

# Beyond The Crash!

Building an Economic &  
Ecological Democracy



Hal Logan

## Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>The message of this book</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Chapter 1—A Brief Overview of the Silent Revolution</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chapter 2—Our Times</b>	<b>33</b>
<i>Other unintended results of modern civilization</i> .....	34
<i>The computer and the automated factory</i> .....	35
<i>Peak oil</i> .....	35
<i>The social scene</i> .....	36
<i>The welfare state fails</i> .....	37
<i>World armaments and disorder</i> .....	38
<i>Money and Banks</i> .....	38
<i>Major changes in a democratic society</i> .....	38
<i>The assumptions we make and the objectives we set for society</i> .....	39
<i>Changing our ideas about reality</i> .....	40
<i>The sustainable world</i> .....	40
<b>Chapter 3—Our World-view, the Changing Paradigm, and all That</b>	<b>45</b>
<i>Different worldviews for other cultures</i> .....	45
<i>Some ideas are more universal</i> .....	46
<i>The computer analogy</i> .....	46
<i>What is a paradigm?</i> .....	46
<i>The kaleidoscope and the picture book</i> .....	47
<i>Scientific ideas affect our worldview</i> .....	47
<i>From Newton to Einstein</i> .....	48
<i>The materialist bias of economics</i> .....	49
<i>A new model of the universe</i> .....	49
<i>Our world-view becomes our common sense</i> .....	52
<b>Chapter 4—A New View of the Human, the Force and Nature</b>	<b>55</b>
<i>The hierarchy of human needs</i> .....	55
<i>Freud and Jung discover the Unconscious</i> .....	55
<i>New areas of research</i> .....	56
<i>Our Search for Meaning</i> .....	56
<i>Ideas about the force</i> .....	56
<i>Ideas affect reality</i> .....	58

<i>The Life Force</i> .....	58
<i>The ideas of morphogenic fields</i> .....	59
<i>Our antenna into the universe</i> .....	59
<i>Grasping what creativity can mean for society</i> .....	60
<b>Chapter 5—A Look at Economic Beliefs</b>	<b>65</b>
<i>Adam Smith, the father of economics</i> .....	65
<i>The development of huge corporations</i> .....	66
<i>The economy of our nation state</i> .....	68
<i>The nation state loses its clout</i> .....	69
<i>The world casino</i> .....	71
<i>Outmoded Economic Dogma</i> .....	72
<i>Looking behind the veil</i> .....	73
<b>Chapter 6—The Evolution of the Corporation</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>How it began</i> .....	79
<i>More Power</i> .....	80
<i>The public concern</i> .....	80
<i>Falling behind</i> .....	81
<i>The corporation goes global</i> .....	82
<i>The new colonialism</i> .....	83
<i>The take-over artists</i> .....	84
<i>Downsizing</i> .....	85
<i>Merger-mania</i> .....	86
<i>Asia, the current darling of capitalism</i> .....	86
<i>The 21st century Corporation</i> .....	86
<i>The banking and investment corporations</i> .....	87
<i>Stewardship rather than self-interest</i> .....	88
<i>The changing nature of the power structure</i> .....	88
<i>Learning to live with the environment</i> .....	89
<i>Summing up</i> .....	89
<i>The new story</i> .....	90
<b>Chapter 7—The Wilting Nation-State</b>	<b>93</b>
<i>Some background</i> .....	93
<i>The nation-state in North America</i> .....	93
<i>A measure of equity through the state</i> .....	94

