

Aipotu!

- The land of personal power

People influence society and society influences people.
Their power spreads and makes the world new

Aipotu!

- The land of personal power

**TREVVY
BURGESS**

Credendo Vides
(by believing one sees)

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by Trevy Burgess

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Dedicated to my parents...
They always believed in me –
even when they were scolding me.

Acknowledgements

Don't be afraid to take a big step when one is indicated.

You can't cross a chasm in two small steps.

-- David Lloyd George¹ --

People with skeletons in their closets

tend to be most rich.

-- Dr. Slip Cam² --

I would like to thank my brother Larry for proofreading this book. It took a great deal of time and effort on his part and I appreciate all his hard work.

I would also like to express my love and appreciation to my brothers and sisters for the support they have given me in writing *Aipotu - The land of personal power*.

As for my parents, I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for them. I love and thank them from the nearest to the farthest reaches of my heart.

¹ David Lloyd George, 1863-1945, Welsh Liberal Statesman - with acknowledgements to Barbara Heyn

² This comment was prompted by former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's sex scandal. Spitzer zealously persecuted others for a sin he secretly practiced. Spitzer resigned in March 2008.



Disclaimer

All opinions expressed in this book, either expressed or implied, are the opinions of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either the peoples of Aipotu or the publisher.

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All that is valuable in human society
depends upon the opportunity for development
accorded the individual.

-- Albert Einstein --

Power corrupts. Absolute power is kind of neat.

-- John Lehman --

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Aipotu!

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With knowledge comes awareness.

With awareness comes desire for change.

With desire for change comes action.

With action comes the change,

And the world is made new again.

INTRODUCTION

There are no such things as inalienable rights –
only privileges that people must constantly fight and die for.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

The measure of a man is what he does with power.

-- Plato --

Only he who attempts the ridiculous
may achieve the impossible.

-- Spanish writer's Epigram --

Long ago and far away existed a land of peace and prosperity. It was the envy of all the nations, a jewel in the realm of humanity. Everyone looked to it for inspiration and hope. Its name was – Aipotu.

The odd thing about Aipotu was that there was little difference between it and the other nations. The people who lived in Aipotu were the same as those found in other countries. Their culture was like other cultures. Their beliefs and religions were no different. Their spiritual development was the same. The elements that made up their government were similar. Even their level of science and technology was similar.

There was however one thing that separated Aipotu from the other countries. Aipotu focused on the person as the most important element of society. This focus affected all aspects of society including the running of the government, the raising of children, the treatment of the poor and the building of cities.

Okay, so that isn't quite true. After all, all societies focus on people, don't they? If you think you're confused, you're not alone...



Throughout history, people have envisioned perfect societies. Communism, Socialism and Marxism are just three such examples. (Don't forget Democracy, with its little friend Capitalism.) Everyone has their own idea of what a perfect society should be.

Some utopias involve only a couple dozen people while others involve hundreds of millions of people (ex. China, Russia, the United States, etc.).



Each of these societies addresses some perceived need. Each has had success when initially applied. However, as time passed, flaws appeared, revealing that these societies were not as perfect as people hoped they'd be.

I've just returned from Aipotu and I would like to share my experiences with you. In the chapters that follow, I'll describe how their society is set up. Perhaps we can apply some of these principles to our own society.

I suggest you go to this country and experience it for yourself. I'm sure I've made mistakes while jotting down this information. If this is true, please don't hesitate to let me know. The more people who investigate the matter, the better our understanding of that society will be... So, let's proceed to the guts of the book.

Before we begin, I'd like to make a comment. People say they don't want to live in a utopia because such a world would be boring. The fact that what you're talking about is boring is proof that it's *not* a utopia.

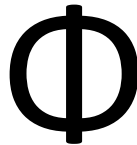
People have claimed that suffering is important in the world. They claim that utopia is the worst thing that could happen to humanity. Have you noticed that these people are the ones who are usually living in the lap of luxury? It's easy to say that suffering is good when you're not the one doing the suffering.



PART 1

“Intelligence sees the larger whole in which all things are connected. Cleverness is motivated by self-interest, and it is extremely short-lived. Most politicians and businesspeople are clever. Very few are intelligent. Whatever is obtained through cleverness is short-lived and always turns out to be eventually self-defeating. Cleverness divides; intelligence includes.”

-- Eckhart Tolle, *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*, P. 112



RULING OF A NATION

The nation exists for the benefit of the individual,
not the individual for the benefit of the nation.

-- H. J. Eysenck, Glen Wilson³ --

The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.

The last is to say thank you.

In between, the leader is a servant.

-- Max Depree --

In Aipotu, we are tolerant of intolerant people
– but we will not put them in positions of power.

-- Unknown Aipotu Patriot --

Whenever groups of people come together, a strange entity is formed. This entity appears in all societies and in all places where people come together to live and work. This entity grows as the population grows and as the challenges facing people increase. We call this entity, government.

In the beginning, there is a need to organize labor and divide chores so that everyone may prosper. The more people there are in the group, the greater are the benefits to the individual. These benefits include security, help in food production, and the manufacture of useful products and services.

However, the more people there are in the group, the more anonymous an individual in the group becomes.

In a small society, everyone knows everyone's business. In such societies, it's hard to get away with anything. In a large society, many people will not know the existence of others. This anonymity affects how people behave towards one another. Anonymous people are less accountable and can act more freely to fulfill their desires, sometimes at the expense of others.

Therefore, oppressive governments ensure their enforcement agents are anonymous.

³ H. J. Eysenck, Glen Wilson, *Know your own Personality*, 1978



To reap the benefits of government, people need to give up some of their freedoms. Larger groups and greater challenges require more control and fewer individual freedoms. Most people are happy to obey reasonable laws.

Unfortunately, not all of us are reasonable.

A sage once said, "The basis of all fear is the fear of Death". To some, giving up the old and entering the new is like death. This fear colors all our thoughts and actions and wise are the ones who ~~have freed themselves of this fear~~ understand this fear and are diligent against it.

One of the reasons governments form is because most people hate uncertainty in their lives. They want to be certain about their next meal. They want to be safe from attack. They want to be certain about the world and their place in the world. In short, they want order and security and they don't mind giving up some of their rights and freedoms in order to get it.

Taken to the extreme, this inherent need can lead to totalitarian regimes. *When a people become afraid, they become ripe for domination.* This warning is so important that I'll say it again.

When a people become afraid, they become ripe for domination.

Don't believe me? History is full of such examples. A classic example is when the Germans allowed the Nazis to enslave them when they elected the Nazi party in a "free" election. You can be certain fear was a driving force in the election.

The Germans hated how the world treated them after World War I and they feared for their future. As a result, the Germans followed ~~the Devil~~ Hitler into World War II. They and the rest of the world paid a heavy price for those mistakes.

The words of Eric Hoffer are suitable here:

"There is a powerful craving in most of us to see ourselves as instruments in the hands of others and thus free ourselves from the responsibility for acts which are prompted by our own questionable inclinations and impulses. Both the strong and the weak grasp at this alibi. The latter hide their malevolence under the virtue of obedience: they acted dishonorably because they had to obey orders. The strong, too, claim absolution by proclaiming themselves the chosen instrument of a higher power - God, history, fate, nation or humanity."



In symbiosis, as the population grows, the government grows along with it. It usually grows without conscious help. It grows like a weed in neglected soil. In due course, it becomes a monster that destroys everything it touches, until it (the government) finally dies. This usually happens in a revolution.

I can see this happen in our country. Governments create countless laws to control every problem, no matter how small. Bureaucracy flourishes where no one is responsible or accountable for anything. There's a slavish tendency to follow rules. Corruption spreads unchecked by the lack of accountability.

Then there are people who try to subvert the government and the constitutional laws of the country in order to gain greater political and economic power. Every country and every government is vulnerable to this.

The reason this happens is that people ignore or forget the unspoken axioms of government. History is full of examples where the people have forgotten these axioms and each time their society was forcefully changed. These axioms are so important that they are part of Aipotu's constitution.

Axiom A1: The sole purpose of government is to ensure the maximum possible freedom for everyone.

Everyone understands this axiom in their hearts, but people often forgot it in the daily rush of events.

The next axiom gets a special place of honor above the doors of parliament and in various government offices of the country.

Axiom A2: All political power comes from the people and to the people it must eventually return.

All governments stay in power because of the will of the people. Even dictatorships follow this rule. Given enough motivation, a population can topple even the most powerful government. One historic example is the French Revolution, where the oppressed people of France overthrew a monarchy. Another is the American Revolution, where a people defied a foreign government and forged a nation.

Accountability is the cornerstone of all good governments, as well as society, hence this axiom.



Axiom A3: We can only achieve ‘Accountable government’ when the individual, not the group, is assigned the accountability and responsibility of performing tasks.

What’s the difference between a good government and a bad government?

Answer: Its level of accountability.

Winston Churchill once said, “Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those others that have been tried.” Do you know why this is true? It’s because Democracy offers the greatest level of accountability. If the government screws up, the people can replace it come election time, provided there is *still* a country.

When we assign responsibility to individuals, things get done. However, without accountability, what’s to prevent incompetence, corruption, and power mongering from creeping in?

This personal responsibility and accountability extends to all aspects of Aipotunian society. However, the active participation of a few is not enough, hence the next axiom.

Axiom A4: The active participation of every citizen in society is the only thing that can ensure freedom for all.

In July of 2006, I was watching a show on PBS. They were talking about how various trends in the US were polarizing the political landscape. One person said that a good citizen should never question the President. Without realizing it, this person was expressing a strong communistic sentiment, hence the next axiom⁴:

⁴ According to my brother Larry, “We tend to forget that a communistic sentiment is NOT a bad thing. Being community minded is or should be a good thing. It’s the implementation of this sentiment or government that’s faulty”.

In my opinion, it is entirely too easy for a communistic society to become a dictatorship.

On the other hand, every other form of government is vulnerable to this. The quickest way to form a totalitarian government is to suppress all dissent. All you must do is call your opponents, “Un-Democratic”, “Un-American”, “Un-Christian”,



Axiom A5: It is the duty of every citizen to question authority when they think that those in authority are wrong.

This axiom best describes what democracy is all about. That is what the Founding Fathers of the United States of America fought and died to protect. To not follow Axiom A5 is to spit on their graves.

The above axioms, along with the three laws of government (P. 17), make up the heart and soul of the laws and government of Aipotu.

Government

Government, even in its best state,
is a necessary evil; in its worst state,
an intolerable one.

-- Thomas Paine, Common Sense --

Those who desire to give up Freedom
in order to gain Security,
will not have, nor do they deserve, either one.

-- Thomas Jefferson --

Never attribute to malice
that which is adequately explained by
stupidity.

-- Hanlon's Razor --

The government of any country, state or city has many departments. Each department has its own field of activity. A minister heads each department. Ministers have people to help them in the daily running of the department.

In Aipotu, these helpers share the workload with the minister, as well as full responsibility for their actions.

The minister divides the workload between enough people to do the job. Each person has the authority to run their piece of the pie in the best way they know how. They have the right to object to policy if they consider it to

or any other "Un" you can think of. Also, label all opposing commentary as "False News", as a certain US president like to do.



be not in the best interest of the public, but they must justify themselves if they do so. They are accountable to the minister and the public for all their work. The term, 'The buck stops here', applies to everyone.

Let's take the ministry of transportation, for the city of Ytilibisnopser, in the province of Modeerf, as an example. The city contains twenty-seven districts. In each area, an official oversees road maintenance, street sign repair, etc. This ensures responsibility and accountability in the management for the roads in that area. If a citizen has a problem with the roads, such as a safety issue, they go directly to the person in charge. This is how they did things in the good old days, when towns were small.

The minister oversees the smooth operation of the entire ministry. As such, the minister acts like the captain of a smoothly running team.

Cities, states and Country

Freedom is not license, Beloved ones!
Freedom is the Greatest Consideration
for the Rights and Blessings of others...
-- Godfré Ray King⁵ --

No man is good enough to govern
another man without that other's consent.
-- Abraham Lincoln --

For every action, there is an equal
and opposite government program.
-- Bob Wells --

The country of Aipotu has five states. Each state contains cities, state parks, private lands, public lands and farms.

The federal government is responsible for the overall running of the country. It also deals with other countries. The federal government does not interfere in the affairs of the states except to make sure they get along with their neighbors and to ensure a unified country.

The state government takes care of the needs of the state parks, private

⁵ Godfré Ray King, *The "I Am" Discourses*, Vol. 8, P. 335



lands, public lands and farms. The state government does not interfere in the affairs of the cities except to make sure that they play nice with their neighbors and the environment and to ensure a unified state.

City governments are responsible for the proper running of cities.

Elections

Anyone who is capable of getting themselves
made President should on no account
be allowed to do the job.
-- Douglas Adams⁶ --

In politics we presume that everyone who knows how to get votes knows how to administer a city or a state. When we are ill... we do not ask for the handsomest physician, or the most eloquent one.
-- Plato --

Have you noticed that when a politician
wins an election or passes something they want,
they always say that it is democracy in action?
It's only democracy if you win.
-- Unknown Evil Genius --

Like all things in Aipotu, the people run the government like a well-oiled business. This extends to the election of government officials. The citizens act like shareholders in a corporation and every independent citizen⁷ has 1000 votes. There has been talk of allowing people who are socially active to get more votes, but that wasn't resolved when I left the country.

Political Parties

Unlike many democratic countries, there is no such thing as political parties in Aipotu. Instead, each candidate must run for the specific ministry they wish to head.

⁶ Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

⁷ An independent citizen is a citizen of legal age and of rational mind.

Dependent citizens are minors and those not capable of making rational decisions. Strangely enough, criminals do have the right to vote, even while in jail.



In the political party world, if you're a member of a party, you must behave in a certain way and formulate policy in a certain way. The system punishes anyone who steps outside of these boundaries. As a result, people get so wrapped-up in party policies that they can't do their work.

