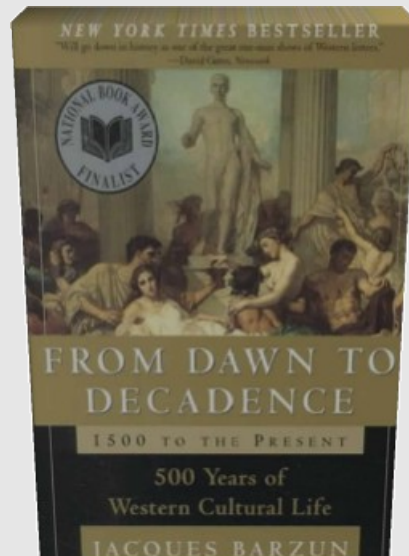


# **This slideshow has been created to -**

- Identify some deep problems in society
- Say why they can now be resolved.



# **PART I:**

## The Problems



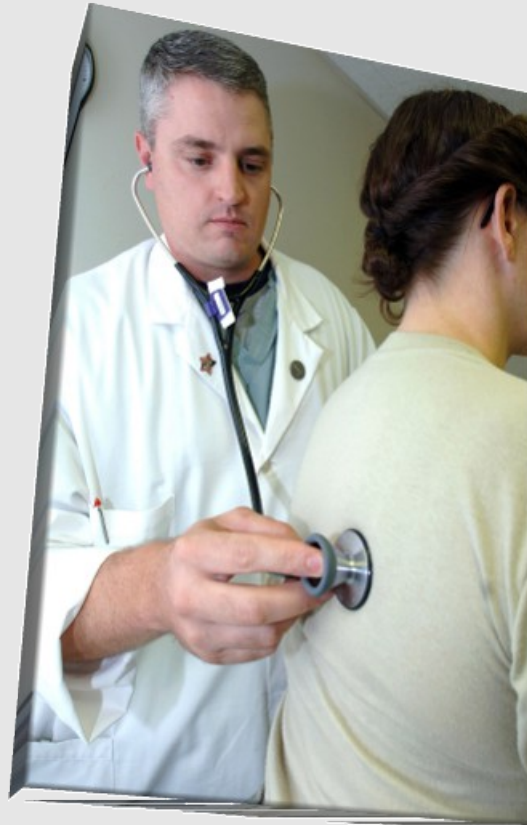
The problems are theoretical but their symptoms are pervasive - they show up every day in the news and in our lives.



The inability of people to engage in productive dialog is a prominent symptom.



To treat a disorder you must first identify the problem.



Western Civilization has two main sources:

## **JERUSALEM & ATHENS**

The religious



Jerusalem

The rational



Athens



*The heritage of Jerusalem is a monotheistic belief system in which truth claims and values are justified on supernatural grounds as described in the Bible.*



*The heritage of Athens is a rational, naturalistic orientation in which truth claims are empirically justified, while values are open to inquiry.*





Ours is a publicly secular society.  
There is no turning back on this.



But the tradition has two deep problems...

At the dawn of modern  
western philosophy, Rene  
Descartes famously  
proclaimed,

“I think, therefore I am.”

His attempt to prove anything  
beyond the existence of his  
own mind didn't go well.



1596 - 1650

**That brings us to...**

# **The first deep problem:** **How do we *know* something is true?**



This problem has plagued Western  
Philosophy for nearly four centuries.  
Philosophy 101 students read about it.

In 1903 G. E. Moore asked

**“What is good?”**

He couldn't define the word.

It was the same for all value terms.



