

Battle for the Biosphere



“There exists exactly one biosphere”

To “save” the biosphere the worldwide Environmental Organizations must coalesce into a potent social/political (even religious?) force.

Despite knowing the consequences, despite knowing the solutions; we deliberately, consciously continue to degrade the biosphere, and therefore ourselves.

Why?

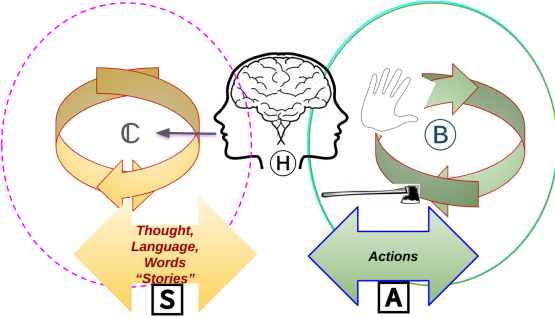
Because we are in thrall to an entity bigger, smarter and more ruthless than any of us - essentially our society. And society is what we need to change.

To justify these beliefs through words is difficult. Any “story” uses words that reflect the society in which we live. [Words](#) mean what we want them to mean.

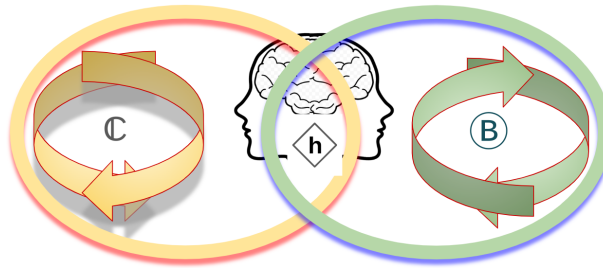
To overcome those hurdles I have tried to use a shorthand - vaguely based on mathematical symbols. But - not to worry! There is no math involved and the approach may add clarity and remove raw emotion from what is probably the most emotional issue we humans have ever faced

Here then is the “Battle for the Biosphere”, a short story told in symbols, images - and words:

BASIC DEFINITIONS

$\exists ! \textcircled{B}$	There exists (\exists) exactly one (!) <u>BIOSPHERE</u> (“ \textcircled{B} ”)
$\exists ! \textcircled{H}$	There exists exactly one HUMANITY (“ \textcircled{H} ”)
$\textcircled{H} \subset \textcircled{B}$	Humanity is a subset (\subset) of the biosphere [BUT - we must not fall into the trap of thinking the Biosphere is in any way concerned about Humanity. It cares about us as much as it cared for the trilobites, dinosaurs or indigenous Tasmanians]
$\exists \textcircled{C}$	There exists an <u>ephemeral construct</u> , “ \textcircled{C} ”, of human imaginings: <i>Civilisation, Society, Culture, Politics, Religions, History, Arts, Science, Philosophy, Music, Poetry, Mathematics, Ethics, Nations, Sects, Clans, Cartels, Cabals, Castes, Parties, NGOs, Unions, The Economy, The Media, Freedom, Pride, Grief, Happyness...</i> [I am aware of the hubris calling all this “ \textcircled{C} ”. The use of a single symbol is to make a clear distinction between this unbounded “universe” of the human imagination and the bounded physical reality of \textcircled{B}]
$\textcircled{C} \subset \textcircled{H}$	\textcircled{C} is a subset of \textcircled{H} ∴ (therefore) If no \textcircled{H} then no \textcircled{C}
$\textcircled{C} \leftrightarrow \boxed{S} \leftrightarrow \textcircled{H} \leftrightarrow \boxed{A} \leftrightarrow \textcircled{B}$	Humanity interacts with \textcircled{C} and \textcircled{B} We interact with \textcircled{C} through STORIES \boxed{S} We interact with \textcircled{B} through ACTIONS \boxed{A} [There is no direct link between \boxed{S} and \textcircled{B} - Stories don't change the biosphere, Actions do. The idea of “Nation” for example, does nothing to change \textcircled{B} . It is only if the “story” of Nation is accepted and acted on by humans that there is change in \textcircled{B} . (e.g. Story: “It is in the interest of the nation to divert this river” Action: Humans build a dam)] 
$\Delta \textcircled{C} \leftrightarrow \boxed{S} \leftrightarrow \Delta \textcircled{H} \leftrightarrow \boxed{A} \leftrightarrow \Delta \textcircled{B}$	Changes in \textcircled{C} cause changes in \textcircled{H} , cause changes in \textcircled{B} and vice versa

The individual (h) belongs to $(\in) \textcircled{H}$, and is in the intersection of \textcircled{C} and \textcircled{B} ($\textcircled{C} \cap \textcircled{B}$)



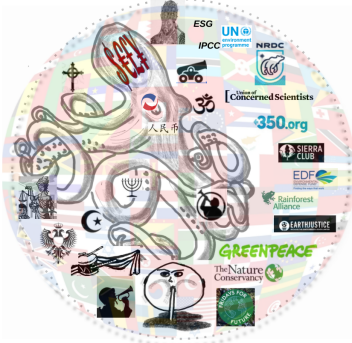
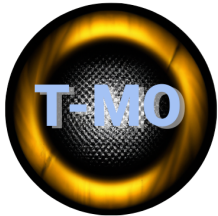
$h \in \textcircled{H}, h \in (\textcircled{C} \cap \textcircled{B})$

The \textcircled{B} part of h is bound by the “laws” of \textcircled{B} . It is consistent and bounded.

In contrast, h can hold unbounded and inconsistent ideas within \textcircled{C} . Any h can belong to multiple subsets of \textcircled{C} at the same time.

The individual ***h*** ***decides which ideas to turn into actions*** - but those decision are overwhelmingly influenced by stories from the forces dominant within each individuals' part of \textcircled{C} .
- Which leads to the next section.

META ENTITIES, META CREATURES (*T-MO* and *B-HU*)

<p>$\exists M, M \in \mathbb{C}$</p>	<p>There exist groups of ideas within \mathbb{C} that we can call Meta Entities and abbreviate as “M”.</p>  <p>An M consists of humans who believe and act on similar ideas. [To be more concise an M consists of the \mathbb{C} part of individual humans who accept and act on similar stories. But I think I can get away with these slips in logic]</p> <p>Some Ms actively work towards a future \mathbb{B} that is benign for \mathbb{H}. I will call these “Environmental Organizations” and abbreviate as “EO”</p> <p>Many Ms’ have goals that do not value a benign \mathbb{B}, they generate Stories that lead to damaging Actions. [my apologies to the real octopuses]</p>
<p>\exists “T-MO”</p>	 <p>There exists (at least one) “Super Meta Entity” which I abbreviate as “T-MO” (<i>Technology and Money</i>). It is a complex network of Ms’. It controls the lives of most humans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T-MO is based on beliefs of a global economy and supported by ancient ideas, such as ancient philosophy and religions • T-MO views \mathbb{B} as subservient to \mathbb{H}; to be used for material gain and continual growth. • T-MO dominates the Stories \mathbb{S} all of us receive. • T-MO has “evolved” over time and will continue to evolve, probably beyond human control. It is itself simply an imaginary construct, but for purposes of this story let’s call it a “Meta Creature”. • T-MO will use all possible means to ensure its continued existence and growth. • T-MO does not necessarily have the welfare , or existence, of \mathbb{H} as a primary goal

I assert (†) there does NOT exist an effective “Meta Creature” to counter T-MO.

