

'Only when you begin to understand the 'real' problem will you start to find the 'real' solution.

DIALOGUE 6: Using the 'real' Segmented World Model

Interviewer: I feel over the past five or six hours, you and I have acted like two physicians, pondering over the health of a much-loved patient.

We started, in Dialogue 1, with your *diagnosis* of the patient's condition – what you called the **Full-Up planet** – that affects the whole body and can only be *cured* by a fundamental shift in the patient's mental outlook. **Greater global cooperation** and **focused innovation**, was your *prescription*.

In Dialogues 2 and 3, we reviewed the primary physical factors contributing to the patient's, current, ill-health – **the Global Drivers** – and then the impact these were having on the other parts of the body – the **Inevitable Consequences**.

Finally, in Dialogues 4 and 5 we discussed the **'real' Model predictions** – your *prognosis* for the patient's health over the next thirty years - for which you gave four possible outcomes – **the Anxious, Emergent, Divided or Stagnant Worlds**—

FN: Someone might also ask, why was the patient referred to us in the first place: 'What were the *symptoms*?'

Interviewer: Rising Temperature is what most people would say!

FN: Ha-ha . . . for sure, but the patient's medical record also showed an earlier bout of illness in the 1930's, when there was no sign of rising temperatures. Remember the Global Trade and Governance plot we viewed together in Dialogues 3 and 5? That combination of declining global trade and increasing autocratic governments were the clear symptoms then of a change about to happen that Antonio Gramsci described as '*. . . an interregnum when a great diversity of morbid symptoms will emerge*' (Dialogue 1). Now, we seem to be entering a *second interregnum* with some additional modern symptoms: car production falling, cheap oil peaking and economic growth starting to decline – as the figure below shows.

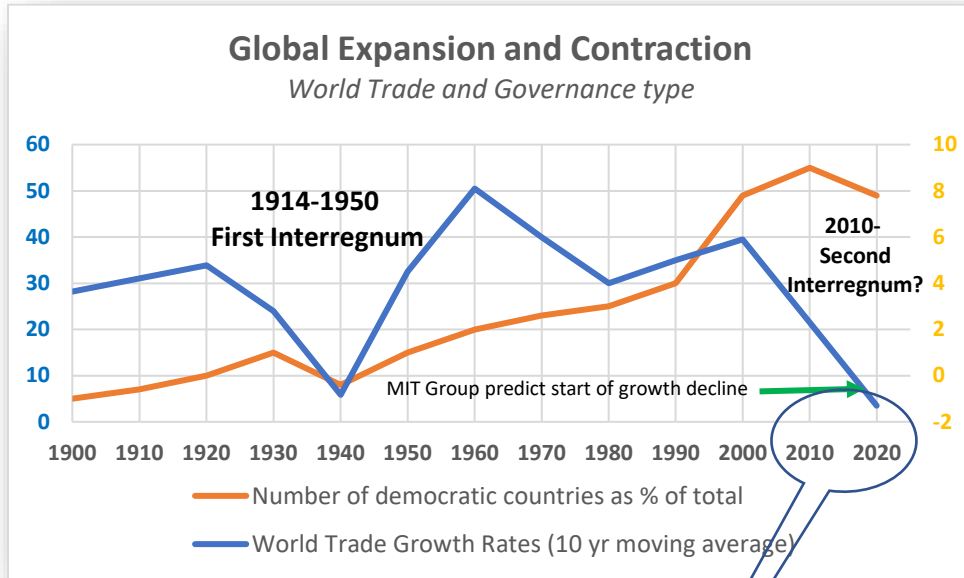


Figure 1: Annotated Global Trade and Degree of Autocratisation 1900 – 2020 (after various sources, including V-Dem Institute and World Bank)

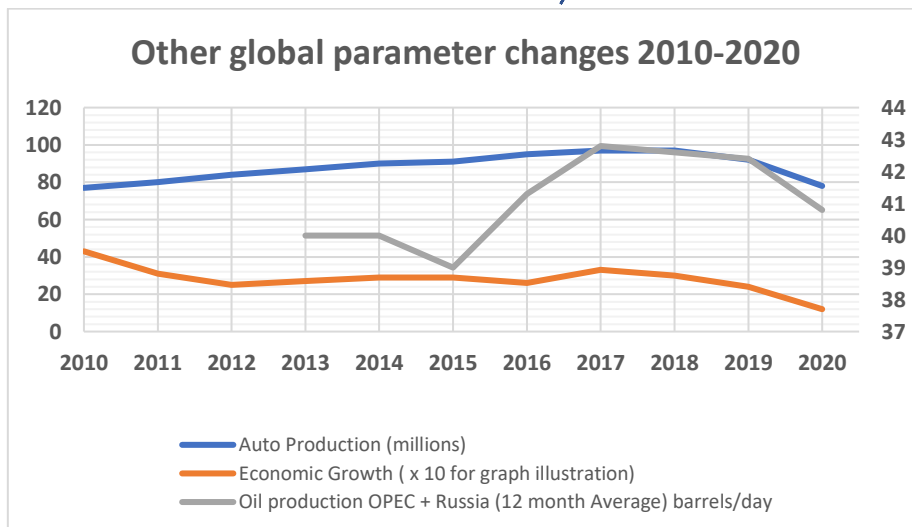


Figure 2: Global parameter changes in the past decade (after STATISTA; IMF and Peakoil.com)

