

HUMAN SCALE - Kirkpatrick Sale

"If anything can arrest the...disintegration of...civilization...it will come through a (return to) 'the human scale,' described in (this) encyclopedic book." - Lewis Mumford

Mass production of shoddy, unsafe products maims 20 million, kills 30,000 a year. 60 % of cars recalled in the last 10 years. 60,000 pages of laws and regulations in Federal Registry; 7,500 new rules a year added - impossible to administer. Unemployment, inflation, corporate and private theft, waste, warfare, nuclear menace, exploitation and poverty presage the end of world and domestic empires. 70 U. S. suicides, 1,000 attempts a day; 300 % increase for ages 15 - 24 in last 20 years. 11 - 20 million (depending on interpretation) full-scale alcoholics, 1.3 million teenagers. 60 % of 16-yr.-old boys, 25 % of ALL 12-yr.-olds are moderate or heavy drinkers. (1 million teenage prostitutes, countless drug addicts, pervasive school violence) 20,000 annual murders - highest rate in world, perhaps in history. 32 million annually treated for mental disorders; 40 million need professional care; 55 million more severely distressed. 30 million in abject poverty, 15 million barely above it; worse than in most industrialized countries, but only half as much spent on them. (40,000 homeless sleep on N. Y. C. streets.)

Exponential growth impossible, and technofix "solutions" merely create new problems. The centralized nation-state can't sustain us. We need people-sized units, the human-scale alternative, with control largely by personal acquaintance, decision by consensus, and monetary restitution for wrongs - not mass production, conglomerates, a military-industrial complex, standing armies, nuclear power, agribusiness, land speculators, 1,487 agencies governing N. Y. C., 454 taxes on a loaf of California bread. Back to nature and consumer movements: National Park visits from 80 million in 1960 to 283 million; 8.6 million backpackers, 7.7 million wilderness campers. 4.5 million get all income in a barter and cash economy; 15 million more, to some extent; totalling hundreds of billions. 71 million cooperative members: "credit, health care, food, housing, car repairs, electric power, agricultural supplies, and others;" 10,000 food co-ops. 4 to 5 million have turned to "voluntary simplicity." "Do-it-yourself" building a \$ 16.5 billion a year business. Civil rights, minority, women's, homosexual rights, a demand for individual and community, rather than centralized power; protection for the environment, plant and animal life, clean energy and natural foods; separatist movements among American Indians, blacks, Inuits, Quebecois, Scots, Welsh, Basques (Kurds, Croatians, Puerto Ricans) show decentralization trend.

Aristotle: A large state is "almost incapable of constitutional government." Block and neighborhood ass'ns., civilian patrols, free schools, storefront law offices, alternative publishing houses, day care centers, garage sales, health-food restaurants, citizen-action groups - the latter with 1.4 million contributors, compared to 520,000, and \$ 16.6 million in donations, compared to \$ 13.6 million to major political parties. (Justice Louis D. Brandeis believed that, without favoritism, a business would attain optimal size.) Federal subsidies to large corporations: agribusiness, shipbuilding, oil and steel companies, irrigation projects, nuclear power, defense and aerospace industries, trucking, conglomerates - inefficient, costly. Parkinson's Law: workers and work unrelated - British Admiralty grew 768 %, 1914 to 1967; 475 % fewer ships. U. S. Navy had 22,978 civil servants in 1915, 324 ships; 90,000 after the war, 300 ships; 68 workers per ship, 1950; 139, 1955; 120, 1970; 307, 1975. "For every animal, object, institution, or system, there is an optimal limit beyond which it ought not to grow." CON ED a classic, in original, breakdown, restarting, and chain reaction costs; worse projected.

Community government is the historic norm, conducive to all creative development; resisting central control, often continuing under it, and quickly and efficiently taking over, in war or peace, when central control disappears. Most ancient cities were not over 2,500; a few 35,000, 50,000 - 100,000 at most. Larger ones usually lasted less than 100 years; empires around 100 years. In 1815 there were only about 35 recognized sovereign nations. Britain was the first with a centralized bureaucracy, standing army, industrialized substructure, world-wide commerce, state-run education, police and welfare. Our billions have produced inadequate housing and urban decay. Foods and environment are poisoned, industrial accidents numerous. Medical bills