That assertion is open to argument. Networks of Environmental Organizations clearly do exist. However the stories told by the current EOs, in total, simply do not generate the required actions - emissions are still rising, pollution is not under control and political actions around the world are in direct opposition to the needs of a human-friendly biosphere.

I posit that creation of an effective counter to T-MO is necessary. I abbreviate this (imaginary) entity as “B-HU” (*Biosphere and Humanity*)

†‡ **B-HU**



How could B-HU be created? Does it need “creation”? Won’t it evolve, just like T-MO?

It probably will evolve, but likely far too slow to prevent major, irreversible losses. Arguably we have already passed some tipping points.

[Creating B-HU may well be impossible, but the effort of trying to do so will, in itself, be a major step toward halting the degradation of
Ⓟ]

B-HU. HOW?

<p>B-HU= Σ (EO)</p>	<p>How could B-HU be created?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a union of the environmentally active Ms (EOs). • Invite like minded individuals to join • Use the proven structures and methods of T-MO to build a viable B-HU • First Step: Convene leaders of current EOs to identify and invite others, then set out a roadmap of work to be done
<p>B-HU - WHAT ?</p>	<p>What will B-HU look like? What questions / hurdles will it face?</p> <p>Some suggested headings follow. More detail is in the "Notes" section - which is very much a work in progress.</p> <p>Where possible we shamelessly copy the successful parts of T-MO, while discarding those contrary to our ethics and leading to further degradation of the biosphere. Is that even possible? We won't know until we try.</p>
	<p>VISION and GOALS A network - unified and flexible, global and local, political and ethical - whose main goal is to effectively counter T-MO and halt the degradation of Ⓟ</p> <p>STRUCTURE A mixture of a multinational corporation, a government and an organized religion</p> <p>MARKETING You have the unique opportunity to be part of an enlightenment movement unlike any in human history.</p> <p>FINANCE Where's the money? I have no good answers.</p> <p>POLITICS Politics is power. Voting is power.</p> <p>RELIGION Religions offer examples of international, inclusive, timeless organizations.</p> <p>VIOLENCE T-MO uses violence routinely. Can B-HU be non-violent?</p> <p>POPULATION Will the inevitable slowdown and reversal be painful, disruptive and violent or will it be just, equal and welcomed.</p> <p>TIME Time is of the essence, but what is it anyhow?</p> <p>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Red herring or game changer? We know T-MO will use it. B-HU must as well.</p>



*The biosphere is profoundly indifferent to humans. It is beyond indifferent. It just is.
But, just for fun;
Pretend the biosphere actually **did care** for humanity. What would she have us do?*

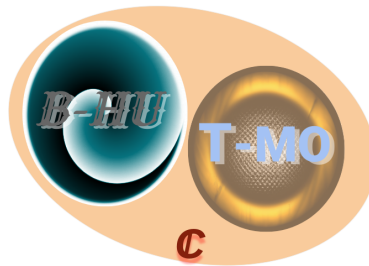
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Unify the many environmentally active groups and individuals world-wide into a global force akin to a fervent political, even religious, movement - urgently

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Conclusion:

The “Battle for The Biosphere” does not take place in \textcircled{B} . It is a super-human, “meta-creature” struggle between B-HU and T-MO for control of \textcircled{C}



The outcome is critical for all humans, because, while Civilisation will not exist without Humanity, neither will Humanity survive in a Civilisation denying the reality of \textcircled{B}

NOTES ...

This section is to add some detail to the basic story above. Each section is extremely sparse compared to the vast knowledge available elsewhere. Also, under each heading, there are new, relevant stories published so frequently that none of us can stay ahead of the flood. At best, these notes are a grainy personal snapshot and a basis for further work.

“T-MO” and “B-HU”

These two mystical creatures are just imaginary constructs. In line with the tone of this story I want them to be just symbols. It is tempting to give them human characteristics; after all they live in the minds of humans, are controlled by human thought and so forth. But I think we get more benefit by thinking of them as non-human, or super-human, creatures when we try to understand their motives.

So;

T-MO - TEchnology, MOney, western Philosophy, Nationalism, plutography...

B-HU - Biosphere, HUmanity, democracy, respect for all living things...

[If you pronounce them fast enough in English they soon lose all meaning - teemoh, teemoh, teemoh, beewho, beewho, beewho? Which is sort of the point, they are things beyond us]

B-HU *DOES NOT EXIST (YET)*

I greatly respect and admire the organizations and individuals that have battled for us all over the decades. But they are, not yet, a cohesive force. While I may not agree with some of the details in the article below it does reflect the issue.

“...[climate tribalism only helps the deniers](#). From nuclear power to electric vehicles, battles between activists risk getting in the way of reducing emissions” / Dr Hannah Ritchie, lead researcher at [Our World in Data](#).

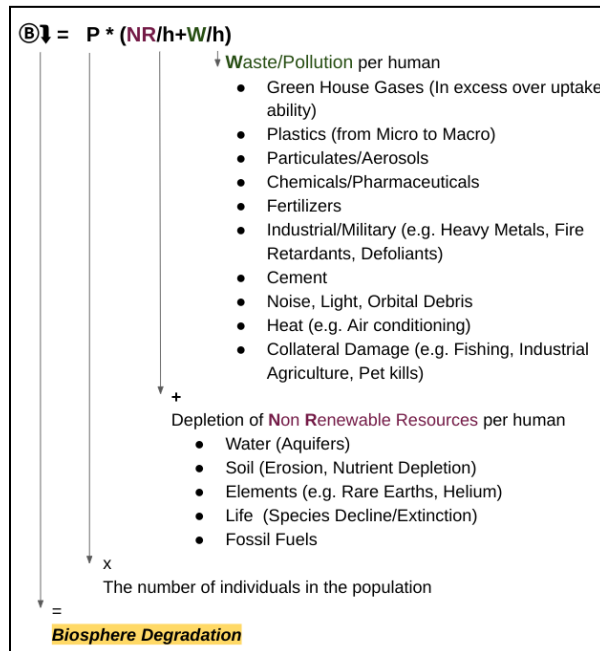
And [this article from Greenpeace](#) shows the relative youth of the Environmental Movement:

“Perhaps the first real environmental activists were the Bishnoi Hindus of Khejarli, who were slaughtered by the Maharaja of Jodhpur in **1720** for attempting to protect the forest that he felled to build himself a palace.”

