

“Wisely directed investments of time, energy, money (the ‘votes’)”

by Stefan Pasti

(4 Tweet Thread, 4 pages; May 17, 2024)

(featured at www.cpcsi.org; also my pinned tweet)

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What if those of us not willing to “kick the can down the road” on #ecocide and #genocide wanted to “make the move” this year, or next, towards being good people, untangled from our complicity with such hashtags. How many people can we count on to “vote” with their “feet”?

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A. “Duties of consumer—when buying an article of everyday use, one has to take into account the full repercussions of one’s transaction 1) one should know where the article comes from 2) who makes the article 3) from what material 4) under what conditions do the workers live and work 5) what proportion of the final price do they get as wages 6) how is the rest of the money distributed 7) how is the article produced 8) how does the industry fit into the national economy” (p. 58-59)

B. “If we feel it is beyond us to guarantee the concomitant results of all our transactions, it necessarily follows that we must limit our transactions to a circle well within our control. This is the bed rock of swadeshi... **The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions, and (the) more conscientiously shall we be able to fulfill our obligations as trustees.**” (p.60)
[From “Why the Village Movement?” by J.C. Kumarappa (economist who worked with Gandhi) The All India Village Industries Wardha, C.P, 1946 (at <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.118819>)]

C. “The transition from an unsustainable fossil fuel-based economy back to a solar-based (agriculture and forestry) economy will involve the application of the embodied energy that we inherit from industrial culture: This embodied energy is contained within a vast array of things, infrastructure, cultural processes and ideas, mostly inappropriately configured for the ‘solar’ economy. It is the task of our age to take this great wealth, reconfigure and apply it to the development of sustainable systems.”
(from “Energy and Permaculture” by David Holmgren, link in 5/6)

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“How to find suitable teachers is, therefore, the really important question... And I doubt whether they can be found--they will have to be made; and how this is to be done is the real problem that faces those interested in moral education...” Prof. J.S. Mackenzie 1st Intl. Moral Education Congress, *1908*
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“...they will have to be made...”

1. “From the very beginning, at Tuskegee, I was determined to have the students do not only the agricultural and domestic work, but to have them erect their own buildings. My plan was to have them, while performing this service, taught the latest and best methods of labour, so that the school would not only get the benefit of their efforts, but the students themselves would be taught to see not only utility in labour, but beauty and dignity; would be taught, in fact, how to lift labour up from mere drudgery and toil, and would learn to love work for its own sake.” (Chapter 10, paragraph 1)
2. “During the now nineteen years' existence of the Tuskegee school, the plan of having the buildings erected by student labour has been adhered to. In this time forty buildings, counting small and large, have been built, and all except four are almost wholly the product of student labour. As an additional result, hundreds of men are now scattered throughout the South who received their knowledge of mechanics while being taught how to erect these buildings. Skill and knowledge are now handed down from one set of students to another in this way, until at the present time a building of any description or size can be constructed wholly by our instructors and students, from the drawing of the plans to the putting in of the electric fixtures, without going off the grounds for a single workman.” (Chapter 10, paragraph 4) [from Booker T. Washington's autobiog “Up From Slavery” (first published in 1901) (at https://archive.org/details/isbn_9780199209880/page/88/mode/2up?q=Chapter+X)]

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(Thought Experiment)

If 1 (one) Permaculture Resilient Ecosystem can achieve maximum #sustainability and least harm for 200,000 inhabitants--how many #Permaculture #Resilient #Ecosystems are needed for 8 billion inhabitants? $8 \text{ billion} \div 200,000 = 40,000 = \#ReimagineHigherEd$
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"... in a highly developed civilization... every person of good will can in some way or other succeed."

1. **Community Visioning Initiatives** (CVIs) are series of community meetings designed to maximize citizen participation in identifying challenges, and in identifying solution-oriented activity. The 13 minute documentary "Chattanooga: A Community with a Vision" <https://vimeo.com/9653090> is highly recommended as an inspiring example of the potential of Community Visioning Initiatives.
2. **Neighborhood Learning Centers** (NLCs) can provide places--in local neighborhoods--for discussion, information sharing, mutual support and encouragement, fellowship and friendship--so that the exchanging of information and resources will also include the building of a close-knit community of people with a healthy appreciation for each other's strengths
3. **Local Currency**--People (especially unemployed people) who deliberately direct their investments of time, energy, and money towards assisting with Community Visioning Initiatives, and Neighborhood Learning Centers could receive, as encouragement, local currency. Such local currency can, in its turn, be spent in ways which are particularly helpful to building stable and sustainable local economies.
4. The **Neighbor to Neighbor Community Education** (NTNCE) Project advocates for a new section in local newspapers. The new section (NTNCE section) would be used to highlight and accumulate stories, personal experiences, and other forms of reader contributions which identify helpful people and valuable resources, and reinforce important community goals.

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Wisely directed investments of time, energy, money (the “votes”)
 which each of us make in our everyday circumstances
 can result in countless ways of earning a living
 which contribute to rather than impair
 reaching positive tipping points
 on even the most difficult challenges

1. “Every village community of free India should have its own carpenters, shoemakers, potters, builders, mechanics, farmers, engineers, weavers, teachers, bankers, merchants, traders, musicians, artists, and priests. In other words, each village should be a microcosm of India - a web of loosely inter-connected communities. Gandhi considered these villages so important that he thought they should be given the status of “village republics”. [From article “Gandhi’s Swadeshi--The Economics of Permanence” by Satish Kumar <https://gpsj.humanities.mcmaster.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/06/2007-Building-Sustainable-Communities.pdf>] (see p. 12, paragraphs 5)] 2. (In the past) “Most of the learning was done by listening to the preceptor. Not only in the seats of higher learning, but even the smith, the artisan, the artist, the carpenter, the farmer, the potter, the writer, the musician, the sculptor--all learnt from the elders by the silent process of lovingly listening and reverentially watching, not through the process of poring over books. Those days can be revived, if only you love and revere the heritage which is yours.” (p. 79) [from “An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)” (301 pages; 1997; 2006) compiled by Stefan Pasti. Accessible on homepage of The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative at www.cpci.org] 3. “... there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can become useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved....” [From “General Education in a Free Society” (The Harvard Committee, 1945)]