Interviewer: But surely the causes are different? Now, as you have argued, this new Interregnum we seem to be entering, is induced by the ascendance of the three global drivers. In the 1930's the interregnum arose from what you would call in the parlance of the model, a Powerblock struggle between three old Empires – British, German and Russian – along with the emergence of a new Imperium – the US? The final move in the 'Great Game' (*Arthur Conolly 1840*) before the Full-Up stage began.

FN: Yes . . . but, as noted, some of the bodies symptoms are the same – falling trade, increasing authoritarianism—

Interviewer: But that doesn't include what another medical report – notably the MIT work from 1970's onward – predicted: declining economic growth?

FN: Ah yes but all the components have been pointing in that direction for some time, as the article in the Guardian neatly summarised a few years ago (op cit. Dialogue 1). The absence of profound economic growth – nor I might add rising inflation - have been offset by the targeted medication of debt, orchestrated by the IMF and other financial organisations.

Interviewer: Except that their patient is now addicted to that drug – which, in addition, may be losing its potency (Dialogue 3, *Figure 6*) – and may, in the future, be in short supply.

FN: That may be the case, but the successful actions of the IMF, World Bank Central Bank and other major economic agencies, demonstrated our collective ability to find solutions – something we now must repeat on an even larger scale, if the patient is to be healed.

Interviewer: I suppose one obvious question is: 'If this malaise is due to more than just rising temperatures, why is no one else alerting the patient to the additional symptoms?' Isn't that what government and the Media are meant to do?

FN: The patient is being told a convenient, partial truth—

Interviewer: You mean government and Media understand what you would call the 'real' problem to do with the Global Drivers - but are choosing not to discuss it?

FN: Not the Media, in general they only *react short term*. However, I'm certain all respectable governments, businesses and finance houses have think-tanks that recognise that the problem we face is more than just rising temperatures—

Interviewer: But they remain silent?

FN: They have public and corporate responsibilities to consider - not least the potential adverse reaction of their electorate or shareholders to bad news. Rising global temperature – for whatever cause – is indisputable. 'So don't complicate things: focus on what we can no longer deny ', is the approach.

Interviewer: Maybe that is enough?

FN: No . . . it's not! Going back to the earlier analogy, there is no point taking measures in just reducing the patient's temperature - **by removing fossil fuels** – if, by doing so the power and heating that is keeping the patient alive, is cut. After India's intervention in the final COP 26 communique I made this figure to illustrate the dilemma that the country representatives and delegates calling for a cessation of coal production, failed to consider.

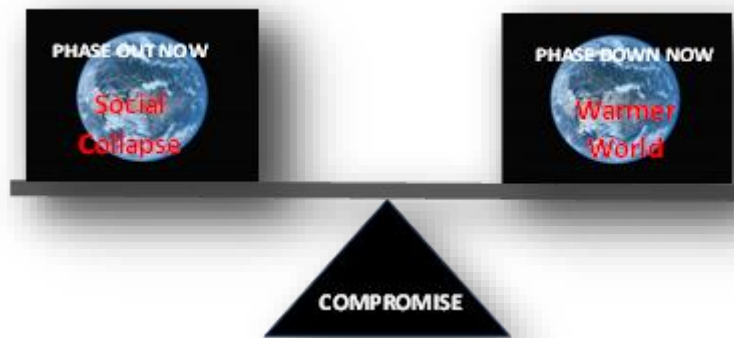


Figure 3: The Fossil Fuel Dilemma

It is this type of single-issue problem solving attitude that led me, initially, to start the **Segmented World Project**. Net Zero is a necessary aim for Humankind but it can only be achieved as part of an overall solution that includes a wide range of parameters and, most important of all, the willingness of *everyone* to compromise. To adapt Eldridge Cleaver's famous saying from the 1960's: ***'Only when you begin to understand the 'real' problem will you start to find the real' solution'***

Interviewer: You say 'everyone' – is that how you describe the target audience for the Segmented World Project!

FN: No, no that would be unrealistic. I have tried to broaden the appeal of the Project through the fictional approach, but I have no illusions about the limited number of people who will even bother to even open a single dialogue.

