

How Can The Earth Be Sustained?

Sanford Hinden on the Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity

It is said that we have until 2030 to change before unforeseen catastrophic forces will be upon us, unleashed by nature, with human extinction on the horizon. Like addicts in denial, we had better change. We need a new system, a combination of Capitalism's creativity with Socialism's consciousness and compassion. Capitalism's basic Economic Principles are Unlimited Growth and Maximization of Profits that drive corporations to ignore Externalities and provide maximum benefit to shareholders and executives. We need new Principles for Economics of Moderate or Modest Profits, Accountability, Sustainable Growth and Shared Wealth for All.

Q. What is the Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity (CEH)?

A. The Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity is a process and a system that reallocates current spending into what humans need and want through Global Demilitarization through National Military Budget Reductions of 5% a year.

Q. Why is CEH needed?

A. Capitalism presently uses money to benefit the Investor Class: 1% of world population own 50% of world wealth, 10% own 88% of world wealth and 30% own 97% of world wealth. Seventy (70%) of the world's population have little to no assets and collectively own 2.7% of world wealth, growing poorer, day- by-day, compared to the rich.



Q. How did this happen?

A. Capitalism evolved from Aristocratic Feudalism to Agrarian Capitalism, to Industrial Capitalism, to now Financial Capitalism and Surveillance-Data Capitalism.

Today, only 30% of the world significantly benefit from Capitalism. Now, with electronic-

financial Capitalism, a multi-billionaire who invests a billion dollars, at a 10% return-on-investment in a hedge fund can make \$100,000,000 a year by doing nothing, and adding no value to the world.

For the super-rich, wealth is growing at super-speed. As their wealth grows, they pay more for goods and services, such as housing, harming the 70% who grow relatively poorer due to rising prices and stagnant income. As shareholder and CEO wealth rise from stock share buybacks and withholding raises and benefits, worker wealth remains flat. "The rich grow richer, and the poor grow poorer" has never been truer.

To facilitate Capitalism, banking grew over time to now electronically control the flow of money. Interest is used to make loans and generate profit. When the banking system and investment system became interwoven, the bankers now also are involved with investment.

Rather than investing capital in real businesses to generate grassroots jobs and shared prosperity, Wall Street has siphoned billions of investment dollars into speculative, high-profit securities "secured" only by rickety bundles of subprime home or auto loans. The bad loan banks make unsuitable loans to borrowers who can't afford the loan payment. When they can't pay, the property (home or car) goes into foreclosure; the investor side of the banks then buys the property in an auction, and then rents to people at an ever-increasing price. These loan, buy, foreclosure, rent schemes are one way banker-investors collude, and the poor own fewer assets.

In Capitalism, the Principle of Profit Maximization (Greed Optimization) guides and benefits the Investor Class.

In the Commonwealth of Earth & Humanity, *who benefits* shifts from the Investor Class and the Principle of Profit Maximization, to how to use resources to create a sustainable society and economic system based on the guiding value and Principle of Health of the Earth.

The Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity is a process and a system of reallocating current spending into what humans need and want through Global Demilitarization through National Military Budget Reductions of 5% a year.

Money will benefit Earth and humanity, and be spent on Earthcare, human development, social stabilization and infrastructure that create enlightened people, thriving families, creative communities, worker-owned cooperatives, regional integrated cooperation, international peace and a sustainable planet.

An Earth Economics Principle of Circular Economy, referred to simply as "circularity", is an economic principle aimed at minimizing waste and making the most of resources.

This regenerative approach is in contrast to the traditional linear economy, which has a "take, make, dispose" model of production. It is an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design. It seeks to design-out waste through a cycle of recollection of the product, disassembly and reuse.

Another Earth Economics Principle is Full Accountability, needed to put full social and environmental costs on the balance sheets of corporations. Currently many

corporations are destroying the planet by not accounting for “externalities” that push the cost of products off the corporate balance sheet, onto the public to clean-up. Example: CARBON EMISSIONS are heating the air and water, causing ice to melt and rising sea levels.

Example: STYROFOAM (expanded polystyrene) takes 500 years to forever to decompose and has filled-up 30 percent of landfill space that is fast becoming full, and sickens and kills animals and fish.

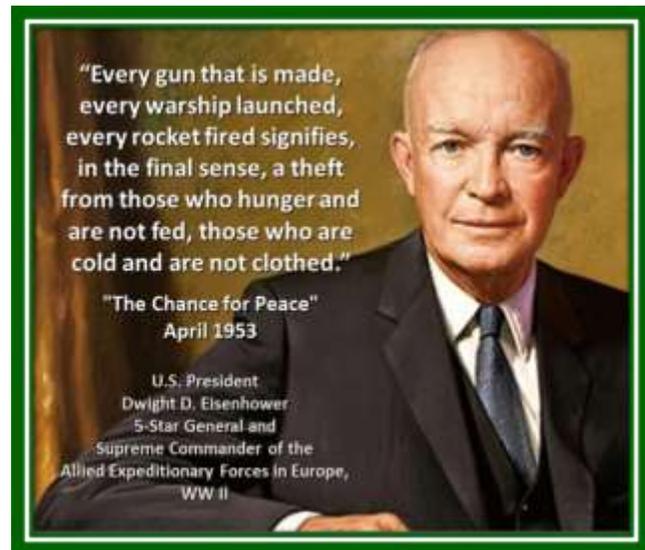
Example: WATER POLLUTION: Industrial chemicals are now in the entire water system of the United States.

