



THE GLOBAL GOALS INSTITUTE
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**"Age of Enlightenment" or "Age of Apocalypse:"
Where are we? ***

To paraphrase Charles Dickens, "This is the best of times; and the worst of times."

We are simultaneously experiencing a new "Age of Enlightenment" and an "Age of Apocalypse," engaged in a race to discover if the good deeds of enlightenment will trump the forces of apocalypse, or vice versa.

The Age of Apocalypse: The Negatives at Work in the World

Bill Clinton declares that we are living in a world that is "unequal, unstable and unsustainable;" and, Larry King when introducing him to his show, describes the world as "scary and troubled."

We worry about terrorism, nuclear proliferation, genocides, armed insurgencies and conflicts, forty-five dictators still in power, poverty, disease, religious hatred and destruction of the environment.

The case for apocalypse is mounting:

(1) *The language of apocalypse.* Christian fundamentalists predict that the *rapture* is just over the horizon; and, a recent *New York Times Magazine* article asks, "Is there a Shiite urge for apocalypse?"

U.S. Under Secretary Armitage informs the president of Pakistan soon after 9/11 that if his country does not help fight the Taliban, then the U.S. will bomb the country (of seventy-five million people) "back into the stone age;" and, perfectly normal friends of mine sit at dinner parties proposing to "nuke" either all Palestinians, all Iraqis or all the people of the next country that is the origin of a second attack on America (quite likely Pakistan again).

Iran's president talks of "wiping Israel off the map" and North Korea's leader become capable of identifying bigger targets. The developed countries focus on sanctions against Iran and North Korea, forgetting that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor (launching the Western front of World War II) when it was cut off from oil supplies from China.

Senator Joseph Biden says we are already in World War III; and the Bush administration certainly acts as if we are by calling its enemies "evil" and refusing to speak to them. King Abdullah II of Jordan when asked if there is a "civil war" in Iraq, answers that there are three imminent civil wars in the Middle-East, two of which more threatening than Iraq in Lebanon and Israel-Palestine.

(2) *The spread of crime.* There is violent crime and commercial crime. Let us examine violent crime first.

Unlike years past, you cannot kill all of your enemies; when you kill terrorist leaders, innumerable ones come forward to take their place. The U.S. learns that lesson and retreats from a "war on terror;" and the topic becomes too clear in Lebanon and Russia where minority leaders are assassinated by the majority. Fragile democracies such as Nigeria devolve into chaos.

In the 21st Century traditional acts of good faith can backfire. The attempt to bring freedom and free-market capitalism to most of Iraq's twenty-five million beleaguered people becomes too big a task; and stopping a genocide in the Sudan also proves impossible, regardless of broad world support for action. Chaos in Iraq allows insurgent and terrorist groups to raise up to \$200 million a year from smuggling oil, kidnapping rich Iraqis or foreigners and other illegal activities with the complicity of Iraqi government officials - monies that can even fund terrorist activities abroad.

There are a lot of displaced people in the world and they never give up on their "right-to-return:" Cubans, Palestinians, Cypriots (Greek and Turkish), even native American Indians (but they will settle for a casino). When there is a switch in power, the victors want to wipe out their former oppressors, as in Yugoslavia and Rwanda; in Iraq the Shiites will forsake peace and prosperity to get revenge against the Sunnis who ruled them under Saddam Hussein; and, the genocide in Darfur is a function of herders needing to get rid of farmers as the desert moves south in the Sudan.

The most powerful country in the world has as much chance of deflecting nuclear weapons programs in other countries as parents trying to contain unruly toddlers in a restaurant before the food comes; nor can the U.S. stop the spread of anti-American, populist governments in South America. The U.S. can barely contain guerrilla-type criminality at home, where there are 830,000 members of gangs inside their ghettos in big U.S. cities, killing over five hundred people in one year in Los Angeles alone (thankfully, mostly themselves).

Global sectarian crime ought to be declining because there is global disdain for extremists everywhere, but the raw power of the minority of extremists grows where poverty exists. Hand guns have caused far more deaths than all other weapons used in wars; 269 million people died in the Twenty-first Century at the hands of

their own leaders, more than died in wars; forty-five countries are still controlled by tyrannical leaders; and, developed countries left 5-7 million land mines in Afghanistan, there are reputedly 1 million unexploded bombs in Lebanon and one in every two hundred and ninety people in Cambodia have lost a limb to land mines.

The internet stops crimes as described below, but it can also provide useful information to criminals; even how to build an atomic bomb and get started on a nuclear one on a U.S. website of captured Iraqi secrets (only recently closed down). Child predators have found their catch through the internet and who can calculate the harm done by websites that reveal personal information about the girls in a high school class.