Interviewer: That's a very frank remark, can you explain a little more what you mean by that?

FN: Do you remember in Book 1, the Clapping Lady talking with the teenage Methuen in her car about *awareness* and *acceptance*?

Interviewer: Yes. . . it was his high level of awareness of how the world was changing, at such a young age, that had prompted her to contact him.

FN: Well . . . I apply the same rule when thinking about the size and nature of my target audience.

Take a look at this figure, that I have adapted from the work of Paul Chefurka. (www.paulchefurka.ca) He is writing about the world as we approach the limits to growth and asked the same question about levels of awareness.

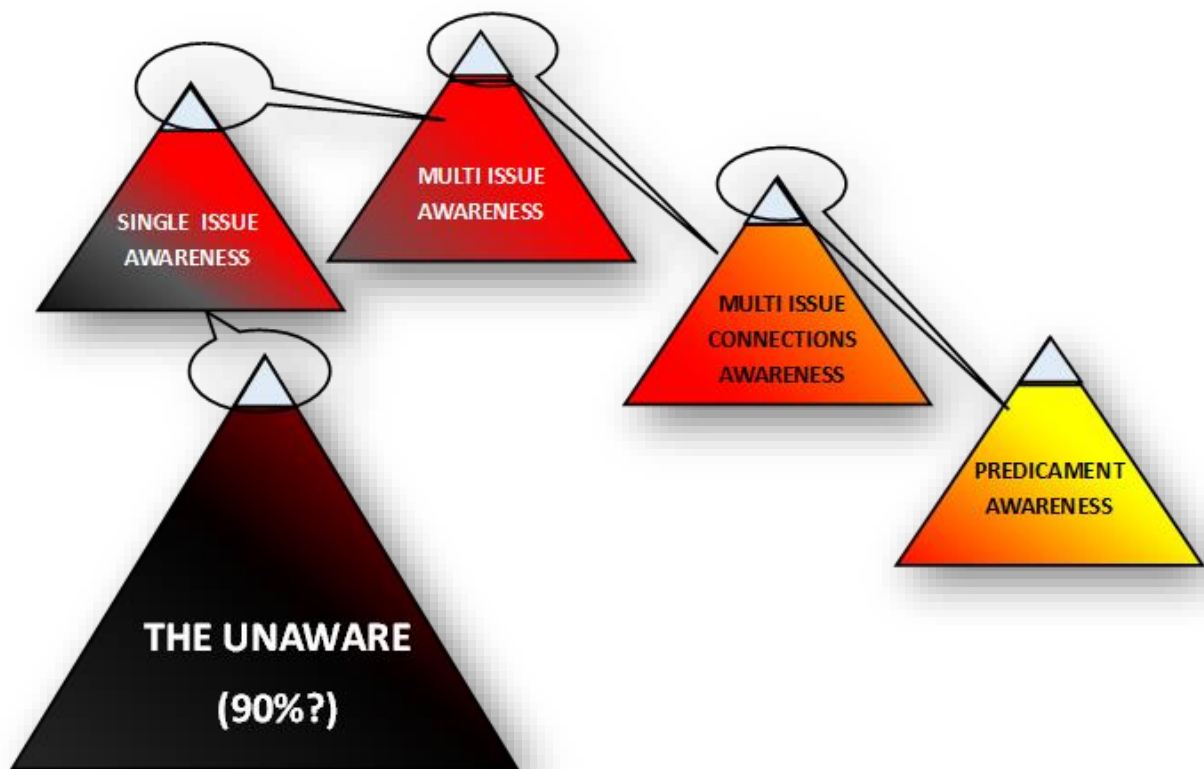


Figure 4: Levels of Mental Awareness (Adapted from Chefurka; www.paulchefurka.ca)

He estimates that globally 90% of the population lie in the 'Unaware' level – what Chefurka calls the 'dead asleep' and others the 'Unbegun'. They are blissfully unaware of the problems the world face – or I would add, deliberately ignoring them and immersing in the 'circus' the Media offer. He then claims that the *same percentage defines each successive level*. The next - *Aware Single Issue* - is important. Whether its climate change, overpopulation or any of the issues covered by the twenty-six parameters defining the 'real' Model, it is *one-and-only-one* issue that is the focus of their attention. Solve that problem and all else is solved, is their rationale`.

Interviewer: Like the environmental activists that the teenage Methuen encountered in Book 1.

FN: Or, sadly, like too many of the delegates and media representatives associated with COP 26. But Chefurka is just talking about awareness of the factors that may bring about economic collapse. I use it, here, to describe how aware people are of the future in general.

