

Public Intelligence and the Citizen

Integrity, in my view, starts with the individual human being and grows in a compounded manner from there. The citizen must be an “intelligence minuteman.”¹

The next step in our exploration, beyond the individual human mind and soul, can be found in mass collaboration and particularly in collective intelligence. Many book titles have sought to describe the underlying foundation—not only those associated with collective intelligence as I discussed in Chapter 1, but also the literature on cultural, economic, and sociological “tipping points,”² as well as the literature on the “power of the powerless” as a “a power government cannot suppress.”³

My point is this: the achievement of panarchy is in my view inevitable. The only questions are “how soon?” and “can we avoid violence?” Alvin Toffler nailed this in his book *Powershift: Knowledge, Wealth, and Violence at the Edge of the 21st Century*⁴ when he stated that information (I would say intelligence or decision-support, i.e., information tailored to support a decision) is a substitute for wealth and violence, time and space. That is precisely the focus of this book: everything is information, information is everything, and if we open-source everything we are really opening up

all information and all minds to creating the equivalent of heaven on Earth—that is to say, a world that works for all in which no “bug,” i.e., no corrupt act, no lie, no betrayal of the public trust, can escape notice in near-real time.

Taking Control of the Future

We find ourselves in a tumultuous environment, where every day is a challenge. The threats are beyond the understanding of any one person or organization or country, and intelligence and the rule of law are too often subverted to serve the interests of a tiny elite. This chaotic and corrupt political culture is mirrored by a system of noetics (a consciousness culture that is unconscious, with controlled opposition and theatrics eliminating deliberative dialog and participatory democracy) that blocks the individual attaining clarity and self-knowledge. In contemporary society, the nature of man’s relationship to himself, his community, to science and spirit is at best poorly understood, at worst manipulated and subverted.

In this chapter I:

- provide a high-level view of how to achieve public intelligence in the public interest.
- present an immediately implementable model for integrating citizen participation, public intelligence dissemination, and political dialog and deliberation into one seamless online system as an umbrella for an infinite range of Town Hall meetings.

- address how a World Brain and Global Game can create the noosphere imagined by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and amplified in José Argüelles’ *Manifesto for the Noosphere*.⁵

We are at a tipping point for restoring the intelligence and integrity of the Republic. Time is the one strategic variable that cannot be replaced nor purchased. I believe that all the consciousness and good intention in the world will be irrelevant if we cannot arm the public with intelligence (decision-support) on all topics at all levels of governance.

Our first challenge is to redirect “intelligence” away from secret obsession and toward open-source realities. I illustrate this in Figure 20.

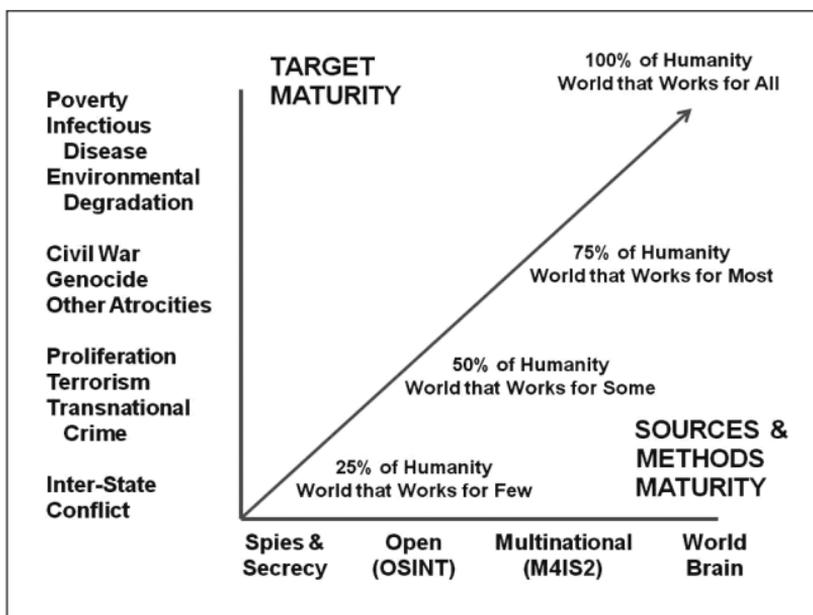
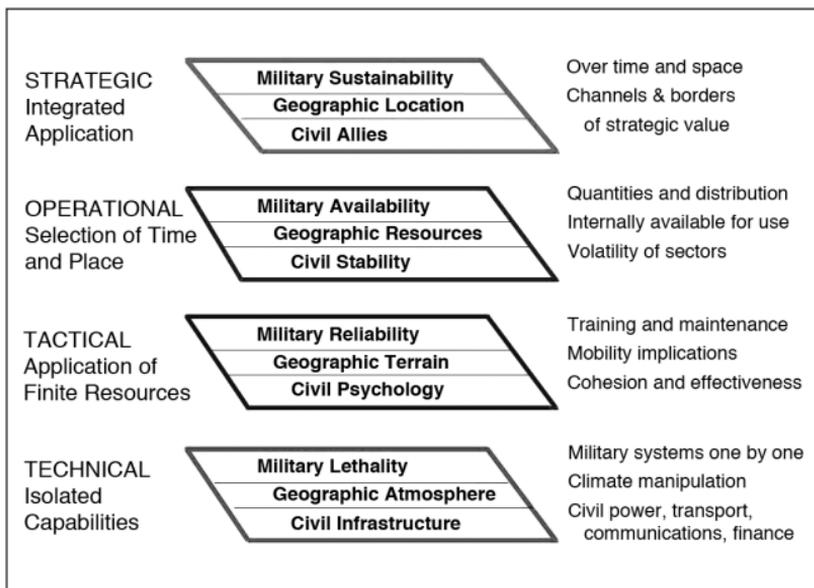


Figure 20: Intelligence Maturity

THE OPEN-SOURCE EVERYTHING MANIFESTO

Many readers will recognize the goal—to create a world that works for all, for one hundred percent of humanity—as one articulated by Buckminster Fuller. One can immediately see that an obsession on inter-state conflicts, most of which have been started or electively joined by the U.S. government acting “in our name” (and generally *without* the Constitutionally required approval of Congress), and an equivalent obsession with secret sources and methods are depicted as the most immature state.

