

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition

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Summary:

The gist of the argument is that the history of humanity provides a sort of meta-model that can, if properly and without bias applied, be used to understand a great many other models that're currently perpetuated in isolation. People throughout the world need to be more aware of the unprecedented threat, of the challenges that now face us. Without dwelling much on the science, I'm stating a few facts if only to underscore the urgency of our task. The surest way to effectively combat the aggravation of this impasse is with a synchronized global stimulus, implemented into a green design.

Essay:

*«The best way to predict the future is to invent it.»...
...The second best way is it to finance it.*

It is difficult to imagine that a few pages can change the world. After all, Dante's entire oeuvre was not enough to restore the Holy Roman Empire to the Italian city-states. We can dare to believe, however, at least in a prototype for solving the common problems that we face.

It is with the idea of education in mind that I would like to chart in broad terms the history of generations, as an intellectual matter: since the Darwinian revolution we figured out that we are acted upon as well as acting on the very fabric of life, but we have not absorbed this lesson. We are still being lead by a Cartesian subjectivity, perceiving ourselves divided from nature, bending our relationships with each other to our own interests, through technological input.

At their very heart, crises are the points at which “contradictions” come to a head, and for that very reason they are able to reinvent entire systems, prolonging the paradoxical conditions for possibility, although there is no one size fitting-all answer to these questions.

No corner of this planet is so remote to ignore humanity's footprint.

The immediate crisis is on the front pages: it influences people's life directly, at the stratosphere. The invisible, the growing crisis trajectory has a second reason for which it isn't discussed much because it roots in the financial system, allowing governments to control capital movements. The system has an unacceptable risk built into it, and from the narrowest perspective it can particularly accelerate the pace of development.

The initiative should be coming from the population which has definite views, but the countries are so depoliticized that are considered an impasse. In a rapidly changing world we need increasingly policy makers according to all the variety of disciplines that contribute to technology to make decisions, which is critically important the governments provide.

The main key is to realize that these problems are political, not technological.

The pace of innovation in green technologies, is far from fast enough to address the scale of the world's energy problems. Part of the problem resides in not enough investment in these kind of technologies, although a small one, because the political establishments in most of the world really have no interest at all in protecting the environment, or even in the quality of life of most of their citizens, such as in South Africa.

Investments in key areas such as education and science would go a long way in making the world more competitive which could potential yield results over time. Food equally has far-reaching implications as a co evolutionary development, leading us to the support and perpetuation rather than destruction. Financing alternative energy research and building the necessary infrastructure in order to create effective measures to improve conservation and efficiency is of paramount importance.

It's the absence of an international commitment to take us through necessary steps and the absence of a new consensus that is preventing us from shaping that future, and not the absence of good ideas.

Why is it, [Marx] asked, that rather than affirming that I am capable of activity that helps another human being, your needs are instead a source of power for me?

I believe we need explore the nature the social relations that exist between people, and their character necessary to engage us in producing -- producing for ourselves as well as producing for each other. The regions where food production is an issue are typically not capitalist, and some have no effective government at all, so the crisis is not endemic to capitalism.

The causes may be hugely complex, but the best way is to use our scientific understanding for implementing viable economic policies and solutions.

Major advances are being made in energy storage technology: systems combining renewable energy sources such as Photo voltaic (PV – solar energy) and Wind energy with compensatory more stable sources such as fuel-cells or electric batteries, keys to minimising the disadvantages of renewable sources and extending their applicability in the future. Technology is already in the pipeline that should reduce the cost per Watt by orders of magnitude. We need to encourage the large scale deployment of renewables by increasing their use as cost effective technology, as well as increasing access to technology education and science, while improving collaboration between ministries and universities. Developing the infrastructure to facilitate the mobilization of funds from a variety of sources to support green tech advancement is required to strengthen participatory development-oriented research and extension partnerships. Essentially, enhancing competitiveness of industry and participation in its design all over the planet into a synergetic stream of activities.

Biotechnology also offers a positive outlook on things, because their field is seeing great advances that will dramatically increase the potential for food production. One such advance is the development of genetically engineered crop plants that can be irrigated with seawater. There are shortages of food in many areas, yet again that is purely political.

It appears only natural to coordinate these research activities at International level. Coordination brings the added value of enabling the focus of research towards clearly identified objectives, it avoids effort duplication and allows benefiting from complementary and balancing individual strenghts.

Consciousness, which we value and consider the crown and achievement of human nature is the best cure tool for self-importance, it teaches us to tell stories that help us think ecologically.

It is worth taking a moment to think through exactly what it means to say that a system is sustainable, lest the word lose its force. So let's find a way of funding such projects, namely which can continue to operate indefinitely, excluding such limiting factors as the life span of the sun... but first of all let's bring this to the consciousness of our generation.