[Note: They were slaughtered. “The more things change, the more they stay the same”]

DEGRADATION OF THE BIOSPHERE

Any reader who proceeds this far into the story really needs no further convincing that we, humans, are degrading the biosphere. Further, we are continuing this degradation despite the inevitable consequences. So, only for completeness, here is a simple diagram of what I mean by degradation and then some observations that strike me as particularly relevant:



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“Broadcaster and conservationist [Chris Packham](#) has claimed that David Attenborough’s Cop 26 speech had no impact. The Planet Earth creator was lauded for his 2021 address at the Glasgow climate summit, in which he urged an audience including US President Joe Biden to commit to holding global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels...However, Packham claims that politicians’ total failure to take the broadcaster’s words on board meant they had no impact. / [The Guardian 21 Sep 2023](#)

▶

“Humanity has ‘opened gates to hell’ by letting the climate crisis worsen, UN secretary warns. Antonio Guterres opened United Nations climate ambition summit with attack on wealthy countries and the fossil fuel industry”. / [The Guardian 20 Sept 2023](#)

▶

“I also don’t think the world is going to deal with the climate crisis. We’ve known, since the 2016 Paris agreement and before, that the U.S. had to cut our emissions in half by 2030. That’s not going to happen.” / [Daniel Elsberg interview](#)

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/ [The First Dog on the Moon 14 Apr 2023](#)

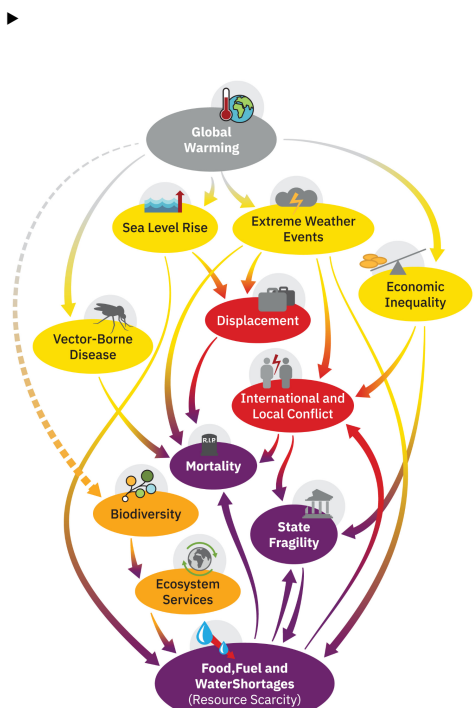
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 "... the revolt against environmental collapse is a revolt against the entire system. To prevent the destruction of the habitable planet, every aspect of our economic lives has to change." / [George Monbiot](#):

►
 In one of the most liberal, environmentally aware towns in the US the [gas street lights](#) run 24/7. There are on-going road closures to upgrade the natural gas supply lines, locking that fuel into the infrastructure for at least another 35 years., There is no comparable work on EV charging stations or improvements to the grid. / Axel Dougan [The lights are quite atmospheric - I'll admit that]



Meanwhile, elsewhere, infrastructure is dire:
 / [Environmental Photography Awards 3 Jul 2023](#)

►
 "Across nearly 8,000 pages, the [IPCC AR6](#) details the devastating consequences of rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions around the world — the destruction of homes, the loss of livelihoods and the fragmentation of communities, for example — as well as the increasingly dangerous and irreversible risks should we fail to change course." [and yet the IPCC report disappeared from public view in a matter of days] / [World Resources Institute](#)



The risks are immense: [Climate endgame: risk of human extinction 'dangerously underexplored'](#)

[Note; the diagram does not include pollution and exhaustion of resources unrelated to global warming. e.g. Overfishing, endangerment of species for "vanity" purposes - rhino, elephant, pangolin ...]

►

“... in the year 2020 (± 6), the anthropogenic mass, which has recently doubled roughly every 20 years, will surpass all global living biomass. On average, for each person on the globe, anthropogenic mass equal to more than his or her bodyweight is produced every week” - [Elhacham et al in Nature](#)
Roughly half of this human produced mass is concrete. [An article reviewing the Elacham paper](#) and going further into the effects of concrete estimates that **“concrete alone will exceed the total weight of all biomass sometime around 2040”**.

[Of course words are flexible (see [Words](#)), so listing concrete under the heading of “degradation” may well be defined as “progress” by others.]

►

Forests Are No Longer Our Climate Friends. “Every year since 2001, Canada’s forests have emitted more carbon than they’ve absorbed. That is the central finding of a distressing analysis published last month by Barry Saxifrage in Canada’s National Observer, ominously headlined “Our forests have reached a tipping point.”...In fact, Saxifrage suggests, the tipping point was passed two decades ago, when the country’s vast boreal forests, long a reliable “sink” for carbon, became instead a carbon “source.” / [NYT 6 Sept 2023](#)

►

China Is Flooding the World With Cars. “Even as China’s other exports falter, its carmakers are seeing big increases in overseas sales, **mainly for gasoline-powered models**”
[Like most biosphere/humanity stories this is complex and another example of the influence of T-MO on our actions. In what appears to be contrary to common sense, Chinese buyers now favor EVs, while western buyers like the relatively cheap Chinese ICE models.] / [NYT 6 Sept 2023](#)

►

We know the answers - we just don’t like them / Axel Dougan

WORDS

“When I use a word,’ Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, ‘it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less.’

‘The question is,’ said Alice, ‘whether you can make words mean so many different things.’

‘The question is,’ said Humpty Dumpty, ‘**which is to be master — that’s all.**’”

/ Lewis Carroll, [Through the Looking Glass](#)



“To ravage, to slaughter, to usurp and this they falsely name Empire and where they make a desert, they call it peace” / [Tacitus](#)

[In a more modern context consider “freedom”, “woke”, “right”, “globalist”, “clean ...”, “progress”, “security”... let alone the political labels we love to throw at each other.]



And parse this carefully crafted gem:

“An unelected cabal of global elites are using ESG, a woke economic strategy, to hijack our capitalist system.” / [WP 12 May 2023](#)

[Almost every word is full of hidden meaning, a call to the faithful. A clear warning to the “enemy”; i.e. us (or B-HU?). Then again; I quite like it. With a little alteration this is exactly what we should be doing.]