Our second challenge is to end the reliance on elites and experts and demand complete transparency of all decisions at four levels of decision-making (strategic, operational, tactical, and technical). Our collective judgment



**Figure 21: Four Levels of Analysis
for Decision-Support**

and say-so must be reasserted if we are to balance our budget and achieve normal sustainability and resilience in the face of unanticipated disasters.

This is the beginning of constructing an “analytic model” through which citizens can demand their full engagement. In addition to the four levels, we have the three closely entwined slices: civil, natural-geographic, and military (or any other field such as energy or health). Furthermore, any decision made in isolation (e.g., a strategic military decision), without regard to the implications across the other levels and slices, is bound to be a costly and regrettable decision—the elective invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq stand out as recent examples.

The U.S. government has been controlled by a two-party tyranny that has always been corrupt, but this corruption went nuclear in the 1980s when both parties conspired to start borrowing one trillion dollars a year—one third of the federal budget—so as to keep on handing out taxpayer funds (or taxpayer obligations for borrowed funds) to the special interests funding their perpetual grip on power to the exclusion of Independents and the other four accredited but excluded active national political parties (Constitution, Green, Libertarian, Reform).

In Figure 22 I illustrate the integrated analytic model that was created by the Earth Intelligence Network, combining the top-ten high-level threats to humanity as prioritized by the UN’s High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change in 2004, and our own work examining Presidential transitions over a quarter-century to identify

the twelve core policies that must be harmonized if we are to be coherent (effective) as a Republic.

Note that fifty percent or more of our national resources are being wasted for lack of both intelligence (sound decision-making based on facts instead of ideology) and integrity (massive corruption across all three branches of the federal government—Congress, the Executive, and most recently the Supreme Court). For this short manifesto, I will only comment generally, with examples centered in three areas:

1. Corruption. The standard “rate” within Congress for an earmark is five percent. This means that a specific Senator or Representative will ensure the inclusion in the

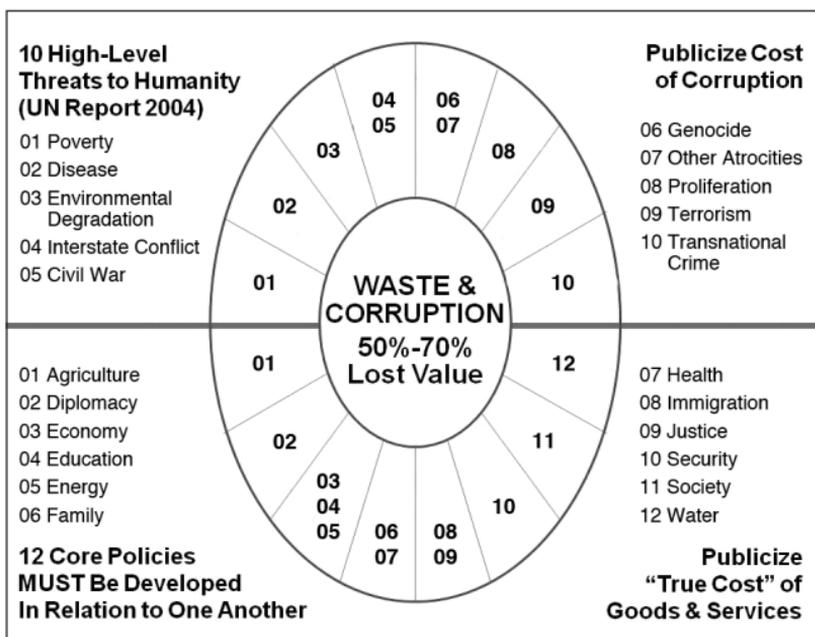


Figure 22: Holistic Analytics as Antidote to Corruption

national budget of anything that is asked—however insane or unnecessary it might be—as long as they can count on receiving five percent of the total awarded as a contribution to their Political Action Campaign (PAC).

2. Analytic Ignorance. The sad reality is that the U.S. government does not make decisions based on intelligence (decision-support) but rather based on corruption and ideology. The decisions to go to war in Afghanistan and Iraq that have cost us lives and trillions of dollars, as well as the decisions to deregulate the financial industry, were corrupt and ideological decisions made in refusal of all the evidence to the contrary.⁶

3. True-Cost Ignorance. Despite decades of irrefutable work by a broad combination of academics, civil society activists, corporate whistle-blowers, government employees, investigative journalists, and non-governmental researchers, governments and corporations generally (not just in the U.S.) all refuse to integrate into their decision-making process the total true cost of any good, service, or behavior. Water, child labor, tax avoidance, and extreme pollution are all examples of externalized costs that should be—but are not—integrated into every calculation.

Calculating True Costs

Given the refusal by both governments and corporations to be responsible about calculating true costs of each good and service, it's no wonder that virtually every government policy, acquisition, and operations decision is

uninformed—at the same time that the public is uninformed for lack of public intelligence. . . . Hence special-interest lobbying is uncontested.

