

# A New Economic Paradigm

Planet Under Reconstruction!

The Way of Love ...



# A New Economic Paradigm

## A Rising Level Of Consciousness Of Humanity Can Bring About Transformation

### *Overview of the Paradigm*

- Explaining the Need for a New Definition of Economics
- Offering a Critique of Prevailing Materialistic Systems: Capitalist and Communist
- Principles of Economics: Progressive Utilization Theory

### *Foundation of the Paradigm*

- Early and Recent Socio-Economic Models with a Holistic View of Humanity
- The Vision of Progressive Utilization in the Economic Paradigm
- Perennial Philosophy
- Main Faiths' Prescriptions for Economic Behaviour
- Spiritual Nature of Man and its Relation to Economics

### *A New Definition of Economics*

- Paradigm Shift
- "Right Livelihood" as defined by Buddha \*

# \* "Right Livelihood"

- "Right livelihood" is one of the requirements of the Buddha's noble eightfold path. It is clear, therefore, that there must be such a thing as Buddhist economics.
- Economists themselves, like most specialists, normally suffer from a kind of metaphysical blindness, assuming that theirs is a science of absolute and invariable truths, without any presuppositions. Some go as far as to claim that economic laws are as free from "metaphysics" or "values" as the law of gravitation.

F.S. Schumacher

# Problems of Current Capitalism

## Basic tenets

*Myth of scarcity*

*Profit maximization  
& private ownership*

*License to earn most  
money*

*Competitive markets*

## Critique

*Creates fear & artificial  
lack; it results in poverty*

*Unfair distribution*

*Worker's rights abuses &  
Environmental degradation*

*Creates distorted values*

# Comparison of Systems

## Prevailing System

Scarcity

Competition

Violence

Possessiveness

Profit Maximization

Self Interest

Linear

Physical human

Materialistic

Material Success

Human-made Laws

## New System

Abundance

Cooperation

Non-hurtfulness

Non-Possessiveness

Consumption for Needs of Consumers

Selfless Service/Right Action

Cyclical

Psycho-emotional, Spiritual Human

Metaphysical and Spiritual

Material. Psychic and Spiritual Success

Cardinal, Moral and Human Laws

# New Paradigm Comparison

## Present Systems

*Materialism*

*Human-made  
Laws*



Stimulates baser instincts:  
greed, violence, abuse of  
power

## New Paradigm

*Material, Psychic and  
Spiritual*

*Cardinal, Moral and Human  
Laws*



Cultivates higher levels of  
consciousness: love, non-  
hurtfulness, cooperation and  
compassion

# Scarcity

Until and unless we realize the power of universalistic thought, and how we influence outcomes with our thinking, the notion of scarcity as the basis of an economic system will bring suffering to the world.

**BASED ON FEAR**

# Abundance

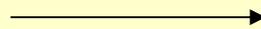
Empowerment - where once malnutrition and disease were common, now the abundance of food, clothing, housing, education and medical care is healing families.

**BASED ON TRUST**

# Move to Progressive Utilization



Scarcity



Abundance

Disparity

→ to →

Parity

# Impulses

When soul-force is not the motivating impulse, the will needs to be stimulated by a self-serving interest; the goal of fulfillment for all will not be reached, and the gap between those who have and those who have not widens.

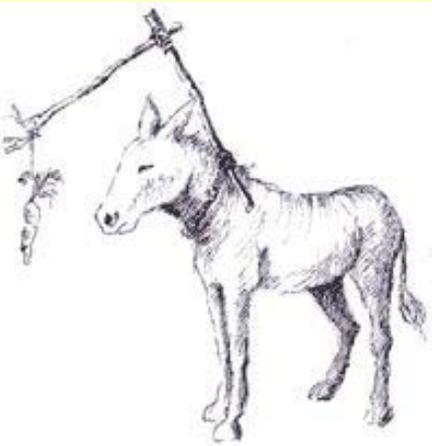
*STIMULATES GREED*

# Motivation

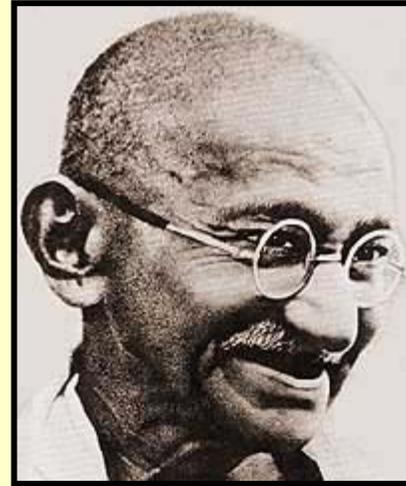
When the highest call of the soul propels the will to act, such motivation results in actions that will bring beneficial effects to the planet and to all human beings, and this will raise that soul to the level of the Creator.