By getting rid of political parties, you remove the problems associated with party politics. The elected leaders don't have to worry about conforming to party rules since there are no parties. Instead, leaders are free to focus on the relevant issues. In addition, this ensures greater accountability, because officials can't say they were only following party rules.

Mandate

Ministers are responsible for the operation of their elected ministry. This includes the creation and maintenance of laws and regulations that pertain to that aspect of the running of the country.

As an example, the minister of the environment for the state of Ecitsuj is personally responsible for the welfare of the environment in Ecitsuj. That minister has the authority to create laws and regulations to protect the environment in Ecitsuj. The same thing is true for all ministries. The president oversees the overall operation of the country and its dealings with other countries.

Normally ministers remain in office until they retire, die or get fired. If you think that Aipotu isn't a real democracy, you're right. Accountability and competence are more important to the Aipotunian people than ideology.

A major problem with the election system of some countries is that government officials spend too much time worrying about getting re-elected and not enough time doing their jobs. This is not a worry in Aipotu for the above reason.

Instead of relying on elections to keep them honest, the president and ministers in Aipotu must take a performance review each year, to ensure that they are doing a good job. This is just like any corporation, where supervisors, co-workers, and customers evaluate the performance of each employee. The Evaluation Committee, a branch of the Department Of Departments DOD (P. 32), is responsible for this task. As expected, the results of the evaluations are available to the public. In addition, any citizen can question what a minister is doing. However, a citizen cannot force a minister to do or not do something. The reason is because the needs of the



people and the needs of a group can differ. It is the job of the minister to juggle these needs without interference.

The jobs of the president and the ministers aren't guaranteed for life. They can lose their jobs for various reasons. Some reasons for dismissal are corruption and incompetence. In addition, the president or a minister can be removed from office if their approval rating falls below 30% for more than 6 months.

Once the DOD obtains proof of unworthiness, a competency hearing takes place. The citizens then vote on whether the minister should stay. Once fired, the elections office rounds up new candidates for the now vacant position.

Voting

I was in Aipotu when they had an election. They needed to fill the position of president of Aipotu. The previous president died in a fishing accident. My friend Sampson explained the process to me.

During the election period, candidates present themselves to the public in scheduled live interviews. The candidates also use internet technologies such as blogging and social networks such as *YouTube*. The only criterion for contact with the public is that the candidates and their supporters do not spend money for advertising⁸.

During the interviews, citizens can phone in and question candidates. Voting begins at the end of the interview period.

⁸ In the United States, politicians raise money for their campaigning. Election rules allow each person to contribute a maximum amount to the election fund. This is to ensure fairness. I like this idea because it allows all citizens to vote with something that is truly meaningful: money. I think that voting with money is very democratic because then you will only vote for those you feel conviction for. Limiting contributions, levels the playing field. The candidate who resonates with the voters the strongest gets the most money to help them win the election.

I do object to allowing the candidates to use their own money. I feel this gives rich candidates an unfair advantage.

In the end, voters choose based on their feelings, and the hope they're choosing the lesser of two evils.



Sampson placed his citizenship card in the card reader of his computer, and we logged onto the secured election web site.

We looked at the resumes of the applicants. There were six candidates for the position of President. Each resume included the candidate's experience, their future plans and how they planned to bring it about. The National Placement Service (P. 45) certified each resume as being accurate.

The advantage of this system is that it ensures community leaders have the type of experience needed to do their jobs. Contrast this to some countries, where people get positions of power for political reasons, not because they are competent.

After reading each resume, Sampson acknowledged he had read it by pressing the "Acknowledge" button on the screen. Many people don't bother to read the resumes, but just press the "Acknowledge" button on each resume. That's okay.

The Process

Each voting citizen gets 1000\$ (votes) to spend on the candidates of their choice. For instance, you can spend 500\$ on candidate #1, 300\$ on candidate #2 and 200\$ on candidate #5.

At the end, the winner is the candidate with the most money. The reason they use money to vote is because money is such a personal thing. It reminds people that they're voting on the future of their country, as well as on their own future.

What happens if you don't like any of the candidates? In this case, you put your money on the "None of the above" choice. This shows that you believe in the election process, even though you don't like the current choices.

If the voters place most of the money on the "None of the above" choice, the elections office discards all the candidates and rounds up a new set of candidates.

The voting wasn't easy for Sampson because all the candidates were extremely qualified. After the election, the elections office reported that only 27% of the population had voted. Most voters claimed it was too much trouble, all the while wondering why the country was going towards the infernal regions of the Earth (Hell) in a hand basket. It goes to show, people are the same wherever you go.



Lobbying

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
-- Margaret Mead --

Ten people who speak make more
noise than ten thousand who are silent.
-- Napoleon Bonaparte --

A civilization is built on what is required of men,
not on that which is provided for them.
-- Antoine de Saint-Exupery --

In Aipotu, government regulates lobbying. However, they can't eliminate lobbying, as Aipotu is a free country.

The problem with lobbying is that people with the most money and power tend to have the greatest influence. According to wikipedia.org, "Politicians are sometimes placed in apparently compromising positions because of their need to solicit financial contributions for their campaigns. Critics complain that they then appear to be acting in the interests of those who fund them, giving rise to the public perception of political corruption."⁹

This is not a problem in Aipotu as voting laws forbid political campaigning, as explained above.

Laws and regulations can only go so far in protecting government officials from undue influence. This is where childhood training comes to the rescue. In basic schooling (P. 65), teachers train children to be independent thinkers. This training continues throughout life as people are always trying to influence you to do things that may or may not be in your best interest.

⁹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobbying>



LAW AND ORDER

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

-- Herbert Spencer --

Different conclusions are reached when one fact is looked at from two separate points of view.

When that happens, there's essentially no way to judge which point of view is correct.

-- Bakemonogatari, Episode 5 --

Justice is incidental to law and order.

-- J. Edgar Hoover --

Aipotu has countless laws governing everything from parking to murder. All these laws have one thing in common. They all obey the three laws of government. These three laws form the heart and soul of the constitution of Aipotu. They govern all aspects of society. These laws are:

Laws Of Government¹⁰

Law of Freedom: A person has the right and freedom to do whatever they want as long as it does not interfere with the rights and freedoms of another person.

Law of Balance: Balance is the law of life and of civilization. Wealth, freedom and opportunity must be available to all, or civilization will collapse. Everything must be done in moderation, nothing to excess.

A person or organization does not have the right to deny others the freedoms they themselves enjoy.

A person or organization does not have the right to take what was not earned or paid for. This applies to both nature and society.

¹⁰ There is nothing new about these laws. They have been in existence since the beginning of civilization, in one form or another.



These laws are similar to the laws of Karma we have all heard about.

Throughout history, the religious traditions of the world have tried to teach people the importance of balance in their lives. The sages consider this the high road to enlightenment. Unfortunately, the full explanation of the above law is beyond the scope of this book, and the explanation above doesn't do it justice.

Law of Reason: The tenants of common sense must always be applied when dealing with people, laws and the world.
When dealing with people, we must judge a person's actions in terms of what they did, why they did it and their knowledge of the consequences of their actions before they did it. This judgment must take into account a person's overall development and competence.
When dealing with laws, we must consider the spirit of the law more important than the letter of the law.
When dealing with the world around us, we must let respect and understanding guide all our actions.

One consequence of the Law of Reason is that it's illegal to obey a law that is itself illegal or immoral.

Another consequence is that people are accountable for all their actions, even when they temporally impair their own judgment by their own actions. Getting drunk and then driving falls into this category. Reframing from taking medication that keeps a person rational also falls into this category.

As an example, Johnny has one too many drinks and gets behind the wheel. Not surprisingly, he gets into an accident and kills someone. Some would argue that he wasn't responsible because he was drunk at the time. However, he knew of the danger of drinking and driving but he chose to accept the risk.

Years ago, a woman spilled coffee on her lap while driving. She then sued McDonalds for making coffee that was too hot, and so causing her to burn herself.



Coffee drinkers know that coffee tastes best hot. I'm sure most people have burned their fingers holding their coffee cups and burned their tongues while drinking.

Despite common sense, McDonalds settled out of court with her. They gave her millions because they were convinced they would lose in court. Years later, a similar case appeared in Europe. The judge threw out the case. I believe the judge's words were, "Newsflash, coffee is hot."

In the 1980s, a massive oil spill occurred. This spill was killing the wildlife. Unfortunately, people couldn't help the animals. What was the reason? A law existed that forbade people from touching the animals. The irony was that the intent of the law was to protect the creatures.

The above three Laws of Government were created to deal with such tragedies. However, these or any other laws are useless without personal responsibility and the ability to think for oneself, as well as the courage to stand up for ones convictions.

Noteworthy Laws

It is hard to imagine a more stupid
or more dangerous way of making decisions
than by putting those decisions in the hands
of people who pay no price for being wrong.

-- Thomas Sowell --

Any fool can make a rule
and every fool will mind it.

-- Henry D. Thoreau¹¹ --

Here are some noteworthy laws...

Sex Laws

Law L001: All porn sites must be marked with the html tag <PORN />.

This law acknowledges the basic freedom of the Internet and at the same time makes it easy for web browsers to block undesirable sites. At present,

¹¹ Henry D. Thoreau, Journal, Feb. 3, 1860



it's difficult to know a porn site from sites that deal with medical issues. Only a human can make that distinction and the best person to do that is the creator of the site. Best of all, one's freedom is intact.

What happens if a web site isn't a porn site but links to a porn site? In this case, the web browser just hides the hyperlink.

As time goes on and computers become smarter, this will become a non-issue. Computers will become smart enough to figure such things out.

Hate Laws

Law L002: A person has the right to publish hate literature, provided it is marked as such and provided it is only for the benefit of private approving audiences.

Law L003: It is illegal to express any hateful views of a person, in front of that person, without the expressed approval of that person.

People have the right to express themselves, but at the same time, they do not have the right to hurt others.

Law L004: All hate literature on the Internet must be marked with the html tag <HATE />.

Hate exists and possibly always will. You can't make it go away by Laws and regulations. The only defense against hate is education and dialog. While we're on the subject of hate, here's something to think about; *"Hatred, which could destroy so much, never failed to destroy the man who hated, and this was an immutable law."*¹²

¹² James Baldwin



Police=

When the people fear their government,
there is tyranny; when the government
fears the people, there is liberty.

-- Thomas Jefferson --

Da police are not here to create disorder.
The police are here to preserve disorder.

-- Mayor Richard Daley¹³ --

Lisa: Who will police the police?

Homer: I dunna know. Coast Guard?

-- The Simpsons --

Wherever large groups of people gather, there's a need for law and order. Governments created the police to fulfill this need. Their official duty is to serve and protect, but they have a second unspoken duty. This duty is to control the public and to be the domineering power behind governments.

Okay, so that may be a little melodramatic and is definitely untrue of our country. This doesn't prevent people from being a little distrustful of the police. They feel that the police are out to get them. They feel the police are more interested in filling quotas than serving and protecting the public.

To reduce such fears, Aipotu defines the role of the police in its constitution. To begin with, the police are an independent pillar of society, separate from the other branches of government. Their job is to protect and serve only.

Role of the police: Serve and protect.

Law L006: The primary duty of the police is to protect the public from all dangerous elements in society.

This includes capturing people the courts have warrants of arrest on. This also involves resolving conflicts in social situations.

Law L007: The secondary duty of the police is to serve the community by

¹³ Richard J. Daley, Chicago mayor, explaining to the media the role of the police during the riotous 1968 Democratic National Convention (See: <http://news-info.wustl.edu/tips/page/normal/6845.html> for a full explanation)



being friendly and helpful.

In my opinion, a park ranger best exemplifies the above philosophy.

When I see a police officer, I get the feeling that they are looking for an excuse to catch me, and that they are always seeking for deviant behavior so they can punish. They give off a feeling that everyone is a bad person, just waiting to do bad things. As a result, I feel I have to guard myself whenever I see them.

On the other hand, when I see a park ranger, I feel they are people I can trust. They are there to protect and help me. They give off a feeling that there are no bad people, just people with disagreements.

Law L008: When upholding the law, the police must use their judgment in carrying out their mission to serve and protect. The police may refuse orders that are in conflict with that mission.

Only proper training will allow the police to fulfill the above obligations.

On the other hand, public security is the responsibility of everyone. Everyone gets training in school in self-defense. This includes martial arts training. It also includes ways of dealing with con artists, thieves and other criminals.

Obviously dealing with dangerous criminals should be left to the professionals. However, learning what to do in an emergency is part of all citizen's training.

The Cash Cow

~~I'm sure I'm not alone in questioning the motives of the police in issuing traffic tickets. Do they do this to control driving behavior and improve public safety, or do they do this to raise revenue? This has caused a great deal of resentment towards the police, potentially reducing their effectiveness in society.~~

Law L009: ~~All revenue collected by the justice system in its normal course of activity must go to charity.~~

~~The above law simplifies the police's job by allowing the police to focus on what's important.~~



~~—Some countries force criminals to work. The revenue raised by this practice finances the criminal system and increases government coffers. Unfortunately, this raises the danger that the system will wrongfully convict people, just to increase the supply of cheap labor. The above law tries to prevent this.~~

Police control

There is a minister in charge of police. This position exists to ensure public accountability at the highest level. Everyone votes for the minister of police.

In addition, a government watchdog exists to ensure the police don't abuse their power.

As expected, the police get yearly evaluations. In addition, anyone dealing with the police may evaluate them. Good consistent evaluations earn officers promotions and raises while bad evaluations can get the officer fired.

Evaluations aren't limited to police officers. The managers of the officers also get evaluations. In this case, the police officers get to anonymously evaluate the managers. This evaluation and action process rises to the level of Minister of Police.

The Justice System

Justice is so subtle a thing;
to interpret it one has only need of a heart.
-- Jose Garcia Oliver --

No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible.
-- Voltaire --

Forcing people to rely on cops for protection
Is a form of tyranny.
-- Dr. Slip Cam --

In most countries, if a person breaks the law, the system pronounces them guilty and gives them the standard punishment. Rarely does the justice system ask why the person broke the law. Even more rarely does the justice system ask if the law in question is just.