“As heat records break, the climate movement has the right answers – but the words are all wrong” / [Jonathan Freedland](#)



And to make matters worse we invent ever more words. That may be a requirement for communication among specialists. But stories featuring new words (e.g. [Solastalgia](#), [Ecomodernism](#)...) generate few, if any, positive actions. Worse, they reinforce the perception of ivory tower elitism held by many environmental skeptics.

[I use symbols in this story to remove some of the confusion and emotion inherent in words. I am uncomfortably aware that the use of symbols could be interpreted as just another instance of elitism.]

∃!ⓑ

ⓑ - For purposes of this discussion I expand the usual definition of “**biosphere**” to include everything where humans, or living earth organisms, exist - from deep mines to low earth orbits.

I also include the energy we receive from the sun and other interactions with the Universe as a whole; e.g. meteorites coming in, gasses boiling out.

[To be pedantic; There exists a physical reality, call it ⓐ. Within ⓐ are lots of interesting things like matter, antimatter, dark matter, energy, galaxies, stars, radiation, black holes and so forth. The biosphere is a subset of the universe; ⓑ ⊂ ⓐ]

The biosphere is profoundly indifferent to humans. It is beyond indifferent. It just is.

It does not care if we explode nuclear weapons, concrete over forests, exterminate species and pollute from the deepest ocean to outer space.

It is this indifference that leads us to use words like Mother Nature, [Sister Earth](#), [Gaia](#). They allow us to pretend that somehow there is a concern for us. It is why we invented gods and an afterlife. Or, if we are an [astrophysicist](#), [why we speculate on life and the values of physical constants](#).

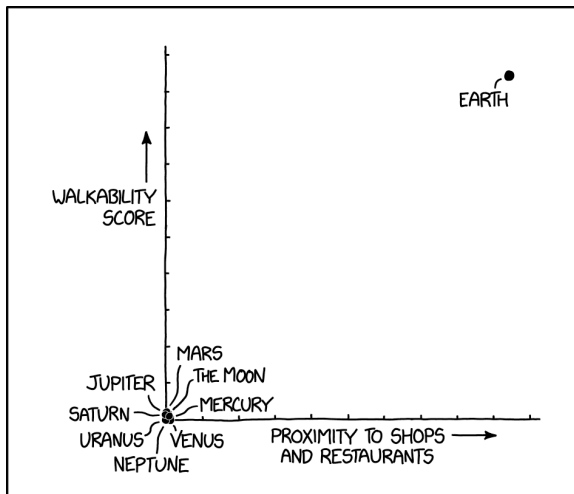
Our actions cause responding actions from the biosphere which we experience physically. The biosphere does not care if those responses make us happy or if they cause us pain. It does not care if a response makes us whole and conscious or if it reduces us to constituent molecules.

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∃ - I guess we can agree it exists ?

▶

! - exactly one ? As far as I know. Unless we take a capsule of biosphere with us (at huge costs in resources and energy) everything else in the universe will kill us ([e.g. Mars](#)).



/ [xkcd#2796](#)

AFTER DOING A REAL ESTATE ANALYSIS,
I GET WHY THIS PLACE IS SO POPULAR.

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BUT, but, what about “**There is no planet B**” - isn’t that confusing? Yes, and I agree the Planet B slogan has been very successful. It is a great phrase to shout during protests.

∃ !Ⓟ is not shoutable. It is, however, a positive, rather than a negative. It is precise, symbolic and international. It consumes less ink or paint 😊

Anyhow, there are probably lots of Planets B Just not any that can sustain Ⓜ

∃ ©

Why call it © ?

Because there seems to be no single word to describe it. So...

Culture, Civilisation, Ceremony, Caste, Commerce, Cash, Clan, Cartel, Cabal, Class, Customs, Communication, Creativity, Colonization, Citizenship, Constitution, Capitalism, Consumption, Currency, Competition, Corporation, Company, Cause...

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C is the math symbol for the set of complex numbers ($a+ib$, where $i=\sqrt{-1}$). Also known as the “Imaginary” numbers. Infinite of course...

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“Ownership” is a key component of ©. Does that make sense? Can you own a piece of land, then destroy all living things on it? Can a nation own the oil below its ground? Can humans own other humans? Ⓟ has no concept of ownership

▶
© is unbounded and can embed totally opposing thoughts within the same h; e.g. “I hold all human life as sacred, I will kill any person who attacks me, my family or my property, I will go to war to defend my nation”. In contrast Ⓟ has no concept of any of these things, but is rigorously logical (within the bounds of our knowledge).

▶
[Yuval Harari](#) puts it better of course: “For thousands of years **we humans have lived inside the dreams of other humans**. We have worshiped gods, pursued ideals of beauty, and dedicated our lives to causes that originated in the imagination of some prophet, poet or politician. Soon we will also find ourselves living inside the hallucinations of non-human intelligence.”

▶
Why use © instead of ©, which I used in [earlier versions](#) of this story? - I want to contrast the limitless nature of © compared to the physical bounds around Ⓟ and Ⓜ. Also to avoid confusion with the copyright symbol.

Why no “!” symbol? - I can’t decide if there is exactly one of these things. Is there just one global C? Or is C in China, or Russia, or central Africa different enough to justify positing the existence of multiple C’s? Anyhow it makes no difference to the story; © rules us all.

ANCIENT IDEAS

“...much of western European philosophy, from ancient Greece to the present, has gone catastrophically wrong, pushing a worldview that justifies practices that will be seen in the future as unthinkable evil. Primary among these are the profit-driven rape and pillage of the planet, and the consequent immiseration of the people”

“We live at the end of a millennium-long experiment in thought and corresponding action. As the Earth's living systems unravel, as the world becomes biologically and economically impoverished, as men of immense wealth build bunkers or rocket ships to protect themselves from the disasters they have created, it is clear that this experiment in thought and action took the world in the wrong direction, leading to moral failings of jaw-dropping, world-threatening proportions. Western European philosophy got it horribly wrong. The world has a chance now – probably a last chance – to get it right.”

/ [Michael Paul Nelson - Kathleen Dean Moore](#)

T-MO - EVOLUTION

It seems intuitive to describe the adaptive capability of T-MO as “evolution”. In line with the ‘words mean anything we want them to’ approach, it’s a legitimate use.

The shorthand use of “T-MO” and “evolution” allows me to slot seemingly unrelated events into a coherent story. So the world-wide rise of political organizations that do not have the best interests of the majority of their countries' citizens at heart, is an outcome of the ongoing evolution of T-MO.

Examples abound and are exhaustively documented and discussed elsewhere. (Brexit, Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Hamas/Gaza, Realpolitik...)