*CONCERN FOR ALL*

# Useful Incentives



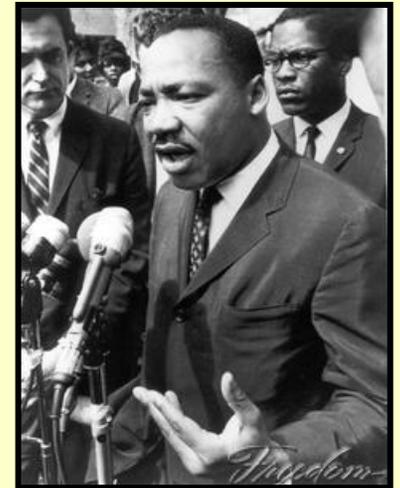
# Motivation



Dharma:  
Source

of

Right Actions



# What is Dharma?

- The balanced state of all aspects of human life.
- The way of life which leads to ensconcement in Universal Outlook and Supreme Stance - psycho-spiritual development.
- The word 'dharma' is derived from the root verb 'dhr' plus 'man'. Hence dharma means "that which supports" or "what is supported".
- *prana dharma* - vital characteristic - expression of individual identity in the collective setting which gives vitality to our mental and social existence.

# Competition



to

# Cooperation



# Competition

When we compete thinking there is scarcity of resources, we develop a tendency to hoard and to take unnecessarily from other people - when this becomes endemic the outcome of war looms over us.

**THERE IS ALWAYS A LOSER**

# Cooperation

Trusting nature's generous abundance, we understand that collective work yields a higher output than individual work.

When this becomes a true practice, harmony ensues, and a symphony of love fills the psychic environment.

**EVERYBODY WINS**

# Why Redefine Economics?

## *Problems of Prevailing Materialistic Systems*

### Capitalist / Market Economy

- Profit motive creates distorted values
- Needs and wants perceived as unlimited
- Fuels ever increasing competition and consumerism / greed
- Competition leads to violence

### Communist Economy

- Spirituality and psychic development actively suppressed
- Diversity and uniqueness not appreciated
- Leads to abuse of power, corruption and massive resentment

# Why Redefine Economics? (continued)

## Both systems

- Turn societies into economies of war  
(Control of resources, expansionism, e.g. Cold War)
- Leads to suppression of personal and collective freedom  
(1956 Hungary, 1989 Tiananmen Square, 2002 Department of US Homeland Security Reorganization)
- Traditional growth indicators - though improving since 1940's - do not reflect reality  
(GDP growth does not show income distribution; results in increasing material, psychic and spiritual poverty)

# Humanitarian / Spiritual Systems

## ESSENES (2000+ years old Western tradition)

- A sharing & egalitarian society accomplished a great socio-economic system.
- System was based on [the best] use of values to provide and enhance the necessities of life.
- Values emphasized:
  - Individual: prudence & wisdom, temperance, labour, purity;
  - Familial: types of love - fraternal, paternal, conjugal;
  - Societal: justice - charity, probity, simplicity, sincerity.

## RUDOLF STEINER (Anthroposophy)

<u>3 -fold Social Life</u>	<u>based on</u>	<u>3-fold Being</u>	<u>3-fold Human Organism</u>
Economy	Altruism	Body - will	Metabolic / Limb
Public Rights	Equality	Soul - love	Rhythmic
Cultural	Freedom	Spirit - wisdom	Head / Nervous

Economy is based on altruism, brotherhood / sisterhood and thus every person has a contribution to make (e.g. Camphill Villages).

# Humanitarian/Spiritual Systems (continued)

## PROUT (Progressive Utilization Theory)

- Maximum utilization and rational distribution
  - also recognises the carrying capacities of eco-systems
- Economic democracy
  - and not just the current political democracy
- Balanced economy
  - proper adjustment amongst agriculture, industry and commerce
- Three-tiered ownership
  - key industries (local government), cooperatives (largest sector), small businesses (private)
- Quadri-dimensional economics
  - people's economy, psycho-economy, commercial economy, general economy
- Production for human needs
  - consumption motive not profit motive