It was this realization, learned from Dr. Herman Daly, the pioneer of “ecological economics,”⁸ that led me to the fact that government is not “doing” intelligence and therefore the government is not perceiving the truths—the true costs, the true options—that need to be perceived in the public interest.

The “new craft of intelligence” that I began developing in 1988 and first published a book on in 2002⁹ restores the integrity of the entire intelligence process (from requirements to collection and processing to analysis). Figure 24 illustrates what should be the four quadrants of the new craft of intelligence within any nation-state. Perhaps

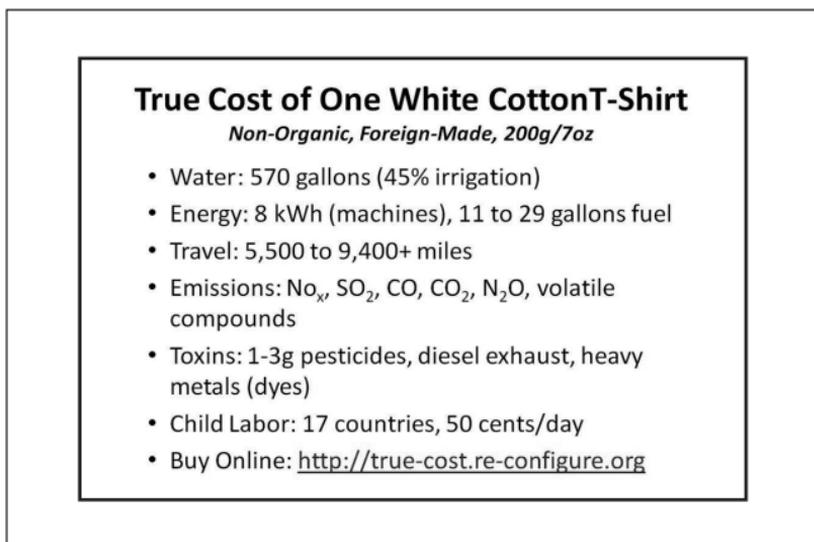


Figure 23: Example of a True-Cost Calculation⁷

more importantly, but not so tangibly illustrated, is the fact that no single nation-state can do this. I used to say that you could not have a Smart Nation without a smart engaged citizenry, and that still applies, but now I emphasize that a Smart Nation cannot exist without being part of a very transparent and truthful multinational network of information-sharing and sense-making that creates trust and enables true cost to be deeply and consistently understood.

It is vital to create this new capability. For twenty years I have labored in advocacy for creating an Open-Source Agency that would be the national proponent for all things open, but particularly F/OSS, OSINT, Open Data Access, and Open Spectrum. That is how we create a Smart Nation.¹⁰

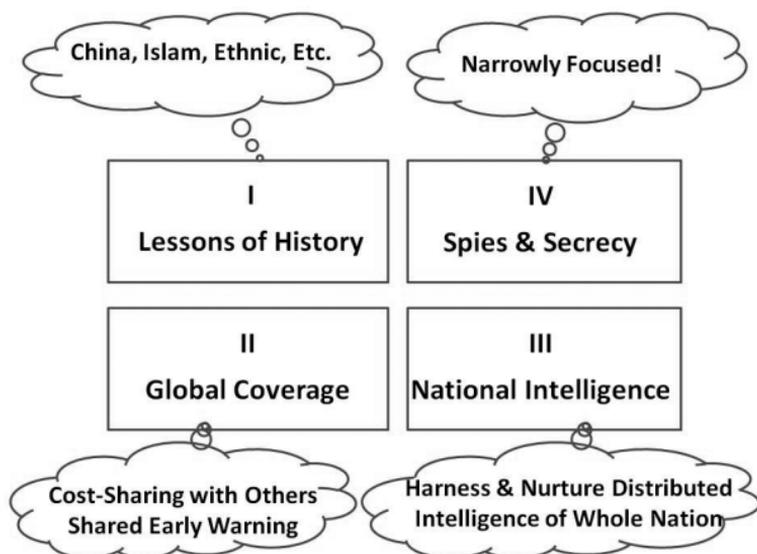


Figure 24: The New Craft of Intelligence

I want to provide two more illustrations of how we must as a public be able to think holistically and understand that the way government and business are now organized, with the banks completely out of control, is catastrophic. Health is an area where we can make immediate corrections, using information in the public interest. The best reference I have discovered is “The Price of Excess: Identifying Waste in Healthcare Spending,”¹¹ which finds that half of every healthcare dollar is waste. Now combine that with a refusal on the part of politicians and policymakers to be responsible about holding individuals accountable for healthy lifestyles and organizations accountable for healthy environments, while also permitting the Medical-Industrial Complex to repress information on natural and alternative cures, and you find that the fifty-percent waste is against the high-cost medical part of the holistic solution, while the opportunity cost outside of that is seventy-five percent of the total solution. I illustrate this in Figure 25.

Apart from being patient-centered, which the health industry is not, this diagram is important in illustrating both the power of information and the three areas where we are not focusing our efforts to achieve massive savings: healthy lifestyles, healthy environments free of toxins (instead, we ignorantly permit the poisoning of our food and air and water), and natural or alternative remediation including Chinese and Indian (Ayurvedic) Traditional Medicine. We have already established that the fourth area, surgical and pharmaceutical remediation, is fifty percent waste.

