



ENTANGLEMENT IN THESE COVID TIMES CONDITIONING THE FUTURE

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**The Entanglement of
pandemics, climate degradation, conflict
as we recover from COVID 19.**

A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS

We are now seeing the edges of a new world, a new consciousness.

We live in times where leaders do not have the direct experiential history to react to these crises instinctively, firmly or reflectively.

We have a certain denial and paralysis. Hesitancy is costing lives

RESPONDING TO THE ENTANGLEMENT

- **The suffering of a pandemic builds over months, climate degradation over decades, a nuclear war in minutes.**
- **All interconnected and entangled.**
- **We need to think about this holistically.**
- **Need global solutions and cooperation.**

THE COST .. WHAT IS COMING?

This (COVID) comes at a price: “Public borrowing in the rich world is set to soar to levels last seen amid the rubble and smoke of 1945 ... Across the rich world, the IMF says gross government debt will rise by \$6trn, to \$66trn at the end of this year, or from 105% of GDP to 122%.... If the lockdowns last longer, the load will be greater.” There’s no guarantee the world will succeed at paying it off (in decades?) —and the specter of austerity, and its political backlash, loom large just a few years after post-2008 belt-tightening caused massive disruptions in Europe.. [CNN's Fareed Zakaria and the Economist](#),

COPING BEHAVIOURS TO ADAPTIVE BEHAVIOURS

- In these times of near economic collapse, massive debt, suffering and death, mental health issues.
- **Coping response.** What has changed? Social norms, telework, online meetings, guaranteed income, better health care. a UN call for the cessation of conflict.
- **Unintended consequences:** Cleaner air, less pollution, less traffic. Less noise. Building health care capacities. Collapsing business sectors; restaurants, tourism and air travel. Decline on fossil industry. Pressure on defence budgets and dubious sustainment of increasing militarization in the face of debt pressure?
- **Adaptive response.** What will endure? A new mix of telework and online, hopefully BIG, priority of health care, less travel, less defence spending, new green technologies. New appreciation of our contemplative and spiritual lives.

THE CONFLICT ENTANGLEMENT

- A new cold war emerging ????
- Perhaps not a cold war in a pre 1980's sense.
- Perhaps a hybrid “economic dependence with animosity and military posturing”. Perhaps entering an “animosity war” and arms race,
- Seems that solutions are economic dependence, relational and leadership centric.

MILITARY CONTEXT

- Do we have the ability to sustain increasing militarization in the face of debt pressure?
- We project the need for 10,000 reservists to fight fires and floods in Canada.
- COVID, climate related unrest and insurgency conflicts beg the need to restructure defence thinking.
- Are trillion-dollar cold war weapons systems nothing but a Maginot line against pandemics and climate change and depression?
- ***Military overstretch in times of economic overstretch is a recipe for the collapse of empires no matter how you look at it.***

NEW MILITARY CONSCIOUSNESS

- *What about a collapse in demand for both small arms and expensive weapons systems from industry?*
- *What about the sheer unaffordability of a big power arms race in these times?*
- *Will we see the decline or increase in the current armed conflicts in the world or in big power military rivalries?*
- *Will there be increasing pressure for peace and disaster operations?*
- *Perhaps at the force structure level, we need to be bold and permanently re-role, re-equip and train dedicated brigades, air and naval assets to peace operations, disaster response, humanitarian aid.*
- *Perhaps at the military industrial level, we need to rethink, retool and reconsider product and service delivery capacities and support, that will contribute to peace operations, disaster response, humanitarian aid.*
- **Perhaps this means we must consider and prepare for “peace and stability operations” and “aid to civil power” operations like never before.**

SYSTEMS AND NATURE

- **Systems** can be characterized by power, clinging, domination and fixation.
- **Nature** is characterized by participation, responsiveness, organic-ness and adaptation.
- In this entanglement is there space for a middle path to peace, health and preservation of nature?
- Are we doomed to a continue to be a planet that is a “mindless slaughterhouse” of disease, conflict and upcoming climate disasters?

NEGATIVE PEACE - POSITIVE PEACE

Negative peace dealing with

- **Pandemics**
- **Climate and environmental degradation**
- **Conflict and war.**

Positive peace building:

- **The well-being of humanity and all living beings;**
- **The conservation and protection of the natural environment;**
- **An improved harmonious and peaceful global co-existence**

DO WE HAVE WORSE TO COME?

- The failure to come to terms with our rapidly changing geopolitical, climate and health realities can only lead to catastrophe.
- If we think pandemics as bad, massive climate disasters, or war will be much worse.

THE FUTURE

- We need visionary thinkers to step up, and face the future with some clear free unconditioned thinking and ideas.
- The future is a range of possibilities, hopefully not warped by unskillful bias and the conditioning of the past.

THE PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS

- What adaptive behaviours do you think are most important after this crisis?
- What consciousness changes do you envision?