# PROUT

## (Progressive Utilization Theory)

### PROUT specifies:

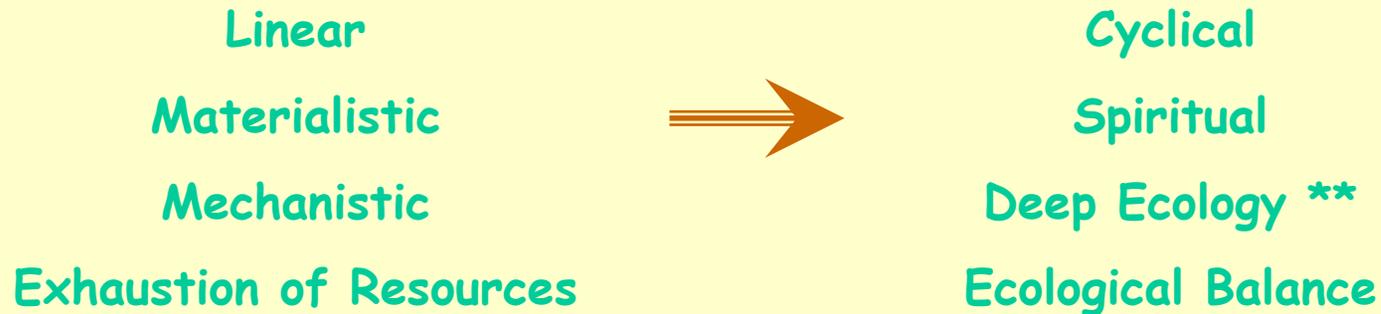
- Minimum requirements dependant on time and place to be provided to all
- Maximum amenities to be provided to meritorious persons to enable them to render greater service to society
- But provision of maximum amenities should not go against the common interest
- Therefore, also seek to increase maximum amenities available to common people over time
- Increasing purchasing power all round
- Local people in charge
- Prevention from outsiders gaining control of local economy

# Required Shift in Consciousness

1. Human suffering and environmental destruction should not be the result of economic activities.
2. Uphold respect towards all sentient beings and all aspects of Creation.
3. Replace current exploitation and degradation with equality, dignity and development and evolution of higher consciousness.

# Economic Goal Shifts

- To Support Current Planetary Shift of Consciousness



- To Enable Universalism to Manifest in Economic Relations
- To Offer a New Outlook on Economics -  
whereby the individual can take into account, at least:
  - Non-Possessiveness (Aparigraha);
  - Non-Hurtfulness (Ahimsa); and
  - Recognising Unity (Brahmacharya).

# \*\* Deep Ecology

- Deep ecological awareness recognizes the fundamental interdependence of all phenomena and the fact that as individuals and societies, we are all embedded in (and ultimately dependent on) the cyclical process of nature. It is spiritual or religious awareness. When the concept of the human spirit is understood as the mode of consciousness in which the individual feels a sense of belonging, of connectedness to the cosmos as a whole, it becomes clear that it is spiritual in its deepest sense. It is, therefore, not surprising that the emerging new vision of reality based on deep ecological awareness is consistent with the so-called perennial philosophy of spiritual traditions, whether we talk about the spirituality of Christian Mystics, that of Buddhists, or the philosophy and cosmology underlying the Native American Tradition.

*Web of Life* by Fritjof Capra

# Vision of the New Economic Paradigm

The principal tenet of this paradigm is that human beings are the **Stewards of Creation**,

with the **responsibility** - by virtue of **fraternity** –

of making wealth available to all human beings and a proper environment for creatures so that the sustenance and positive evolution of all is possible.

## Fundamental Thought:

To respect and live  
by universal outlook,  
and higher laws in  
economic relations.

# Source of the New Paradigm

*Spirituality involves the*

*"love and commitment towards truth & goodness"*

- Maestro Oscar Basurto

**PERENNIAL PHILOSOPHY** is revealed in all times and cultures by seers; it is the basis of spiritual science found in world faiths and folk wisdom.

**SPIRITUAL SCIENCE** is the body of knowledge of the laws that govern the operation of the universe in its totality - how the Universal associates with the unit being and how the unit being can associate with the Universal. It also explains existence in all areas from the gross manifestations that can be perceived by the senses, to the subtlest ones that cannot be perceived by them.

**SPIRITUALITY** is concerned with the spirit within every single being (whether an atheist, convicted criminal or recognized saint) that needs to be awakened by living one's life according to the highest principles of spiritual science.

# Perennial Philosophy

## Basic Tenets:

- Physical world is not the only reality
- All humans possess the capacity to know higher reality
- Developing this capacity is the purpose of existence
- Body is temporal, mind is to expand & spirit is eternal

## The Perennial Philosophy:

- Basis for all World Faiths
- Basis for other sciences
- Helps us realize: Unity in Diversity — we are all unique individuals, but same Spirit beneath

# Spiritual Science

The significance of Spiritual Laws for human behaviour.