1873 - 1958

*Just*

*Wrong*

*Bad*

*Inappropriate*

*Fair*

*Right*

*Unjust*

**This exposed...**

# **The second deep problem:**

## **How do we know good from bad ...or right from wrong?**





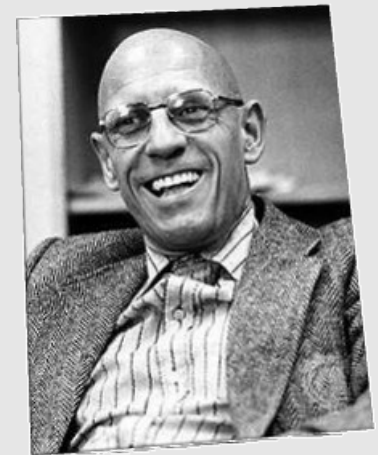
The failure to provide credible answers to these questions undermined the belief that statements could be true or false - or that actions could be right or wrong.





This led to intellectual anarchy.

Generations of college students have  
been influenced by humanities  
professors  
who no longer  
believed in truth  
or morality.



If nothing is true or false and nothing is right or wrong, the idea of productive, rational dialog is a delusion.



**Now what?**

# **PART II:**

## A Response

Two developments in recent decades  
provide a way forward on these  
issues...



# FIRST DEVELOPMENT:

A philosopher of historic significance  
has developed the first truly viable  
resolution of Descartes's problem in  
400 years.