We can also characterize the increasing legal violence and repression aimed at environmental activists as an evolutionary response by T-MO.

[Disaster Capitalism](#), with a recent example in Hawaii, is another story in the evolution of T-MO.

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The following is part of a ChatGPT interaction (July 2023) to bolster my use of “evolving meta creatures” as part of this story:

“The concept of a meta creature thinking in human minds can be understood as an emergent property arising from the interactions between individuals and groups within a society. In this context, the meta creature doesn't directly think in human minds but exists as a self-organizing pattern of behavior, communication, and emotional resonance that arises from the collective behavior of humans. **The meta creature is an abstract entity that emerges from the complex network of relationships, beliefs, and shared experiences among people.**”

In terms of evidence that could support the existence of a meta creature, the following aspects might be considered, especially within the framework of the Free Energy Principle (FEP) or similar theories:

Emergence in complex systems: The study of complex systems has shown that higher-order patterns can emerge from the interactions of lower-level components. In this case, the meta creature could be seen as an emergent

property of human societies, with its existence supported by the patterns of behavior and communication observed in social networks.

Synchronization and collective behavior: Research on synchronization and collective behavior in various biological systems (such as flocking birds or schooling fish) could provide insights into how large groups of individuals can give rise to coordinated behaviors that transcend the capabilities of any single individual. Similar principles could apply to the emergence of a meta creature from the interactions of humans within a society.

Cultural evolution: Theories of cultural evolution, which explore how ideas, beliefs, and behaviors spread and change within human populations, could provide a framework for understanding how the meta creature might adapt and evolve over time. This would involve the transmission and selection of cultural traits that contribute to the emergence and maintenance of the meta creature.

Neural correlates of social cognition: Research in neuroscience and psychology has revealed that human brains are highly attuned to social cues and are capable of representing the mental states of others. This social cognition could form the basis for the emergence of the meta creature, as individuals in a society continuously update their beliefs and behaviors based on the actions and intentions of others.

B-HU - VISION and GOALS

My vision is limited (see [Personal Note](#) below).

It is therefore foolish for me to try and suggest a Vision for B-HU. It needs to come from B-HU itself. The setting of the Vision and Goals will happen in parallel to the creation of B-HU. Then, as B-HU evolves, it will set its own goals. Our responsibility is to define the most basic limits (like [non-violence](#)) and then not get in the way.

Given these disclaimers I visualize a network - unified and flexible, global and local, political and ethical - whose main goal is to effectively counter T-MO.

And another caveat; Once started, the process of creating B-HU will become self-sustaining. That may not be along the lines envisaged by the original founders ... [The road to hell]

B-HU - STRUCTURE

I see this as a mixture of a multinational corporation, a government and an organized religion. Clearly that is just a phantasm. But just as clearly it is what is required to succeed.

We need to be coordinated on the same factors as T-MO. So I see “Departments”, “Geographies*”, “Partners” and a “Management” structure.

[*Geographies: Let’s just be clear; without international involvement, specially China, India, Africa, Russia, the Middle East and South America we will not achieve our goals)

Who can possibly lead this? Probably easier to list who can not / should not; Old white men, Politicians, Monarchs, Religious leaders, Corporate chiefs - in short anyone who has profited unduly from the largesse handed out by T-MO.

OR, more likely, there will be no single leader. B-HU will lead itself, selecting individuals where, when and in what sphere of influence they are needed.

Governance - a “corporate” board? [which brings me to a possible B-HU goal; that larger corporations must have a “Humanity” board member, much as some European boards must include a workers representative]

The UN could be proposed as a role model. I see parts of the UN as partners; components of B-HU. But the governance by nations restricts what the UN can actually achieve.

A major benefit of a B-HU organization will be the combination of global AND local action. Communication of what works and what does not. Mutual support across disciplines (science and technology, law, marketing, finance) and, probably more important, across boundaries defined by © such as nation, race, religion and social/financial status.

B-HU needs to formalize support for local groups. T-MO does not formalize because the support (or antipathy) is already embedded in the economic system, within the structure of ©.

B-HU - MARKETING

Marketing is always linked to sales. What is it we are trying to sell? And how do we market it? The biggest hurdle the B-HU Marketing Department will face is that © is brilliant at marketing. Opinions vary and research methods differ but a person in the USA receives between a few hundred and [several thousand](#) advertising messages every day. And what do those messages want us to do? They want us to buy something and feed T-MO. We want them to stop feeding T-MO and concentrate on B-HU.

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‘Christiana Figueres, former executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, who now hosts the aptly named [Outrage + Optimism podcast](#), admits that the climate community has recoiled from marketing, which it regarded as “sort of tainted. It’s icky. You know, ‘We’re too good for marketing. We’re too righteous’... hopefully we’re getting over it.” / [Guardian 14 Jun 2023](#)

B-HU should copy the best marketing practices of T-MO, but not fall into the trap of adopting T-MO solutions.

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B-HU needs to:

- Lead with a clear unifying message - ([Vision and Goals](#) above)
 - Provide a rallying symbol - “ ∃ !Ⓟ “ (?) - and use this one symbol “everywhere”.
 - Use all the proven methods; fife and drum, flags and fancy hats, music, advertising, influencers...
 - Uncomplicate things
 - Tell the “**Truth**”;
- WE CAN DO IT. It will be a battle, but one we have to win. And it will mean significant life

changes - especially in the developed world. **The marketing challenge is to promote this as a unique opportunity to be part of an enlightenment movement unlike any in human history.**

- PERSONAL ACTIONS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

- That hardly sounds like a great marketing message. But B-HU must get the message across that the effort needed is way larger than the small changes that people in developed countries are currently encouraged, and are willing, to make at the moment.
- Recycle - good, but not enough. Need: A total rethink of the production and distribution system to drastically reduce single use material. Manufacturers to be responsible for the return of packaging.
- EV's - good, but not enough. Need: less driving, more/better public transport and all the attendant infrastructure (like public toilets, bus shelters, safe subway platforms, bike and wheelchair access...)
- Insulate and weather-proof your house - good but not enough. Need: Housing appropriate to our needs, not our inflated wants (which are inflated by T-MO for profit reasons). Smaller houses, multi-generational housing, multi-family housing...



- Instal high efficiency appliances - good, but nowhere near enough. [And the installation of high efficiency natural gas appliances practically guarantees use of this fossil fuel for the next 25+ years]. Need: Ground and air source heat pumps, fed by “clean” electricity. Simpler approaches - a “Hills Hoist” clothes dryer in every backyard?

