

symposium paper 3: **Social Outreach Strategies for Resurgent Christians and their Interfaith and Secular Allies in the United States and on Earth**

Time Periods	Key Issues	The Civil War Between:		% neutral	The Key Places of Action
		Visionaries	Reactionaries		
N-2004	Bush Replacement	Left-of-center Voters 25%	Neoconservative Voters 25%	50%	Voter Registration Grassroots Organization Voting and Voting Machines
N-2008	Election Reform	“	“	“	Courts & Government Bodies Public Campaign Financing Instant Runoff Voting
N-2016	Ending Corporate Rule	Thoroughgoing Progressives 10%	Old-style Capitalists 50%	40%	Publishing and Mass Media Universities & Adult Ed. Protests and Teach-ins
N-2032	Multilateral & Just Development	“	“	“	Courts & Government Bodies Global Justice Movements Local NGO Projects
N-2064	A Culture of Awakening	The Spirit Inquirers 5%	The Fundamentalists 35%	60%	Planet-Wide Publishing Local Circles Regional Courses, Events, etc.
N-2128	Bioregional/ Planetary Polity	The Earth Identified 1%	The Nation Identified 89%	10%	Courts & Government Bodies Global Justice Movements Local NGO Projects

“N” means NOW. This chart pictures six stages of social conflict that begin NOW. I will discuss each row of this unfolding drama but first some general context.

Since the birth of the United States, a civil war between democratic and aristocratic forces has been taking place. The bloody Civil War of the eighteen hundreds was certainly about slavery as well as some economic conflicts, but most of all it was a war between two cultures and two modes of political rulership. The aristocratic South was closer to the life of King George’s England than the style of egalitarian governance emerging in the North. Slavery was the worst aspect of this style of governance, but plantation boss rulership affected both whites and blacks. Indeed, slavery had become a devise that was used to deceive the also oppressed poor and middle-class whites into adoring aristocrats like Robert E. Lee and identifying with them. This was their culture, and they fought for it.

These dynamics persist to this day. The South has made giant strides but has not fully recovered from its “old-boy” politics. And the North has never been, nor is it now, as egalitarian as its rhetoric exclaims. The West, meanwhile, has mingled the faults and the virtues of both North and South in varying combinations.

The current form of aristocratic rule has been well named “Corporate Rule.” The largest investors and their often greedy corporation managers have formed a complex cabal of economic interests and justifying ideologies. These forces do not include every CEO or every investor or every business innovator, but like the old South they use their vast influences to sweep together a culture of aristocracy. The neoconservative wing of the Republican Party has been aptly dubbed “fascism with a friendly face.” Even centrist Republicans and Democrats end up colluding with the vast monetary resources of the elite. “The country is currently in a strong backlash of conservative actions which make labor cheaper, environmental restraints looser, unilateral militarism more permissible, and governmental

regulation of corporate corruption negligible. So thoughtlessly rabid and defensive are these forces that they do not seem to notice or care that millions are jobless, that future generations will be swamped in debt, that environmental boundaries are being crossed that can never be recovered, that educational systems are collapsing, that internal hatreds are being inflamed, and that international relations are increasingly hostile.

Perhaps it is good that we are experiencing just how bad our heritage of aristocratic rule can become. Perhaps the impending horrors of this direction will awaken a larger percentage of our population to the virtues of a thoroughgoing democracy that regulates the economic playing field, supports the under-supported, serves the whole population, cares for the Earth, and assists such social developments to take place in every segment of the planet.

So, what do those of us who are already awakening do to help win this new civil war? The first step is to see that we are already in a desperate conflict that must be won. This struggle may not cost thousands of lives on a bloody battlefield, but it will be a hard fight with a determined enemy.

The above chart pictures some of the stages of this complex conflict. All six of these stages begin NOW and work simultaneously. Indeed all six stages have already begun. The percentages listed on the chart are my wild estimates. The purpose of putting these percentages on the chart is to picture the strength of the enemy and of the visionary forces at the present time. In order to win each of these various stages of the conflict, a majority or more of the U.S. population needs to be engaged in some level of action. This means increasing the number of people who are visionary enough to act upon that vision.

**Now to 2004 - Bush Replacement:** In this first stage of the conflict, winning is clearly possible but not assured. I am estimating that about a quarter of the population is resolutely neoconservative and another quarter resolutely opposed to this administration. That leaves fifty percent who might be viewed as swing voters. Some of this fifty percent are folk who do not vote at all. Clearly, the task here is to reach these people with a convincing vision of why Bush Replacement is necessary.

**Now to 2008 - Election Reform:** Even if Bush is replaced, winning the overall conflict has only begun. The same forces that oust Bush have to be engaged right away in substantial election reform. This is the way to mop up the neoconservative travesty and close the door to their return.

**Now to 2016 - Ending Corporate Rule:** As all the best books are graphically pointing out, ending corporate rule is the underlying meaning of both Bush Replacement and Election Reform. At the present time the progressive forces that are clear about this challenge are not large, but the truth of this position is so clear that majority support for this direction can be created with adequate effort.

**Now to 2032 - Multilateral and Just Development:** This is part of the meaning of ending corporate rule in the United States – releasing the United States and other nations to work together in an Earth friendly manner in rescuing the entire human population from ever increasing poverty.

**Now to 2064 - A Culture of Awakening:** Various sorts of religious and secular fundamentalisms have to be marginalized. These are not Earth friendly or justice friendly forces. And they are reactionary refusals to awaken to our actual Spirit beings and to the times in which we live. The human population is never fully awakened at any time in history, but a majority of the population can be enlisted in defeating the fundamentalist scourge. And a culture dedicated to awakening supports happiness and progress.

**Now to 2128 - Bioregional/Planetary Polity:** At the present time a very small percentage of the human population is Earth identified and thus capable of restructuring political power into local regions of Earth-sensible scope, regions which operate in a cooperative, mutually enhancing fashion with every other region of the planet. The enemy here is not nations but identifying with one's nation or home culture and then viewing the dynamics of the planet as a struggle for the survival of the fittest nation. We must not underestimate the extent to which a vast portion of the human population cannot think or act outside of the box of their home cultural conditioning. But this can be changed and must be changed if a future for the human species is to be established. This change will not come about quickly, however. All of us now living will be dead before this day arrives. But this dimension of the overall conflict also begins NOW.