<i>Tariffs support the first government</i> .....	94
<i>Taxes shifted from the wealthy to the middle and lower classes</i> .....	95
<i>Politics of the ‘left’ and the ‘right’</i> .....	97
<i>The debt trap</i> .....	98
<i>Money galore, but not for governments</i> .....	99
<i>Offshore tax havens</i> .....	100
<i>Speculators take control</i> .....	100
<i>New trading areas</i> .....	100
<i>The state and systems theory</i> .....	102
<i>A global police force</i> .....	103
<i>The need for a new vision</i> .....	104
<b>Chapter 8—Money aint what it used to be</b>	<b>109</b>
<i>A brief history of money</i> .....	109
<i>The circulation system of the economy</i> .....	110
<i>The paper economy</i> .....	110
<i>Our electronic money</i> .....	110
<i>A game with no social benefit</i> .....	112
<i>Default in the United States financial system</i> .....	113
<i>Speculators and the Tobin Tax</i> .....	115
<i>The confidence game</i> .....	115
<i>Limitations of the debt-based system</i> .....	116
<i>Electronic money</i> .....	116
<i>Offshore banking</i> .....	117
<i>Loans for human development</i> .....	117
<i>The social dimension of money</i> .....	118
<i>Human capital as a basis for money</i> .....	118
<i>The Human Development Index as the basis for money exchange</i> .....	119
<b>Chapter 9—The Passing of Industrial Society</b>	<b>123</b>
<i>Stages of a culture</i> .....	123
<i>Are we winning or losing?</i> .....	124
<i>The throwaway society</i> .....	125
<i>Do salaries reflect value to society?</i> .....	126
<i>The problem of debt</i> .....	128
<b>The tyranny of short-term profits</b>	<b>128</b>

<i>Democratic capitalism goes to Russia</i> .....	129
<i>What's the price?</i> .....	129
<i>The problems are in the system itself</i> .....	129
<b>Chapter 10—The effects of Technology: Robots and Retirement</b>	<b>133</b>
<i>Jobs go to low-wage countries</i> .....	133
<i>The high-tech alternative</i> .....	133
<i>Downsizing</i> .....	134
<i>Two sides of the economic coin</i> .....	134
<i>New jobs from new sources</i> .....	135
<i>Quality of life</i> .....	135
<i>What will work be?</i> .....	135
<i>From the farm to the factory to the home</i> .....	136
<i>Keeping the conversation going</i> .....	137
<b>Chapter 11—A New Deal for Low Income Countries</b>	<b>141</b>
<i>Dom Helder Camara</i> .....	141
<i>Mexico—A disaster for international capitalism</i> .....	141
<i>Success with micro loans</i> .....	142
<i>Some similar problems for other low-income countries</i> .....	143
<i>Need for a new basis of measuring loans to low-income countries</i> .....	144
<i>The World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Trade Organization</i> .....	144
<i>The World Bank record</i> .....	144
<i>The result of low tariffs and open markets</i> .....	145
<i>World Bank policies impoverish much of the low-income world</i> .....	146
<i>Working with local elites</i> .....	147
<i>A debacle for the Southeast Asian model of development</i> .....	147
<i>Interest exceeds capital of loans</i> .....	148
<i>An End to Predatory trade</i> .....	148
<i>New criteria for development loans, and signs of relief</i> .....	148
<b>Chapter 12—The Transition—some design parameters for an evolving world</b>	<b>152</b>
<i>Quality industrial production</i> .....	152
<i>The importance of the human spirit</i> .....	153
<i>The previous major paradigm shift</i> .....	154
<i>Some possibilities for the postmodern world</i> .....	154
<b>How do we make the transition?</b>	<b>156</b>

<i>The systems view of the world</i> .....	158
<i>Changing our ideas about society's objectives</i> .....	158
<i>How do we measure success?</i> .....	159
<i>Measuring the success of the nation</i> .....	159
<i>Time for a change</i> .....	160
<i>Changing the debt economy</i> .....	160
<i>Changing minds and speaking out</i> .....	162
<i>Spirituality in the workplace</i> .....	163
<i>State of Global Emergency</i> .....	163
<i>Business as a vehicle for change</i> .....	163
<i>Criteria for change</i> .....	164
<i>Six Principles for Economic Democracies</i> .....	165
<b>Chapter 13—The future can work</b>	<b>169</b>
<i>Education for ideas</i> .....	169
<i>Developing human potential a prime objective</i> .....	170
<i>Peak oil, a defining issue</i> .....	170
<i>New areas for science</i> .....	172
<i>Nanotechnology—grow it yourself</i> .....	172
<i>Genetic engineering—speeding up evolution</i> .....	172
<i>Stem cells—re-building the body</i> .....	173
<i>Colonies in space</i> .....	173
<i>How about our cities on planet earth</i> .....	174
<i>Remaking inner cities</i> .....	174
<i>No utopias, but community</i> .....	174
<b>Chapter 14—What to do</b>	<b>179</b>
<i>The logic of the industrial age</i> .....	179
<i>Atomic weapons in the space age</i> .....	180
<i>Survival of the smartest and most mature</i> .....	180
<i>Towards stakeholder capitalism</i> .....	181
<i>The influence of wealth</i> .....	182
<i>World solutions for world problems</i> .....	182
<i>Need for global mind change</i> .....	183
<i>A world social treaty</i> .....	183