White collar crime, especially political crime, is a pernicious example of a frayed moral fabric of society. Why does the U.S. Congress still put up with lobbyists writing their legislation for "earmarks" in budget authorizations that are "pork," and those legislators then be rewarded with entertainment and political contributions?

How bad is the corruption problem? You do not have to go the heart of Africa when right at home in New York State, a new, disturbing book by a former member of that legislature complains that issues do not come to the floor because they are decided in a room by the governor, the speaker and the chairman of the majority party. The elected legislators show up for less than one hour (sometimes just fifteen minutes) at sixty legislative sessions a year, wielding far less power than the lobbyists who as a group in New York State earn over one hundred fifty million dollars a year, up from just forty-five million a few years ago. A writer in the Republican-skewed New York Post writes, near the end of Republican governor Pataki's twelve years in office: "The governor's office has been more like a Byzantine bazaar -- where everything is for sale -- than a center for good government and honest decision making."

The present corruption cases from the U.S. to Taiwan, from the New York State Comptroller's office to the halls of Tyco International, have a common thread: men lavishing luxuries on their women with ill-gotten money. The comptroller's ads before the 2006 elections confessed: "My wife Carol led me to do a dumb thing." Society would be much better off if these leaders would learn a few jokes, take some dance lessons and pop a few Viagra tablets.

More seriously we need to get to the root causes of corruption and develop both obvious and novel solutions at home and abroad. The U.S. cannot sweep its corruption under the table; this Fall Transparency International, the anti-corruption watch-dog, said that "the U.S. has suffered a 'significant worsening' in its perceived levels of corruption following a series of business scandals and increasing worries over political party funding."

(3) *The plight of the severely disadvantaged.* Extreme poverty today is huge with three billion people living on less than two dollars per day; one million on less than one dollar a day, without electricity or clean drinking water; thirty-thousand children dying each day of famine or preventable disease; and, nine hundred million young people in Arab countries entering the work force in the next twenty years facing only three hundred million jobs.

For millions of years people in such dire straits have taken up arms to grab resources from others. Karl Marx said it is a matter of calorie intake; on less than one hundred calories a day, we all consider anarchy.

(4) *The rich-poor dichotomy.* Even in the United States, the richest country of the world, forty-six million people lack health insurance and thirty-six million live below the poverty line; the gap between rich and poor widens as the middle class suffers from what *The New York Times* calls "the crushing combination of escalating real estate prices and largely stagnant incomes;" and, when wages do increase, the Federal Reserve Board shouts "inflation," raises interest rates and lowers the money supply which curtails economic growth and puts millions of people out of work here and abroad.

(5) *The earth's plight.* The leading environmental scientist says that the earth has not been this hot in one million years; others predict that in only twenty years there will be insufficient clean water for half of the earth's inhabitants; a recent study warns not to count on eating fish after 2048 -- there won't be any; and, if some predictions hold true, Main Street will be waterfront property before the end of the century.

The Age of Enlightenment: The Five Positives

The "Age of Enlightenment" that is currently flourishing in our culture may be the antidote to global disaster, as demonstrated by the following:

1. National and global awareness. Until recently global poverty, nuclear proliferation and genocides never made the front pages of even the most liberal newspapers or evening news shows. Now, the press covers global crises on a regular basis, entertainment companies make feature movies about human needs and documentaries on these subjects proliferate, especially at film festivals.

Bill Clinton says he frequently regrets not allowing peacekeepers to stop the genocide in Rwanda in the mid-1990s; but my nightmares come from memories of papers like *The New York Times* urging Clinton not to intercede in Bosnia/Kosovo and Rwanda. Contrast that milieu with today's television advertisements and daily full-page advertisements urging Americans to write President Bush to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Save-the-world conferences abound, including Clinton's Global Initiative, Jane Wales' Global Philanthropy Forum, social entrepreneurship conferences held at Oxford's Skoll Center and Schwab gatherings and Interdependence Days held in Philadelphia, Rome, Paris and Morocco in successive years. In January of 2001 I held the first Global Goals goal-storming conference for the purpose of identifying world crises and developing innovative solutions.

Congress displays a global awareness by donating billions of dollars to help those dying of communicable diseases in Africa, passes laws that prohibit the international movement of children for illegal purposes, and gives financial support to women refugees in Africa.

Awareness has also translated into philanthropic activism, called by some "philanthropreneurs." There is no greater example of enlightenment than the thoughtful munificence of philanthropists such as Clinton, Ted Turner, Jimmy Carter, Warren Buffet and Bono; and the Koch brothers, Charles and David, whose chaired professors won Nobel peace prizes in chemistry and economics in the same year. Clinton's second Global Initiative in September 2006 program attracted one thousand attendees, most paying \$15,000 and together committing over 7 billion dollars to cure the crises of poverty, disease, environmental concerns and religious intolerance.