The justice process in Aipotu has four parts. The first part decides whether the accused performed the act. As is in our country, courts with judge, jury, etc. perform this function.

The second part seeks the motive for the crime. This is essential because it helps decide what to do with the criminal. At this time, people speak on behalf of the accused, telling everyone all the good the accused has done for family and community.

The third part seeks to prevent a repeat of the crime. Occasionally this process has questioned the legality of some laws.

The fourth part seeks a repayment to society by the criminal. This can be tricky, depending on the crime.

Jailing the Crooks

Killing a man may be necessary.
But confining him is an offence against
his integrity – and your own.
-- Robert A. Heinlein¹⁴ --

What do you do with convicted criminals? The traditional answer: Put them in jail. However, this leaves us with crowded prisons and ruined lives.

It's not the purpose of the justice system to punish criminals. Instead, its purpose is to keep citizens safe from criminals by attacking the source of crime. For this reason, Aipotu doesn't have a death penalty.

The constitution defines a criminal in these words: *A criminal is a person who willfully and intentionally interferes with the rights and freedoms of another person.*

In the words of Ann Rand:

“A crime is the violation of the right(s) of other men by force (or fraud). It is only the initiation of physical force against others- i.e., the recourse to

¹⁴ Robert A. Heinlein, *Stranger In A Strange Land*, P. 393



violence- that can be classified as a crime in a free society (as distinguished from a civil wrong). Ideas, in a free society, are not a crime - and neither can they serve as the justification of a crime.”

People accused of a crime are assigned a handler. This handler makes sure the public is safe from the accused and vice versa. This insures that someone is accountable should something go wrong.

I saw this story on the news. The authorities accused a man of armed robbery and sentenced him to jail. The authorities told him to drive himself to jail. As you can guess, he escaped and went on a crime spree. No one accepted responsibility because no one was specifically in charge of the criminal. In Aipotu, the blame would have rested on the shoulders of the criminal’s handler.

The handler’s duty ends if the courts clear the accused of all charges or if the accuser drops all charges. If convicted, the criminal gets a new handler. The first handler’s duty ends with the transfer of the prisoner. The new handler is responsible for the prisoner’s rehabilitation.

Reformation

When you come to the edge of all that you know,
you must believe one of two things:
There will be earth upon which to stand,
or you will be given wings to fly.
-- Unknown¹⁵ --

Criminals aren’t given specific jail terms. Instead, criminals stay in custody until they are reformed and their debt to society paid.

Reformation is not always easy. Neither is finding out how best to help a criminal repay their debt to society. However, this is essential for releasing a former criminal into society. This insures justice for all.

The first step is getting prisoners to understand the consequences of their actions. All actions have consequences.

¹⁵ An unknown person seems to have paraphrased author Patrick Overton.



Various professionals facilitate this stage of the process. This includes therapists. It also includes professionals who study how our actions affect us, those around us, and the world we live in.

Here is where the prisoner gets a past life review. The principle here is that we are a product of our past. If we can know where we come from, and the forces that shaped us, we will be in a better position to chart our destinies. The admonition, “Know Thyself”, is the guiding principle here.

The second step in the reformation process is to ensure the crime is never committed again. Only therapy, monitoring and testing can ensure this step is successful.

Testing involves placing the person in similar situations they were in and seeing how well they fare. The therapist then reviews the results with the client with a view of helping the client do better next time.

The final reformation step is repaying society for past crimes. Community service plays a major role in the process.

Poetic Justice (with a twist)

It is easy to fly into a passion – anybody can do that.
 But to be angry with the right person and at the right time
 and with the right object and in the right way
 – that is not easy and it is not everyone who can do it.
 -- Aristotle --

An eye for an eye leads only to more blindness.
 -- Margaret Atwood --

The Aipotunian authorities have come up with an interesting way to help reform criminals. It involves allowing the criminal to experience what it is like to be the victim. The prisoners don't have to participate, however the alternative is life in prison.

The following are some examples:

The Rapist And The Victim

Jason is a convicted rapist. As a part of his reform, he was to help rape victims he did not know get better. This included listening to the victims telling their stories.



This not only helps him understand the seriousness of his crime, it also helps repay his debt to society by helping others. As expected, Jason's handler monitored him at all times.

In addition to this, Jason underwent special therapy to help him deal with his anti-social behavior.

A Life For A Life

How do you repay the debt caused by killing someone? The victim's life is forever lost. Killing the criminal does not help anyone. Monetary recompense to the victim's family, although necessary, goes only so far.

A life for a life is the only thing that can repay the debt. For each person killed, a killer must save the life of at least one person. The more violent the death, the greater the effort must be put forth when saving a life. The criminal does not have to save a person's life. However, the alternative is life in prison.

The courts convict Samuel for killing seven people during his life of crime. As part of his rehabilitation, he had to serve as a fire fighter. Yes, it is possible that Samuel could die while serving his sentence. However, considering that he had deprived others of their lives, it is only just that he risks his own life to repay his debt to society.

Reconciliation

People must be judged by their opportunities.

-- Claude Gueux¹⁶ --

The system releases the criminal on a five-year probation period, at the handler's discretion. While on probation, the system still considers the person a criminal. As such, the criminal's freedoms continue to be limited.

For security reasons, the authorities notify the criminal's victims about the release. They have the right to question the handler's decision to release the criminal into society. The handler must justify the release, based on evidence that the criminal is no longer dangerous and that the criminal has repaid the debt in full.

¹⁶ Claude Gueux, King of Thieves



The handler's responsibility ends when the probation period ends without incident. This places the burden on the handler to ensure that the system doesn't release the prisoner prematurely.

Once the five-year probation period ends without incident, the person is formally welcomed back into society. This is a time of celebration as society formally forgives the person of previous crimes. All records are archived and the person is treated as if the crime never took place.

Social Controls

When will our consciences grow so tender
that we will act to prevent human misery
rather than avenge it?
-- Eleanor Roosevelt --

I believe most people are law-abiding because of several factors. Combined, they give what I believe is our 'conscience'.

To begin with, many people are law abiding because of the fear of the consequence of their actions. This is a good thing. It means they are thinking rationally, weighing the benefits against the consequences of their actions.

What Will The Neighbors Think?

I believe normal people are born with a 'What Will the Neighbors Think?' gene. People obey social and legal rules, not because of the fear of punishment. For many criminals, cops are the last thing on their mind when they are committing crimes.

Rather, people obey laws from fear of what their neighbors think. This applies to anything deemed socially unacceptable. We don't want to lose our social status.

Have you seen criminals when caught? They try to hide their faces from the media. Some criminals are not ashamed of their behavior. These people seem to have a defective social gene or something.

Empathy Genes

Thirdly, we have an empathy gene, which allows us to relate to others. In the brain, there are sets of neurons called Mirror Neurons. Scientists believe they help us learn new skills by mirroring the actions of others. They also allow us to empathize with others by making us feel pain when we see



others in pain.

“AS WITH ACTIONS, humans undoubtedly understand emotions in more than one way. Observing another person experiencing emotion can trigger a cognitive elaboration of that sensory information, which ultimately results in a logical conclusion about what the other is feeling. It may also, however, result in direct mapping of that sensory information onto the motor structures that would produce the experience of that emotion in the observer. These two means of recognizing emotions are profoundly different: with the first, the observer deduces the emotion but does not feel it; via the second, recognition is firsthand because the mirror mechanism elicits the same emotional state in the observer. Thus, when people use the expression “I feel your pain” to indicate both comprehension and empathy, they may not realize just how literally true their statement could be.”¹⁷

I assume people with defective mirror neurons are insensitive to the feelings others – bad for any society. It’s also bad for them since it puts them at a social disadvantage.

Victims

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe;
I told it not, my wrath did grow.
-- William Blake --

We must not forget about the victims in all of this. It is essential that they be included in the process of reconciliation.

By law, the authorities inform victims of the status of the prisoner at all times. Also by law, the authorities must take the victim’s concerns seriously.

The authorities give the victims whatever therapy is necessary to help them overcome their ordeals. This includes any material compensation where necessary.

¹⁷ Mirrors In The Mind, *Scientific American*, November 2006, P. 60



Crime as Indicator of Social Health

Poverty sets a reduced price on crime.

-- Sebastian Roch Nicolas Chamfort --

Social injustices are like evil flowers.

They need bad soil in order to grow.

-- Dr. Slip Cam¹⁸ --

The level of crime is a good indicator of the health of the community.

In a healthy society, the level of crime will be low, but not zero. Why not zero? It's because humans aren't perfect. Some people turn to crime to make a quick buck while others find it more exciting than honest work. Then there is a need in some people for social dominance. They may resort to violence when they don't get the respect they expect from others.

Many factors increase the level of crime in a society. One factor is unemployment. Unemployed people have a greater incentive to turn to crime to supplement their income. Another reason is illegal drug use. Some people turn to crime in order to fuel their addiction. The third is injustice. People who feel wronged are more likely to strike out in violence. I'm sure you know of many more reasons.

Currently, countries are waging a so-called war on terrorism. Attacking terrorism with violence is like trying to cure a disease by attacking the symptoms. It'll never work since the cause of terrorism – perceived social injustice – remains.

Why do terrorist organizations form? They form to correct a perceived wrong. The terrorists chant that their rights are being denied. People suffering economic, religious and social injustice rally to the cause and then trouble begins.

According to Anouar Majid, "...religious fundamentalism, as with all other forms of fundamentalism, doesn't happen in a cultural vacuum but emerges in response to a sense of threat to one's being or core beliefs."

¹⁸ Dr. Slip Cam, *The Evil Gardner*



With social justice, terrorism cannot flourish. Would you sacrifice your life if you're happy with your lot? Would you sacrifice yourself if you felt that all is well with the world?

The same reasoning is true for organized crime. With social justice, there's little incentive to commit crimes. The rewards are just too small and the punishments are too high. This becomes more so as the police sciences improve and as our actions in the public arena become more closely monitored.

Because of our need to belong and to feel loved, there will always be gangs and private clubs. However, this will not be a problem in a dynamic society.

As for national security, no country would attack Aipotu since the UCOE (P. 144) protects it.

A final and mostly unrecognized cause of crime is mental illness. I'd bet a lot of crimes and some acts of terrorism are caused by mental illness.

It's society's job to find all social problems and correct them. Crime and violence are just symptoms of deeper underlying causes. These causes include perceived and actual social injustice, prejudice and mental illness.

Because of human nature, it will not be possible to prevent all crime. As long as there's social justice and accountability within a strong community, the effects of crime will be tiny.

Every part of society must be involved in the process of building a closely-knit community. When dealing with crime prevention, the question is not how to punish the guilty. The question is how to correct the problem now and do better next time.

Here's something to think about:

"The crimes of violence committed for selfish, personal motives are historically insignificant compared to those committed ad maiorem gloriam Dei, out of a self-sacrificing devotion to the flag, a leader, a religious faith or political conviction." -- Arthur Koestler

They do what they do because they believe what they do is right.



Department Of Departments

Everything secret degenerates;
 nothing is safe if it does not bear
 discussion and publicity.
 -- Lord Acton --

The world is so dreadfully managed,
 one hardly knows to whom to complain.
 -- Ronald Firbank --

A government is a large and complicated organism. Its tentacles affect every aspect of society. Many departments act without accountability to the public. At best, this lack of accountability encourages inefficient and sloppy work. At worst, it does things against the interests of the people.

Aipotu has a special auditing department to track the government. This is the Department of Departments (DOD). This auditing department consists of two separate sections: Section 'A' and Section 'B'. Each section, headed by its own minister, operates independently of the other section. Everyone votes for the two ministers.

Section 'A' is the primary department that tracks all other departments, including section 'B'. Section 'A' audits each department, to ensure they operate efficiently and to the benefit of the public. Section 'A' has the power to conduct investigations and to punish if necessary. These punishments include fines and other disciplinary actions. Section 'A' may also fire anyone in the government if necessary. As stated above (P. 13), firing a minister requires a competency hearing and a vote by the public.

Did I say Section 'A' holds the power to do things? I made a mistake. Only individuals in the section have the power to conduct investigations and mete out punishments. This is in keeping with the spirit of personal responsibility and accountability.

The question you should be asking now is, "Who will police the police?" The answer is Section 'B'. Section 'B' functions to make sure Section 'A' operates efficiently and to the benefit of the public. As with Section 'A', members of Section 'B' have the power to conduct investigations and to punish.

The media forms a third check on the power of the government (P. 138). Finally, there are various private watchdog organizations scattered throughout the country keeping an eye on the government.



Caveat Emptor (Buyer Beware)

The big print giveth
and the fine print taketh away.
-- J. Fulton Sheen --

Sometimes what's profitable
is more important than what's right.
-- South Park (TV Series) --

The Customer Protection Agency (CPA) is a government department created to protect the public from dishonest business practices. The CPA does this by tracking all businesses operating in Aipotu. Each year the CPA publishes a list of audited businesses. As expected, everyone votes for the minister in charge of the CPA.

The CPA prosecutes businesses caught performing illegal activities. The CPA audits these businesses the next year, to make sure they are complying with regulations. If they pass, their standing improves.

Law L011: Individuals acting for the Customer Protection Agency have the power to conduct undercover investigations of businesses. They have the power to prosecute the business based on evidence collected from the undercover operation.

The CPA's limited resources make it impossible for them to examine all organizations. This has prompted the creation of a toll free number. If a person suspects an organization is being dishonest, or if they find a deal that seems to be too good to be true, that person can phone the "Too Good to Be True Hot-Line" at 1 - 800 - TGTBTHL (1 - 800 - 848 - 2845). The CPA then looks into the matter and notifies the caller. The CPA takes appropriate actions, should the deal be shady.

The CPA does much of its job undercover. This is one of the most effective ways they have of spotting criminal activities.

Caught On Film

I recall a sting set by the TV show *Nightline*. The host asked the jeweler to repair an expensive diamond ring. The jeweler returned the ring with a stone of lesser value. Unknown to the jeweler, the diamond bore a hidden serial number. The jeweler admitted his guilt when confronted with the evidence. The jeweler then closed shop, moved to another city, and opened a new shop.