<i>You Can Help!</i> .....	186
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>187</b>
<i>Some organizations that are working on similar agendas</i> .....	187
<i>Some publications that share progressive views</i> .....	187
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>188</b>
<i>Summary Review of the Principal Recommendations contained in WORLDSHIFT NOW</i> <i>The Club of Budapest Handbook for Real Change</i> .....	188
<i>Leadership Objectives (1) The Main Business Objective</i> .....	188
<i>Leadership Objectives (2) The Political Objectives</i> .....	188
<i>Grass-Roots Objectives: (1) New-Thinking Objectives</i> .....	189
<i>Grass-Roots Objectives: (2) The New Ethics Objective</i> .....	190
<i>Grass-Roots Objectives: (3) Action in the Personal Sphere</i> .....	190
<i>Grass-Roots Objectives: (4) Action in the Civic Sphere</i> .....	191
<i>Grass-Roots Objectives: (5) Action in the Business Sphere</i> .....	192
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>193</b>
<i>Foreword—The Genesis of my Interest in the Future</i> .....	193
<i>Chapter 1—A Brief Overview of the Silent Revolution</i> .....	193
<i>Chapter 2—Our Times</i> .....	193
<i>Chapter 3—Our Worldview, the Changing Paradigm and all that</i> .....	193
<i>Chapter 4—A New View of the Human, the Force, and Nature</i> .....	194
<i>Chapter 5—Let’s Look at Economic Beliefs</i> .....	195
<i>Chapter 6—The Evolution of the Corporation</i> .....	196
<i>Chapter 7—The Wilting Nation State</i> .....	196
<i>Chapter 8—Money Aint What it used to be</i> .....	197
<i>Chapter 9—The passing of industrial society</i> .....	198
<i>Chapter 10—The effects of technology, robots and retirement</i> .....	198
<i>Chapter 11—A New Deal for the Developing World</i> .....	198
<i>Chapter 12—The transition—Some design parameters for an evolving world</i> .....	199
<i>Chapter 13—The future can work</i> .....	200
<b>Chapter 14—What to do</b>	<b>201</b>

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**Chapter 1**



A Brief Overview of the  
Silent Revolution

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# Chapter 1—A Brief Overview of the Silent Revolution

**“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start to-day and make a new ending”**

*Maria Robinson*

We are at one of the great watersheds of history. There has been a marked increase in the pace of change, and undesirable side effects of our economic system are evident everywhere. The basic ideas about how to run the economy, ones we have lived with for over two hundred years, are simply no longer working. Clearly our economic system is producing tremendous distortions and imbalances in the rewards paid to individuals in our society. Those at the top have incomes they could never spend, while those at the bottom cannot earn enough to exist. The total assets of the world are owned by a very small percentage of the population; the middle-income group is rapidly shrinking, and is debt ridden, while the lower income group is rapidly expanding.

At the same time, our industrial system is producing waste and pollution of all kinds on a global scale. Scientists warn us that continued pollution of our world could make it uninhabitable for future generations.

