

The Possibility of Relocalizing in Historical Perspective

- Economic Globalization is a relatively recent phenomena
- Increase of wind-powered ships in 1500s-1800s
- Increase in coal-powered transportation after 1820s
- Increase in oil-powered transportation after 1900.
- Containerization after 1960.
- Still, it was only in about 1970 that the world witnessed an exponential rate of growth in the movement of goods across the world.
- During the period 1915-1945, there was a process of global de-globalization
 - wartime projects to enhance local self-reliance

Resistance to Globalization

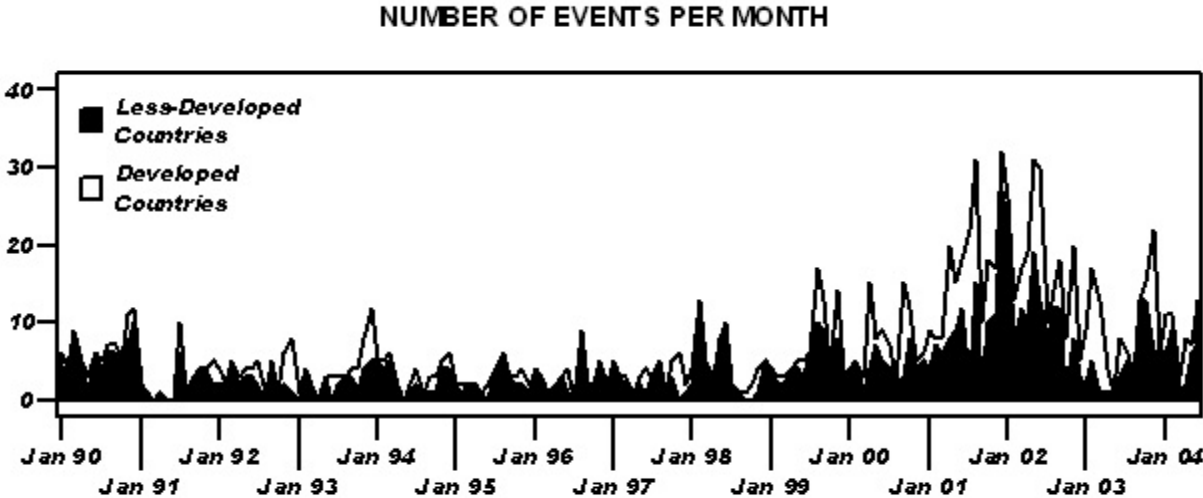
–There have been massive protests against globalization across the world.

*Labor unions, environmental groups, indigenous groups.

*Massive protests across the developing world since the mid 1970s, and across the developed world since the mid 1990s.

The Globalization Protest Movement

Transforming Globalization, edited by Bruce Podobnik and Thomas Reifer.



Results of Protests (When Reported)

January 1999 - June 2004

Result	Number of Events
Government Overthrown in Part b/c of Protests	8
Difficulties/Crisis Created for Leaders	70
Talks Held between Protesters and Leaders	19
Leaders Acknowledge Protester Concerns	14
Austerity/Liberalization Program Eased	30
IMF/World Bank Project Delayed/Cancelled/Revised	24
Meetings Disrupted	24
Meetings Held in Remote Location	6
Total Number of Events with Discernible Results:	198
Total Number of Events:	1178

**Countries/Years in which Government
was Replaced due in Part to Protests:**

Lebanon (1992), Sao Tome (1992), Thailand (1997), Ecuador (1997), Indonesia (1998), Ecuador (2000), Argentina (2001), Bolivia (2003).