But let me clarify this a little. There is something laudable about a COP representative fixated on the single issue of banning fossil fuels. At least they are aware and, ostensibly, their concern is as much about others as themselves. Contrast that with those sitting in the comfortable part of Maslow's Triangle (Dialogue 2, Figure 26), whose single-issue outlook is aimed purely at growing their personal wealth and/or power—

Interviewer: Ah, you referring to what you call OST – one-sided thinking man – in Book 1, who lack a questioning internal voice.

FN: Yes, were that to become the global norm, then the decline of the patient would become severe – and the diagnosis close to the worst outcome of the Stagnant World.

Interviewer: So are these, globally aware, ‘single-issue’ individuals part of your target audience?

FN: I wish they were, but like the antivaxxers, there is something missing in their intellectual make up that prevent them from doing what individuals at the next three levels achieve – developing an awareness of the multiplicity of issues that control the future. At the third level (see Figure 4) the awakening to the multiplicity of issues contributing to the future, leads confusion and for many, I suspect, a disincentive to dig deeper. But for those that persist, slowly, they see connections and priorities and start the process of forming a global view. And then finally, after many more years, a limited number – just under a million globally if Cherfuka’s estimates are used – a holistic overview forms that includes a recognition of the tough compromises that have to be made.

Interviewer: I would place myself at Level 3 – although, after talking today, I can see more connections which make me think I may be moving towards Level 4.

FN: Great! That is precisely *the objective of the Segmented World Project*. Rather than resorting to simple, single-issue saviours, or giving up in despair, you start the process of understanding the new world we are entering.

Interviewer: Think global, support global?

FN: I would say that that is the new add-on everyone has to start developing *if they want to thrive on a Full-Up planet*.

Interviewer: And if someone decides to adopt the Model you have proposed here, you have given it immediate utility by the creation of the ‘averaged curves’ which, seeing the one for *inflation*—

FN: This one you mean . . .’

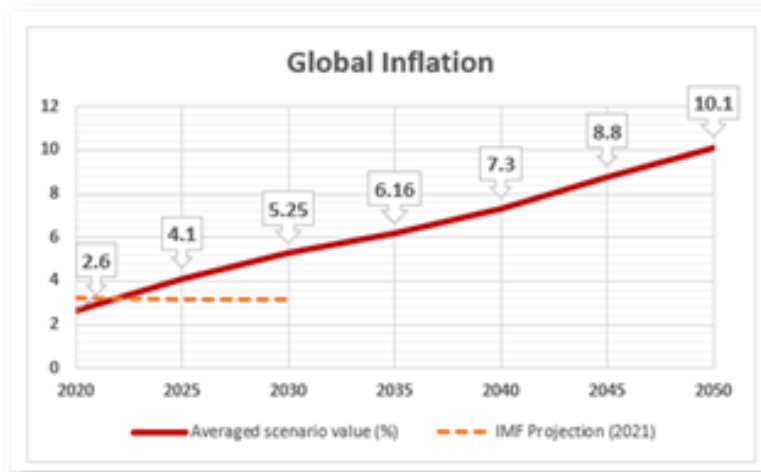


Figure 5: Global Inflation: ‘real’ Segmented World Model: Averaged

Interviewer: Yes. . . it made me think about the variable rate mortgage I took out a few years ago that was informed by the sort of debt-dependant, benign, economic environment of the past decade. If, as you predicted in Dialogue 5, the ‘Great Moderation’ is about to end - with this **averaged projection** closer to reality – then I can see those higher rates of inflation are going to translate, pretty soon, into higher interest rates on my loan.

FN: Yes, I’m pleased to see you employing the averaged curves in that way. I would say to anyone thinking about using the Model, sit down with a cup of coffee, a pen and piece of paper and then list your next *big life decisions* (e.g. what you study; buying a property; where you plan to live and work; future investments etc). After that think about all the *big assumptions* you have made about the future (e.g. safety, reliability of income in the future and so on). Then compare them, with the relevant projections and also the collective message from all the averaged curves.

Interviewer: Collective in what sense?

FN: Taken together, the averaged curves point, unquestionably, to a period of global economic, political and social decline, over the next thirty years—

Interviewer: What Methuen called *The Time-of-Less*?

FN: Yes . . . but not necessarily a *time of collapse*. I have illustrated this on the next figure along with the different perceptions people carry in their head about the future.