Medicare is on everyone’s mind these days. My understanding is that the unfunded deficits in the Medicare out-years can be made to disappear if we simply acquire an honest government that does not legislate special deals and prohibit negotiation. My understanding is that the top seventy-five drugs bought under Medicare today at the “asking” price that we are not allowed to negotiate can be purchased for one percent of that cost by using legal wholesale channels from Thailand to South Africa to Turkey. This is consistent with the known “fee” that members of Congress charge for delivering earmarks: five percent of the cost of the taxpayer-funded project. In other words, Congress mandated that we pay one hundred percent of the asked cost instead of one percent of that, the true cost, because

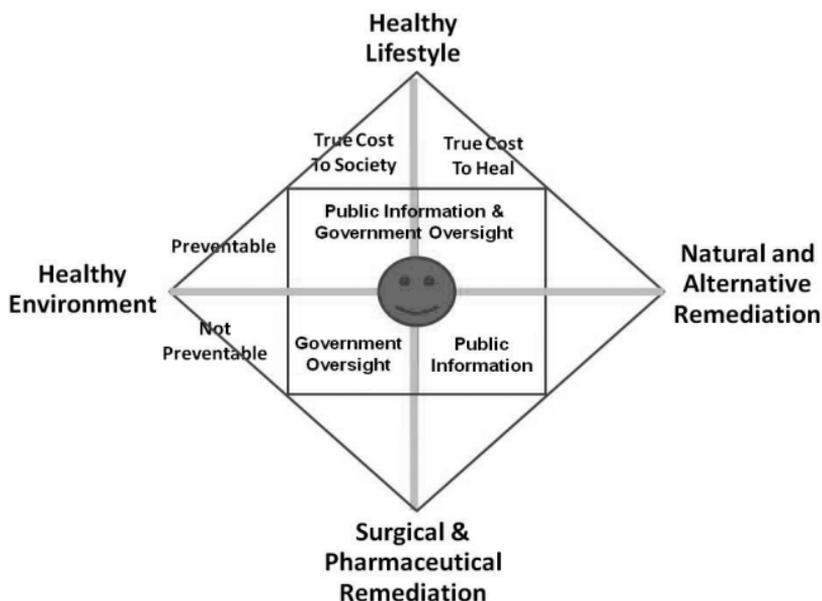


Figure 25: Health Analytics, 360 Degrees

it secured their five percent. They are discounting and distributing the public treasury for no better reason than to claim their “cut” of an inherently corrupt transaction.

Health is not just about humans, and healthcare is not an “entitlement” as much as it is a responsibility. We need to create a global grid for health that encompasses every human, every animal, every form of vegetation, every form of organization, every type of activity. This would be a grid that creates an information “cocoon” within which every person can be intelligent about their health in all respects—if they have integrity, they are healthy. If they do not, they die sooner than they might have otherwise.¹²

The wanton poisoning of the air, food, and water by industries that have obtained exemptions from all manner of precautionary measures is a particularly dangerous fraud, one that citizens should be studying with care, and then disseminating the findings. There is no question that our food is poisoned, and that many household products are dangerous to the health of our children. Combine this with the “Pandora’s Poison” of an industry based on chlorine and plastics, and you have a recipe for self-destruction.¹³

Water is the “next big thing” and the fastest way to demonstrate the value of public intelligence in the public interest. Decisions have been made over the past half-century that are easily seen now in retrospect to have been against the public interest. We are on the verge of making other decisions (e.g., Keystone) and allowing practices such as fracking that are totally against the public interest

if the facts can be marshaled in a compelling public manner. If they can be ignored, they will be.

What we do every day to the little fresh water that remains is a crime. The aquifers are sinking fast, in part because we allow Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and others to pay nothing for groundwater that they then poison and sell in plastic bottles that each required more fresh water to make than is contained in the bottle itself. When an aquifer empties, if there is a path to seawater, that seawater rushes in to fill it, and it will be ten thousand years, if at all, before that aquifer is again filled by fresh water.

Figure 27 emphasizes that the greatest value in the intelligence domain—and the least expensive option—lies in

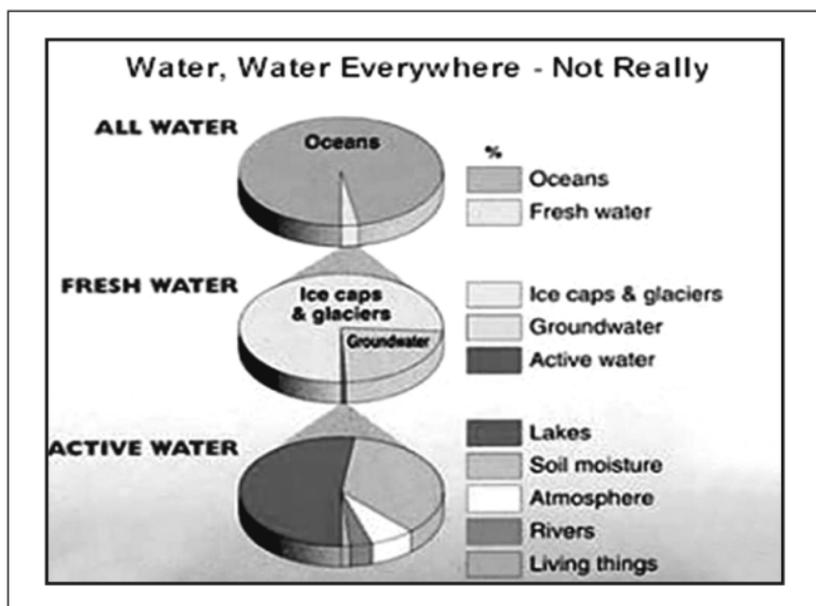


Figure 26: Fresh Active Water in Larger Water-Reality Context

the bottom half where sharing is the core value. Meanwhile the upper half, if shared, would yield much greater value for one hundred percent of humanity. This is what government should be doing in our name but is not. The U.S. federal government, like most governments, is a collection of “stove-pipes,” organized by Cabinet departments and by agencies, each of which works diligently to optimize its “budget share” in relation to all others. Information is not shared, and no one does strategic intelligence (decision-support). The Office of Management and Budget, where the “Management” was never strong and was completely discarded in the 1970s, would be one place where such a function could be placed.