The nation state is going through a period of rapid change, with high-income countries choosing to have fewer resources available for social programs. Indeed, the financial position of developed nations is forcing them to reduce programs of every kind. The continuation of this trend could well have the effect of reducing the nation state to the status of a public utility as historian Arnold Toynbee predicted many years ago. As nation states are continuously depleted of revenues, they may no longer have the ability to make war against other nation states. Even the wealthy United States is finding that the cost of maintaining armies around the world is becoming oppressive.

We are witnessing a pronounced trend toward globalism. Corporations are organizing themselves to compete on the world stage while nations and their people are increasingly regarded merely as markets. In one sense, this type of internationalism may turn out to be the last hurrah for corporations based largely on the notion of exploitation. The exploitation I refer to is the use of world resources, people and physical assets for the sole benefit of the corporation, with little or no consideration for the people or nations affected.

There is a renewed awareness by many that we are all interconnected, and that success depends not on exploitation, but rather in the development of our human capital on a worldwide scale.

There is a new understanding of the importance of ecology, the preservation of nature's systems, and that we are in some sense co-creators of our own reality. We are just beginning to realize that human systems, to be successful, must dovetail with nature's system. With this comes the understanding that the systems view of reality requires every part of the system to be healthy for the system to operate at its best.

New ideas are arising about what God means, and about the nature of human powers and abilities. The realization that the human spirit plays a tremendous role in all of life, from the successful athlete, to body healing, to creativeness, and in every aspect of society, is an idea whose time has come.

In some sense, we are observing an old civilization, with its familiar way of life, in rapid decline. The fear and uncertainty from this congruence is resulting in something like a breakdown of traditional society. Affordable oil, our chief energy source, may run out within the lifetime of many who are alive today. This has caused conflict and war to secure our dwindling supply. The cost of standing armies is robbing our treasuries. Our jails are full as never before; drug abuse is rampant in every level of society. Despite the apparent decline in the nuclear threat, there is a great uncertainty about our future. The costs, both in terms of money and wasted human resources, of all this uncertainty to society are tremendous.

The world is being plagued by war and further threats of war, apparently caused by differences in

religious beliefs, nations protecting their perceived rights to world resources, and possible threats of atomic weapons. According to the Stockholm International Peace Institute, the global arms trade has increased 34 percent since the decade ending in 2005. The United States has 20,000 tonnes of chemical weapons and Russia has 38,000 tonnes. The United States and Russia have collectively 16,000 operational strategic and tactical warheads.

Two terms have come into common usage in the United States since the 1970's, **neo-liberalism** and **neo-conservatism**. As there is often confusion about the use of these terms I thought it wise to give some explanation before using either term. *Wikipedia Dictionary* gives a good description of each. To summarize, neo-liberalism is the political-economic policy that rejects government intervention in the economy, and gives total reliance on the operation of the 'free market'. Neo-conservatism, on the other hand has to do with foreign policy. It supports a strong and aggressive foreign policy for the United States, which accepts unilateral action where required. The policy encourages 'free trade' and a vigorous opposition to countries that are thought to support terrorism. Both policies have been associated with the Republican Party and religious fundamentalism.

At the same time, we are seeing the birth of a new civilization, the premier world civilization, with influences derived from all parts of the planet. This is our first opportunity to develop humanity's higher creative powers on a massive scale. As the continued expansion of the computer and the robot relieve men and women of much tedious repetitive work, we will have the opportunity for more creative endeavors of all kinds. We will explore our higher creative powers, which have remained relatively undeveloped in most of us.

The realization that human capital is the real basis of all capital is an important understanding, and will affect our future decisions in countless ways. In the past we have prized financial capital, but we are now coming to the realization that it is really no more than stored human capital. The notion that a growing economy requires continuous exploitation of physical assets will be replaced with the drive to increase human assets. It has become clear that the physical resources of the planet are being overused while the mental assets are being underused. This is an important reason for us to develop a new scale of measurement which some have referred to as the Human Development Index. If we could then tie our money system, which presently rests solely on public confidence, to the Human Development Index, we would have a built-in incentive to develop our human potential to its fullest extent around the globe. The veracity of our money system was once based on reliance of gold reserves. That ended decades ago and at present our money system rests on nothing but confidence that governments will honor their obligations.