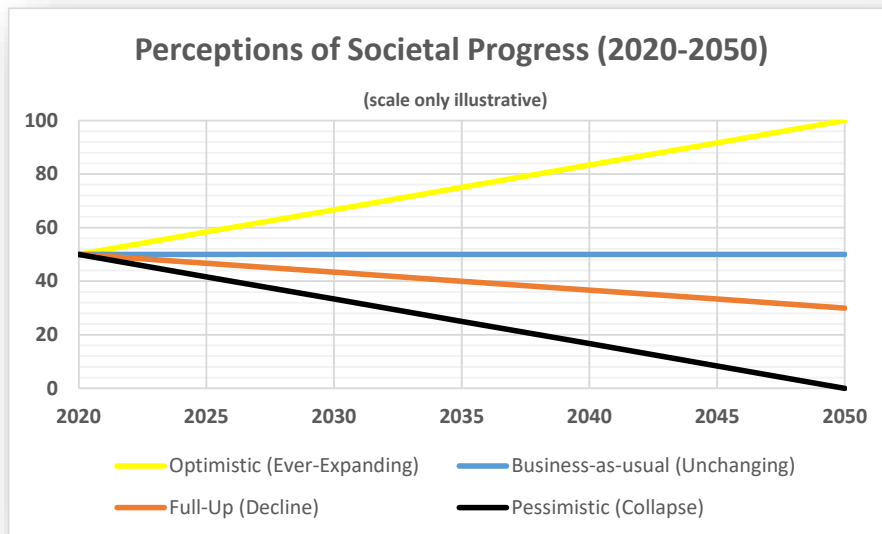


Figure 6: Perceptions of Societal Progress over the next thirty years

If Humankind had moved earlier on the Global Drivers – perhaps acting on the MIT study in the 1970’s - then we may have experienced a relatively smooth transition into the Full-Up stage. But acting on long-term forecasts - like the Limits to Growth - is not in our metier. Instead, Humankind operates more like a just-in-time car production line, focusing on short term efficiencies and rewards. As a result, the next thirty years is going to be a rougher ride to the future, as James Lovelock put it, a few years back (*Allen and Lane 2015*).

Interviewer: But how can this ‘collective’ curve be useful. Won’t it just depress everyone?

FN: For the ‘unaware’ it will, if they take any notice; for the single issue it will re-enforce their determination to follow their sole solution. For some of the ‘confused’ it will drive some down a level or two, but for those who have bought into the idea that it is better to know the full picture, it will help them to begin to prepare for the future and also demand the right actions from politicians and others in power.

And, as for those in business and government planning, the collective curve also acts as new test for institutional and investment robustness.

Interviewer: But surely, the danger is that such a mindset put into action would be like a self-fulfilling prophecy. As everyone becomes more cautious, economic growth - which to some extent relies on greed and excess (*Evensky 1993*) - will decline.

FN: So here we return to the fundamental requirement for surviving – let alone thriving – on a Full-Up planet. Ivan Boesky’s famous assertion that ‘You can feel greedy but still feel good about yourself’ or Walter Williams’s: ‘Free markets private property rights voluntary exchange and greed produce preferable outcomes, most of the times and under most conditions’ (1999) are statements rooted in *The Time-of-Plenty*. Using that approach in *The Time-of-Less*, lead in only one direction on the GC-FI matrix.

Only by adapting to the new paradigm through practicing greater cooperation and supporting new focused innovative thinking, will we stand a chance of creating a new sustaining world for the future.

Interviewer: But what sort of business invests just to ‘sustain’?

FN: I would argue that in the future the first priority, whether for individuals or organisations, has to be a sustainable existence. Borrow, borrow, borrow and build, build, build, is not a smart strategy for the Time-of-Less. The collective averaged curves of the ‘real’ Model scream out: *cut your cloth according to your measure* – a measure based on a realistic view of the future.

Interviewer: So . . . a period of decline is what you say we have to *prepare* for – even though we don’t know the ‘how’, ‘what’ or ‘when’? It’s going to be a very confusing time for many people.

FN: And that’s why I have added to the front of the website a news section with a live feed and a blog-linked, interpretation of important world events.

Interviewer: Your political take on events?

FN: Absolutely not! The reality of the Model dictates, what I call, the **Segmented World Perspective**. Individuals must make up their own mind, whether they agree with that or not. Here is an example, we ran during the set-up of the website.



Figure 7: Segmented World Perspective: September 21st to 14th October

Interviewer: But hang on . . . it may not be political, but the Perspective is hardly objective. When you applaud Biden’s speech at the UN - that argues for greater Cooperation - or comment positively on Prince William’s remarks - that indirectly point to the need for Focused Innovation – you are basing your judgement on the Emergent World as the ideal

outcome. What happens if the 'Actual World' follows the path of the Book Series - toward something darker? Would you then, still be judging things from the Emergent perspective?

FN: Would I be arguing for greater Cooperation and Focused innovation – undoubtedly yes! After all that is precisely what was behind the creation of the Hub Commonwealth in the Book Series. But of course, I take your point. The Segmented World Perspective will adapt to new circumstances just as the community on Phillips Cay are obliged to do. But for now, in the 'Actual World' of 2021 we must make every effort to create the type of Emergent World described in the 'real' Model over the next thirty years . . . and beyond.

Interviewer: Beyond?

