

# Cyborgs, Serfs Or Rebels

Social Options in the Post Oil Society

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# Options Corporate

Cyborg, Serf or Rebel?

- 1. Educate, serve, integrate, pay your dues, lose your freedom?
- 2. Lose the job, have no options, become the new serf
- 3. Take command, make your own future.

# Systems Collapse

- Corporations knowing the end is near: diversify but
- Buy their own stock to hoard rapid price escalation profits
- Serve this system (cyborg integration) or serf.
- Or set your own agenda, but it takes the village & family....

# Alienation from the Land

- The cheap energy era allowed for separation of functions, and unnatural communities to over-ride nature.
- Design with nature becomes the new necessity as energy harvesting is local, low key, making for a **DIFFERENT PATTERN OF COMMUNITY.**

# Accessing the land.

- Relocalization in all aspects starts with the need to access the land for food production, energy capture, formation of the locally independent community.
- This does not preclude trade and external cooperation, it is just that this becomes a secondary consideration when the energy is not available to ignore our physical limitations in natural systems.

# Devolution

- Urban triage, & the loss of oil era complexity will require multiple solutions of adaption to re-attaching to the land.
- The different approaches of adaption will be compounded by the multiple variations of your area from total collapse, as in an area that has no natural support systems; you are in an artificial environment; to the extreme of a high attractant area which also provides the necessary ability to integrate relocalized economy and self sufficiency in balance with nature.
- Unfortunately, there are few places in the latter category.

# Access to Land

- Wide access to land for food self sufficiency allows for social freedom.
- Where high population demand meets low availability of land, we match the feudal state conditions of Europe and Asia of the past.
- Or we meet violent confrontation as realities clash; how can we plan to avoid the worst of these conditions?
- Proactive planning for post oil communities would be a good start.



# High Food Production Areas

- The prairies are in a quiet real estate rush; the rest of the world realizes the significance of the soil, water and huge extent of farmland relatively still underutilized compared to the population pressure zones of the world.
- Corporations are ahead of you, after oil and other monopoly controls, many have diversified to take control of other basic assets to make sure each of you pays to survive: farmlands, water resources, alternate energy.
- Governments for a while at least still have the ability to correct this imbalance by a number of means.



# Triage: Immediate needs

- The death of suburbs requires we find solutions there first; how to peacefully rescue the most wasteful land use patterns to provide a new pattern of at least greater sustainability.
- Recognition of the restoration of the 'Green Fingers' is essential to a balanced new community; a growth of homogenous urbanity with distant life support mechanisms is just not sustainable any longer.

# WARNING

- Post Oil Restoration of old world community patterns will involve making things a little messier than in the oil age subsidized antiseptic planning approach.
- Industry and farming are part of a whole community, a complete community means just that; it does not exclude any necessary complimentary element from the mix.

# Big City Centres

- Largest cities cannot be serviced, supply chains for food cannot be maintained, holes must appear to provide places to raise foods for the remaining populations.
- Even mid sized cities cross a sustainable threshold in a post oil economy; marbelization of the core and arms will be needed to provide now missing services.

# Suburbs

- Low attractant areas will simply dissolve: like New Orleans, Detroit.
- Mid attractant areas will have to design, accommodate Marbelization
- High attractant areas will need to Marbelize but also to send the surplus demand to new satellite towns: new mountain towns in the BC example; a large scale marbelization, or respect for the necessary green fingers of sustainable intervals in cultural space.

# Exurbs in power-down mode

- Car oriented dispersed living cannot be sustained, the jobs that permit this will not endure, but maintaining this pattern by adapting the large wasteful housing to group living, cooperatives and real working of the land is one possible rescue pathway.
- Infilling of key clusters for more housing to allow for more intensive farming, local full social support means village formation is part of the marbelization of exurbia; jumping each side of an unsustainable density to form truly rural and some truly small urban villages.



# Rural Triage: balance & community

- Isolated back to the land attempts are high risk in a period of social and economic collapse; safety in numbers, forming a real community and having a well rounded base of village scale integrated economy should be a goal for real sustainability.
- Half way formations as a transition stage is perhaps realistic, but only if full localized economy and social networks can be achieved within a half generation. Schooling, rearing of the young is a concern in addition to the self sufficiency in food and energy.

# Oil Age: Nuclear Family

- Cheap energy allowed for dispersed living arrangements, the nuclear family as icon, the single family house as one often unworkable and unaffordable option.
- The need to share and double up means extended family re-formation, artificial family or co-operative arrangements. Remaining housing in most sustainable locations will become sustainable by more intensive use.
- The nuclear family will again become the minority condition as sharing and cooperation become ever more essential to survival.

# Transportation Radical Shifts

- Money for infrastructure will not be available, oil dependent transport will either crash or wither.
- Replacement to rail is one step, but electification of the rail or hybrid engines is critical step.
- Reefer trains may be able to keep supply lines of expensive fruits in out of season times, but these may not be affordable by most of us.
- Travel will be a luxury again, but nations and regions will need to be certain of their own continuity by forging rapid rail links; even in places like BC- this new reality must be engaged.



# Industry in the post oil total future

- As Globalization, dependent on cheap energy goes into steep decline, we will be more discriminating about how much and what value of goods we buy from abroad.
- This means reinvention of local production is critical now, including retraining of all of us to dying crafts and methods of production.
- Reuse, recycling and retrofitting will require new skills; develop them now, while we can.

# The primacy of farmlands

- Cheap oil let us ignore many realities including conditioning us to long distant exotic foods, it is not an ideal to produce locally but a necessity of our very survival.