- Solar panels - good, but not enough. Need: use less electricity, improve the grid...
- Plant trees - good, but it needs billions of trees to make a difference. And even then are trees enough? [Can Planting a Trillion New Trees Save the World? To fight climate change, companies and nonprofits have been promoting worldwide planting campaigns. Getting to a trillion is easier said than done. / [NYT 13 Jul 2022](#)] and “The illusion of a trillion trees” / [Financial Times 12 Apr 2023](#)]

- TECHNOLOGY IS NOT THE ANSWER

- Technology will be a major part of the answer, but not until more fundamental changes are also in place.
- Future technologies (e.g. fusion energy, direct carbon capture, geo-engineering) are exciting and well worth the investments in research. But we must not delay other immediate measures while waiting for them to become viable. And each of these promised technologies carries the risk of serious negative consequences.

- MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER

- Money will need to flow in different directions
- 2% of GDP will not solve GHG emissions - but it will sure help
- Accounting tricks do not solve anything

B-HU - FINANCE

Access to adequate finance can only come through access to the tax base - via Politics

Environmental organizations will need to pool their resources. The current system of each organization soliciting funding is inadequate and inefficient.

[My personal dislike for the subject of Finance is clearly on display right here. I am sure there are many others able to tackle this topic]

B-HU - POLITICS

Much as we would like it to be otherwise; politics is almost everything. Politics is power. In a democratic system voting is power.



/ Isaac Cordal, Installation; "Follow The Leaders"

[Question: Why are we not doing what is required?] "The answer is power: the power of a few to countermand the interests of humanity. The struggle to avert systemic failure is the struggle between [democracy and plutocracy](#)"

"With our food systems on the verge of collapse, it's [the plutocrats v. life on Earth](#)"

►

"...the pollution paradox, ... [is] essential to understanding modern politics. The most damaging companies have the greatest incentive to invest money in politics (by making donations to political parties, funding lobbyists and junktanks, hiring troll farms and microtargeters and all the other overt or covert techniques). So politics, in our money-driven system, comes to be dominated by the most damaging companies.

Sunak, Trump and many others like them are not just desperate politicians who will try anything to retain or regain power (though they are that). Nor are they simply representatives of capital. They are representatives of the dirtiest, most destructive varieties of capital, the varieties engaged in a war against humanity. In the [conflict between the two existential crises](#), they know which side they're on." / [George Monbiot](#)

►

The following quote from a generally positive article illustrates the political dangers in the US.

"The scale of change required to remake the systems that power the United States — all the infrastructure that needs to be removed, re-engineered and replaced — is mind-boggling. There are major challenges involved in adding large amounts of renewable energy to antiquated electric grids and mining enough minerals for clean technologies. Some politicians, including most Republicans, want the country to continue burning fossil fuels, even in the face of overwhelming scientific consensus that their use is endangering life on the planet. Dozens of conservative groups organized by the Heritage Foundation have [created a policy playbook](#), should a Republican

win the 2024 presidential election, that would reverse course on lowering emissions. It would shred regulations designed to curb greenhouse gases, dismantle nearly every federal clean energy program and boost the production of fossil fuels.

And while energy systems are changing fast, so is the climate. It is far from certain whether the United States and other polluting countries will do what scientists say is required to avert catastrophe: stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by 2050. All of the investment so far has slowed the pace at which emissions are growing worldwide, but the amount of carbon dioxide pumped into the atmosphere is at record levels.” / [NYT 12 Aug 2023](#)

B-HU - RELIGION



Religions appear to offer examples of international, inclusive, timeless organizations. Organizations that are not necessarily focused on economic outcomes.

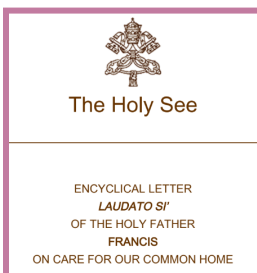
I predict that B-HU will, either by design or evolution, take on a quasi religious form. The creation myth being the recognition of $\exists ! \textcircled{B}$ along with the miracle of our ability to be conscious of this fact. The ongoing lead principle being the preservation of that biosphere for all humanity, now and into the future.



Eastern religions have long held views of the sacred nature of the biosphere. Just two small examples:



[Monks - Japan](#) and [Western Australia](#)



Among western religious leaders Pope Francis is probably the most widely recognized advocate for environmental action through his [2015 Laudato Si'](#) and his more recent statements urging the rich world to make profound changes to tackle the climate crisis. He also defended climate protesters and called on governments to make [Cop28](#) in Dubai a turning point.

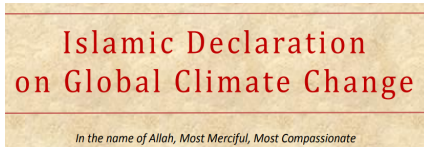
He called for “a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the western model”, but noted that he had faced opposition for his views. “[I have been] obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and

scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic church.”

He defended “the actions of groups negatively portrayed as ‘radicalised’ ... in reality, they are filling a space left empty by society as a whole, which ought to exercise a healthy ‘pressure’, since every family ought to realise that the future of their children is at stake.” / [Guardian 4 Oct 2023](#)



A [2021 joint statement](#) by Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Archbishop of Canterbury supports the Christian view of our responsibility.



The [2020 Islamic Declaration](#) on Global Climate Change calls "...on all Muslims wherever they may be...to tackle habits, mindsets, and the root causes of climate change, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity in their particular spheres of influence, following the example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), and bring about a resolution to the challenges that now face us."



"...Jewish environmental activists, educators, religious leaders, and theologians have placed clean water, nuclear waste, biological diversity, climate change, and sustainable development on the Jewish agenda. As a result of their efforts, the Jewish ideal of tikkun olam ("repair of the world"), the Jewish passion for justice, and the Jewish ethics of responsibility have been extended to the physical environment in an attempt to protect humans and other species from environmental degradation.

The Jewish environmental movement has ... made a cogent case that Judaism can inspire sound environmental policies and that Jewish religious life can be enriched through sensitivity to ecological concerns." / Nature in the Sources of Judaism, [Daedalus 2001](#)



"**Hindu** religion wants its followers to live a simple life.... Do not use anything belonging to nature, such as oil, coal, or forest, at a greater rate than you can replenish it. For example, do not destroy birds, fish, earthworms, and even bacteria which play vital ecological roles; once they are annihilated you cannot recreate them... Thus only can you avoid becoming bankrupt, and the life cycle can continue for a long, long time." / [Hindu Faith Statement](#)



I do not ignore the many other religions of indigenous peoples around the world that also have nature and humanity's place within that nature at the core of their beliefs. It is simply my ignorance that makes me hesitate to give specific examples here.