In this way our economic system, currently tied increasingly to short-term profits, would begin to respond to the long-term improvement of human potential and performance. We will discuss this further in a later chapter.

Everything I have been discussing depends on us changing our minds on a broad scale about the nature of our world and what we want to achieve. The change can be said to be metaphysical. It would never be possible to merely legislate changes of the sort we are discussing.

These ideas must instead become part of our universal wisdom, and will be just plain common sense. This will require a major change in our belief system. It may seem unlikely for our institutions to change to the degree I am suggesting, but remember, not long ago, we witnessed the break-up of the Soviet Union, and the virtual disappearance of Soviet style communism as an effective force when people stopped believing in that system. It can happen almost overnight. Loss of confidence can arise in many ways. There could be a systems breakdown in any one of several ways; perhaps financial, perhaps in our supply of energy, or even the supply of food as a result of transportation problems. It could even come from a general disenchantment with eternal wars. Hopefully more and more people will come to realize that our present system is no longer serving our best interests, and thus build a consensus for change.

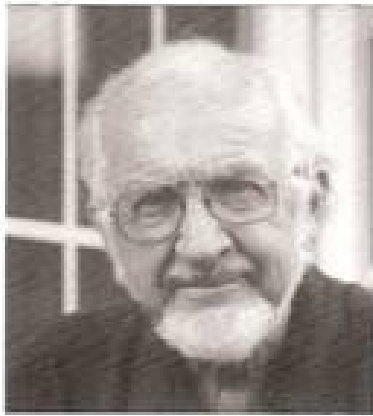
In these times, it is essential for us to develop a vision for a new world. If we can't visualize it, we certainly can't accomplish it. This calls for a groundswell of understanding and leadership of the kind that built the United States and Canada more than two hundred years ago. Certainly there are risks involved, but then the risks of trying to maintain 'business as usual' are far worse.

In many ways, some of the changes I have been discussing are already beginning to happen. Understanding is growing of the effects of pollution, and an increasing demand to curb this. The loss of traditional jobs forces us to find new avenues for our work. People everywhere are showing great interest in new ideas about God, nature and spirituality. We are being pushed by the realities of present day society, and pulled by our awakening to a better understanding of what our society could be. It is not necessary for everyone to change their ideas at one time, but only for a significant group, perhaps between ten and twenty percent of our society, to awaken to a new vision of social reality. When people look for leadership, this significant group of dedicated people will be the necessary vanguard.

For human beings, this will mean a new level of democracy based on global values. These must include an ecological awareness, development of the full human potential of all human beings, an end to poverty worldwide, a system based on love, compassion and understanding rather than fear and exploitation, and the recognition of global interdependence.

As I finish this book, the markets of the world are in complete disarray and all confidence in the world's stock markets has evaporated. It has never been possible to put humpty-dumpty together again. This is clearly time for a new beginning.

I am conscious of the fact that many do not have the time, or perhaps the inclination to delve into the causes of our present dilemmas; certainly they get little assistance from the media. The general theme, running through this book, is the growing awareness of the nature and importance of the human spirit in determining how we think and therefore how we act. This awareness is beginning to have an unsettling effect on all the institutions of our society, which were designed for an earlier age that is now rapidly changing. If I am able to stimulate others to begin their own investigations, and to act in their own sphere of influence to bring meaning and equity to our world, I feel that this effort will have been a success.



Hal Logan is a retired lawyer and architect currently residing in White Rock, British Columbia Canada. He is also an accomplished artist, and plays the theatre organ in concert. This is his second book

## You Will Discover!

- **Why the middle class in North America is disappearing.**
- **Why the incomes of the top 20 percent of North American society are rapidly increasing.**
- **Why the policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are a disaster for the Third World.**
- **Why N.A.F.T.A., the trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico is not working satisfactorily for any of the parties.**
- **Why new forms of electronic money encourage undesirable speculation.**
- **Why capitalism will come to support policies to curb global warming as a result of recent discoveries about the nature of the Universe.**