Whistle Blowing

The job of a citizen
is to keep his mouth open.
-- Gunther Grass --

Without agitators,
nothing in the world would come clean.
-- Unknown --

No matter where we go, we find people trying to profit at the expense of others. We also find people shirking their responsibilities. Luckily, we also find people brave enough to blow the whistle on unacceptable practices.

Being a whistle-blower is not easy. Many times the people and companies they are blowing the whistle on attack them physically, mentally, emotionally and financially. Often it's difficult for them to prove their cases.

This is different in Aipotu. Aipotu has laws specially designed to protect whistle blowers. However, the whistle-blower must follow certain rules to stay safe. First, they must work within their organization's hierarchy to try to resolve their complaint. Resources are available to help them to do this. Next, they must contact the Customer Protection Agency (CPA), which then investigates. The worst thing the whistle-blower could do is go to the media. This just causes unnecessary problems, for both themselves and their company. Whistle blowers should contact the media only as a last resort.¹⁹

Where possible, the CPA keeps the whistle blower's identity confidential. Often the CPA uses a stand-in, with the whistle located at a secret location. The whistle-blower watches on a monitor and relays messages to the stand-in. The stand-in then delivers the messages to the court.

¹⁹ Give an example. Case: When whistle-blower goes to the public – bypassing the chain of command.



Civil Disobedience

Unjust laws have to be fought ideologically;
they cannot be fought or corrected
by means of mere disobedience
and futile martyrdom.
-- Ayn Rand --

A nation without the means
of reform is without the means of survival.
-- Edmund Burke --

Here is something to think about:

“The paradox of governance is that a state, which is sufficiently powerful to protect the weak against the strong, is also sufficiently powerful to crush the weak. History suggests that it will do so whenever its citizens fail to hold it to account. Indeed, the ultimate restraint upon the violence of the state is the violence of its citizens, who might seek to overthrow it if it abuses its powers.”²⁰

A newly formed nation is usually full of life and promise, with vigor and flexibility and can adapt to the changing needs of its people.

As a society grows and matures, it becomes set in its ways. It holds the old ways sacred and defends them religiously, even when those ways cause more harm than good. People in the society reject new ideas as dangerous and absurd. Clearly, this is bad for the long time health and survival of a society.

In a healthy society, conflict and compromise is the norm. In the words of Saul D. Alinsky:

“A free and open society is an on-going conflict, interrupted periodically by compromises – which then becomes the start for the continuation of conflict, compromise, and ad infinitum...A society devoid of compromise is

²⁰ George Monbiot, *Who guards the guards?*



totalitarian. If I had to define a free and open society in one word, the word would be 'compromise'."²¹

The creators of the Aipotunian constitution realized the need for reform and included it in the constitution. This right is implicit in the Laws of Government, but they thought it best to express it explicitly.

Right To Rebellion

Law L012: A people have the right to rebel against oppressive conditions. This includes initiating physical violence against the government if necessary. It is the duty of those in power to ensure that the need for rebellion does not manifest. At the same time, people do not have the right to harm innocents in their quest for justice. All attacks on innocents are criminal and subject to punishment. Those who seek social justice may use violence only as a last resort.

This law can seem frightening to many people. It implies that anyone can topple the government and bring anarchy to the country. This won't happen in a balanced society, because there is never enough incentive for the people to revolt.

The above law was created in the same spirit that caused the founding fathers of the United States to write the Declaration of Independence.

"WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government..."

²¹ Saul D. Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals*, P. 59



TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION

You, Gentlemen, should be interested in knowing
that in the beginning of the financial downfall
of every nation is excess taxation.
-- Godfré Ray King²² --

Foreign Aid: taxing poor people in rich countries
for the benefit of rich people in poor countries.
-- Bernard Rosenberg --

As with death, taxes are unavoidable²³. Taxes are essential to the operation of a country. It finances essential services, advances science, and helps the underprivileged. It's the price we pay for the right to vote and for having proper representation. Blah, blah, blah...

That doesn't mean we should blindly accept all taxes. It's the responsibility of the government to use tax money in the most efficient manner possible. To this end, the government earmarks each form of tax for the specific service that it must supply.

The following are just some of the tax laws implemented in Aipotu. Additional taxes are possible. However, the people must vote on all changes to the taxation laws.

Saxes Tax

A sales tax is a tax
on the freedom of purchase.
-- Felix Frankfurter --

Aipotu levies four types of sales tax to finance four different services. The state sales tax finances the running of the state government. The Federal sales tax does the same for the federal government. The country sales tax is needed because Aipotu is a member of the United Countries of Earth. (P. 144)

²² Godfré Ray King, *The "I AM" Discourses*, Vol. 11, P. 81

²³ Maybe in the future this adage will not apply. Here's to hoping.



Last but not least is the health sales tax (P. 92). This tax has three parts. The first part supports the health care system. This includes hospital maintenance, doctor's fees and so on. The second part supports medical schools. The third part supports medical research.

In some countries, stores only display the prices of goods and services before taxes. This means the customer must calculate the actual cost. Since not all products and services have the same sales tax, calculation can be difficult. Some countries do this to ensure the customer knows exactly how much sales tax they must pay. However, since customers have no say in whether or not to pay the tax, this is wasted effort.

For the convenience of the public, all taxes in Aipotu are included in the quoted price of the product or service. The actual tax breakdown for all goods and services are of course freely available at any government office and on the Internet.

Corporate Taxes

The reward of energy, enterprise and thrift

– is taxes.

-- W. Feather --

The corporate world requires a supply of well-trained people to function. It's the function of the educational system to produce these qualified people (P. 65). However, running the educational system costs money. Who better to finance it than the people who directly benefit from it?

Finding a match between a company and a potential employee can be a daunting task for most companies. The National Placement Service (NPS) functions to supply this service (P. 45). As expected, the corporate tax finances both the educational system and the NPS.

Highly trained people allow companies to compete in the global market place. To properly train people, research and development must take place in the field of education. The corporate tax also finances this.

Since the business-community both pays for and directly benefits from the employment system, it's fair that they get to decide who heads the departments. The members of the business community elect the ministers in charge of the Department of Education and the National Placement Service. Each *financially independent* business has one vote for the election



of these officials.

The biggest businesses have the same voting power as the smallest businesses. Business affiliations get only one vote, no matter how many businesses are involved. This penalizes the big businesses and gives them a natural incentive to break up into smaller financially independent businesses.

The fact that businesses, and not parents, have a direct say in whom heads the educational department, caused a great deal of controversy when the system was set up. However, it was soon apparent that the needs of parents and the corporate world were identical.

All parents wish their children to be successful in life and hope they'll contribute positively to community. The qualities that make for successful people are also the qualities businesses look for in new recruits. These qualities are honesty, integrity, courtesy, passion, compassion, good judgment, drive, ability to make friends, ability to choose a path that gives them the greatest happiness, and many others. Who better to entrust the future of our kids to than the people who are financially dependent on their success?

Residential Tax

No taxation without representation.

No representation without taxation.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

A community requires various services to properly function. These services include emergency services such as fire, police, ambulance, etc. In addition are the various administrative functions a city must perform. Finally is the fun stuff such as organizing festivals and so on.

The property tax finances all such services. This makes sense since the people who live in a community are the ones who directly benefit from the services. Both landlords and renters pay property tax, allowing both to have equal representation. This is important because sometimes community leaders undertake projects without taking into consideration the needs of the renters.

As an example, a group of people wanted to improve the worst community in the US. They asked the property owners for input, but ignored the concerns of the renters.



They built a mall as one of the projects. They unfairly charged small businesses much more rent than they charged big businesses. This priced the small businesses out of the area. In Aipotu, this would be illegal, since this violated the laws of reason and balance.

In the end, most of the renters had to move because they could no longer afford to stay, defeating the purpose of the project.

Garbage Tax

If you want more of something,
subsidize it; if you want less, tax it.

-- Old Economic Adage --

Everyone produces garbage. That's the price we pay for living in a modern society. How we deal with garbage affects our health and quality of life. It also affects how self-sustaining our culture will be. Garbage management is essential to the success of any community.

A properly functioning garbage management system performs several functions. This includes the collecting, storing and where possible, recycling of collected garbage. (Don't forget the maintenance of the sewage system.)

In an ideal society, all garbage would be recycled into useful products, ensuring a clean and healthy environment. Unfortunately, that's not possible at present. Most garbage ends up in landfills, where it stays for decades or centuries.

In Aipotu, all garbage producers pay tax. Residential producers are usually taxed a fixed amount, while corporate producers are taxed according to the industry they reside in and the quantity of garbage they produce.

The tax money finances the collection and processing of garbage. The tax money also finances research on garbage recycling. The hope is that eventually the whole process will be self-financing, eliminating the need for a garbage tax.



User Fees and Fines

A fine is a tax for doing something wrong.

A tax is a fine for doing something right.

-- Anonymous --

Should everyone pay for services required by only one group of people? I don't think so. And neither did the founding parents of Aipotu. Wherever possible, specific taxes have been set up to deal with certain services. The following is only a few of the many fees set up.

Road Tax

The Road Tax finances the Department of Transportation (DOT). It finances road and bridge repair, snow removal, licensing and other issues associated with driving.

The DOT calculates the road tax based on distance travelled. The type of vehicle, among other things, is also considered. Drivers pay the tax when the motor vehicle license is renewed.

Some people have opted to allow the vehicle to automatically send the required data to the ministry. Others prefer to go to the ministry and have the data read manually by a person. The DOT charges a fee for the manual option, as a person is required.

As with most information collected by the government, this information is not accessible by humans. Privacy laws forbid anyone from using this information to track the movements of individual motor vehicles, except by court order.

As expected, drivers elect the ministers of transport. Each person with a valid driver's license has one vote.

Fossil Fuel Tax

The government taxes fossil fuels because they're bad for the environment. The money raised is used to help protect the environment and for research on alternate energy sources.

This tax is similar to the carbon tax we hear about on the news. Whereas the carbon tax is based on the controversial argument that fossil fuels are causing global warming, this fossil fuel tax is based on the fact the fossil fuels are polluting the air we breathe, reducing the amount of oxygen in congested cities, and suffocating our children.



Anyone who doesn't believe that fossil fuel is bad for the environment should visit a city that has smog, or go to a place that has acid rain.

Because coal is the most polluting, it has the highest fossil fuel tax.

Cradle To Grave Tax

Manufacturers who produce products that cannot participate in the Cradle-To-Cradle lifecycle (P. 50) get taxed a certain amount. This money finances research into sustainable manufacturing and disposal practices.

Substance Abuse Tax

Here are some disturbing statistics:

"Substance abuse and addiction cost federal, state and local governments at least \$467.7 billion in 2005, according to *Shoveling Up II: The Impact of Substance Abuse on Federal, State and Local Budgets*, a new 287-page report released today by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University.

"The CASA report found that of \$373.9 billion in federal and state spending, 95.6 percent (\$357.4 billion) went to shovel up the consequences and human wreckage of substance abuse and addiction; only 1.9 percent went to prevention and treatment, 0.4 percent to research, 1.4 percent to taxation and regulation, and 0.7 percent to interdiction."²⁴

There are many substances people take that are bad for their health. This includes alcohol, tobacco and various recreational drugs. It is not fair that everyone pay for the health care for people who deliberately chose to damage their health.

In the spirit of fairness, each of these substances has its own special tax. This is in addition to the regular sales tax. The cost of cleaning up the consequence of substance abuse comes from this tax.

For example, the Alcohol Tax finances health care for people suffering from

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<http://www.casacolumbia.org/absolutenm/templates/PressReleases.aspx?articleid=556&zoneid=66>



the effects of alcohol abuse. This includes rehab for alcoholics. This also covers the expenses associated with alcohol related accidents and crimes.

Prevention is more important than treatment. Only education, open dialog and early detection can control drug abuse. This is covered by general health fund. This is because substance abuse hurts everyone.

For more information, please see: www.casacolumbia.org

Explosives/Weapons Tax

Many people consider it their right to bear arms. But who'll pay for people injured by weapons and explosives? If you say the people who buy the weapons, you're right.

Pollution tax

Many businesses pollute the environment in the process of doing business. This is intolerable but difficult to eliminate. To combat this, Aipotu has come up with the pollution tax.

Companies who pollute the environment pay tax according to the level of pollution they produce. This money finances the cleanup of pollution and research on cleanup solutions.

Oil companies are required to obtain special oil spill insurance to operate in Aipotu territory. This insurance covers the cost of cleaning up oil spills.

The general public elects the minister of the environment because the environment is everyone's business and everyone pays in the end.

Additional Taxes

Blessed are the young,
for they shall inherit the national debt.
-- Herbert Hoover --

Collecting more taxes than is absolutely
necessary is legalized robbery.
-- Calvin Coolidge --

Aipotu has no estate tax. The reason is that it is immoral to tax the dead.



Tax Lifecycle

All taxes have a ten-year life cycle. Taxpayers must vote to renew all taxes every ten years. The voters can vote to either uphold the tax or abolish it. The question posed to the voter is in the form of, "Do you want to continue paying this tax for these specific services?" The tax law stays in effect if a majority of voters says "Yes".

A non-vote is the same as a "Yes" vote. In this way, voters don't have to vote if they are satisfied with the tax and the services rendered.

As an example, let's say there are 100 people eligible to vote. Ten people vote "No". Five people vote "Yes". The remaining 85 people do not vote. If you just count the votes of the people who have voted, this would have struck down the tax. I would have also eliminated the service the tax financed. However, since a non-vote is the same as a "Yes" vote, this renews the tax with a vote of 90 to 10.

Fines are not subject to this tax lifecycle since fines are a form of punishment.