FN: The GC-FI Matrix is just a small part of a bigger vision of the future that leads, in the ideal case to a new paradigm of a **Sustaining Full-Up planet**. Have a look at this figure.

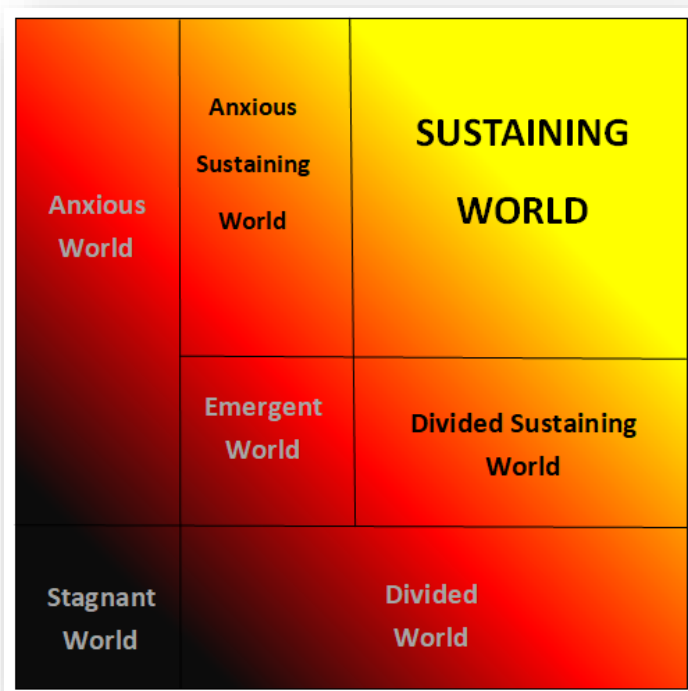


Figure 8: The full GC-FI Matrix

The Anxious, Emergent and Divided Worlds pass outward into a variety of Sustaining Worlds. That is the horizon that the Segmented World Perspective looks out toward when assessing current events, today.

Interviewer: Could I test out your current 'Segmented World Perspective' on some very down-to-earth stories from the last few months?

FN: Fire away . . . I'll do my best!

Interviewer: Ok, Afghanistan. *Was Biden right to pull out?*

FN: However uncomfortable we may be with the power they wield, the stability of the proto Powerblocks is important to us all. At present, the AM-Block (US) is crumbling – literally, if you follow up the reference on its failing infrastructure in *Dialogue 5*. There is an estimated USD 5 Tn. gap in funding that Biden’s 2021 Infrastructure Bill will reduce by less than USD 0.5 Tn. If the infrastructure is not repaired the cost to the AM-Block will be enormous in terms of economic growth and jobs.

Interviewer: That sounds as if you’re supporting a Divided World – with a Powerblock focusing on its own interests?

FN: One step back to make two steps forward is how I see it. If the AM-block fails to repair its infrastructure that will weaken it economically and undermine its ability to build global cooperation and focused. Overseas escapades, like Afghanistan, whether in response to a heinous crime (i.e. 9/11 terrorist attack); selfishly to gain strategic control over an important neighbouring state (Russia’s support for the Assad regime in Syria) or proxy wars between nation states (Iran and Saudi’s war in Yemen), all sap the resources of the invading party and weaken the conquered state making both less equipped to act globally.

Naturally, any civilised human being will be deeply concerned for the people of Afghanistan, in particular the women, all of whom will struggle as the country reverts to its tribal past – or, even worse, slip into some form of bogus, religious-based autocracy. But from the perspective of a world facing a much greater enemy – the impact and consequences of untamed Global Drivers - spreading resources too thin is a sure way of failing. So . . . what I am expressing here is not the strategy of the Divided World but the smart behaviour of the Powerblocks in an Emergent World.

Interviewer: OK, let’s try something completely different . . . *salary increases for state workers involved in helping the world through Covid?*

FN: I’m glad you articulated that way. I think your question may have been triggered by the Union representative from the UK’s NHS who was ‘disappointed’ to receive a 3% increase and instead demanded 12%. The wider issue of *all* state worker pay going forward – is more important in the context of the Segmented World Model

Here are the facts. All Middle to High Income States are seriously indebted. It isn’t only greenhouse gases that have reached unprecedented levels! Debt – of all kinds – is at the same unsustainable levels, post-Covid. If interest rates rise, as the increase in inflation implies in the Model, then debt repayments will increase, reducing the funds available for Government Support (e.g. Education, Health and Social Care). With real economic growth in decline, increased State costs are funded by increased taxation and/or through extra borrowing - both of which are unsustainable. Either we work as one – government, industry and unions – or we divide along the modern societies equivalent of tribal lines, making the likelihood of a Divided or Stagnant World even greater. Everyone – whether part of an organisation or an individual – must take responsibility for the wider consequences of their actions and balance their own group needs with that of society as whole. This is what happens in the Emergent World but fails completely in the Stagnant.