With this process, Externalization is destroying the biosphere for future generations. Humans may be extinct in 200 years or less.

Q. How does the Principle of Profit Maximization end-up Starving Civilization and Destabilizing Society?

A. When the Highest Value is Profit with ever-increasing wealth as the goal, vast wealth is then taken off-shore, avoiding taxes, needed to pay for essential services and needed infrastructure. See the [Panama Papers](#) that exposed the network of more than 214,000 tax havens involving people and entities from 200 different nations.

When the Highest Value is Profit it breeds greed at all costs and criminality in the form of tax havens, selling illegal drugs, guns, international weapons sales, intellectual and physical piracy, extortion and government corruption, now causing Mass Global Migration. People are now fleeing violence and poverty all around the world. Local violence, civil and international wars, and the joblessness that follows, drive global migration. Local and national government corruption of leaders, the military, police and bureaucrats, by organized criminals and drug gangs, need National Anti-Corruption Commissions to eradicate corruption, to help create sustainable economies in these nations, to reduce disruptive global migration.



Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated in the “The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment”...

"Crime has internationalized faster than law enforcement and world governance...."

In the United Nations has become co-opted and weakened as all Permanent Members of the Security Council now fiercely compete to sell weapons for profit that fosters violence and war, massive migration, arrival-country destabilization, hatred of immigrants, and the rise of reactionary politics worldwide. Nine of the world's top ten arms exporters sat on the UN Security Council between mid-2016 and mid-2018. They have turned to UN into an arms bazaar.

Over 3.5 trillion dollars a year is spent on global military, espionage, surveillance, clandestine operations, police and prisons to control humanity, using-up scarce resources needed for Earthcare and Humancare.

We need Global Demilitarization to have funds to create a Sustainable Economic System that generates Earth Systems Wellness.

Q. What is Sustainable Growth?

A. The Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity seeks to create sustainable growth. It is often said we need to simplify our lives and not keep consuming more and more, and then throwing away less trendy stuff, in a cycle over and over again.

The United States is 5% of the world's population but consumes 25% of the world's energy. If all people on Earth are to consume the way people in the United States do we will need 4.5 planets of resources.

Capitalist Principles	Earth Economics Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited Growth • Maximization of Profit • Ignore Externalities • Maximum Shareholder and Executive Profit • Ignore Earth, Communities, Families, People 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Growth • Moderate or Modest Profits • Accountability • Shared Wealth for All, Families, Communities & Earth • Care for Earth, Communities, Families, People

The present Principle of Profit Maximization leads to the need for unlimited growth. To limit consumerism is the capitalist nightmare because CEOs fear not growing each quarter as shareholders will have them fired for low growth. Thus, they seek profit maximization to satisfy the Investor Class.

As the Earth is a system of interlocking resources – a global system of nature in which we all live – it appears present patterns of consumption and pollution are not sustainable.

In the summer of 1970, an international team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology began a study of the implications of continued worldwide growth.

They examined the five basic factors that determine and, in their interactions, ultimately limit growth on this planet: 1) population increase, 2) agricultural production, 3) nonrenewable resource depletion, 4) industrial output, and 5) pollution generation.

The MIT team fed data on these five factors into a global computer model and then

tested the behavior of the model under several sets of assumptions to determine alternative patterns for humankind's future.

The book "Limits to Growth" was the nontechnical report of their findings, stating humans need to impose limits on themselves, and on production of material goods to achieve a state of global equilibrium with population and production, in a carefully selected balance.

Q. Is the Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity a Socialist program?

A. Capitalists fear "Limits to Growth" and have no solutions to how to create limited growth in Capitalism. They don't seek to modify Profit Maximization to Moderate Profit, or Modest Profit. Instead, seek a defensive argument instead of rational dialogue and thoughtful deliberation, they pull-out the bogeyman, the widely regarded object of fear of the failure of socialism in totalitarian systems, the usual anti-communism speech-making.

The Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity seeks to balance Socialism and Creative, Enlightened Capitalism to reallocate the world's resources to engage in a five-part process of 1) Respectful Dialogue, 2) Thoughtful Deliberation, 3) Creative Problem-Solving, 4) Testing Solutions, and 5) Updating Solutions to create a Model for Sustainable Economics that includes limits to growth, using Moderate or Modest Profit as a new guiding value and principle. This will require evolving past the values of power, militarism and growth, and an evolution of human consciousness, collaboration and co-creativity, values and ethics on Earth.

Q. What would the Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity do with funding?

A. This is the 2019-2020 CEH Plan

1. Build the Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity website.
2. Hire an assistant.
3. Promote Commonwealth for Earth & Humanity Clubs (for self-education, support, human development and sustainable development)
4. Link CEH Clubs in a global development process via Slack.
5. Send a quarterly newsletter.
6. Hold monthly online meetings / trainings.
7. Hold annual conference online.

Sanford Hinden
CEH [Webpage](http://www.sanfordhinden.com)
info@sanfordhinden.com
516-815-4767