up 1000 % since 1965, death rates soaring. England, France, Belgium, Prussia, Italy, Spain, Austria and Russia confiscated communal grazing and farm lands, for the nobility, breaking up local government, with urban overcrowding and dependence upon factory owners. From 1910 to 1975 nearly all societies approached totalitarian control over most aspects of life, some forms benign palliatives. A chart shows a great increase in warfare and inflation, at times of government growth. Large cities increase "in density, fragmentation, deviance, criminality, social stress, anomie, loneliness, selfishness, alcoholism, mental illness, and racial and ethnic segregation." THE UNGOVERNABLE CITY. Per capita city expenses (50 to 100,000) \$ 229; (100,000 to 200,000) \$ 280; (1/2 to 1 million) \$ 426; (1 million up) \$ 681. Annual crimes per 100,000 (2,500 - 10,000) 3,906; (50 - 100,000) 6,006; (over 250,000) 7,819; San Fran. 10,742.

U. S. per capita consumption, from 1950 to 1975: eggs 389 to 278; milk and cream 348 Lb. to 241 butter 10.7 to 4.7; fresh fruit 108.8 to 81.5; fresh vegetables 115.2 to 99.3; wheat flour 135 to 106. 2 sq. miles of land could feed 50,000. Britain has 300,000 community gardens. 5 U. S. states have them. There is enough food now in the world to feed everyone 3,000 calories, 65 grams of protein a day. Africa uses only 22 % of its arable land; S. America 11 %. Organic wastes should provide natural fertilizers, needed nutrients and flavor, maintaining ecological balance, not be discarded as dangerous pollutants, while soil depreciates, costs rise, with ever greater need for unnatural fertilizers and pesticides. A small area could supply the agricultural and industrial needs of a moderate sized community, maintaining a balanced soil, with minimal transportation, storage and preservative expense; using multi-purpose machinery. Vermont Tomorrow: the state was self sufficient in food in 1900; now dependent on agribusiness. 100 acres could feed 5,000 - with solar-powered greenhouses, the year-round. The Third World, not robbed to feed developed nations, nor denied access to its earth, could feed itself. Farms under 160 acres in California produced a far better life than those 640 and over. A community with farms averaging 45 acres had a much higher living standard than one with farms averaging 297 acres. Highest profits are in companies of 45 persons or less.

Solar energy is limitless, universal, flexible, safe, clean, impossible to monopolize; cheap in many forms; in quantity production, in others. SOFT ENERGY PATHS. Hidden costs of current energy: direct and indirect subsidies, sickness, accidents, poisoning of earth, air and water, loss of vast useful lands, foreign dependence. (Energy loss in production, space heat and useless activities are well over 50 %. No excuse for imports or synfuels) 30,000 deaths a year from unnecessary operations. 15,000 deaths from infections acquired in hospital. 300,000 hospitalized for severe reactions to prescription drugs. 18,000 die from side effects of drugs given in hospitals; 10,000 suffer life-threatening reactions to antibiotics alone. During doctors' strikes in the U. S., Canada, England and Israel, death rates were appreciably lower. "Would the ancients be more amazed at the marvels of our dental technology or the rottenness of our teeth?" Unexploited primitives work much less for a comfortable living than we, and in good health. Only half of U. S. families have a net worth of \$ 3,000.

The State was unneeded for 3 million years, solves nothing today. Activists force reforms. In Hayden's Abschiedssymphonie, musicians leave, one by one, until none is left. We should thus end cooperation with the nation-state (possible with land at a nominal sale price, effected by assessment of the full ground rent, absorbing this "unearned increment" - capitalization of whose now unassessed value constitutes sale price - restoring to the public its natural right to the earth: rental for public services, sites and resources for residence and work; a right cancelled by land enclosures, and, more generally, by refusal to assess full ground rent, which now ensures hoarding and speculative pricing, unearned incomes, business monopolies, misuse of land, mass unemployment, sickness, starvation, every form of white collar and street crime and dissipation. Virtually free land, paying only ground rent for its superiority, would enable people to "vote with their feet," in work and residence, without waiting for legislation or inadequate enforcement, rejecting polluted or otherwise dangerous areas, unethical work.) "the duration and severity of war has always increased with an increase in state power." (We can democratize our government and economy, free our Latin American Empire, encouraging the world to recognize monopoly, not another government, as the enemy. Our 8,900 hydrogen bombs, and world nuclear capacity provide enough transition deterrents. Real peace requires justice.)