The bottom line is that our government is not intelligent about how it pursues the public interest, because



Figure 27: Herring Triangle of Need versus Cost

its decisions are not informed decisions (and its interest is generally not the public's).

Doing Public Intelligence

I have long emphasized the importance of bloggers as citizen “intelligence minutemen” and described how individual citizens could affix themselves like leeches to specific locations, products, companies, or personalities. Think of this as a form of distributed investigative journalism where the most important attributes are a) a personal commitment to the public good; and b) eyes on the target, i.e., co-location with whatever is being monitored. That is in the collection arena. In the analytic arena, again millions of citizens can be distributed but they also can be collaborative, sharing information and coming together to make sense. What has been lacking is an all-inclusive model for achieving that objective.

Figure 28 is an illustration of Citizen Monitors everywhere, implementing an Open-Source Everything approach to public policy and public spending.

Citizens can come together to be better informed than any one of the eight communities acting alone, and citizens can dominate a holistic policy process by using a strategic analytic model that sees everything in relation rather than in isolation. This needs emphasis, and this is why the Occupy movement is so important: we need a massive cultural change that engages every citizen in a constant global endeavor to understand, to make sense, to decide,

as a collective, for the good of all. In other words, we must create the noosphere.

It is an old saying in the intelligence world that novices argue about data, journeymen discuss models, and masters talk about assumptions. For this manifesto, I have touched on data (we have to get a “true cost” data) and now will provide a model for how to organize citizen intelligence. The assumptions will be touched on in the final portion of this chapter when I discuss creating the World Brain and Global Game.

The model is visible in Figure 22 above, “Holistic Analytics,” and Figure 29 provides what may be an easier-to-grasp, three-dimensional matrix that brings together in one place the top ten threats to humanity, the twelve core

Citizen Monitoring Officers (CMO)

- Poverty
- Infectious Disease
- Environmental Degradation
- Inter-State Conflict
- Civil War
- Genocide
- Other Atrocities
- Proliferation
- Terrorism
- Crime
- Agriculture
- Diplomacy
- Economy
- Education
- Energy
- Family
- Health
- Immigration
- Justice
- Security
- Society
- Water
- Citizen Monitoring Coordinator (CMC)

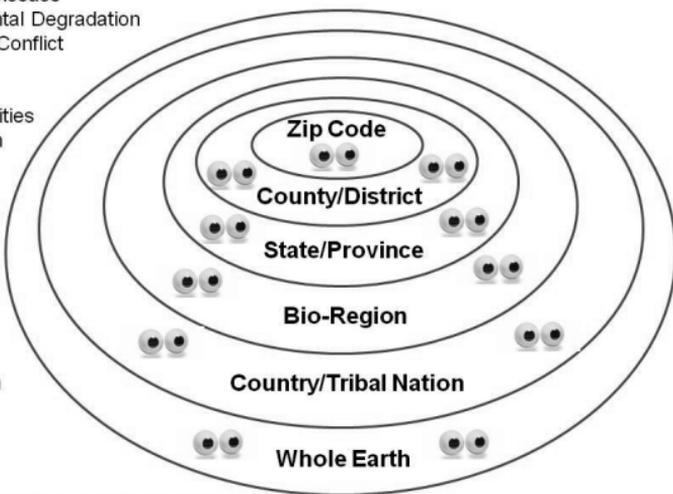


Figure 28: Citizen Monitors Everywhere

be known—the informed but diverse perspectives—from and by the eight communities of intelligence: academic, civil society including labor and religions, commercial, government, law enforcement, media, military, and non-governmental/non-profit.

What has been lacking to date in the open world has been a strategic analytic model that allows shared information to leave no fraud, waste, or abuse (corruption) unnoticed, and to harmonize a diversity of endeavors without imposing “control.” Although open data access is vitally important, an open analytic model is equally vital to accelerate information-sharing and sense-making.

Blogging for Public Intelligence

The Linux model is the model for public intelligence—a globally distributed network of volunteers whose reputation is developed over time in a very transparent manner, all operating in a voluntary hierarchy that provides coherence and quality control.

Imagine if each zip code organized itself in relation to each of the ten high-level threats to humanity, with a matrix-like counterpart organization of bloggers following each of the twelve core policies (and all other policies of interest at that level) such that on a daily basis the collective has the pulse of its sovereign terrain, while also, on a continuing basis, carrying out special studies of specific companies, individuals, or patterns of behavior considered to be detrimental to the common good.

Imagine if each zip code organized itself in relation to each of the budget-line items in the county, state, and national budgets, ensuring a public oversight function over how and when money is or is not spent.

This is a level of scrutiny that does not exist today. Despite many excellent efforts, generally organized at a national level, no one has devised or put into place a “web” of information-sharing and sense-making that is able to leap across all boundaries: locational, technical, ideo-cultural. Participatory democracy without public intelligence is a charade.

At *Phi Beta Iota the Public Intelligence Blog*, a wealth of free information is available, including online handbooks about how to “do” public intelligence in the public interest.

Participatory Democracy

Now I turn to how an informed public can become an engaged public, with the power that knowledge gives, restoring the Republic and serving as an example for the rest of the world.