Interviewer: That sounds like a form a neo-communism?

FN: If you accept the averaged ‘real’ Model, it is more like a form of neo-common sense!

Interviewer: My final question has to be about the topic we briefly discussed earlier the *banning of fossil fuels* - given its elevated profile following COP 26. You have already expressed the Segmented World Perspective on the need for compromise with regards to *fossil fuel dilemma* (Figure 2), could you say a little more about that?

FN: At the moment there is a global stand-off between two single-issue parties: those that want to ban fossil fuels as soon as possible and those that need to continue production to survive. The Segmented World Perspective sits in neither camp. As Figure 2 illustrates, winding out of fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas emitters has to be hotly pursued but not at a pace that causes social collapse.

The honourable (and I might add heroic) task for the great global entrepreneurs we have today should be to make fossil fuels uncompetitive by creating cheaper, easily distributed energy products. For the great Statesman of the world there is the task of resisting single-issue, populist solutions to the energy crisis and have the foresight to propose a mixed energy solution that involves the use of the least polluting fossil fuels – notably natural gas. The figure below gives the numbers on this.

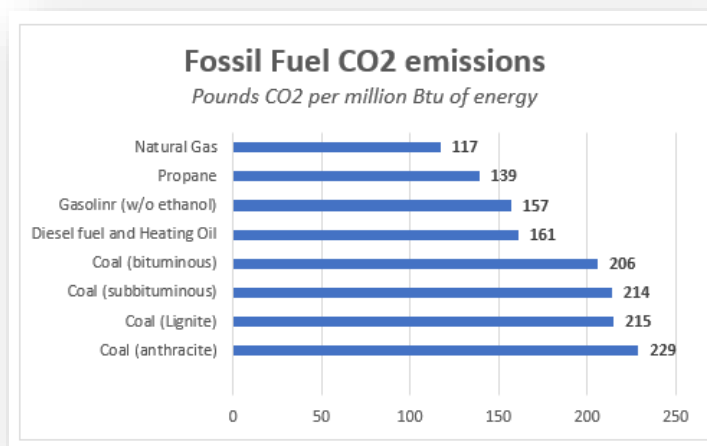


Figure 10: CO₂ emitted per million Btu of energy for different fossil fuels (after US Energy Information Administration, 2021)

Natural gas pollutes the atmosphere around 50% less than anthracite coal. It takes courage to argue this publicly but as the Rystad Energy Model shown in *Figure 8*, Dialogue 4, an energy mix with fossil fuels does not equate with runaway global warming and will also avoid the type of rolling power cuts in the West that forced China to increase coal production in recent months.

Interviewer: Ok, I get the flavour of the Segmented World Perspective. I wonder if we might now, move on to something that has been in the back of my head since I read Book 1 last month. From the ‘fictional’ Segmented World track on the GC-FI Matrix—

FN: This one. . .

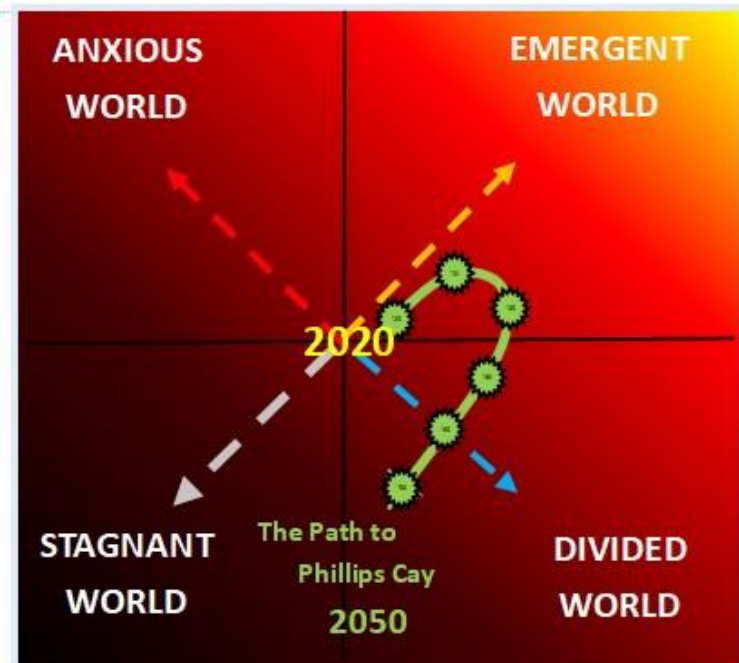


Figure 11: GC-FI Matrix with Present Day and the ‘fictional’ Segmented World track

Interviewer: Yep. I wondered whether the Divided World - where the hybrid, ‘fictional’ world ends up in 2050 – is a reflection of where *you* think our ‘Actual World’ is heading?