Meritocracy in education is pushed by educational philanthropists in the U.S. and England, who fund very good students who cannot afford the best education; a book is published that reveals Ivy League school's unfair admission of "legacies," causing these universities to drop their early admission practices which favor the applicants from wealthy families; charter schools and commercial management companies like the Edison Project put pressure on municipal school boards to do better; and the federal government is sufficiently concerned to pass legislation called "No Child Left Behind."

Furthermore, giving now comes not just from the wealthy and powerful but also from people of average means. In the appeal after the Tsunami, half of the money was raised from ordinary citizens -- 1.1 million of them.

In the 21st Century not-for-profits make money to support themselves, and charities focus on giving to such sustainable organizations, a merger of business principles and altruism called *venture philanthropy* or *social entrepreneurship*. If Americans could receive a tax deduction for donations to foreign non-profits and/or were accorded larger deductions for grants to the needy wherever, compared to grants to the arts, a lot of good would be accomplished.

2. National and global bi-partisanship. In 2003, I wrote that

"politics are dead!" and cited several political "independents" such as Ross Perot, Jesse Ventura and Michael Bloomberg who won the New York City mayor ship as a Republican in heavily Democrat territory with the slogan: "A leader, Not a Politician."

I also made a prediction then: "By the year 2010, if not sooner, people will be embarrassed to admit that they "belong to a political party." I appear to be on schedule as the 2006 election features a news headline about the senate contest in Connecticut stating, "Lieberman and Lamont Compete for the Bipartisan Mantle."

It was in 1975 that the futurist FM-2030 wrote that we should be "Upwingers." Today, more of us today belong to no political party -- we are neither left-wing, nor right-wing; we believe in reaching rational, unfettered conclusions to what needs to be done, *upwinging* to a fundamental enlightenment.

One poll in September 2006 recorded eighty-one percent of Americans willing to vote for an independent for president and another reporting that seventy percent of all members of political parties in Connecticut would like to see their party "compromise" with the opposing party.

People realize that we would all be better off if limitations were put on the \$2.4 billion lobbying industry. Buying politicians, even in developed countries, may fuel an apocalypse more than any other factor. For example, we have not protected our lethal gas facilities to accommodate the companies that own them and to protect the jobs of the lobbyists.

Many of our political, polarized responses to issues have been very harmful to national and global progress but in the Age of Enlightenment there is progress:

(a) What better example of Twenty-first Century enlightenment than Jesse Helms, the conservative U.S. senator from North Carolina, retiring and devoting himself to helping HIV-Aids victims in Africa.

(b) Transparency has always been the truth's most potent tool, made even more so by the power of the internet to collect information. It was almost one hundred years ago when Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo wrote, "Sunshine is the best disinfectant; the street light the best policeman." If only Brandeis had been here for the internet where, for example, people that are abused in third-world countries and elsewhere can be heard.

(c) Recent bills in Congress provide important hope with one requiring the House of Representatives to disclose "special interest" additions to funding bills; while another would require internet disclosure when federal officials meet with lobbyists.

(d) Political appointments in Washington will be based more on a

meritocracy after witnessing the ineptitude of FEMA's director in handling the aftermath of hurricane Katrina -- he was an ill-prepared friend of a friend of the President. Also as a result of Katrina and the failure of the federal government to build a safety system around New Orleans, Congress cancelled a \$2.5 million bridge to a remote island in Alaska.

Likewise, the revelation in Bob Woodward's new book that Condoleezza Rice ignored warnings about 9/11 was not surprising; she was hardly prepared to be Director of National Security -- her last non-political appointment had been as provost of a university. It is likely that such high-level appointments will no longer be political, starting with our U.S. ambassadorships.

(e) The Sarbanes-Oxley 2002 legislation was a catch-up by Congress for its general disregard of corporate misdeeds. The ability of Congress to produce such a prodigious seventy-eight page act in six weeks lead this writer, a former SEC lawyer, to remind readers of a metaphor used by the English essayist Samuel Johnson: "It is like a dog walking on its hind legs. It is not done well; but you are surprised to find it done at all." Soon we may find competing slates of candidates for boards of directors of publicly-held companies, finally bringing democracy to American capitalism in corporate elections.

(f) Corruption in third-world countries is no longer an excuse for not giving aid. There are many solutions such as the special fund from oil sales created for the poor in Chad; the Clinton-Blair (and Bono) debt relief program that puts the proceeds aside for health and education; the appointment of a special auditor as in Palestine that convinced the IMF to continue its payments; and, even converting the dishonest government officials into sales representatives and brokers for the foreign companies that were bribing them (fully-disclosed).