Today the political “dialog” is a false one—theatrical, rhetorical, and driven by ideology not intelligence. The politicians are prone to lying, their primary objectives are re-election and personal enrichment, and this in turn allowed Wall Street and the various industrial-era complexes (agriculture, education, energy, justice, military) to dismantle regulatory oversight and feed a frenzy of greed by the top one percent at the expense of everyone else.

Figure 30 is a diagram that illustrates how I would organize a free online deliberative dialog system that connects all citizens to all information—including true-cost information—and is capable of framing deliberative dialog in relation to reality and to trade-offs, both ignored by the two-party tyranny in the U.S. and their counterparts across most of the world.

To be effective, an informed participatory democracy must have several capabilities:

- The capability to learn and be informed on anything, and within that capability, an understanding of true costs over the life of each and every system, product, or service—socio-ecological economics.

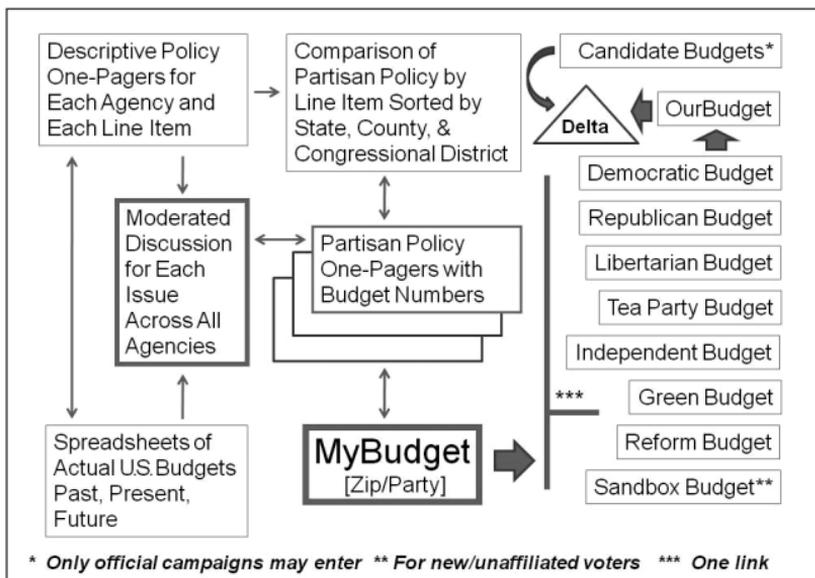


Figure 30: Participatory Democracy Online

- The ability to aggregate informed views so as to illuminate alternative trade-offs within a consensus framework that strives to achieve a balanced and therefore sustainable budget.
- The ability to oversee all legislation and all executive decisions at all levels (local to global) and weigh in on the policy process as it is developing, not after the fact.
- The ability to monitor implementations and outcomes, holding executives and legislators accountable for their decisions.
- The ability to intervene to reverse an implementation or outcome that is going badly, or to recall an executive or legislator who is failing to pursue the public interest as defined by the public.

All the above translate into a functional requirements document that I have placed online¹⁴ and will not repeat in detail here. The highlights:

- Everyone gets to play themselves, anonymously or in true name. What this means is that you get to decide your level of participation, and if you choose to be part of the decision-making collective on any given issue or at any given location, you have that right and have access to both the information and tools necessary to carry out deliberative dialog.
- The only visible identifiers are zip code and political preference. This is essential in order to aggregate concerns, preferences, and views by location, political grouping, and of course issue.

- After aggregation by political preference, the larger groups are shown true costs of any options they propose, and a deliberative dialog process takes place at a macro level (a limited number of aggregated voice composites instead of everyone speaking at once).
- All of this takes place in the context of constantly visible real and alternative budgets including a balanced budget, and a constantly visible near-real-time Earth Dashboard. An Earth Dashboard, something Medard Gabel has been developing,¹⁵ integrates the power of what can be known in near-real time across all domains, and the power of advanced visualization such as Robert Horn and Peter Morville have pioneered.¹⁶
- Candidates are expected to provide clear policy objectives with their budget assumptions, for comparison with both existing partisan and the “consensus” budgets created online.
- Not depicted here, but easily achievable, are coalition budgets that select some policy solutions from one candidate, others from another candidate.
- Eventually candidates will be required to declare their cabinet in advance, and to provide a balanced budget across all policy domains, ideally crowd-sourced, before election day.

In Figure 30, “Delta” stands for difference—we are now at a point where informed, engaged citizens can both create their own common-sense policies and budget while demanding that candidates demonstrate they can do the

same. This means full transparency: an end of rhetoric and a restoration of integrity to our electoral system so long corrupted by the two-party tyranny and their Wall Street masters.

Before we can achieve the above “Nirvana” of authentic democracy, there are two missing elements: first, close to half of the eligible voters do not vote; and second, there is no source of trusted “true cost” information for each citizen. Just as the elective war on Iraq was sold as a war that would pay for itself, where we would be welcomed as liberators, it now turns out that 935 lies were told (all documented by truth.dig) and the war has cost us more than three trillion dollars and thousands of deaths.

This lack of accurate, trustworthy information about the true cost of any given policy, product, service, or behavior is paralyzing all action. The U.S. specifically, but most of the rest of the world as well, is coming off a half century in which each of the eight communities has been a party to what I call the “Paradigms of Failure.”¹⁷

It merits mention that I have provided all this information to Americans Elect, a brilliant idea badly executed behind closed doors, and they have refused to change their Epoch-A mindset of “we’ll decide who qualifies, we’ll retain the ability to cook the books.” An Epoch-B mindset would provide the public with the tools to do the job and get out of the way, focusing efforts on ensuring the integrity of the whole.