*One of the most important is:*

## THE LAW OF ACTION AND REACTION ( KARMA - Basis for Selfless Service)

*As you sow, so shall you reap* (spiritual law version)

*Every action has an equal and opposite reaction*  
(natural /physics law version)

*What goes around, comes around* (folk version)

# Spirituality

*The main qualities that need to be developed to bring forth the spirit are:*

**LOVE** = life of the Soul

**COOPERATION** = working together & sharing resources

**RESPONSIBILITY** = do what you need to do, not what you want to

**HAPPINESS** = giving up suffering, result of unlimited wants

**HONESTY** = upright and fair in dealings

**HUMILITY** = one accepts being part of the whole

**RESPECT** = no one is dispensable

**UNITY** = oneness of Creation

# World Faiths on Economics

World Faiths teach:

- It is the duty of those who have, to share with those who have less.
- Greed is strongly condemned.
- Human life is spiritual, as well as mental/metaphysical, and not only material.
- All worldly goods are a trust from a Higher Power.

# World Faiths on Economics (continued)

## Judaism (*Torah, Writings & Prophets*):

Deuteronomy 15: 7-14 "Thou shalt open thine hand wide to thy brother ..."

Deuteronomy 25:15 "Thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure."

## Hinduism (*Bhagavad-Gita*)

*Chapter 16:* "The demoniac man knows no limit to his desire to acquire money. Anyone who comes into competition with such a demoniac man is his enemy [thus there is strife] between persons, families, societies, and at last between nations. Therefore there is constant strife, war and enmity all over the world."

# World Faiths on Economics (continued)

## Christianity (*New Testament*)

Matthew 6:24 "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon."

Luke 3:11 "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat [food], let him do likewise."

## Islam (*Qur'an*)

Surat 106:2-3 "Woe to [he] who pileth up wealth and layeth it by, thinking that his wealth would make him last forever! By no means!"

Surat 64:15-16 "Your riches ... may be but a trial ... . Spend in charity for the benefit of your own soul."

*"Judaism, Christianity & Islam prohibit taking of interest."*

Bernard Litaer

# World Faiths on Economics (continued)

## Buddhism

***The Five Precepts*** "Aware of the suffering caused by exploitation, social injustice, stealing, and oppression ... I will practice generosity by sharing my time, energy, and material resources with those who are in real need. ... I will prevent others from profiting from human suffering or the suffering of other species on Earth."

***Digha Nikaya III.68*** "Thus from the not giving of property to the needy, poverty became rife, from the growth of poverty, the taking of what was not given increased, from the increase of theft, the use of weapons increased, from the increased use of weapons, the taking of life increased ...."

***Dhammapada 355*** "Wealth destroys the stupid. But not those who seek the Beyond. Craving for wealth, the stupid destroy themselves as well as others."

# *Essence of the New Paradigm*

*Spiritual Science and World Faiths teach:*

- Love: the most powerful force in the Universe is expressed in action as:
  - Non-hurting (Ahimsa)
  - Non-possessiveness (Aparigraha)It means taking care of each other and the rest of Creation (Fraternity, Cooperation & Stewardship)
- Peace & Harmony: the sign of Love
- Right Action (Dharma): selfless service

*Through non-hurtful actions in economic relations, we work towards Peace and express our Love.*

# Principles of the New Paradigm

- **Abundance** - There is enough to go around - no scarcity, no fear.
- **Cooperation** - Pooling of resources in a respectful manner with common goal in mind.
- **Satisfaction of Needs** - Provides for the essential needs of all including future generations; needs vs. desires.
- **Selfless Service / Right Action** - *Dharma*: duty, responsibility, both individual & societal.
- **Non-possessiveness** (*Aparigraha*) - Curbing the tendency to accumulate; ownership vs. stewardship -> spiritual success.
- **Non-hurtfulness** (*Ahimsa*) - Maximum expression of love & compassion: no intentional physical, mental, spiritual injury to any being.
- **Ecological Outlook** - Balanced consumer needs and production of environmentally friendly products.