Just this Fall, the Bush administration introduced a National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy, an initiative aimed at preventing public graft worldwide by, among other things, denying corrupt leaders access to the United States financial system.

(g) Environmentalists are reversing positions in which their own knee-jerk positions were harmful to the very poor. They had opposed nuclear energy for electricity; DDT to fight malaria; and, genetically-altered crops to feed the starving in desperately poor countries. I still contend that if you are going to block drilling in the Canadian wilderness to protect the caribou you ought to be a vegetarian to be consistent.

(h) Nanci Pelosi's acceptance speech on November 8, 2006, features the statement: "Democrats promise to work with Republicans in a bi-partnership way." But by the end of November there is concern that "business" in Washington may not change from the headline: "In New Congress, Pork May Linger: A Passion for Pet Projects Cuts

Across Party Lines."

(i) Senator Brownback, a Republican, wants to breath new life into the term "compassionate conservative" by holding bi-partisan conferences on poverty and AIDS in Africa and prison reform. He points out that two-thirds of all prisoners will return after being released. This recidivism is reduced to ten percent when there are faith-based prison experiences, which appeals to this writer who is an agnostic.

In sum, in this "Age of Enlightenment," peoples' thinking is becoming more flexible, open to new ideas rather than knee-jerk reactions.

3. Entrepreneurship and cooperation. The U.N. has set a goal of making entrepreneurship available to every person on earth. Over one hundred million people, mostly very poor women, have received micro-loans world-wide, mostly to women in underdeveloped countries and generally under \$1,000 dollars each. Some private funds provide micro-loans and return a profit to their investors.

Peruvian egalitarian economist, Hernando De Soto, writing shortly after 9/11, said that the way to stop terrorism is to provide the needy of the world with the capital to be entrepreneurs through mortgaging the real estate on which they reside, often owned by the state. This would unleash \$9 trillion of borrowing power.

Cooperation among governments and between government and business is required to meet the goals of the Twenty-first Century. That is why Michael Milken establishes FasterCures, a non-profit organization whose mission is to support the exchange of all medical research with the goal of eradicating all diseases, such as cancer, in fifteen years, not twenty-five as presently projected.

Similarly, IBM recently agreed to put all their patents on the internet for the benefit of scientists around the world. Bravo!

Businesses are cooperating with NGOs -- non-governmental organizations -- donating their infrastructure, assets like buildings and computers and people with knowledge that could change the lives of the needy. Some of the best save-the-world non-profits take donations of used or out-dated goods, medicines and even food, for distribution to the poor, such as Americares and Direct Relief, and another organization takes donations of "used" surgical supplies about to be thrown out.

A growing number of companies share their intellectual capital with the poor, such as General Electric which sends its engineers to schools to teach science; the giant global oil driller, Schlumberger, that helps villages in Asia and Africa to drill for water and to improve education in third world countries where they have facilities; and, *Habitat for Humanity*, which forms alliances with businesses to have employees build homes for the poor while

also aiding the company in building team work and camaraderie.

A popular book today is "The Triple Bottom Line" about the many companies that focus on more than their financial bottom line -- on the economic, social and environmental impact of their actions. Companies are finding that these are win-win-win approaches to business: for example, using solar energy lowers the cost of energy, pleases customers and wins praise from "neighbors."

In the 1970s there was the "social audit;" but when the economy turned sour, companies began to focus on staying alive and, when they recovered in the 1980s and 1990s, they were awe struck by the ease of making money, or least receiving it from investors, so they forgot to think about other constituents in society. This time with a possible apocalypse on the horizon from environmental and other causes, companies will not be turning back from doing good deeds.

Years ago I told the drug companies that they were quasi-utilities, that their sustainability was dependent on their willingness to sustain human life, regardless of their profit objective. Recently they have agreed to make drugs available to the poor in the U.S. and abroad and to reduce their sales forces which can do more harm than good for society. Now they must prepare to fight a likely congressional effort to control drug prices.

4. Pro-active governments.

There are certain changes that only governments can achieve. In our Age of Enlightenment governments need to be pro-active, as when they ban smoking in public places. New York City's smoking-ban at my work place probably saved years of my life.

We warn about toxins more than ever today. If you live in a big city like New York, you have been fairly warned that the air is so polluted, breathing it is like smoking a pack of cigarettes a day.

In late October this year New York City held hearings to ban trans-fats in food and put calorie-counts and other nutritional information on menu boards in restaurants; and in France the government is considering banning smoking in public places. Now you can move to the city that is trying to keep you alive the longest.