Descartes

Monsieur  
Descartes, meet  
Ms. Haack



Haack

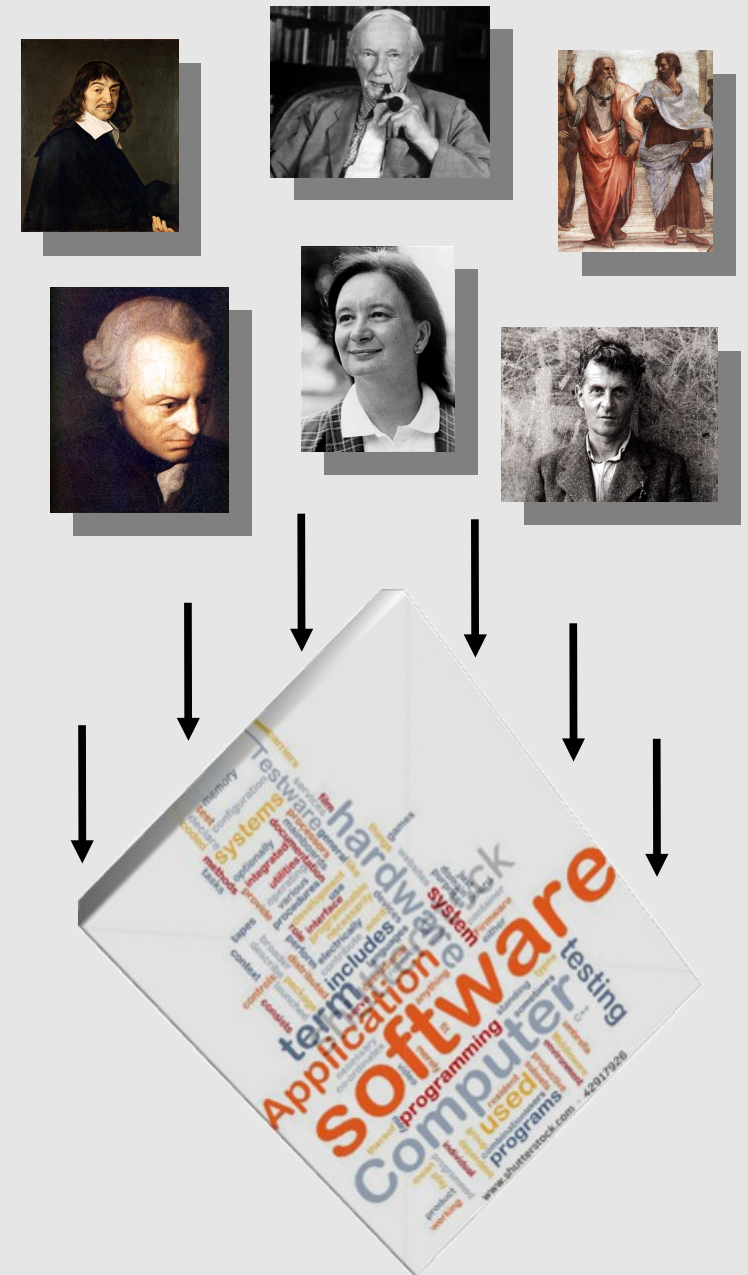
# **SECOND DEVELOPMENT:**

## Information systems engineering

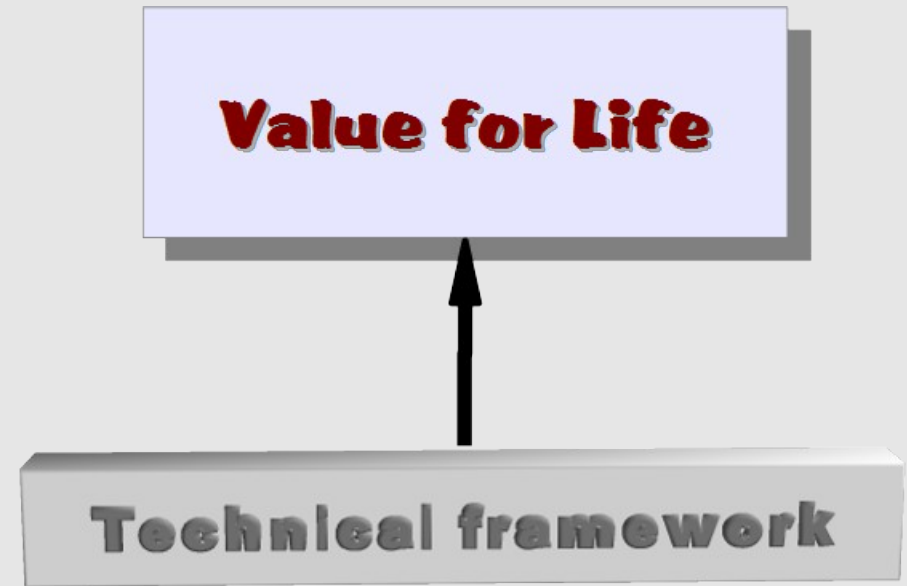




**When techniques  
from information  
systems engineering  
are used to integrate  
philosophical  
assets, the deep  
problems of the  
tradition can be  
credibly resolved.**