# Definitions of Economics Compared

- Elements of existing definitions of economics:
  - focus is on material needs of human beings
  - 'scarcity from Nature and previous generations'
  - 'unlimited wants and needs'
- Elements of Universal economic paradigm:
  - A human being is a spiritual being whose physical, mental and spiritual capacities oblige him/her to be a steward of Creation
  - Abundance vs. Scarcity: Nature provides all we need and through technology we harness it for rational distribution and for maximum utilization
  - Physical wealth is finite, but can be made available for all:
    - Essential or basic needs: food, clothing, housing, medical care and education, through ensuring proper purchasing capacity, for all to live in dignity
    - Unlimited material wants or desires are non-essential and not satisfiable - only spiritual fulfilment gives infinite happiness

# Towards a New Definition of Economics

- 1) **Replace Scarcity with Abundance** - as scarcity is made-up, self-imposed.
- 2) **Replace Competition with Cooperation** - which is a basis for true 'efficiency', i.e. best use of abundant human and natural resources. Act selflessly / right action (dharma).
- 3) **First Satisfy Essential Needs of All** - then satisfy other needs as they become relevant. Spiritual growth considered part of needs at all levels.
- 4) **Economics must be Life Sustaining** - and all the means should be consistent with that end according to spiritual values (including non-harming and non-possessiveness).
- 5) **Deep Ecology View** - Does not separate humans, or anything, from the environment. It sees the world as a network of phenomena that are fundamentally interconnected and interdependent. Values all living beings and views humans as one particular strand in the web of life.

"The urge to do and be that which is the noblest, the most beautiful of which we are capable, is the creative impulse of every high achievement."

*Paramhansa Yogananda*

Economics in order to be a noble normative social science must become an instrument that brings forth  
HARMONY, PEACE AND LOVE  
amongst human beings, and fosters  
material and spiritual well being.  
Then it will be fulfilling THE LAW.

# New Definition of Economics

Economics is a normative social science that studies social behavior seeking means to provide for the satisfaction of common needs and specific, though limited, wants. This is in order to ensure the all-round welfare of all human beings. It sees resources as mundane, supra-mundane and spiritual and the human make-up as physical, metaphysical and spiritual.

Economics as a socio-psychic science guides the allocation of the planet's abundant, natural, material, manufactured and human resources to enable people to cooperatively live productive, welfare-oriented, happy and meaningful lives and to act as responsible members of society.

# Campaigns



The main engine of modern industrial civilization may be bent on environmental and thus self-destruction, but there are many people who are trying to ensure it follows a right course for the benefit and welfare of all. Make the drivers come to their senses!

Are the resisters a tiny and insignificant minority?

Can we overcome immoral forces that seek to govern the world without Love?

We must believe that resistance is possible. And we must make Universalism the basis of our philosophy and our lives.

# Unite:

All the people who are concerned with the way the present systems are operating, so they are willing to take actions destined to curtail those systems. Join in simple but effective strategies.

Since the essence of capitalism is creating scarcity for many, let's allow it to experience its own shortcoming, let's refrain from supporting those corporations that are bent on hegemony over resources and populations.

A resistance action would be to identify the most destructive corporations and completely and massively stop using their products and services.

# An Example

## Agribusiness

The insane violence overtaking the world is the result of the toxicity that we ingest through the 'food' that is nowadays the result of violent means used to procure it.

Violence against sentient beings and against the earth, destruction of the soil by synthetic chemical agents and the vegetation by mass deforestation, can be traced to profit maximization theory.

### CORPORATE GREED

YOUR AIM:

“Mens Sana in Corpore Sano”  
“A healthy mind in a healthy body”

## Agricoops

Community supported agriculture is an economic relationship based on mutual benefit for producer and consumer.

It respects Nature in all its manifestations. The health of the soil and of the food that comes from it demands a form of agriculture that is nurturing from beginning to end.

The human body is the ultimate beneficiary and the mind follows bringing serenity and peace to the world.

### SHARED BENEFITS

# Example

## EXXON:

Profits of billions of dollars. And at the same time the price of gasoline/petrol increases.

Worse still, the reparation for environmental disasters caused by Exxon is in good part paid for using taxpayers' money.

SCARCITY AND GREED

## CITGO:

A corporation sensitive to the predicament of low income people in the northern part of the USA, has provided reduced price fuel to alleviate their situation.

For starters, the strategy would be to give our business to a corporation (and make it aim to be a cooperative) with a humanitarian approach - rather than to the ones with the only-for-profit mentality.

ABUNDANCE AND CARING FOR ALL

# In a Nutshell

- The minimum requirements of an age should be guaranteed to all.
- The surplus wealth should be distributed among meritorious people according to the degree of their merit.
- Increasing the minimum standard of living of the people is the indication of the vitality of society.

# In a Nutshell (continued)

- No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body.
- There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supramundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe.
- There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective bodies of human society.
- There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supramundane and spiritual utilizations.
- There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supramundane and spiritual utilizations.

# All-round Welfare

The Progressive Utilization Theory is propounded for the happiness and all-round welfare of all.