When Howard Stern threatened to run for New York State governor he had three platforms, one of which focused on the billions of dollars in time lost by commuters waiting in traffic, estimated at \$34 billion a year. Stern would ban all roadwork during the day. I add to that the cost-benefit of having traffic cops moving cars along -- which you seldom see even in New York City.

Governments have incarcerated over 2 million citizens; there are more African-American men in jails and prisons than in college. That has to change -- we must get better at rehabilitating and re-

training prisoners.

The U.N. has gone through a reorganization, and the Security Council can bestow the U.N.'s peacekeepers with the power to use force. Combined with the recent adoption by the Security Council of a doctrine that allows intervention if a state fails to protect its own citizens, the Council could move against North Korea, which is actively committing "crimes against humanity" -- its own citizens -- through starvation and incarceration. That would focus the U.N. on humanitarian relief rather than those sanctions not aimed at the proliferation of nuclear weapons or its components, an incontrovertible position if this is truly to be an "Age of Enlightenment."

5. Prioritization. It is hard to believe that almost all U.S. and global policies are set without cost-benefit analysis.

Several academics, including this writer, have begun to compute the complete cost and benefit of decisions, such as the invasion of Iraq. If regime change in Iraq had not been a U.S. priority, then the three hundred billion dollars a-year expenditure could have been used to end all unemployment in the U.S. (six million people multiplied times \$50,000 per year); even just half that amount cures world poverty. Just a few billion dollars invested by Israel in Palestine, as my Global Goals Institute recommended in 2000, might have brought peace, sent the Israeli stock market through the roof and saved many lives.

Prioritizing the world's top ten global needs took place at the first Copenhagen Consensus in 2004. Working off a distillation of the U.N.'s millennium goals which aim at halving extreme global poverty by 2015, environmental concerns were voted last in importance as compared to stopping communicable disease and hunger. In contrast, a British group issued the Stern Report which adopted a cost-benefit approach to environmental concerns and concluded that "the cost to society of failing to start blunting global warming within a decade" at \$6.98 trillion.

At our Global Goals conferences we found that the failure to prevent the Rwandan genocide had the greatest net loss, about one trillion dollars when eight hundred thousand people were hacked to death by machetes in one hundred days. Bill Clinton recently said that American obesity is the greatest threat to the world because it devastates our medical system and then our economy and, in turn, our ability to help others; and, surprisingly, he says, obesity is a disease not easily conquered.

Obviously, no-cost and very low-cost solutions are no-brainers on anyone's priority list and they are the ones that are the focus of my *goal-storming* meetings. Congratulations to all who seek rational decision-making based on cost-benefit analysis.

The Age of Enlightenment: A Wish List

We need to increase the velocity of enlightenment, developing and adopting more new solutions:

1. A foreign policy that delivers improved standards of living. In short, this means "shower dollars not bombs."

Richard Holbrook, departing his post as U.S. ambassador to the U.N., picked "economic development" as the number one element of foreign policy.

People around the world dream of the affluent American lifestyle and yearn for a chance at capitalism to produce it. People of all religions pray for prosperity and we, if anyone, can deliver it.

The U.S. State Department needs a sizable force of people with a knowledge of business, from new MBAs to seasoned venture capitalists. A great source of global entrepreneurs for government service are those multi-millionaires who remain at hedge funds and investment funds and private equity firms long after they could spend any new money they made. Quit, I say to them, the world needs you elsewhere; you are superfluous where you are!

Investment dollars might have gotten Palestinian leader Arafat to accept Clinton's last peace proposal; and an offer to Iraq for Saddam's resignation should have been made before the invasion, however futile. Bill Clinton suggests helping North Korea convert its arms manufacturing industry to something else that the world needs, and providing assistance with modern agri-tech.

Economic sanctions on another country are antithetical to economic development and uncover our lingering racism. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was asked if the sanctions against Saddam Hussein, estimated to have caused the death of 500,000 Iraqi children, was worth it. She said it was; then a few years later said maybe it was not.

Many disputes characterized as religious are, in reality, economic. For example, about eighty percent of Israelis are secularists, hardly ever going to a synagogue and always wary of their country's minority of orthodox extremists.

Clinton has said religion is a "cover;" "people seek politics, power and resources." My sentiments completely.

Today is a time of great scientific advancement and sustainability, of amazing medical discoveries and potential economic abundance. When Shimon Perez, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, is asked if peace will be reached in the middle-east he says it will as a result of nanotechnology, which will make technology so much cheaper, and faster and more prevalent that we will all experience an economic expansion.

2. A moral reformation. President Bush was doing well when he made a point of calling Islam a religion of peace after 9/11; but

then he began condemning their extremists and started naming "evil" countries. Bush should take note of how he feels when called a "Christian extremist" or "evil." Instead, he should emphasize raising the standards of living of every human being.