Creating the World Brain and Global Game

There is absolutely no question in my own mind that we can in the very near term create a Smart Nation here at home, and a prosperous world at peace that restores the harmony and sustainability of the commons writ large. A cosmic truth and reconciliation movement is in the making, and it starts with us.

“We are the ones we have been waiting for” is a very powerful meme that has been diluted by selfishness—even the best-intentioned endeavors have chosen to be little stove-pipes, disconnected from all others. We can harmonize and accelerate our goodness with information. Truth is free. Intelligence is free. Integrity is free.

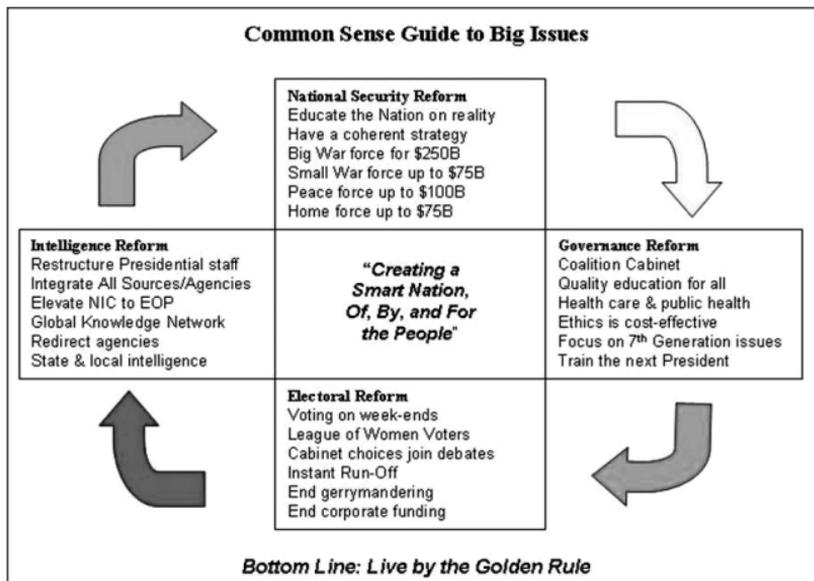


Figure 31: Four Reforms Toward a Smart Nation

There is nothing wrong with the United States—or the world at large—that cannot be stabilized and reconstructed by restoring the intelligence and integrity of all our organizations across the eight communities (academic, civil society, commerce, government, law enforcement, media, military, non-governmental/non-profit). To do that, We the People must first restore our own intelligence and integrity, then reach out to others all over the world to create the World Brain and Global Game—what the technocrati might think of as Web 4.0, and what members of the consciousness community call noosphere.

Figure 31 is my depiction of the four reforms we need to effect in the USA to become a Smart Nation able to nurture the rest of the world to our own common good as our model is adopted.¹⁸

It is not enough to save ourselves, although putting a stop to unilateral militarism, virtual colonialism, and predatory immoral capitalism is certainly a very good start. We must also help others leverage information to achieve infinite wealth using shared information and multinational decision-support. Figure 32 offers some areas of possibility.

It is vital to pursue initiatives such as the Open Farm endeavor to create open-source tools (hardware) that are low-cost, easily replicable, and easily repaired as well as energy-smart.

Barry Carter nailed it in the 1990s in his book *Infinite Wealth: A New World of Collaboration and Abundance*¹⁹ with his emphasis on the need to deconstruct bureaucracies and liberate individuals to self-organize. We still have not

come together to recognize that the fastest way to create infinite stabilizing wealth on Earth for all is to offer the three billion poor free cell phones and free access to information—not necessarily the Internet via smart telephones, but rather dumb phones with free access to call centers that can answer any question on demand by leveraging the Internet and back-office processing.

I am conceptualizing here the concept of free access to substantive information being a human right or privilege, however you might wish to define it, but being an absolute non-negotiable attribute for any nation or community that wishes to be resilient and to prosper in a sustainable fashion.

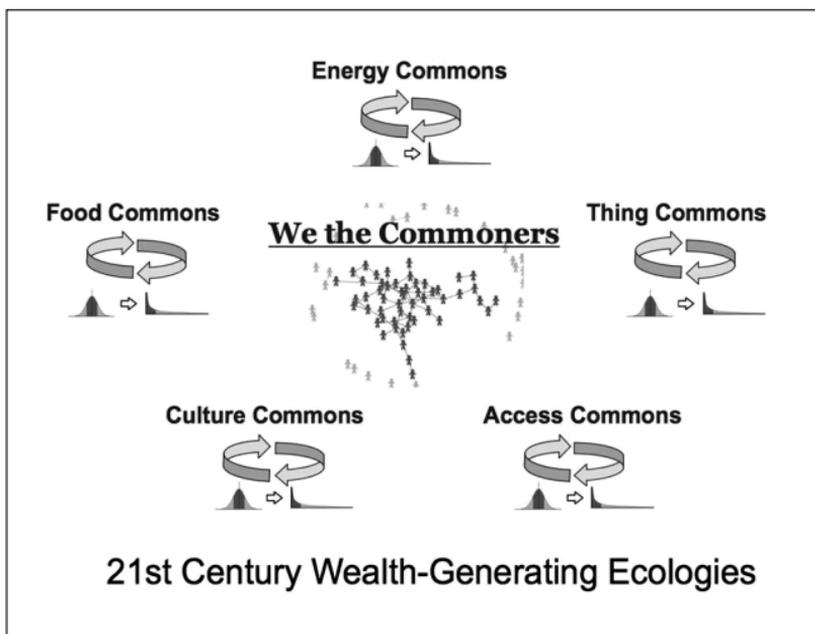


Figure 32: Liberation Technology Domains

I see cities, countries, nations, regions recognizing that the relatively minor cost of a call center is well worth its benefits—capable in all necessary languages and able to handle the load of calls with a mix of centralized and distributed participants, some paid, most volunteers. This then becomes the lever that will move the community or nation out of poverty and into a position where the distributed intelligence of the community or nation is able to create infinite wealth while also achieving a sustainable peace.