BUSINESS AS USUAL

If you don't do it excellently, don't do it at all.
Because if it's not excellent, it won't be profitable or fun,
and if you're not in business for fun or profit,
what the hell are you doing there?
-- Robert Townsend --

If brute force doesn't work,
You're not using enough of it.
-- William McDonough & Michael Braungart ²⁵ --

Every day I get up and look through the
Forbes list of the richest people in America.
If I'm not there, I go to work.
-- Robert Orben --

Capitalism is a system that few people truly appreciate. It rewards excellence and brings accountability to business. It enables a country to prosper in a way that no government run institution can equal. This is because, on a relatively flat playing field, the free market rewards personal effort, tenacity and the drive to be the best.

Unfortunately, no system is perfect. Greed and the desire to shirk personal responsibility is human nature, which is why Aipotu has the Customer Protection Agency, the Department of Departments, news agencies and private watchdog organizations.

In addition to regulations, the Aipotu government rewards businesses that have a positive impact on society. This includes public recognition and tax cuts.

In both our country and in Aipotu, some financial institutions use their economic clout to help ensure businesses are financially responsible. They only invest in companies they believe in.

One initiative, called 'Sabbath Economics', tries to help the poor through investment.

²⁵ William McDonough & Michael Braungart, *Cradle To Cradle*, P. 30



“Among religious congregations across the country, a new calling is emerging: Don’t just give money to the poor. Invest it in financial programs that will help them.”

“Sometimes called “Sabbath Economics,” the movement pushes people of faith to reject the capitalist model of economics in favor of the biblical one. That biblical model, outlined in the Hebrew Scriptures and in the New Testament, views God’s creation as abundant but also requires that community members distribute it justly and not try to accumulate it all for themselves.”²⁶

The two seemingly opposing forces of capitalism and social responsibility form an awesome team.

I should point out that government doesn’t tell people in industry how to do their jobs. But at the end of the day, industry is accountable for its actions. That means that none of its actions, products, byproducts or wastes can harm people or nature. In other words, “do no harm” is the rule.

Trash to Treasure (The Midas touch)

What we are living with is the result
of human choices and it can be changed
by making better, wiser choices.
-- Robert Redford --

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.
-- New England proverb --

Every time government forces industry to be less polluting, more energy efficient, more respectful of the environment, industry in general complains. They cry they’re losing money. They warn that jobs will be lost. However, every time they comply, they find that they are actually saving money and that they are producing superior products.

The average corporation considers making money to be the most important thing in business. Profit. Some businesses will do anything they can to make

²⁶ Religious turn to ‘Sabbath Economics’, *Seattle Post*, Monday, October 30, 2006, P. C4



that profit. They'll dump their garbage wherever they can. They'll use the minimum of precautions. They'll pay employees the lowest possible wage. They will do a host of other things in the name of Profit.

However, when you look closely at some business practices, you find that they are throwing away potential sources of income.

Let's start with waste products as an example. To my mind, when a company throws away garbage, they're throwing away Money.

Here's an example I saw on PBS: One woodcutting mill used to throw away their wood shavings. Then one day a wise person suggested burning the shavings. They were all so excited thinking they were saving money and helping the environment. No wood chips meant less garbage filling the landfills and smaller garbage bills. Then someone thought of selling the shavings as fuel. They squeezed the sawdust into pellets, which they then sold as fuel. It spared the landfills, saved fuel and made a Profit.

I read about a company that used a toxic solvent. New environmental rules forced them to look for a less toxic replacement. As a result, they came up with a product that was not only environmentally safe but superior as well. That made them a profit and helped them improve their social image.

A third example concerns the dry cleaning industry. In the past dry-cleaners used their special chemicals just once and then threw them away. These chemicals are toxic, so the government passed new laws that forced the dry cleaners to recycle. At first, there was great resistance. "Recycling is for losers," the cleaners hollered. "We are here to make a profit." Eventually they found a way to clean the chemicals, and reuse them at a fraction of the cost of new chemicals. The government had in fact *forced* them to make money.

How can we supply the needs of modern society in a way that satisfies the second law of government (Balance)? The answer is recycling.

Recycling is not just politically correct and environmentally friendly but *Profitable*. Future generations will consider us fools for trashing billions of dollars of potential income.

Aipotu spends millions of US dollars each year on recycling research. The funding comes from the garbage tax. (P. 41)



Industrial Waste

In some ways, industrial waste is easier to recycle than household waste since it is already separate when produced. The dry cleaning liquid mentioned above is a good example.

Zoning requirements in many parts of Aipotu require factories be located next to each other, the idea being that one factory uses the byproducts of another factory. This is important when dealing with liquids and gasses. Pipes connect factories, allowing the easy movement and processing of materials.

Regular Garbage

It's difficult recycling garbage because it's all mixed-up.

At present, recycling is limited to paper, glass, metal, some plastics and a few other items in many countries. That's not good enough. We need to recycle on a major scale. We must recycle all the contents of the garbage dumps.

A private company in Aipotu has recently built an enormous garbage-recycling factory. Raw garbage, directly from landfills and other parts of the country, enters one end of the factory. Out of the other end comes raw material to produce new products. This process uses a great deal of energy. Fortunately, Aipotu has plenty of energy reserves to service its needs (P. 52).

The factory ships out bars of iron, copper and aluminum, as well as bundles of reclaimed paper, plastics, glass, and so on. The factory is a giant 50-story cube designed to use the least amount of land space. The company started off with government help but now is profitable.

In the story of king Midas, everything the king touched turned to gold. In our case however, the factory converts garbage into useful products.

Midas Touch Inc. forecasts that it can clean up all the garbage dumps in the country by the end of the centenary. The eyesores called garbage dumps will soon be a thing of the past.

Manufactures are happy because they get easy and reliable sources of raw materials. Nor do they need to worry about garbage disposal. Most importantly, there is a reduced need for obtaining resources from politically unstable countries.



Cradle-To-Cradle

In their book *Cradle to Cradle*, William McDonough and Michael Braungart argue that we need to rethink how we create and use products. Currently we create products without regard to their ultimate fate. This is because the manufacturer is not responsible for a product beyond its intended use.

The authors argue that factories should design products to be recycled once their usefulness has ended. This isn't a difficult task. It only requires we change the way we view the product cycle.

What most people consider recycling is what the authors call "down cycling." As an example, we can only recycle paper 4-5 times before its fibers become useless. This means that you always need a new supply of raw materials for producing paper.

Instead of paper, they suggest we use plastic, since plastic can be reused an infinite number of times. In keeping with this philosophy, the authors wrote their book on special plastic that has the look and feel of high quality paper. The advantage of this book is that it can be recycled to create more books – and it's waterproof.²⁷

There are two types of recycling: biological recycling and industrial recycling. With biological recycle, you create products from biodegradable materials. When their usefulness is over, bugs eat them and convert them to soil. In industrial recycling, factories deal with the waste products. Iron is one of the most recycled materials in the world.

The Aipotu government uses taxation as an incentive for innovation. Companies pay tax on products that cannot participate in the cradle-to-cradle paradigm. This money finances research on recycling technology and on educating the public.

Natural Capitalism

In January 2009, I saw an interesting show on the university channel, UCTV. It was entitled Natural Capitalism. In it, the speaker argues that it is highly profitable to use nature as a model to do business. In fact, he argues that industries in harmony with nature can out-perform industries that operate

²⁷ If you're curious about Durabooks, please see www.melcher.com



in the traditional manner. He predicts that businesses that can't or won't participate in the new industrial revolution will go out of business. This is even without government regulation.

Any process that produces waste products is bad for the bottom line and is a disservice to the shareholders. As its name implies, waste products are a waste of potential revenue.

The presenter also argues that businesses will become more service oriented. Instead of buying an air-conditioner, you contract with a company that supplies you with clean, fresh air that is comfortable to live in. The company owns the heating, cooling, and air filtration systems. They maintain the systems as needed. Another example given is floor coverings. A service provider provides the service of carpeted floors. In the night, little pixies come and replace worn out parts of the carpet.

The recession of 2008-2010 will definitely speed up the changing of the world. There's nothing like pain to inspire people to change.

Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution, by Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins, is well worth the read. Also, look for similar books. The number of books describing how to maximize profit by working with nature is surprisingly extensive.



Energy

The energy produced by the breaking down
of the atom is a very poor kind of thing.

Anyone who expects a source of power from
the transformation of these atoms is talking moonshine.

-- Ernest Rutherford --

Not only will atomic power be released,
but someday we will harness the rise and fall
of the tides and imprison the rays of the sun.

-- Thomas Alva Edison²⁸ --

Energy is the power that drives every human being.

It is not lost by exertion but maintained by it,
for it is a faculty of the psyche.

-- Germaine Greer --

Aipotu has immense reserves of renewable energy in the form of Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Ether. As a result, the energy industry is environmentally responsible.

Actually, the above statement is not entirely accurate. The only reason the energy industry is environmentally responsible is because the people hold it to account.

Earth

Like most countries, fossil fuels are an important source of energy. However, the people of Aipotu have made it a priority to replace fossil fuels with renewable, environmentally responsible sources of energy.

As someone once commented, fossil fuels come from the bowels of the earth. You shouldn't expect stuff coming out of bowels to be completely healthy.

Air

Wind is a popular power source for renewable energy in many countries. Technology is driving down the cost of this form of power faster than many people imagine. Yes, Aipotu relies on wind for some of its power, especially in the central states.

²⁸ Someone is definitely taking moonshine and I think I know whom.



Fire

Solar power is an energy resource that's been mostly unused. The reason is because solar panels are expensive. That's about to change. The new panels in development are thin, flexible, energy efficient and cheap enough for most people.

The people of Aipotu have chosen not to use nuclear energy, since it's considered too dangerous. Unlike most renewable²⁹ power sources, an accident could harm thousands and possibly millions of people in the event of a nuclear accident and the effects would be felt decades later. And don't forget the danger of nuclear fuel falling into the hands of terrorists. There's also the problem of disposing of the nuclear waste. This is a cost many pro-nuclear advocates tend to ignore.

The Aipotunians consider it irresponsible to use nuclear fission for power generation. They only consider nuclear power when there are no other options.

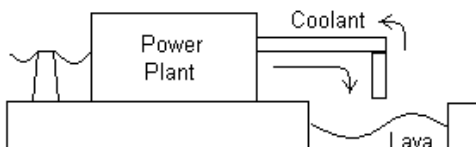
Geothermal energy is popular in northern Aipotu where there's a large caldera, just like Yellowstone National Park. Unfortunately, the hot water springs in the Enotswolley National Park are just as corrosive to equipment as Yellowstone. However, that hasn't stopped them from using this incredible source of energy.

A local power company has built a state of the art power plant near one of the lava lakes. Its operation is simple but it took years to develop the technology. A machine lowers a pipe containing a coolant into the molten lava. The coolant flows in the pipe and extracts the heat from the lava. The coolant also prevents the pipes from melting. The machine raises the pipes for maintenance.

The heat from the coolant supplies the energy to turn a turbine and produce electricity. In operation, the power plant works in the same way as a nuclear power plant. The only difference is the source of the heat is lava. Also, failure of the plant won't cause a disaster, nor are there waste products to worry about.

²⁹ Notwithstanding hydroelectric power dams, which can potentially kill thousands or millions of people if they burst?





The power plant distributes power in two ways. First, it's sent to the power grid and used in the usual way. Second, the power plant produces hydrogen and propane for fuel.

To produce propane, the energy company extracts carbon dioxide from the air and with a use of a catalyst combines it with hydrogen from water.

Water

Dammed-up water produces hydroelectric power. Ocean currents and ocean waves are becoming popular as well.

Ether

According to modern science, the vacuum of space contains a huge ocean of energy, and may in fact be the origin of the universe³⁰.

Some people claim we can tap into this space energy. Unfortunately, this is not possible. You need a potential difference in order to do useful work. You get power only when something happens. For instance, you get power when water falls down and turns a wheel. You can also get power when you have an ocean current or waves. However, we cannot generate power if water just sits there and does nothing. As far as we know, the energy in the vacuum of space around the Earth just sits there and does nothing. Now if we were to find an Ether stream, we would gain an infinite source of energy. That's just wishful thinking, isn't it?

By the way, we do get energy form empty space. We call it sunlight. ☺

³⁰ Where Did It All Come From, *Sky & Telescope*, December 2006, P. 36



Farm Subsidies

The number of millionaires receiving farm subsidies rose 28% between 2000 and 2001, while Ken Lay saw his percentage of total farm subsidies rise by 400%. Increasingly, corporate farmers garner the benefits of taxpayer-funded subsidies intended for the independent farmer.

-- Keith Ashdown³¹ --

"The United States and its wealthy allies will not eradicate poverty – or defeat terrorism, for that matter – by conspiring to deprive the world's poor farmers of even the most modest opportunities. And the threat of a devastating antiglobalization backlash set off by worldwide resentment of 'northern' trade practices is enormous."³²

Each year, farms produce tons of food that governments buy and then throw away. In exchange for this wasted food, the government subsidizes the farmers. With this system, no one wins. (1) The excess food is wasted. (2) The government pays for something it doesn't need – money better spent on other projects. (3) The farmers barely make ends meet for performing a thankless job. (4) This wasteful use of land decreases the land's useable lifespan. (5) Farms raise more animals than needed. Farmers force cows to double their milk production even though no one will use much of the produced milk. All this causes unnecessary suffering.

I've read studies showing that countries that don't subsidize the farmers have farms that are economically more viable than countries that do.

So why don't the farmers grow more economically viable products? It's because switching to new crops costs money. Farming requires many resources and farming is always at the mercy of the weather.

The farmers of Aipotu aren't subsidized. Instead, the government gives them the money needed to switch to crops that are more profitable. Of course this involves a lot of red tape – but then isn't that the function bureaucracy?

³¹ Keith Ashdown, Email: keith@taxpayer.net, <http://www.taxpayer.net/TCS/wastebasket/agriculture/2004-06-18cotton.htm>

³² *Harvesting Poverty: The Rigged Trade Game*, The New York Times, July 20, 2003



Fortune Tellers

Isn't it strange? The same people who laugh at
gypsy fortune tellers take economists seriously.

-- Cincinnati Enquirer--

If it's the Psychic Network
why do they need a phone number?