I was anxious for Saddam Hussein, as evil a man who has ever lived, to be removed; but the U.S. should have shown more remorse for the loss of innocent life in achieving his overthrow. Bombing civilians in Iraq was called "shock and awe;" how could we have stood that on our soil? Why was I one of the few people to call the Wall street celebration at the end of Desert Storm a vulgarity because we killed 250,000 poor Iraqis sent to the front lines by a madman?

We need leadership to break our implicit racism, our chauvinism, our ethnocentrism, our lack of empathy. We have to stop hating other people -- in my five decade-plus lifetime Americans have been taught to hate Germans, Japanese, Chinese, North Koreans, Russians, Puerto Ricans and now all 1.2 billion Muslims.

So much good could be achieved if religions led the parishioners in prayers for others, as well as for themselves, and got ahead of the curve of social change; instead of lagging as they did in opposing the Vietnam War, discrimination against women, minorities, the disabled or any group other than themselves.

The most religiously observant of us should be against possession of guns and military confrontations since the bible talks of giving your enemy food and drink and overcoming evil with good.

President Kennedy backed off from supporting the invasion of Cuba, saying "Americans shooting Cubans -- No!" We brush off the killing of Iraqis as if they were strawmen at an amusement park, the number killed in Iraq estimated to be somewhere between 35,000 and 650,000, depending on whom you believe. Kennedy also said that world peace means peace for all; when we talk of peace we only mean peace in the U.S.

Next we need universal adoption of a moral duty to help the poor, respect children, promote women, appreciate employees and rehabilitate prisoners. Why lump these groups? They tend to be subordinates -- treating them well is at no or low cost, but makes a world of difference to them and, in turn, to society. When the father is pushed around at work, he retaliates against his wife, who then takes it out on the kids -- a vicious cycle which needs to stop at the source. Joseph Wilson, the founder of Xerox, grew the company to 100,000 employees without firing anyone, he just moved them to different jobs, realizing that firing someone should be avoided at all costs because of the hurt that it inflicts. Over 50% of Americans have worked for a bully; not surprising since over 80% of all high school students report having been harassed or bullied in grade school.

An enlightened person is repelled by materialism; on a campus such

students realize that excessive partying is vulgar at a time when the gap between rich and poor children is so great. Parents are responsible for their children's values as much as they might condemn them -- it is their responsibility to teach their children about how the rest of the world is living -- a good dinner table subject.

In developed countries people have the luxury of focusing on themselves, finding themselves, finding their astrological signs, finding connectivity, etc. Mysticism is a sacrilege if you are religious, an absurdity if you are a rationalist. That does not mean that we should not count our blessings every day, as I do, so that days do not meld into days and appreciation become a mere recollection; but, if I believed that a ghost moved the furniture in my neighbor's home, I would not be part of the Age of Enlightenment that I observe. From a global perspective we need psychologists who can minister to the many hundreds of millions of children and others who have been traumatized by unfathomable abuses in undeveloped countries, more than "shrinks" who are paid to listen to the well-off complaining of broken marriages and fathers who played too much golf in their formative years.

3. Self-policing mechanisms: "social compacts" and ombudsmen. In Europe it is quite common to have students as early as kindergarten set their own rules for decorum including a mechanism for enforcement. Since eighty-one percent of all high school students report harassment from fellow students in grade school, this is a no-cost solution to a problem that can cause lasting scars.

Approximately one-third of all high school students engage in charitable work, and their grades are higher than those who do not, even though they have to make up the time they lose from performing charity work to study.

Howard Dean misses an opportunity when he does not remind people of his great success in Vermont where social workers visit poor families after the birth of a baby to see if help is needed. Child-raising study ought to be a requirement for getting a marriage license if the couple is of child-bearing age.

Every organization ought to be required to have an ombudsman to listen to complaints and try to resolve disputes. This includes large and small businesses and non-profits, such as a condominiums; every place where people interact in a significant way. An ombudsman brings the beauty of justice to every day activities and averts one person's apocalypse. Also, the cost involved in having ombudsmen is justified for a practical reason - the American legal system is unavailable to most Americans due to the cost of litigation.

Whistle-blowers need a safe place to deliver their messages -- the ombudsman. It came a little late in Congress but Capital Hill pages now have an ombudsman.

We need to foster empathy. Power and money still corrupt, as do having peers with poor values. Societies regress when dishonesty pays. We have the power to hurt each other when our animal instincts over-run our moral principles, when we do not care if we bring great distress to others.

