

Profound Realism Supports

Nine Interlocking Social Transformations

| | from an Obsolete Societal Personality | to our Next Societal Personality |
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| POLITICAL | 1. Imperial Unilateralism Globalization from Above 2. Aristocratic Rulership The Empowerment of Wealth 3. Combative Decisions-Making Adversarial Win-Lose Arrangements | Interregional Multilateralism Globalization from Below Democratic Responsibility The Empowerment of Truth Consensus Decision-Making All-Win Discovery Arrangements |
| ECONOMIC | 4. Fossil-Fuel Driven Economy Spending our Savings Account 5. Profit-Driven Economy Making Money is the Value 6. All-out Use of the Earth Anthropocentric Exploitation | Renewable Energy Economy Living within Our Means Service-Driven Economy Human Contribution is the Value Human/Earth Balance Mutually Enhancing Support |
| CULTURAL | 7. Cultural/Racial Tyranny I am my Group 8. Patriarchal Gender Patterns Assumed Male Prerogatives 9. Boxed-in Religious Bigotry My Religion is Right | Honoring Human Diversity I am my Planet Feminine/Masculine Balance Creativity Released and Valued Interreligious Dialogue Spirit Experience is the Authority |

These nine overarching societal shifts could be broken down into 999 or more subparts and tangential issues, but such fragmentation makes seeing a whole picture difficult. It is important right now to see the whole and to use terminology that is memorable. Almost all of us are open to at least one of these nine transitions. Almost none of us are fully open to all of them. To be closed to even one of the nine is to be closed to the full meaning of any one of the others. This is not understood by citizens of our democratic nations who vote for politicians who commit to one or two of these while being obstinately conservative on all the others.

These nine transformations go together like nine baseball players on the same team. You cannot win the game of a viable future without a catcher or a center fielder. You need all nine. And these nine transformations are even more closely related than nine ball players. The full meaning of each transformation is diminished without the presence of the other eight.

We need political leadership that is fully dedicated to all nine. We need a constituency of millions who support such leadership and refuse to tolerate less enlightened leaders. Obviously in these extensive transitions, we will be choosing between the more enlightened and the less enlightened leadership. Before we get to choose the strong leadership we need and deserve, we will have to build strong movements that enlighten ever-larger constituencies of citizens who see the validity of all nine transformations.

The bioregional movement, as I experience it, is committed to all nine of these transformations. Some of us may emphasize one more than another, but one of the strengths of bioregionalism is its broad embrace of all these basic transformations of our era. This is not true of all movements. One of the things bioregionalists have to share with other movements is the deep truth that all the major transformations presuppose and support each other. To choose any one of them is to choose them all.

The purpose of the above chart is to assist us in finding simple teachable images that hold in our consciousness the overwhelming vastness of the transformations of our era. On any given day at any given moment each of us shows up in one or more of the boxes of this chart. When we discover ourselves in one of those boxes in the obsolete column, we can simply step across the line into the viable future.

Gene W. Marshall, December 2002