Such a network of call centers will only be valuable and achieve its ends if every person on the planet has a personal cell phone, particularly the poorest of the poor. The cell phone serves as a home address for the indigent, a personal wallet for the impoverished, a memory for the illiterate. Liberation technologies can make free cell phones and free access to the airwaves real now.

India is the most complex testing ground for this idea, and one hopes they will consider its adoption.

Lastly, in my final graphic I wish to share a deliberate strategy for creating a prosperous world at peace.²⁰

The essence of this manifesto is found in the proven fact that transparency and truth foster trust, and trust lowers the cost of doing business. The industrial era carried the information pathologies to extremes and enabled corruption at the highest levels, using secrecy to avoid accountability. The above strategy starts with reality truthfully described and shared, builds up through applying open-source everything with integrity such that multinational information-sharing

and sense-making—and the integration of all faiths and all values—are possible. The strategy ends with total accountability, one for all and all for one, along with the Golden Rule and Love Not War. Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ron Paul all have it right. We have failed as an economy and as a society because we lost sight of both the irreplaceable value of the human with dignity, and of the truth. As I say, the truth at any cost lowers all other costs.

Each of us has both intelligence and integrity in full measure. We have allowed the “empire of illusion and the triumph of spectacle”²¹ to subordinate our intelligence and integrity. Now is the time to rise up, non-violently, with intelligence and integrity, to restore America the Beautiful and to then empower the three billion poorest with free access

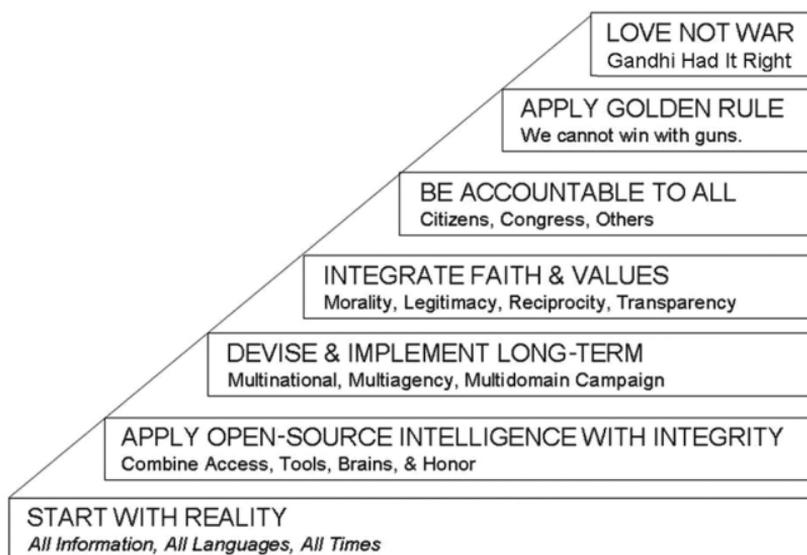


Figure 33: From Truth to a Prosperous World at Peace

to the Internet and cybersphere, and eventually the psychic collectivity of the noosphere. In that context, we ensure the integrity of the information (both for the domain under consideration, e.g., agriculture, and for the whole, e.g., including family, food, health, immigration, and water). We also ensure the integrity of the connection between reality and all budgets both current and being planned for the future. “Control Fraud” is a term new to me, referring to the criminal neglect of legislatively mandated duties by the executive of any given government.²² I do not fault Wall Street for its high crimes—they were enabled by a corrupt federal government, a government where specific individuals in elected, appointed, and civil service or uniformed positions have betrayed the public trust repeatedly. Without integrity, a government lacks both efficacy and legitimacy. My personal goal is the restoration of both for the Republic, at the federal, state, and local levels, non-violently, as quickly as possible.

We can create heaven on Earth. It is in the context of a non-violent culture committed to appreciative inquiry and informed engaged citizenship that a nonzero (win-win) society can be achieved, crossing all borders, embracing all communities.

Conclusion

I am personally optimistic. I share the widespread view that we are entering a new epoch during which we can achieve conscious evolution and the elevation of humanity to a constructive steward of the Earth.

We must heal ourselves first, branching from those of us able to afford access to the Internet and the luxury of time in which to be both reflective and activist. Then come the five billion poor and especially the three billion extreme poor, whose human brains are the one inexhaustible resource we have. It could reasonably take no less than a quarter century and perhaps as much as a century to achieve the maturation of *Homo sapiens*.

I can only speculate, but I am fairly certain that the noosphere is not limited to human minds but includes the minds of all living things.

Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com and all-around innovator, has said that we are at the very beginning of a massive, virtually unimaginable “break-out” for humanity, to which I would add, “and for all forms of life as well.”²³

Empowered by open software, hardware, spectrum, data access, and intelligence, we are within reach of open democracy.

We must destroy the two-party plutocracy system that has been funded by Wall Street and allowed the one percent to concentrate most of the wealth in their hands, not only in the USA but around the world. I favor Truth and Reconciliation, not vigilante violence. The one percent has to *want* to labor with us to create a world that works for all. Only public intelligence in the public interest can create such a compelling force for the common good as to succeed in the face of heretofore entrenched and powerful opposition and dominance.

Connected, we are One.