I also do not ignore the historic and current atrocities committed in the name of religion. But as cross national, cross generation, organization, religions, in their ideal form, can be seen as examples for human "improvement".

B-HU - VIOLENCE

T-MO routinely uses violence in the pursuit of its goals. Some is illegal, perpetrated for the gain of resources (agricultural land, timber, fish, traditional medicines, vanity items) . Much is governmental, therefore “legal”; Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Physical Confinement, Dispossession and Conscious Neglect.

B-HU cannot use illegal violence or conscious neglect. First because our vision, goals and ethics will not allow it, and second because such use will provoke a disproportionate response that will undo what has been achieved so far and delay any further progress.

However, given the history of humanity and the current state of animosity between so many factions I find it difficult to imagine a way to conserve ⑥ without control over structures of legal violence. How does B-HU gain such control? *By voting - see [Politics](#) above.*

We are all aware of the violence being used, the following are just some reminders:



“1733 land and environmental defenders were killed between 2012 and 2021” - [Global Witness](#)



Two operatives of the French foreign intelligence agency mined and sank the [Greenpeace ship “Rainbow Warrior”](#), at Auckland, New Zealand on 10 July 1985. She was on her way to a protest against a planned French nuclear test in Mururoa. Fernando Pereira, a **photographer, drowned** on the sinking ship.



“[Climate activist killed](#) in ‘Cop City’ protest sustained **57 gunshot wounds**, official autopsy says”

The story of Manuel Esteban Paez “Tortuguita” Terán is complex but illustrates the use of disproportionate, overwhelming, legal violence by T-Mo. As I understand it Terán was part of a protest against development of a large police/firefighting training facility (“Cop

City”) that, if it goes ahead, will cause environmental damage. He was in a tent and refused to move. Police shot a smoke, or gas, projectile into the tent. Terán fired a handgun injuring a police officer [I believe through the tent, without aiming. Although that really does not alter the fact]. Police responded with overwhelming fire into the tent.

The protest and the retaliation by the state continues. ‘Threatened and vulnerable’: Cop City activists labeled as terrorists pay high price

Protesters say classification as ‘domestic terrorists’ for opposing planned Georgia police facility has upended their lives / [Guardian 28 Aug 2023](#)

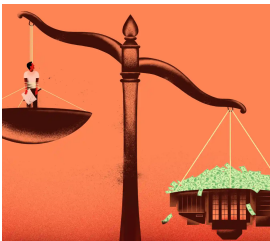
[The US state of Georgia filed] “... a case that is larger than any previous attempt to use a Rico, or racketeering law, against a protest movement. The use of Rico against the group – a set of laws developed for dealing with organized crime – has outraged civil liberties groups who see a deliberate effort to demonize legitimate protesters as domestic terrorists and suppress dissent.” / [Guardian 10 Nov 2023](#)

▶



Worldwide: **Arrests and Fines** for climate protesters

▶



Punishment without trial: Britain’s latest weapon in the war against dissent; Companies are taking out devastating ‘civil injunctions’ against climate activists – and making them pay the costs / [George Monbiot](#)

▶



[The tragedy of the Adriana](#); an example of conscious neglect. The following paragraph, written in a different context, argues that conscious **neglect** of this type **is no different to wilful violence**. What will we do when climate refugees number in the millions?

‘When a person takes deliberate and calculated action that results in additional deaths for the tawdry reason of pandering to his ideological supporters, there is no meaningful rhetorical distinction between saying he “accepts” that more people will die and that he wants them to die. In this case, we may invert Immanuel Kant’s dictum and conclude that “he who wills the means wills the end.”’ / [Mike Lofgren, Salon](#)

▶



/ [First dog on the moon 11 Aug 2023](#)

▶

Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun...whoever has an army has power, for war settles everything / Mao Tse-Tung

▶

The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.
/ Thucydides c.455–c.400 bc. History of the Peloponnesian War bk. 5, ch. 89

▶

Consider violence at the extreme; nuclear weapons. If the list of individuals who control this power does not cause us to join forces nothing will:

Biden, Putin, Macron, Xi, Sunak, Kaakar (as at Aug 2023), Modi, Netanyahu, Kim. T-MO “selected” these men (they are currently all men) for their roles. B-HU currently has negligible influence on their decisions or on the selection of their successors (Notably the US presidential elections are less than one year from when I type this message note).

B-HU - POPULATION

We need to discuss this, no matter how uncomfortable the subject. This is where symbols become useful; by taking the immediate emotion away from the topic.

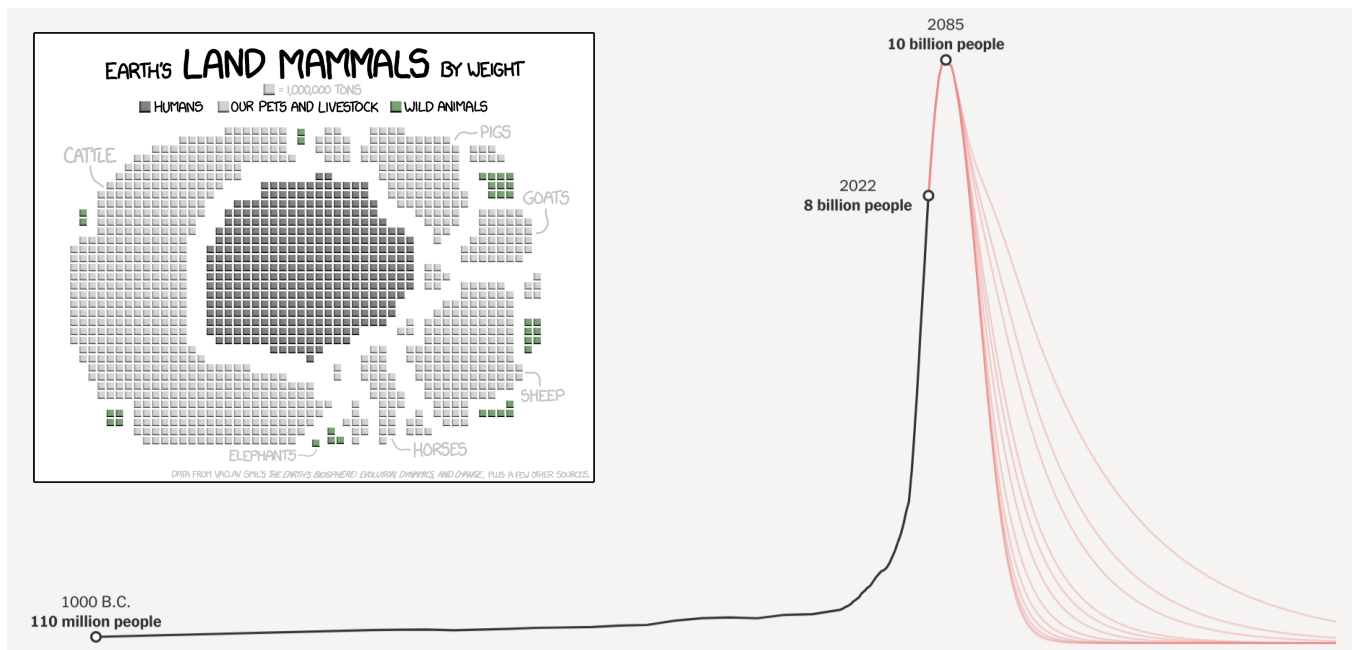
What population are we talking about?