-- Robin Williams --

Psychic, n. - An individual having an uncanny, seemingly supernatural,
talent for extracting money from morons.³³

We find people claiming to have psychic powers all over the world. People visit psychics for help with personal problems. Unfortunately, too many “psychics” are frauds who bilk their clients of millions of dollars each year.

In Aipotu, spiritualism is a regulated industry. The law requires anyone claiming to be a psychic to register themselves as a business. As such, standard business rules apply to them.

The psychic must report all gifts they receive from their customers.

In addition, the Customer Protection Agency sends undercover officers to check up on psychics. The reason is that the victims of psychic fraud don't always know that the physics have deceived them.

People learn that embezzlement is proof that the psychic is a fraud. A true psychic would not need to charge people for their services, since their so-called talents should be able to earn them all the money they need through spiritual means.

Many psychics claim that their spiritual masters forbid them from using their powers for personal gain. If they were honest, they'd have to admit they are using their so-called talents for personal gain, by charging people for their services.

³³ Charles Bufe, *The American Heretic's Dictionary*, 1992



Product Labeling

We can't tell people what is in this product
or people will react irrationally and not buy it.

-- Big Cousin --

"At last. You have finally found the time to sink into your favorite armchair, relax, and pick up a book. Your daughter uses a computer in the next room while the baby crawls on the carpet and plays with a pile of colorful toys. It certainly feels, at this moment, as if all is well. Could there be a more compelling picture of peace, comfort, and safety?

"Let's take a closer look. First, that comfortable chair you are sitting on. Did you know that the fabric contains mutagenic materials, heavy metals, dangerous chemicals, and dyes that are often labeled hazardous by regulators – except when they are presented and sold to a customer? As you shift in your seat, particles of the fabric abrade and are taken up by your nose, mouth, and lungs, hazardous materials and all. Were they on the menu when you ordered that chair?"³⁴

Knowledge brings freedom. Only when we know something about a topic can we do something about it. Take genetically engineered food as an example.

Producers of genetically engineered food claim their products are safe. But they refuse to label their products, claiming that consumers don't know enough to make an informed decision. The issue is not whether or not the food is safe. The issue here is choice. People should have the right to know what they're eating. Law B001 addresses this:

Law B001: All cloned or genetically modified products must be marked as such.

The same reasoning applies to other modified foods. The people who give hormones to cows to increase milk production claim that the milk is identical to regular milk. They insist that they shouldn't have to label the milk, because the average person cannot know the scientific reasons and will react irrationally. This is a totalitarian view: "Listen to us. We know best."

³⁴ P William McDonough & Michael Braungart, *Cradle To Cradle*, P. 3



We live in a supposedly free country. The people must have the right to choose what they want and do not want. If they choose one product over another, that's their right.

Law B002: Product labels must list all ingredients that have a known effect on health.



EMPLOYMENT

Lack of money is the root of all evil.

-- George Bernard Shaw --

Success is the product of ability and opportunity. Ability is useless if you don't have the opportunity to prove yourself. In today's world, I believe luck is more important than talent and requires the minimum of skill to confer success. We all know people who are enjoying incredible success while people with ten times the ability struggle to make ends meet. Can we bring justice to the workplace? You bet it can.

At some time in their lives, most people will be under-employed. Most people will do the traditional thing when seeking employment. They will send out thousands of resumes to all the places they can think of. Unfortunately, for most of these people, this will be an exercise in futility. Anyone who has tried to find a job understands this.

It's bad enough finding a job, but now it's getting harder to *keep* the job. In the words of Bolles:

"Yes, the workplace is always in flux, always in transition, always in turmoil... But there *are* six things that are different about the '90s:

"First of all, this normal process of change and flux has been greatly speeded up...

"Secondly...a larger number of workers than normal have been affected by this more rapid change...

"Thirdly...there is much less warning of anything...

"Fourth...there is a great deal more injustice in the workplace...

"Fifth...we are now in a global market, and the new jobs being born in the U.S. and elsewhere are under great pressure to stay competitive with the lower wages paid elsewhere in the world...



"Finally...the workforce is increasingly dividing into a two-class society: those who are well off... versus those who are having trouble keeping their heads above water..."³⁵

These words are unpleasant to hear but are unfortunately still relevant. On the other hand, there are employers desperately looking for good employees.

"I cannot tell you the number of employers I have known over the years, who cannot figure out how to find the right employee. It is absolutely mind-boggling, particularly in these hard times when job-hunters would seem to be gathered on every street corner.

"You're having trouble finding the employer. The employer is having trouble finding you. *What a great country!*"³⁶

Communist countries try to solve these problems by guarantying employment for everyone. There is only one problem with this approach. Individuals feel little incentive to excel. Without this drive to be the best, it's impossible for countries to compete in the international marketplace.

In capitalist countries, companies deal with employment issue in a dog-eat-dog way. This makes the society competitive in the global marketplace - but at a high price. It leaves society full of people dissatisfied with their work and lives. Too many people are stuck in dead end jobs, with the ever-present prospect of being laid-off. It is not fun being dog food.

Aipotu solved this problem in a unique way. Their solution was the National Placement Service.

The National Placement Service

The greatest of evils
and the worst of crimes is poverty.
-- George Bernard Shaw --

The National Placement Service (NPS) exists to service the employment needs of Aipotu. It brings workers and employers together for mutual

³⁵ Richard Nelson Bolles, *The 1997 What Color Is Your Parachute*, PP. 11-13

³⁶ *ibid*, P. 179



benefit.

As a child, the Aipotunian receives basic schooling (P. 65). Later, the NPS assigns a guidance councilor to the person. This councilor helps the person choose a career path based on aptitude and interest. The councilor keeps in close contact during the entire work career of the client. Even people who go into business for themselves have councilors. The councilor keeps track of a person's professional growth, seeking to ensure the client's career is progressing satisfactorily.

Many people choose careers based on other people's opinions or fear of not finding employment. This makes for unhappy citizens and is so unnecessary. Society is rich and diverse enough for everyone's interests.

A person's interests and aptitudes dictate the career path in Aipotu. This process is complex and time consuming, but necessary.

The client and councilor choose an advanced course of study based on the client's choice of career path. This includes college and university studies, as well as trade schools. This gives the applicant the appropriate skills needed to succeed at work.

Once schooling has ended, the guidance councilor helps the applicant apply for an appropriate job. In many ways, the Aipotunian method is better than ours is. For one thing, the Aipotunian guidance councilor has access to many types of information about organizations the average person in our country does not have.

This information includes type of business the organization conducts and the products and services they produce. Knowledge of the organization's business structure is also available. This includes the names, departments and titles of the managers who have the power to hire people. Also included is the inside scoop about the organization's culture. The NPS obtains this knowledge anonymously from the employees. The law obliges companies to supply this info. For security reasons, this information is only available to the job councilors and their clients for the sole purpose of finding a job.

With the help of the councilor, the applicant researches all companies and applies to the ten best companies found. Each job application is tailor-made to the targeted company.

In addition, clients view advertised jobs and apply only to positions that best



fit their aptitudes, skills and needs. Compare that to the current system, where the job seeker sends thousands of resumes to every company they can think of and every available position.

The resume of the applicant is available to all prospective employers, supplying a third route for obtaining a job.

This employment system gives many benefits to companies. One: Resumes don't overwhelm them. The companies only receive resumes from serious applicants. The employers know the applicants are serious, because of the mandatory research done on each company, and because of the applicant can send only a limited number of resumes. Also, the NPS certifies each resume as being accurate.

Accuracy is important to companies because:

"According to one recent study, approximately 33 percent of job applicants falsify information; a 1987 study reported by the Columbus (Ohio) dispatch reported that up to 67 percent misrepresent or fake information."³⁷

If an applicant can't get a job, the applicant's situation is reviewed and appropriate actions taken. This can include contacting the employers and asking why they rejected the applicant. The employers can be candid since they face no risk of legal action.

Sometimes a person can't get a job because of a lack of experience. In this case, the NPS gives a tax incentive to the hiring company. If this system is used, the applicant's profile remains active and reflects this fact. Therefore, another company could hire the person at any time, albeit without the tax incentive. This ensures that companies don't abuse the system.

This work incentive normally lasts for two years to give the client the minimum two years training required by most companies.

The councilor archives the client's profile once an employer starts paying the client's salary in full.

³⁷ Strasser & Sena, *From Campus To Corporation*, 2nd ed., Career Press, 1993, P. 55



Entrepreneurs

People may conduct their job search on their own if they choose. That is okay.

In addition, help is available to entrepreneurs who are starting their own business. Entrepreneurship is greatly encouraged.

In fact, everyone is encouraged to think of themselves as entrepreneurs. Every one of us is capable of supplying a service. Everyone needs a business plan, even if that means being the best welder possible. Everyone needs to manage money.

The Dreaded Axe

In other countries, letting go of people is an unpleasant process. The worker faces an uncertain future and morale among the remaining employees runs low. Also, the company must pay a severance package.

In Aipotu, the process is simpler. When a worker is fired or laid-off, the company supplies to the NPS the reasons for the dismissal. Also supplied is a report of the person's strengths and weaknesses. The company supplies this info without fear of prosecution. The NPS keeps the names of the people supplying this information confidential.

Companies don't need to supply severance packages because the NPS financially supports the applicant while they are looking for a new job. This gives a big savings to the companies.

Because the NPS supplies the employment needs of companies, human resource departments are either very small or non-existent. A possible down side is that people constantly move from company to company as opportunities arise.

This isn't as stressful as you might think since resources are available to help in the transition.

The information obtained from the former employer is required to assist the applicant. Using this information, the employment councilor works with the applicant to plan the person's next move. If the problem is behavioral, the councilor takes appropriate action. This could involve seeing a psychologist. If the problem is substandard performance, the councilor evaluates the applicant's work strategies. The councilor could suggest additional training or even a complete change in career. Once the client addresses the reasons



for losing a job, the process of getting a new job starts.

By placing emphasis on the worker, Aipotu has become a country full of world-class companies.

We should mention here that the NPS will only financially support a client if the client participates in the job finding process on a full time basis.

The NPS evaluates each person on an individual basis. It considers issues such as health and physical and mental abilities when dealing with people.

If a person can't work, then they can't work. People never get menial jobs just for the sake of doing work. You won't find physically and mentally challenged people selling pens on the street corner.

According to Bolles, it's difficult for employers to find good employees. This problem disappears when you create a system designed to help people fulfill their potential.



EDUCATION

Ignorance is an evil weed,
which dictators may cultivate
among their dupes, but which no
democracy can afford among its citizens.

-- W. H. Beveridge --

Only the educated are free.

-- Epictetus --

I don't have a learning disability,
I have a teacher disability.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

The world is a complicated place, and getting more so each day. The average person encounters more cultures and ways of life today than people did in the nineteenth century. The level of technology today is higher. The pace of life is faster. The expectations placed on people are greater. Can we do anything to cope with a situation that evolution never fitted us to deal with?

The answer is a resounding – YES. We can do more than just cope. We can excel. We have the tools. We have the talent. We can make it happen.

Hundreds of books are available to help us improve all aspects of our lives. Sadly, few people know about them and fewer use them. Aipotu deals with this problem by teaching essential skills to children in basic schooling.

Einstein makes a comment about our educational system that is unfortunately still relevant at the time of this writing:

“It is in fact nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry. It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty.”

Aipotunians believe learning should be fun, and should give a sense of achievement. Fun makes learning faster and easier.

This goal isn't always easy. Many subjects require hard work to master, and some subjects will always be boring. This doesn't mean we should give up. We must make every effort to make it easier for our children to succeed.



Another problem is that everyone has different learning abilities. Some children find it difficult to keep up while others advance in leaps and bounds. In addition, some very intelligent kids get poor grades because traditional schooling cannot deal with the unique ways their brains function. The general public and some experts don't fully understand developmental disorders such as autism.

How can we help everyone learn at a pace and way that's best for them? The answer is technology.

"Technology is at a point where teaching materials that are as stimulating as the best films and television could enhance and even replace traditional textbooks. Imagine how involving history courses would be if they were built around the presentation and discussion of documentary videos created by talented directors, writers, historians, and teachers, and were shown on a big screen...

"When computers can interact with students verbally, the devices (more patient and attentive than any human with a dozen students clamoring for attention) will be able to provide rich and individualized instruction by tailoring lessons to each student's needs...Further, by keeping unambiguous records of a student's day-to-day performance, exams would become largely superfluous and human teachers could be alerted promptly to individual learning problems needing special attention."³⁸

It's also important to identify any developmental disorder as early as possible, so that therapy can begin. Fortunately, every year it gets easier to handle this situation as science advances.

³⁸ Gregory Stock, *Metaman*, ISBN 0-385-25380-X, PP. 205-206



Basic Schooling

Education is learning what you
didn't even know you didn't know.

-- Daniel J. Boorstin --

Education makes a people easy to lead,
but difficult to drive; easy to govern,
but impossible to enslave.

-- Omar N. Bradley --

Any man is educated who knows where to get knowledge when he needs it, and
[knows] how to organize that knowledge into definite plans of action.

-- Napoleon Hill³⁹ --

People have many aspects to themselves. These aspects include the physical, sensual, spiritual, intellectual, creative, social and financial. We must nurture each of these aspects, in order for us to develop as a healthy, fully rounded individual. In recognition of this, the Aipotu school system divides basic education into seven categories: Physical, Sensual, Spiritual, Intellectual, Creative, Social and Financial. These categories tend to blend into each other.

The National Placement Service (P. 60) assigns a guidance councilor to the student, once basic schooling is complete. The councilor helps the student chooses a career and any advanced training necessary for the career. This includes colleges, trade schools and universities. Advanced schooling is basically the same in Aipotu as in here.

Basic schooling is not limited to children. People are constantly immigrating to Aipotu. They need special training to live and work in the country and to become citizens. Also, many people retake individual courses to brush up on forgotten skills.