4. Dynamic Economic Solutions. We need to treat people as people, not as statistics. Alan Greenspan used to say that an increase in unemployment was good for the U.S. economy because it kept down inflation -- other U.S. Federal Reserve policy-makers have agreed. As long as they are not one of the statistics, they do not care.

The Global Goals Institute opposed the Fed's interest rate increases in 2001, predicting that it would result in a recession -- which it did. It is a shame because it results from mistaken notions about inflation -- which is exaggerated in importance (and often overstated) -- and productivity gains that are clearly understated, as any person who lived in pre-computer, and especially pre-internet, times can attest. It is incomprehensible to me that we cannot afford full-steam-ahead for the economy when the internet has created so much price competition and computers so increased our productivity.

Our number one economic concern should be to foster innovation. We are in more than a high-tech era; it is a *hyper-tech* era where scientific discovery advances with a tipping point fever, especially through the sharing of knowledge on the internet.

We need to increase global wealth as much as possible and innovation in science and business is the ticket to that destination. Schools must teach innovation, businesses foster it and governments reward it.

The great equalizer, stock options, which made millions of employees also owners of the company they work for, should not be closed down by a wicked combination of their boss's excesses, new accounting policies mistakenly requiring "expensing" of this proprietary stake in a company; and a financial press which largely does not understand this issue. Stock options are viewed as important incentives in China.

5. Futurism. Sophisticated decision-making begins with assessments of the future. Since 1970 there has been a discipline known as futurism but few in government have employed it.

Alvin Toffler, author of "Future Shock," was the first futurist with a popular following. Seldom have our political leaders consulted their thinking; Toffler's friendship with House leader Newt Gingrich being the exception that proves the rule.

Too much thinking is based on the past. I have been disposed to look to the future. In 1990, I predicted that the nations of the

world would come together to fight the new threat: terrorism. Unfortunately they did not until it was too late. In my reaction to 9/11, I wrote that a greater concern for the poor of the world might have provided information that would have warned us of the attack on America.

I also predicted the "immortality movement" in that same 1990 article; but actually I saw the future back in the 1960s, which was confirmed by Robert Ettinger's "The Prospect of Immortality." Many people now believe that if you live for another twenty years you might make it another twenty, and then another twenty, and eventually everything will be known about your body and you will experience physical immortality.

Futurism is a function of extrapolation -- anticipating the future by understanding and extending incipient trends. FM-2030 predicted in his 1969 book *Optimism One* that we would be working from home connected to computers, and in his 1975 book *Telespheres* he said we would be doing much of our business in this manner; and we both predicted the biotech revolution forty years ago.

My colleague at The Global Goals Institute, Dr. Christian Kling, has recommended a course for federal officials on various topics needed for decision-making before taking office. We should all have been able to attend schools that taught the present and how to extrapolate the future, not just teaching the past, the far past, for the past's sake. How about reversing the chronological order of study, from the present to the past; and if the civics class does not make it back to the caveman by summer break, too bad!

There may be hope for Washington now as the new Democratic party majority leader, Senator Harry Reid, vows: "the country must run on a visionary basis; not where we were."

Conclusion:

In the end, innovative solutions to the world's challenges may get us to the Twenty-second Century. In just the early Fall of 2006 many good works with enormous benefit have been announced in areas we have identified above:

1. Activist philanthropy: (a) After giving away 85% of his wealth (\$31 billion) earlier in the year to the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation because he believes they can best prioritize world needs, Warren Buffet donated \$50 million to a uranium "fuel bank" which makes uranium available to countries for their electricity needs, so that they will not have to develop uranium that could be used in nuclear weapons; (b) Paul Allen, Larry King and other business people and entertainment figures have put up a \$10 million prize for the group that finds the fastest way to code our genes; (c) the U.S. non-profit organization, One Laptop Per Child, arranged to deliver their inexpensive, educational laptop to all 1.2 million children in Libya by 2008 -- eventually the \$100

computer can be in the hands of every child everywhere; (4) Bono and Rob Schriver had a massive public relations, advertising and distribution launch of "product red" clothing, credit cards and other items, with the proceeds going to pay drugs for sufferers in Africa at Clinton-negotiated discount prices; and, (5) *The Wall Street Journal* reported that many philanthropists are viewing world hunger as a more immediately compelling recipient of their gifts than the arts.

2. Entrepreneurship: (a) Mohammed Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize for developing the concept of micro-loans and he wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* that the victims of the Katrina hurricane should be provided with micro-loans, pointing out that it is easier to get that entrepreneurial help in Bangladesh than in the U.S.; and, (b) Charles River Ventures became the first large venture capital firm to offer loans to small business entrepreneurs, reversing a trend of v/c firms engaging in only large private equity transactions.