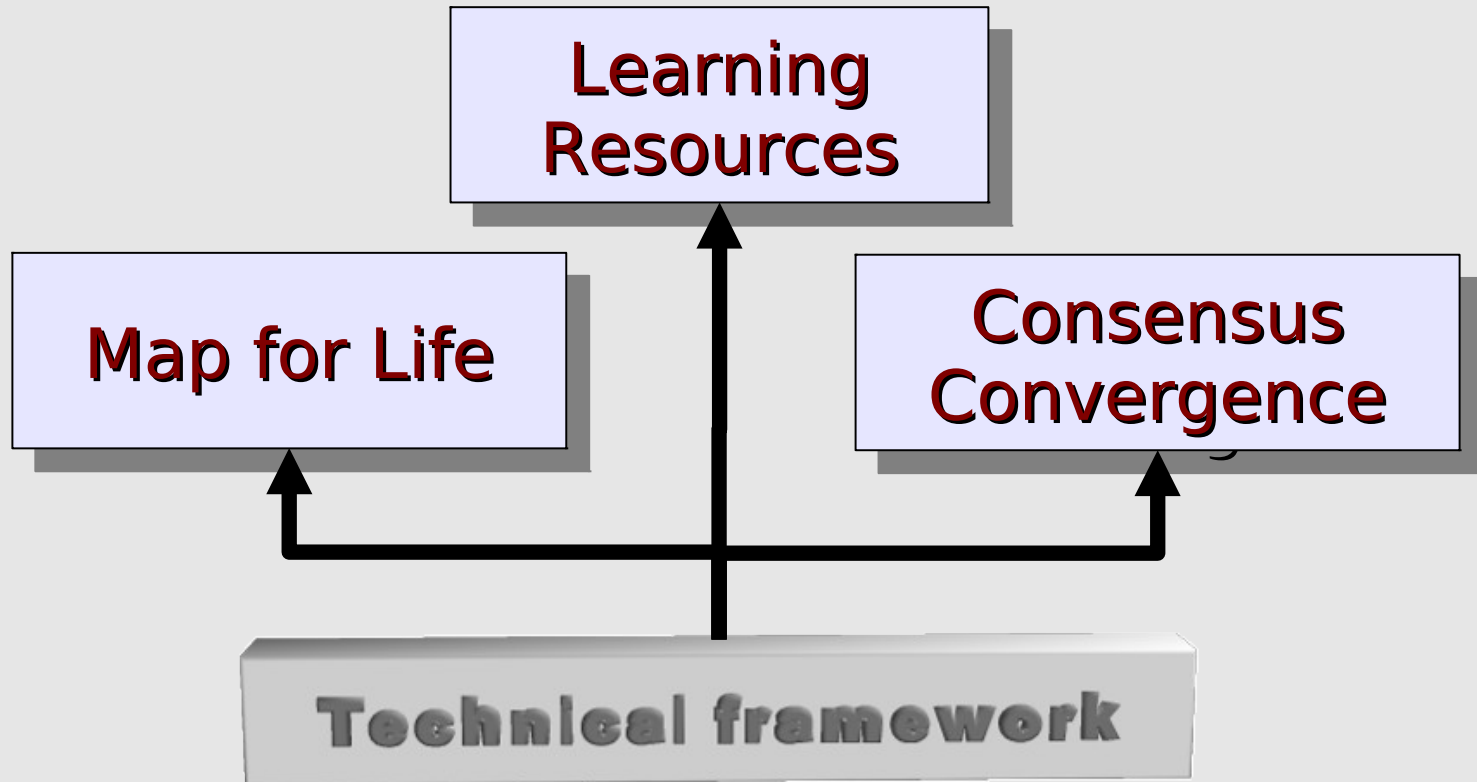


In this way, ideas are processed through two stages to create practical tools for people, without their having to devote a lifetime to research.



**This is a democratization of philosophy with real utility.**

The value comes through end-user products -

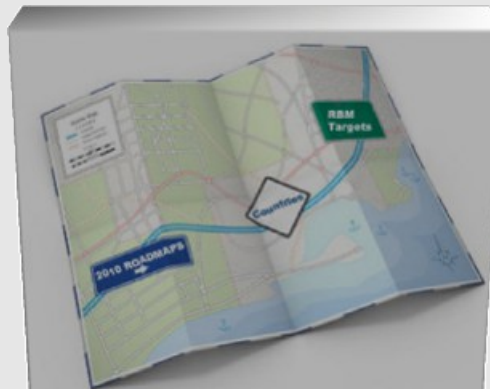


The products rest on a framework that is customizable through user choices.

Among the products is -

# A map for life

...to help orient people's understanding and choices.



The primary product is a -

# Consensus Convergence

To help groups work together more effectively.  
database application

Like all software, the technical framework and the end-user products based on it can evolve continuously through user input.

**The entire project is called**

**"Walking the Sunlit  
Path"**



For more, see these slideshows -

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***Walking the Sunlit Path:***  
**The Technical Framework**

***Walking the Sunlit Path:***  
**A Map for Living**

***Walking the Sunlit Path:***  
**The Database Application**

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**This project needs a team to finish it.  
If you would like to become involved in  
any aspect of it, contact -**

**[ntruminator@gmail.com](mailto:ntruminator@gmail.com)**

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**Live presentations available on request.**