Countries/Years in which Serious Political Difficulties were Created by Protests:

Romania (1990), Ivory Coast (1990), Trinidad (1990), France (1990), South Korea (1990), Thailand (1990), Philippines (1990), Guyana (1991), Barbados (1991), Romania (1991), Costa Rica (1991), Panama (1991), Venezuela (1992), Guatemala (1993), Nigeria (1993), South Korea (1993), India (1994), Bangladesh (1994), Sudan (1995), Haiti (1996), Argentina (1996), Bulgaria (1997), Argentina (1997), Zimbabwe (1998), Yemen (1998), Romania (1999), South Korea (1999), Thailand (1999), Ecuador (1999), India (1999), USA (1999), Argentina (2000), Turkey (2000), Argentina (2001), Italy (2001), Indonesia (2001), Bolivia (2001), Argentina (2002), Italy (2002), Peru (2002), Ecuador (2002), Dominica (2002), Zambia (2002), Dominican Republic (2003), Ecuador (2004), Zambia (2004).

The 'There is no alternative' TINA Argument (Margaret Thatcher)

It is crucial that we develop viable, alternative examples.

Examples:

The Post Carbon Institute

The Post Carbon Institute is a think tank devoted to exploring the implications of, and preparing for, peak oil, focusing on relocalization. They write, "the most important initiative of the Post Carbon Institute is working with groups of concerned citizens to prepare their community for the Post Carbon Age.." www.postcarbon.org www.relocalize.net

The Community Solution to Peak Oil

This Ohio based organization is "dedicated to the development, growth and enhancement of small local communities... that are sustainable, diverse and culturally sophisticated." The Community Solution developed an important film, *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*, documenting how this country has relatively successfully adapted to a political oil peak after the collapse of the Soviet Union. www.communitysolution.org

Permaculture

Permaculture is a 'design science' which can allow us to live in relative abundance with minimal resource use. David Holmgren's 2001 book, *Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability*, deals explicitly with the global oil peak and proposes permaculture as the best set of strategies for dealing with what he terms 'energy descent'.

www.permacultureactivist.net

www.permacultureinternational.org

www.holmgren.com.au

The Transition Model

Kinsale, Ireland

- Rob Hopkins begins by teaching a permaculture course in a community education program.
- permaculture design, organic growing, natural building, sustainable woodland management, conflict resolution, community leadership, starting your own business, nutrition, and field ecology.
- a movement that has social, political, and cultural dimensions.
- the importance of visioning (what a positive future could look like)

The plan and its initiator Rob Hopkins have inspired the Transition Towns movement of peak oil preparing towns, focused in Europe.

www.transitionculture.org - Rob Hopkins' blog

www.transitiontowns.org

www.willitseconomiclocalization.org

Transition Initiatives are Based on Four Key Assumptions

- 1) That life with dramatically lower energy consumption is inevitable
- 2) That we need to build resilience in our communities to weather this new energy reality
- 3) That we have to act collectively, and we have to act now
- 4) That we can create future lives that are more enriching and sustainable

Early Lessons

- 1) Avoid them and us (inclusion is important)
- 2) Create a sense that something is happening
- 3) Create a vision of an abundant future
- 4) Design in flexibility/resilience

The Concept of Resilience

–building societies that are able to withstand shocks

Later Lessons

- needs to be very embedded in the community
- need to work on awareness-raising
- need to get individuals incorporated into group actions, responses
- approach these issues with an awareness of psychological and addiction dynamics
- the twelve steps of transition

Understanding the Psychology of Change
The Stages of Change Model (p. 85).

- Pre-contemplation
- Contemplation
- Preparation
- Action
- Termination
- Maintenance
- Relapse, dealing with addictions

'Post-petroleum stress disorder'

Harnessing the Power of a Positive Vision

–tendency for apocalyptic visions to emerge

–The Road by Cormac McCarthy

–Ever Since the World Ended (movie)

–we need to create positive visions of post-carbon communities.

How to start a transition initiative in your community

- overcome common objections people use to demobilize themselves
- set up a steering group
- raise awareness (The Power of Community, The End of Suburbia)
- lay the foundations
- organize a great unleashing
- form groups, tapping into the collective genius of the community
- use open space technology
- develop visible, practical manifestations of the project
- facilitate reskilling
- build a bridge to local government
- honor the elders, learn from history
- let it go where it wants to go
- create an energy descent action plan