3. Environmental concerns: (a) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did cost-benefit analysis weighing the \$1.9 billion cost to clean small particles from the air against 24,000 lives saved and as much as a \$50 billion annual cost savings in health and related costs; (b) new rules went into effect that cut 97% of emissions from diesel oil for cars; and, (c) China released the results of a two-year "green accounting" study showing that something must be done about its pollution, the cost of which could cut China's economic growth from 10% to 7%.

4. Positive foreign policies: There is new evidence that George W. Bush may try diplomacy in the last two years of his presidency. Advisor James Baker III says he believes "in talking to your enemies" and *The Wall Street Journal* ran an op-ed piece calling for an embassy in every country, even those of our enemies. I can envision the president sending Baker or Rice to one of the "evil" countries, the way Henry Kissinger paved the way for Richard Nixon to go to China. Then the president will be using the folksy, forthright charm that won him the office in the first place and he may come to heed the advice of another Republican, Abraham Lincoln, who when asked after becoming president what he would do about his enemies, answered: "I am going to destroy them; I will make them my friends." Alternatively, he can think of John Kennedy who said, "We must never negotiate out of fear; nor fear to negotiate."

5. Moral behavior: Colleges are reported to have established decorum guidelines for their athletes in the aftermath of the Duke lacrosse partying experience, which ought to be extended to all students. In Washington D.C the National Memorial Holocaust Museum projects on its building's outside walls grim pictures from Darfur to help muster support for action to stop the genocide, a tragedy some of the museum's supporters would have said were far different from the one depicted inside the building.

My survey of the nation and world arrives at two major imperatives beyond the fantastic progress already being made in the Age of Enlightenment:

1. Increase global wealth. Money cures almost all ills; while the absence of money is a precursor of disaster. According to Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University extreme poverty is only a \$150 billion dollar a year problem. Dropping all agricultural subsidies would have that effect, but it has been rejected and there is no evidence that the world will provide that degree of aid. If North Korea had the infrastructure to make flat screen televisions instead of weapons it would. We need to take global wealth to a new level and find a global constituency for ending global agricultural subsidies.

There is a correlation between a country's economic prosperity and its adoption of the "rule of law," its educational system and the availability of capital, especially for innovation. Groups like the Club of Madrid bring present world leaders together to focus on improving all these issues.

While the world waits for adoption of Hernando De Soto's idea of giving property rights to the poor, companies could make their infrastructure of real estate and computers available for use in the evenings for instruction and other applications.

Governments need to encourage free-market solutions, the best source for global change because they are no-cost, sustainable and dynamic: (a) I recommended years ago that the world-wide water shortage can best be attacked by a consortium of private companies that develop distillation equipment because international organizations neither have the ability to pay the ten billion dollar a year tab or the clout to get nations to ante-up; (b) Solar energy and ethanol are two great examples of win-win-win free-market solutions to global crises; and (c) Intel and other technology firms bring computers and the internet to rural health clinics and schools in China, India and underdeveloped countries to do good and also for "wooing the next billion customers."

A new breed of government "investment bankers" need to develop better financial tools to fight global poverty, such as debt instruments with protection for the country if the economy does not perform but "equity kickers" if it does; micro-lending funds that provide a decent return to investors, such as the Orchard Fund of Basel, Switzerland; and, "social responsible" funds which give higher valuations to firms that "do good."

The world is clearly interconnected, interdependent and in Tom Friedman's vernacular, "flat." Clinton has said that the world is being shaped by the two biggest developments of our time: the spread of democracy and the formation of NGOs -- non-governmental organizations. Much can be accomplished by governments, NGOs and businesses working together.

2. Prioritize and goal-storm. Individual governments and international collaborations need to function like businesses with cost-benefit analysis conducted before decisions are made. Goal-storming opens the possible areas of challenges and solutions.

Goals have to include the needs of the have-nots for both moral and practical reasons. This requires an informed and sympathetic constituency.

People who have the answers must be listened to, such as those who told Condoleezza Rice about the imminent attack on America, and Colin Powell and Pakistan President Musharraf who warned that invading Iraq would destabilize the Middle-east. Ambassador Mark Palmer's book on "How to Rid the World of the 45 Remaining Dictators by 2015" provides that kind of expertise.

Governments and all organizations cannot prioritize when they are corrupt. Corruption is antithetical to meritocracy, democracy and even theocracy if that is what you want.

So, will the "Age of Enlightenment" mollify or eradicate an apocalypse? Former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev has said the only difference between an optimist and a pessimist is that the optimist does something about the problem. Since the only path to survival that I can see is down the road to enlightenment let us proceed. As the song goes, "What use is sitting alone in your room; come to the cabaret."

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