³⁹ Napoleon Hill, Think & Grow Rich, P. 79



Physical Aspect

Physical fitness is not only one
of the most important keys to a
healthy body; it is the basis of dynamic
and creative intellectual activity.

-- John F. Kennedy --

You don't have to be smart
to be a genius.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

Physical fitness is important. It allows one to live longer, healthier lives. It's not surprising that Aipotunian schools emphasize physical fitness.

As expected, everyone learns team sports. They also learn self-defense. This builds self-confidence and makes them better citizens. Finally, students do weight training and yoga exercises. This helps them become strong and flexible, in more ways than one.

Throughout the year, children take field trips. Hiking, swimming, rock climbing and horseback riding are just some of the activities offered.

Sensual Aspect

Seeing, hearing and feeling are miracles,
and each part and tag of me is a miracle.

-- Walt Whitman --

Whatever you are thinking right now, you can forget about. This subject has nothing to do with that.

I am referring to our ability to experience the world through our senses. Aipotunian children learn to use their senses more efficiently. They're trained no how to observe.

As people grow, they get so wrapped-up in their view of the world that they forget the real world. Also, people don't hear correctly and so misunderstand what others say. The ability to see the world the way others do helps everyone get along.

Aipotunian children learn American Sign Language. This is a language that is useful in places where people cannot hear each other, such as in a noisy room or at a party. I believe it is also helpful to improve the thinking



process. It uses parts of your brain that regular speaking does not.

Spiritual Aspect

You do not need to leave your room.

Remain sitting at your table and listen.

Do not even listen, simply wait.

Do not even wait, be quite still and solitary.

The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked,
it has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.

-- Franz Kafka --

Flosi: But how does one acquire

power when he hasn't already got it?

Gizur: When you encounter it, you'll know...

It is a matter of reaching out and looking
within to find something you know is already there.

-- Elizabeth Boyer⁴⁰ --

A cult is a religion with no political power.

-- Tom Wolfe --

Every man is guilty of the good he didn't do.

-- Voltaire --

Throughout the ages, people have claimed they've heard the word of God. Did God inspire the authors of the Koran and the Bible? We have no scientific way to find out. We only have the writer's word on the subject. With all things religious, it all comes down to faith.

Unfortunately, faith is not enough to run a country, especially since there is no logical way of telling which faith is the True Faith.

Knowing that we may never know the truth about God, Aipotu has chosen to stick to what we do know. So what do we know?

First and foremost, we must be true to ourselves. The individual is the basis of society and if you want a healthy society, you need healthy people.

⁴⁰ Elizabeth Boyer, *The Elves and the Otterskin*, P72



Second, all we have in this world is people. In society, nothing is more important. The children learn to respect the dignity of the human beings. Of course, to fulfill this, we need to know who we are.

Each of us needs to develop core confidence. In the words of Tyler Durden RSD:

- *“Core confidence comes from an unshakable conviction of who you are and what you’re entitled to.*
- *“It’s a confidence that allows you to take on a charismatic attitude. The type of charismatic attitude that gets people reacting to you regardless of the situation you are in.*
- *“You identify yourself as an individual who can’t be categorized with a dynamic and flexible identity that could evolve anytime that you choose.*
- *“You know what you’ve been through in life and trust yourself to get by any situation no matter what.*
- *“You value your own opinion of yourself more highly than the opinions of others and you determine your own value by a criteria that is your own.*
- *“You know that your acceptance in any particular situation is never a treat to your overall wellbeing.*
- *“You know what your best qualities are and that even if people don’t see them or acknowledge them, you know very well that they exist.*
- *“You know that you offer real value to people and if they don’t see it then it’s their issue, not yours.*
- *“You believe that your life perspective and energy have an inherent value whether other people acknowledge it or not.”*

It takes years of hard work to fulfill these requirements, but the results are worth it.

To sum up:

- 1) Know Thyself⁴¹
- 2) Above all else – to thy own self be true.⁴²
- 3) We must treat others and the world around us with love, respect and kindness, for we are all One.

These lessons are the most important lessons a society can teach a person.

⁴¹ Plato

⁴² William Shakespeare, Hamlet, I.3.80



They are the only things needed to create a healthy, happy society. They are the basis for all moral, ethical, and spiritual laws. Teachers drill these and similar lessons into all Aipotunian children throughout their education. In addition, service announcements and public billboards serve as a constant reminder.

Of course, the admonition, “Know Thyself”, is the hardest thing in the world to fulfill, but it is well worth the effort.

Here is something to think about; the ends cannot justify the means because evil means will almost always produce evil ends – eventually.

The Warm-Blooded and the Not-So-Warm-Blooded

Cold-blooded animals have little to no control over their internal temperature. They’re at the mercy of the environment.

Warm-blooded animals regulate their body temperature and so outside conditions affect them less.

The same is true of people. Some people are at the mercy of external influences such as the opinions of others.

Other people seem able to filter out negative influences and can better function in society. It’s as if these people have an anti-virus program running inside their heads that protects them from unwanted intrusions.

The question is how do we give this protection to everyone? Put in another way, how do we turn spiritually not-so-warm-blooded people into spiritually warm-blooded people? This isn’t an easy question because spiritual enlightenment is a journey each person must make alone. As the wise man said, teachers only point the way.

Here is something to consider. According to Dr. Slip Cam, a renowned Aipotunian psychiatrist:

“A person with schizophrenia is in a transition phase between one level of mental and spiritual functioning and the next above it. While in this transition phase, they are less able to deal with the world than the average person and so can be perceived to be mentally ill. Some of these people are better able to hide their condition and so can go about their lives without being negatively labeled.



“This period of transition can be very painful and can last years. Then something shocking happens to them, forcing them to reorganize the world. I believe this sudden transformation is what some people would call Enlightenment. The person gains the ability to more effectively function in society than the average person, once this transition takes place...

“It should be noted that this enlightenment is merely the transition of one level of order or organization to the next above it, and as such can happen multiple times in a person’s life. Contrary to popular belief, enlightenment is not a destination but just one stop in an endless journey, which is the evolution of consciousness through matter.”

Circle of Life

Research is showing that everything is connected. All our actions have consequences. According to the Gaia theory, all life on Earth acts as if it were a living organism. Seemingly small changes can have a huge impact our world and the way we live.

We need to learn how our actions affect the world, which in turn affects us.

Mysticism And Meta-Physics

The purpose of mysticism is to connect to something greater than ourselves.

Many people consider we are just robots made of meat. They consider that consciousness is just a product of the brain. In this philosophy, Matter is primary.

However, there is evidence that Consciousness is primary. This means that a power beyond the Universe is creating and sustaining the Universe. Many people have done sufficient research to show that meta-physics is worth studying.

One must-read book is *The Adventure of Self-Consciousness* by Dr. Stanislav Grof. He has spent decades studying altered states of consciousness, induced by both drug and non-drug techniques.

Another researcher worth noting is Dr. Michael Newton. He is the author *Journey of Souls* and *Destiny of Souls*. He uses hypnotism to take people to the time before they were born.

Whether souls exist is a matter of speculation for many and absolute belief for others. My theory of this is in Part 4 of this book, titled **Error! Reference source not found.** (P. **Error! Bookmark not defined.**).



The field of enlightenment is constantly evolving (no pun intended). There is no way of telling what we will learn in the future, but I know it'll be marvelous. We need to study the ancient wisdom of all civilizations of the world. Only then can we begin to understand ourselves.

I will finish with an old Chinese story:

"To a man who knows nothing - mountains are mountains, waters are waters and trees are trees. When he has studied and knows a little - mountains are no longer mountains, waters are no longer waters and trees are no longer trees. But when he has thoroughly understood - mountains are once again mountains, waters are waters and trees are trees" - *But with a fundamentally important difference that can't be conveyed in mere words.*

Intellectual Aspect

So few people think.
When we find one who really does,
we call him a genius.
-- Unknown --

Thinking is the hardest work there is,
which is probably the reason
why so few engage in it.
-- Henry Ford --

Knowledge is only *potential* power.
It becomes power only when, and if,
it is organized into definite plans of action,
and directed to a definite end.
-- Napoleon Hill⁴³ --

Here is something to think about:

"Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth -- more than ruin -- more even than death.... Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible, thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habit. Thought looks into the pit of hell and is

⁴³ Napoleon Hill, *Think & Grow Rich*, P. 78



not afraid. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man.”⁴⁴

On the other hand, maybe it's not something to think about.

The ability to think and reason is essential to the welfare of a free and open society. The most important education a society can give a child is the ability to think with an open mind.

To this end, the children learn how to solve problems using logic and reason. Subjects such as game theory help them sharpen their thinking abilities.

They also learn the principles of science and how to reach a conclusion based on observation and facts.

The general sciences are important in school. At this stage, a broad knowledge base is more important. Depth of knowledge comes later when the need arises.

Most importantly, children learn how to ask questions. We only make progress when we repeatedly ask the questions, “how” and “why”. Of course, not all questions are equal. Some questions can unearth more information than others can.

Labyrinth

Years ago, I came across an interesting movie called *Labyrinth*. In it, the hero Sarah tries to rescue her baby brother from the clutches of the evil Goblin King. The first challenge she faces is trying to enter the Labyrinth. Sarah asks the dwarf, “Where’s the door to the labyrinth?”

Sarah gets frustrated because the dwarf is either unwilling or unable to answer her. She says, “It’s useless asking you anything”. He responds, “Not if you ask the right question”.

When she asks, “How do I enter the Labyrinth”, the dwarf responds, “You get in through there”, causing a door to magically appear and open.

⁴⁴ Bertrand Russell



At another time, Sarah asks a worm, “How do I solve the Labyrinth?” The worm didn’t know and couldn’t help her, because the vagueness of the question.

As Sarah walks away, the worm comments, “If she had gone the other direction, she’d have gone straight to the castle”. As you can guess, that’s where she needed to go. By focusing on the big picture and not getting bogged down on details, Sarah could have avoided a lot of problems.

Thinking skills can only become second nature if learnt at an early age.

The greatest skill is being able to switch from one level of cognition to another. In other words, the key is to be able to switch between looking at the trees to looking at the forest and back again.

Learning

In the past, people used to memorize everything. That was fine then because there was little to learn. With the information explosion, this is no longer possible.

What’s important now is the ability to find information, and sufficient skills to use it. That’s more important than mere facts. That’s real education and that’s what basic school in Aipotu teaches.

Perfect Memory

Perfect memory is one of those abilities people like showing off on TV. They show off their abilities by memorizing lists and stuff. All silliness aside, super-memory can be useful. You can learn languages, remember people’s names and find your keys, among other things. The good news is that the skill is learnable and the best time to learn it is as a child. The key to memory is mnemonics. There are many books on the subject. With proper training, anyone can have an excellent memory. It only requires discipline.

The other key element to a good memory is paying attention to details. It’s impossible to remember something if you don’t pay attention to it.

Math Tricks

Most people learn math in school but few use it in daily life. The reason is that you need paper and pencil to do math and a calculator is more convenient.



Fortunately, some ways to do math are both quick and easy. Have people on TV ever amazed you with their ability to do math in their heads? These skills are teachable and plenty of books are available on the subject. As you can guess, this is one of the subjects taught in school in Aipotu.

I know good schools teach these things, but I figured it was worth mentioning anyway.

Science and Technology

Numerous studies show that children and even adults don't understand the basics of science. The series, *Minds of Our Own*⁴⁵, talks about this problem.

One of the problems cited is that the curriculum forces educators to teach many times more information than can be absorbed by students. As a result, students learn by rote without learning the basics. Standardized tests then test how well students memorize facts without fully testing their understanding.

Teachers in Aipotu test students by seeing how well they put principles into practice. Written exams are avoided as much as possible.

The good news is that we are having a revolution in the teaching profession. The future is secure.

Creative Aspect

The secret to creativity is
knowing how to hide your sources.
-- Albert Einstein --

To a lesser mind,
brilliancy is indistinguishable from idiocy,
the greater always being mistaken for the lesser.
-- Unknown Evil Genius --

We should cherish the creative aspect of the human spirit.

The children in Aipotu learn the basic categories of human creativity. This

⁴⁵ <http://www.learner.org/resources/series26.html>



includes art and music. Later on, children are encouraged to experiment with their own forms of creativity.

Creativity can be enhanced by asking 'why', 'how' and 'what-if' questions. Trying to see the world from another person's point of view also helps.

Some of the exercises given involve taking an object and describing all its possible uses. Training also includes exercises in free association and the art of brainstorming.

Creativity can also be enhanced by telling stories. An idea offered by Igor Ledochowski is to take three random items and create a story around these ideas. Ex: A stone, a pig, a fishing rod. Take these items and create a story.

Another of Igor's ideas is to imagine a world no one has seen before. Start by describing the ground you're standing on. Then describe what you see.

A third idea is what Igor calls the Forest Gump Game, where you compare different things. In the movie, Forest Gump compares life to chocolate. "Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you will get".



Social Aspect

Life may not be the party we hoped for,
but while we're here we should dance.

-- Unknown --

A person who is nice to you,
but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.

-- Dave Barry --

We are all social animals, yet not all of us behave socially. In school we find bullies, on the road we find rude people, at work we find – you get the idea.

From an early age, children learn the social skills they'll need in life. They learn how to deal with conflict, how to express themselves, and how to get along with others.

The system pays special care to bullies. These people have the potential to become criminals as adults. They also have the potential to be pillars of society, with just a little guidance.

Nor does the system ignore shy people. Caring teachers help them to get out of their shells and become more social. Shy people can contribute just as much as any other person, if only they can get out of their shells. Sometimes conditions such as autism can cause shy or standoffish behavior.

Modern languages and world cultures are part of the curriculum in school. We can only deal with others comfortably when we know their language and culture.



Financial Aspect

Financial education needs to become a part of our
national curriculum and scoring systems
so that it's not just the rich kids that learn about money
.. it's all of us.
-- David Bach --

Any informed borrower is simply less vulnerable
to fraud and abuse.
-- Alan Greenspan --

In all realms of life it takes courage to stretch your limits,
express your power, and fulfill your potential..
it's no different in the financial realm.
-- Suze Orman --

In the world we live in, money is essential to survival. We need it for food, shelter and a host of necessary services. We also need it for all the good things in life.

