted.

**So great is the power of
humanity, whose existence
the capitalist system denies.**

Under normal conditions, however, where we already have all the basic things we actually need, and we have been working only for extras, why should we let the people knock themselves out with work?

**What are the exceptional needs
which must be covered
as soon as possible?**

If the "need" I want to meet is to buy the new stereoscopic TV with the ultra-high Resolution (and usually these sorts of things are what is presented as a need) then I must seriously think whether it is worth knocking myself out, so I get it in one year instead of four.

Because I will get the Super TV anyway, since the technical development incessantly moves forward.

**The question is whether it's worth killing
myself, so I get it an hour sooner.**

72. The chance

Here, I think I should stop. I have tired you enough.

After I made "*your heart heavy*" with the pessimistic forecasts in the first section, I tantalize you now with the details of a utopia that will not be realized.

Will it not?

Who knows what will and what will not?

Who is able to predict the future?

Only the one who has planned the future.

The one who says:

"This glass is about to fall off the table and shatter".

And he gives it a push, and the glass is gone.

And the other who says:

"In this area there will be a children's playground in six months".

And he's chasing from authority to authority, and he is battling with the bureaucrats, and he is gathering signatures, and he finds the money, and he brings in the bulldozers, and he is at the end of his strength, but in six months, the kids are playing there, and the whole area is filled with their shouts.

Which scenario will be realized for humanity, that of the destruction we saw in the first part of this text or a utopia such as in the second part, **we will decide this ourselves.**

No one else.

What those who govern us have decided is, I think, clear enough.

They are already stretching their hand to push the glass, so it breaks into a thousand pieces.

We? What have we decided?

Will we build the playground?

Everything will depend on this decision.

– *But what possibilities are open to us, are not all roads blocked? In the first part of the text we were convinced that the system had taken precautions for everything.*

Yes, it is so. Or it seems to be so.

But this is not the most important thing.

The most important thing is whether we "*sit down like chickens*" waiting to be caught and led to the slaughter, or whether we decide to do something.

If we reach a decision, we may be able to find a way to save ourselves.

Maybe. There is no guarantee.

But we will have at least tried.

If we do not decide, then surely nothing will be done.

That is guaranteed.

The greatest strength of the system is our indifference, our laziness, our inaction.

- The "*what's that to me?*",
- the "*we're doing so fine*" and
- the "*can I save the world?*".

– *Suppose that we have made the decision, what could we do?*

At the moment, just talk to each other.

Nothing more. We do not have much free scope.

And maybe we don't need to do much more.

**If such views are spread and accepted
by the majority, then it's over.**

If general approval is not with the owner of the two signature suits, but with the man who walks around with his single shirt, because he has given his other one to someone with no clothes, then we will have entered a new era.

At the moment all we need to do is to spread the news as far as possible:

"The king is dying".

The beast, our system, is expiring.
--

**Not because someone
has wounded it.**

By itself, it is dying of old age.

**Be on your guard, it will cause great
harm in its final convulsions.**

But now the
opportunity is there.

Now that it is collapsing.

If it doesn't destroy us totally in its death throes, we will have the chance to build that playground.

– *And how to start this communication, how to spread the news? Will we use the media?*

I don't think that the system will offer us its most powerful weapon, the mass media, to turn it against itself.

We must find other ways.

We can still talk to each other. Perhaps our friends will show more interest in such a discussion, rather than in the latest news about the love affair of actress X or in the details of the crime Y. Let's write letters or SMS.

If someone has a way to approach a journalist who escaped the sieve of the system and lies like a "*dormant secret agent*" within the system itself, let him request his assistance. He would find a way to do something.

Finally, there is something that could be really embarrassing if not dangerous for the system.

**It's what we are using
just at this moment.**

73. "Who wants to speak?"

The Internet currently offers the potential to present views that are not under the control of the system.

It is something that seems to us quite new, in reality however it is the modern form of what used to take place in the Agora of ancient Athens, and constituted **the foundation of democracy**.

Everyone was allowed to take the podium for a speech, whose content he was able to determine for himself.

Today you can do exactly the
same thing on the Internet.

And you will be heard not
only by a few dozen people.

Thanks to the powers of modern technology, you can be heard by the entire world.

There is of course a problem related to the huge volume of information that is already on the Internet and which grows daily greater.

To post some thoughts of yours on the Internet is reminiscent of the castaway putting a note in a bottle and throwing it into the sea.

The chances that someone will read your thoughts in the ocean of the Internet are just as small.

And this is probably the reason why the system still allows freedom on the Internet.

It is betting that you cannot find a "*needle in a haystack*".

And as for the hay, there is more than enough on the Internet.

**That's why the issue
of communication is
so extremely important.**

**If you find what you read interesting,
give the address of the page to your
friends and ask them to pass it on.**

And the most beautiful part is that the financial resources required for such a purpose are minimal.

Anyone can (for how long?) via the Internet even take action against the system itself.

The organized resistance on the Internet that led to the failure of the Conference of the World Trade Organization in Seattle is the best example of the power of this medium.

And of course every so often we have the "*pirate invasion*" in the "*holy of holies*" of the banks or the Pentagon, showing how vulnerable the system is against people who can use their brains even for a game.

Through the Internet we will not reach the great masses, the crowds in a football stadium or in a festival.

We wouldn't have the audience of a political meeting or a series on the TV.

**We will have however
a selected audience.**

They will be mainly young people, who rather than sitting at the bar would sit at their computer.

And there, instead of looking for "porn", they are looking for something different.

**These are the people we need.
Young people who can still think.
If anyone can resist, then it's them.**

They are numerically an insignificant minority, which does not even appear in the "democratic" elections, whose results are predetermined by the media.

**But the "*salt of the earth*" never
made up the majorities.**

And one more thing.

They are thinking young people from around the world.

**They are already, or they will be
tomorrow in "key positions" from which
they can enter the code numbers in
order to "bring all the wheels to a halt".**

<p>If they come in contact with each other and organize themselves, they can initiate the New Beginning.</p>

**Perhaps a first step in this direction would
be the dissemination of this text to provoke
a discussion of related topics.**

With brotherly love

and many thanks to Mrs [Mary Ktenides](#)
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[P. Bekiaroglou](#)