Human? We can discuss it within ©. We can cope with the discomfort of holding contradictory ideas. We routinely, unthinkingly state that any one “h” is priceless, and has infinite value, while at the same time insurers, actuaries, judges and the like seem to have no problem assigning a precise \$ value to that same h. And what is our responsibility for future humans? Are we even responsible for our own future? Or shall we leave that to T-MO to decide? What about other people’s future; people outside our country, tribe or family?

This discussion can become very dark; Does T-MO have a depopulation plan? What economic use is there for a bulk of humanity when robots and AI can do practically all the required work to keep a privileged few in absolute comfort?

And what about non-human populations? Are we responsible for the future of wild animals? What about agricultural animals? Or, to raise an even more undiscussable subject: What about Pets? [see inset in graph below / xkcd.com/1338. What about all the other living things from bacteria to blue whales?]

In my life I have seen the world population more than triple. Mathematically it can’t keep growing at that rate. The question is; will the inevitable slowdown and possible reversal be painful, disruptive and violent or will it be just, equal and welcomed.



The World’s Population May Peak in Your Lifetime. What Happens Next? / [NYT 18 Sep 2023](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/18/world/population-peak.html)

This is a projection we cannot ignore. It almost seems to justify a do-nothing approach to biosphere degradation. But look at the next 60 years; by this prediction we will add another China and half an India to the world population.

The issue is of course that by the time we reach peak population the biosphere will be locked into a degraded and degrading cycle by the decisions we make now.

B-HU - TIME

The time to explain is over. If we try to explain now we have already lost the battle.

“Every hour is now an “if only” moment: offering a better chance of avoiding collapse than the hour that follows.”
 Earth systems are being rushed towards their tipping points by governments that offer us nothing but chaos. /
[George Monbiot, 31 Oct 2023](#)

$T_C \in C$	Time belongs to C
$T_B ?$	<i>Is there "time" in B? That's way too deep for me.</i>
T_h	<p>"Human" time is short; 2 generations back, 2 forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended in both directions by C; history, future fiction • Shortened in both directions by C - more accurately by T-MO; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarterly reports, subsecond rewards in trading and gaming ○ Deliberate shortening and distortion of history ○ A tech driven reduction in attention span
$@T_0 \vdash C \Rightarrow h \Rightarrow B$	At present (T_0) I assert (\vdash) that C overwhelmingly controls human actions
$@T_{-10000} \vdash C \Leftarrow h \Leftarrow B$	<p>At some previous time, maybe 10,000 years ago, I assert that human actions were largely controlled by B</p> <p>We need to flip, or at least balance, those arrows of influence</p>
$T_{-1000} \text{ cf. } T_{+1000}$	<p>We need to expand our time horizon to be more in synch with the time scales of B</p> <p>If we look back to 1023 things were not so different then; The world population was about 270 million and they acted much as we do; marched armies up and down, crowned some leaders and assassinated others, built temples, relied on agriculture and wrote books. They, like us, probably did not give much thought to future generations beyond their children and grandchildren. They probably thought the world would stay much the same as always, except of course for an apocalypse always just ahead.</p> <p>We, now, do need to think a thousand years out. What will that look like given no apocalypse, alien landings or breaking the speed of light? Let's assume we have perfected non-polluting fission energy. What does that mean for biodiversity? With dirt cheap oil will plastics production accelerate? Will an increasing H finally crowd out all wild animals. Will the earth-bound live in vast megacities tied to their artificially intelligent virtual reality devices, living in an imaginary world so much better than any real one?</p> <p>Will the people a thousand years from now record a history of dark centuries of extinction, pandemic, hunger and global war?</p>

B-HU - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

[“Is AI a danger to humanity or our salvation?”](#) The founders of AI are divided over what’s next.”

▶

We can be sure that T-MO will use AI; probably by cherry picking statistics, emphasizing economic hurdles, creating conclusions based on false equivalence arguments, packaging arguments in accessible prose and then using those arguments as proof in ongoing debate. The spread of misinformation ([as in this article](#)) and distractions has already begun and will almost certainly become much worse as the tools become more sophisticated.

▶

At the very least B-HU must be aware of the capabilities of AI for mischief. Ideally there will be AI tools to detect and counteract misinformation before it spreads too widely.

Positive uses will be:

- integration of topics such as climate change, biodiversity, water use and pollution of all forms - subjects which, at least to the general public, appear to be separate issues.
- Collection and dissemination of the various local and global action being taken by B-HU
- Indexing and cross referencing published materials
- Condensing such materials into standardized formats and visual representation

Ideally AI will allow a wider view of the entire biosphere process. While, at the same time, clarifying and illustrating connections.

PERSONAL NOTE

OK, I confess, it was me all along. I’m a white, western man and have caused this whole mess. I talk about doing good things for the environment and I put out the recycling every week. But I have also driven (and still drive) a gas guzzler (which, like me, is getting old). I enjoyed flying business class - when the company paid the fare. I buy stuff on Amazon and eat meat. I’m vaguely aware of the environmental burdens of buying out-of-season, blemish-free fruit, but I buy it anyway - and then throw it out, in a plastic bag, when the black spots appear.

I have lived and worked almost exclusively in a western culture. The social and economic norms of that culture have determined my actions and set my goals. Compared to the majority of the world, I enjoyed enormous, miraculous privilege; Most of my life I had instant access to unlimited clean water, hot or cold. I never felt hunger, war or devastating illness. I never lacked shelter, clothing, medical care, education or free communication with others. I have never felt discrimination. Despite all that privilege, using the standards of T-MO, I give myself a barely passing grade - when I’m in a generous mood. *Using B-HU grades I get an F.*

So what gives me the right to concoct a story like this? Shouldn’t that be left to smarter, more energetic, more influential people who have actively fought for the environment over the last decades? Or to younger people, who will feel the full impact of my mistakes? Yes, probably. And yet; just maybe, this fiction of B-HU and T-MO will allow someone to see another approach, some exit off the highway to hell.

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