

Lecture 7 - World Changing, Revelations, and Revolutions

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What did you think of the reading?

What are the basic principles of Parecon? Does Marx's world view describe today? Have his changes happened?

What are the drastic alternatives to capitalism?

- Social Anarchism - Spanish Revolution
- Communism - Soviet Union? Cuba? China?
- Participatory Economics - Porto Alegre (deep democracy)
- Libertarianism - Iceland, 13th c.
- Coupon Societies - Seattle
- Socialism and Social Democracy Left - Norway
- Government-Assisted Capitalism - United States
- Feudalism - Europe
- Hunter-Gatherer - Ancients
- Mutualist -
- Gift Economy - Burning Man
- Command Economy - Cuba

Note: American capitalism is a complex arrangement, where government safety nets and services and corporate welfare are essential "external" elements.

Note: While capitalism has made the United States the largest single economy in the world, our Human Development Index is only 12th.

Is revolutionary change possible?

It's probably even inevitable. Remember, catastrophes— including world-changing revolutions and paradigm shifts— are lurking under ever grain.

A technique called "World Work" has been developed for situations where change seems impossible, like race relations, to take advantage of the potential of people to change.

What will cause it to happen?

Probably as a result of many over-determined forces. These include:

Infectious Change the ability of social networks to grow exponentially

Leap-frog Technologies developing nations can jump ahead by using new technology while more developed nations need to uproot existing infrastructure

New Paradigms many of our current paradigms are stale and ready for change

Power of Information the ability for information to circumnavigate the globe is incredible now

How will it happen?

Again, probably many different stories will be told. There will be revolution, but the changes will also be extensions of existing trends. Creative new subcultures will push in some directions, and supporting laws will push in others. Existing institutions will change from inside, as well as new institutions will come into existence, expand and duplicate, and displace current institutions.

Why hasn't the revolution happened yet?

Are we still lacking proper solutions? Do we need sufficient discontent with current systems?

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