FN: No, no. I made that choice because I wanted to draw a contrast between two worlds – the emergent-type, Lite Segmented world that the main protagonists follow – and the darker, Fully Segmented, direction the rest of the world is moving towards.

Interviewer: But the main word in the Project - *segmented* – also suggests to me something broken and divided, rather than harmonious and holistic—

FN: Sure . . . I can understand that inference, but the term, *the Segmented World* is more of a reflection on *how we think* than how we organise ourselves

Interviewer: Explain?

FN: Let’s go back to *Figure 4*, showing the different levels of mental awareness. Another way of describing that diagram, is in terms of *the way we choose to think*. The breakpoint at Level 3, where the awareness of complexity kicks in, is also a measure of the degree to which individuals are thinking in an ‘integrated’ rather than a ‘segmented’ way. If the Cherfurka percentages are any guide, an alien viewing us from afar, would more likely describe us as ‘segmented’ rather than ‘integrated’ thinkers. And since how we think

defines the world we create, they would classify this as a *segmented* rather than an integrated *world*.

Interviewer: OK, so that may not have been your intent to hint at a Divided World as the direction we will go – but that is the conclusion of what you have just stated. Our tendency is to divide things up not join things together. The Divided World is more likely than an Emergent World.

FN: And that has been the case in the past but now, there is a new environmental pressure that is requiring our Segmented-bias brains, to operate in a more integrated way by accepting the need for greater cooperation.

Interviewer: It is a demanding requirement though, to develop a *global* integrative mindset.

FN: But in a small way we have already seen an example of this in the wearing of masks during Covid. That is a collective act of integrative thinking, allowing us to understand that we protect others, in order to protect ourselves.

Interviewer: Enlightened self-interest?

FN: Indeed. And it's not a new idea that in the future we will need to adopt a different type of thinking. In 1952, Einstein remarked: "*A new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move toward higher levels.*" His comment may have been influenced by the threat of nuclear war or perhaps the bizarre predictions of quantum mechanics that were emerging at the time, but the inclusion of the word, *survive*, suggests he might have been thinking about our mental make-up and whether, our inbuilt biases that have served us well in our early history (*Kahneman and Tversky 1972*), are now fit-for-purpose for the world ahead.

Interviewer: How we think is an important theme running through Book 1 and I imagine the whole of the Book Series. There is the surgical Intervention Treatment as well as a range of *Intelligent Assistants* that Allied Answers create – culminating in the general purpose module called Katharina. How plausible is that in the future?

FN: Well. . . putting aside the breakthrough in general purpose intelligence that still remains beyond current technology and the motives for the Intervention Treatment that Bliss undergoes, the *intelligent assistants* are within our grasp. They would offer those at Level 3 in *Figure 4*, who are awakened but confused by the complexity of issues around them, the information they require to see the connections that encourage the integrated approach – just as I hope this website will.

Interviewer: But what about the vast majority that are either 'dead asleep' or 'single issue'?

FN: In Book 1 you may recall, Methuen realises his passion to connect with the populous - that includes those with poor awareness - through his development of the *Segmented World Virtual Reality Programme*. Maybe this is what *Meta* will achieve through their recently announced intention to create a metaverse?

Interviewer: I imagine you would classify such work as a good example of what you call Focused Innovation - albeit aimed not at the Global Drivers but the underlying human fundamentals

FN: But programmed to 'assist' not 'insist', as Katharina, the general-purpose module explains in 2050.

Interviewer: Doesn't sound like the mantra the 118 countries currently classified as autocratic in 2018, are likely to readily adopt?

FN: Umm. . . let's see. There will, of course, be regional variations, but by the end of this decade *everyone* will understand the simple fact that the Global Drivers are: cross-border; threaten everyone; and can only be bought under control by cooperative global action.

Interviewer: *The very thing that threatens, also binds us?*

FN: Indeed!

Interviewer: So despite the general social decline you predict for the next thirty years, you remain open to the idea that Humankind, aided by AI, may be able to embrace the more cooperative response of the Emergent World?

FN: Let's put it like this: Do I believe that Humankind will give up the fight and sink into dystopic decline? Absolutely not! We **are** an ingenious species that is quite capable of adapting and thriving on this heated-up planet.

Interviewer: Well . . . with that glimmer of hope for the future, I think this may be a good point to bring our discussion to an end . . . do you have a final word?

FN: We are all about to live in '**interesting times**' – as the saying goes. The relative stability of the post war period has ended. Now, we have a new challenge that can only be met by stepping up our global awareness and adjusting our expectations accordingly. It takes only a little effort to do it with substantial rewards for those that are **better future-prepared than future-shocked**.

Francis Nash

London December 2021

