How do we make the world work for 100% of humanity.

Buckminster Fuller
Thomas Berry says:

“We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story....

The old story - the account of how the world came to be and how we fit into it...sustained us for a long period of time. It shaped our emotional attitudes, provided us with a life purpose, energized action. It consecrated suffering, integrated knowledge, guided education....

We need a (new) story that will educate man, heal him, guide him”
How we got here

In 1947, 36 men met for 10 days at the Mont Pelerin Hotel, Montreux Switzerland, to lay the intellectual foundation of neo-liberalism.

The group crafted the ideology that

personal freedom is paramount, government interference is evil, markets are perfect and the individual’s freedom to make economic decisions should not be hindered.
Ludwig von Mises was appalled at what state fascism/ National Socialism had done to wreck Europe.
Friedrich Hayek was terrified of the rise of Soviet collectivism.
Milton Friedman championed the individual as the only legitimate economic actor.

“The great achievements of civilization have not come from government bureaus.

Einstein didn’t construct his theory under order from a bureaucrat.

Henry Ford didn’t revolutionize the automobile industry that way.”

"Columbus did not seek a new route to the Indies in response to a majority directive."

Milton Friedman
Small government

Ludwig von Mises
The state can be and has often been in the course of history the main source of mischief and disaster.

Friedrich August von Hayek
“A claim for equality of material position can be met only by a government with totalitarian powers.”

Milton Friedman:
“Government has three primary functions. It should provide for military defense of the nation. It should enforce contracts between individuals. It should protect citizens from crimes against themselves or their property. When government-- in pursuit of good intentions tries to rearrange the economy, legislate morality or help special interests the cost come in inefficiency lack of motivation and loss of freedom.”
Primacy of individual greed

Milton Friedman:
“Is there some society you know that doesn’t run on greed? ... The world runs on individuals pursuing their separate interests...

The only cases in which the masses have escaped from the kind of grinding poverty you’re talking about are where they have had capitalism and largely free trade. If you want to know where the masses are worse off... it’s exactly in the kinds of societies that depart from that. ... there is no alternative way so far discovered of improving the lot of the ordinary people that can hold a candle to the productive activities that are unleashed by the free-enterprise system.”
Neo-liberal novelist

Influenced Paul Ryan, now Republican leader in US Congress

Mark Cuban,
Peter Thiel,
John Mackey,
American businessmen

Allan Greenspan – Chair of U.S. Federal Reserve Board

Founders of Libertarian Party and Tea Party

Clarence Thomas – US Supreme Court Justice
They formed the Mont Pelerin Society succeeded in getting its members as advisors to every head of state on the planet, and three of them as heads of state, others as central bankers.

They founded the Chicago School of Economics and legitimised their ideology through the economics Nobel Prize.
Powell Memorandum

August 23 1971
A corporate lawyer, member of boards of 11 corporations, soon-to-be Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell wrote a memo to Eugene Sydnor, head of U.S. Chamber of Commerce:

“American economic system is under broad attack.... Business must learn the lesson . . . that political power is necessary, that such power must be assiduously cultivated and that when necessary it must be used aggressively and with determination—without embarrassment and reluctance”
Freedom as a concept is indivisible. As the experience of the socialist and totalitarian states demonstrates, the contraction and denial of economic freedom is followed inevitably by government restrictions on other cherished rights.

The time has come—indeed, it is long overdue—for the wisdom, ingenuity and resources of American business to be marshalled against those who would destroy it. The overriding first need is for businessmen to recognize that the ultimate issue may be survival—survival of what we call the free enterprise system—and all that this means for the strength and prosperity of America and the freedom of our people.

Lewis Powell
Powell’s 26 targets

“Strength lies in organization, in careful long-range planning and implementation in consistency of action over an indefinite period of years in the scale of financing available only through joint effort and in the political power available only through united action and national organizations.”

Businesses/ Chambers of Commerce/ Business Roundtable

Campuses
  Create staff scholars to take university positions
  Speakers’ bureau
  Evaluate/ change textbooks
  Equal time on campus/ Balanced faculties
  Graduate schools of business
  Secondary education
Powell’s 26 targets

Public
  Press, TV, Radio
  Scholarly journals
  Books/paperbacks/pamphlets
  Paid advertisements
Political Arena
  Influencing politicians at state and federal
  Direct action
Courts
Stockholders
More aggressive attitude
Cost – raise money to fund all this
Quality assurance
Relationship to Freedom
Discredit old ideology
1980 elections:

Ronald Reagan in US, Margaret Thatcher in the UK: neo-liberalism became the dominant global economic ideology.

“Deregulation: implemented in many countries. Corporate directors assumed greater control, initiated hostile take-overs of many smaller companies.

1990s / 2000s: accounting scandals, off-shoring, outsourcing, globalization of labor, transport, and transaction costs.

2008 financial collapse was a predictable result of the systematic dismantling of welfare state sought by neo-liberalism
Growth Of Family Income

1947-1979: We All Grew
1980-2007: We Grew Apart

Avg $1.9 Million/yr


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Almost half of the world’s wealth now owned by just one percent of the population.
YOUR GREED IS HURTING THE ECONOMY!

$26.7 billion in bonuses paid out last year would be enough to more than double the pay of every one of America’s minimum wage workers.
“I am influenced more than ever before by the conviction that social equality is the only basis of human happiness”

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela
Normal is getting dressed in clothes that you buy for work and driving through traffic in a car that you are still paying for - in order to get to the job you need to pay for the clothes and the car, and the house you leave vacant all day so you can afford to live in it. ~ Ellen Goodman
"What would you suggest to fill the dark, empty spaces in my soul?"
We have exceeded the carrying capacity of the planet:

Fish stocks are depleted.

In 100 years of industrial agriculture we have lost 50 - 70% of the organic material in the soil that took 10,000 years of post glacial building to accumulate.

Ground water tables are falling meters a year, much more rapidly than they can be regenerated.
We are failing to meet basic human minimums
65 million people on the move

Face death in a war zone?
Escape, but leave loved ones behind?

What would you do?

#refugees
NASA funded the HANDY Study: 
Is Industrial Civilization Headed for Irreversible Collapse

The study found:

“Cases of severe civilisational disruption due to "precipitous collapse - often lasting centuries - have been quite common.”

Population, Climate, Water, Agriculture and Energy were the key interrelated factors that explain civilisational decline, and may help determine risk of collapse today

The study sought to understand long-term behavior not make a short term prediction, but its warning is stark.
Two crucial social features drove collapse:

“...the stretching of resources due to the strain placed on the ecological carrying capacity”; and

“...the economic stratification of society into Elites [rich] and Masses (or "Commoners") [poor]"

These social phenomena have played “a central role in the character or in the process of the collapse,” in all such cases over “the last five thousand years.”