We must know how to make money, invest in the future and spend it wisely. These are essential skills we all must learn.

Children in Aipotu learn money management and economics. This includes knowing how not to get taken in by questionable deals. They learn risk management in an uncertain world. They also learn how to save and invest. Students learn investment skills in actual market conditions without risk or liability.

Students learn how to be entrepreneurs. This means actually creating a business plan for their future and outlining steps to fulfill it to achieve an enjoyable retirement.

When we think of entrepreneurs, we think of business owners. Business owners have businesses that supply goods and services. Employees don't own business, but they do supply services to their employers. This makes them contractors. Unfortunately, contractors don't get the benefits of owning a business, such as writing off business expenses. This is why owning a business is good for everyone.

The strongest defense we can have against recession and financial woes is the right kind of education and self-knowledge.



We are the pillars of the world. The world will be strong and healthy as long as we are personally solvent and healthy. For those who feel guilty about being rich, I recommend reading *The Science of Getting Rich*, by Wallace D. Wattles. You can find useful information at www.ScienceOfGettingRich.net

In Wallace's words:

"WHATEVER MAY BE SAID IN PRAISE OF POVERTY, the fact remains that it is not possible to live a really complete or successful life unless one is rich. No one can rise to his greatest possible height in talent or soul development unless he has plenty of money, for to unfold the soul and to develop talent he must have many things to use, and he cannot have these things unless he has money to buy them with."

Child Rearing

Don't worry that children never listen to you.
Worry that they are always watching you.
-- Robert Fulghum --

If we are to reach real peace in this world...
we shall have to begin with the children.
-- Mahatma Gandhi --

Children need models rather than critics.
-- Joseph Joubert --

We expect people to be properly educated when they go to work or do anything of importance. This isn't surprising since the consequences can be disastrous. Would you go on a plane knowing the pilot doesn't know how to fly? Can you imagine being operated on by a doctor who never learned medicine?

Such a thing would be unthinkable. Yet, when it comes to performing the most important work in society, this doesn't apply. We expect people to know how to do it, so we rarely have formal training. So what is this important job? I'm referring to child rearing.

People just assume that child rearing is as natural as breathing. If cavemen did it, how hard could it be? When some people find it difficult to raise children, they assume there's something wrong with them. However, the art of child rearing is not instinctual; it's learned. This applies even to animals.



Years ago, I watched a show about primates. A female gave birth to two babies. As is natural for the young of the species, the babies tried to climb onto their mother. This terrified the mother, and she tried to escape. The handlers had to remove the babies before they got hurt. The problem was that humans raised the mother and so she never saw the young of her species. She never learnt how to deal with them.

The handlers put her with others of her species. The hope was that they would teach her the social skills she never learnt when young. It worked. After a few years, she was able to raise new babies of her own.

Isn't it heartening to know that parenting is learned? That means that we can correct past mistakes.

Ever see a TV show called *The Nanny*? In it, the nanny went around helping parents with their parenting problems.

As expected, parenting is a school subject. This takes the guesswork out of the equation. No more trial and error. No more hoping you're doing the right thing.

In the senior years of schooling, adolescents take classes on how to rear children. These classes, among other things, include lessons on nutrition, education and discipline.

Parents take refresher courses when needed. This is in addition to the help parents receive from their community.

Of course, formal training can't take the place of a closely-knit community where everyone helps take care of children.



School Structure

A wise system of education will at last
teach us how little man yet knows,
how much he has still to learn.

-- John Lubbock --

“So committed are Americans to the value of education that they will support almost anything that seems to help that endeavor.”⁴⁶

In Aipotu, there are no public schools. Instead, they’re all business run institutions. Why? Because businesses are accountable for how well they do their work. Businesses that cannot compete go bankrupt while businesses that produce a superior product or service prosper.

Parents choose which school to send their children to –because Aipotu is a free country. A country, which dictates how you raise your children, isn’t truly free, even if it is a democracy.

The funding a school gets depends on attendance and the academic standing of the students. The top 10 percent of schools get bonuses. The schools that can’t supply a quality service eventually go out of business. This is in keeping with the principle that each person must live with the consequences of their actions. This is the best way to make the world into a place worth living.

As you can guess, Aipotu doesn’t support the tenure system. A professor’s pay depends on their ability to teach. Some professors are as highly paid as some sports stars.

The ministry of education is responsible for ensuring a high standard of education. It’s also responsible for research in the educational field. Thirdly, the ministry is responsible for deciding how to financially compensate schools.

In Aipotu, businesses have a say in what schools teach. This is because well-trained students make for the best employees and because businesses pay for schooling.

⁴⁶ Jay P. Greene, *Education Myths What Special Interest Groups Want You to Believe about Our Schools – And Why It Isn’t So*, P ix



Research

Research is a fundamental aspect of the educational system. It ensures professors know what they are talking about since they are actually doing it. It also gives students hands-on experience.

Industry supports research based on the business sector it supports.

Home Schooling

Home schooling is becoming popular around the world.

In Aipotu, home schooling is popular. However, the children must take tests given by the ministry of education. This is to ensure that the children receive the highest possible level of education. This is the same in many parts of the world.

Libraries

A little learning is a dangerous thing:
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring.
-- Alexander Pope --

Accurate knowledge is the basis
of correct opinions; the want of it makes
the opinions of most people of little value.
-- Charles Simmons --

"On the one hand information wants to be expensive, because it's so valuable. The right information in the right place just changes your life. On the other hand, information wants to be free, because the cost of getting it out is getting lower and lower all the time. So you have these two fighting against each other."⁴⁷

Education and knowledge is essential to any advanced culture. Aipotu is no exception and has some of the most comprehensive libraries in the world.

Gutenberg Project

Sooner or later, most published material goes out print. Much of the time, copyright laws forbid you from copying the material. So what do you do if

⁴⁷ Stewart Brand, Whole Earth Review, p. 49, May 1985



you want a legal copy of the material?

Organizations such as the Gutenberg foundation (www.gutenberg.org) exist to help address this problem. The mandate of the Gutenberg foundation is to organize all non-copyrighted material into one location. Unfortunately, this doesn't help us when it comes to copyrighted materials.

To address this problem, the Aipotunian library of congress makes available out-of-print material to anyone. A person buys a copy of the work and royalty is paid.

Leadership Training

Some are born great,
some achieve greatness,
and some hire public relations officers.
-- Daniel J. Boorstin --

Leadership comes from years and years of sucking up.
-- Unknown Evil Genius --

"The decision as to whether an order has authority or not lies with the person to whom it is addressed," not with the boss issuing the assignment... Leadership authority is only on loan from the followers, who can demand its return at any moment.
-- Robert E. Kelley⁴⁸ --

We expect a certain level of competence and training from the people we hire. We expect trained dentists to work on our teeth. We expect certified pilots to fly our planes. We expect the plumber to know which way the water flows. However when it comes to politics, this doesn't seem to apply.

Would you hire a person as president of your company, someone who doesn't know anything about your business? That's not sensible, is it? Now imagine what happens when your government reassigns jobs for political reasons. The little experience the politician gets is lost and they must relearn the new field.

⁴⁸ Robert E. Kelley, *How to be a Star at Work*, P. 158



Different types of jobs require different branches of knowledge and different kinds of experience. People who lead the nation must understand conflict, the social dynamics of countries and large groups of people. Formal leadership training is crucial. In Aipotu, this takes years of effortful study, as described in the next section.

People who want to head the ministry of agriculture must understand both small-scale and large-scale farming, the environment in which farms operate, and the likes and dislikes of the consumer.

The minister of education must possess practical and theoretical knowledge of how to teach. They must know how schools in their districts operate. They must be up to date on the latest theories on education.

The minister of foreign affairs must understand the history and cultures of the world. They must know why each country is in the situation it currently is in. This knowledge can only come from years of training.

Without this inside knowledge of the industry or field, one becomes either a figurehead or a pretender. Either way the country suffers.

Without knowledge and experience in the specific field, even a super-genius would fare no better than a fool would. Sir Isaac Newton built his theories on the knowledge left by the scientists before him. The same holds true for people in any field. Intelligence without knowledge is like a potter without clay. Nothing useful can come out of it. What's more, we can't transfer knowledge from one field to another.

The universities of Aipotu offer special leadership courses for people seeking public office or any leadership position. This is in addition to the specific training needed for the leadership position they're interested in.

Election rules demand that each candidate have formal training and expertise before becoming eligible for office.

Know Thyself

Most people in the world walk through life in a walking daze. They don't know what their values are. They do not have a concept of their own values. They do not have a concept of who they are. They don't know what they want out of life. And they are being tinkered with by other people who do. -- Tyler Durden, Real Social Dynamics



I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.
-- Thomas Jefferson

One of the things advertising has successfully done to our society is to tear away the self esteem of a huge portion of our population.
-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c5Dw8rNbQk> --

The self is always coming through.
-- Tyler Durden --

How do people think? How do we represent thought, memories and ideas?
How do we experience the world?

Why do people make the choices that they do? What is the root cause of self-deception? What is the cause of superstitious behavior?

What are the causes of war, fanaticism, bigotry, and other unproductive social behaviors?

What is the power that evangelists yield? How do con artists do their thing?
Why do people give up their power so easily?

Economists and others believed so fully in the power of the markets and the supposed rationality of people that it took the 2007 recession to change their minds. This was in spite of all the evidence stacked against their worldview. What's the cause of this blindness?

Psychology is the science of the mind. It tries to explain these and other questions. Psychiatry is the traditional tool used to help people. Dr. Sigmund Freud is the father of traditional psychiatry.

In my opinion, Freudian psychology is completely useless since it takes years to bring about change. If something takes years to change, then how do you know these methods are the cause of the changes? It also can't be used in everyday life but must be done in a formal setting. I'm not sure how well it can answer the questions raised at the beginning of this section.

There is so much that traditional psychology can't explain about human behavior that it's not funny. What is needed is a new model of the mind and new tools to bring about change.



New sciences of the mind do exist, along with new technologies, but they are controversial in nature.

To begin with, mind control is a reality. It happens all the time. Just like computer hackers, brain hackers exploit weaknesses within us to do that with is harmful to us. Sometimes it's as easy as telling a person what to do (peer pressure, blind obedience to authority, etc.) Knowledge is the only tool we have for defending ourselves.

The following are some fields of knowledge worth knowing.

Neuro-Linguistic Programming

One such field of study is *Neuro-Linguistic Programming* (NLP). The basic principle of NLP is that we create models of our worlds in our minds and then we act on the model as if they were the real world. NLP as a field of study was introduced by Richard Bandler and John Grinder.

The principle of NLP is that no one is evil or crazy. Instead, people make the best choice based on their current view of the world. Unacceptable behaviors automatically drop away when the person's worldview is expanded to include more choices.

The Sub/Super Conscious Mind

Dr. Stanislav Grof has spent decades studying altered states of consciousness. His research highlights just how inadequate our understanding of the mind is. His methods are unorthodox but his results are impressive. He has helped many people the orthodox community considered incurable. One of his books is *The Adventure of Self-Consciousness*.

Hypnotic Past Life Regression

Hypnosis is a controversial tool used to uncover memories. The problem with memories is that they change every time you remember something. This is bad if you just want to obtain factual data. However, this is good if you want to erase past life traumas.

Some therapists use hypnosis to help people find out about their past lives. They have used this to great effect to help people live productive lives. There are many quality books on this subject.

Dr. Michael Newton has pioneered a way to take people to a place between lives. *Journey of Souls* and *Destiny of Souls* document his research.



To those who don't believe in souls, I ask you this, "Does it really matter whether souls exist, if it frees you from a lifetime of torment and allows you to live a rich and fulfilling life?" However, each person must make up their own mind on the subject, and no one has the right to dictate what another thinks.

Ericksonian Hypnosys, Black-Ops, Seduction

Is it possible to control people and make them do what you want them to do? Many people think that it is not only possible but happening now. This would be very dangerous if true. This is why you should know and find out for yourself.

With standard hypnosis, you need to lie down on a bed and relax. Being overt, it is nearly impossible for someone to do something to you without your consensus. However, it is possible to put someone into a hypnotic trance, just by talking to them. The great therapist Milton Erickson invented this form of hypnosis. He used it with great success to help patients other therapists considered untreatable. He was a very ethical person, but not everyone is so ethical.

The purpose of Black-Ops is to control others for personal gain, even if it means harming the other person. However, it is commonly believed in the hypnosis community that all hypnosis is self hypnosis, and that no one can make you do anything that you don't want to do. On the other hand, people do destructive and self-destructive things all the time, making this an effective way to control others.

Just as its name suggests, people use Seduction to seduce others.

The Sound of One Hand Clapping

There are many ways of exploring our spiritual selves. One way is meditation. Another way is yoga. However, you don't need to follow formal ways of self exploration to grow spiritually. All you need is some quiet time alone. Some people get this by going fishing by themselves.

I do this by reading science and spiritual books and contemplating what I have read. I also like reading about soul quests, where the hero is lost and then finds their way to their heart's desire.

I also like studying Zen and kōans such as "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" I consider Zen as a spiritual practice to be separate from



Buddhism, even though Buddhists tend to practice it the most. You don't need to be a Buddhist to benefit from it.

Most religions have a mystical aspect to them that most people don't know about or participate in.

Why am I mentioning all this here? It's because this allows us to fulfill our destinies and become the men and woman we were destined to be.

Only by correct knowledge can we be safe. Only you have the power to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Effortful Study

The 10-year rule states that it takes approximately a decade of heavy labor to master any field.

-- Herbert A. Simon --

Crave criticism, accept it and know that it's a gift.

-- Nora Denzel⁴⁹ --

Try, try, try, and keep on trying
is the rule that must be followed
to become an expert in anything.

-- W. Clement Stone --

I would like to finish this section from an article written by Philip. E. Ross:

"THE ONE THING that all expertise theorists agree on is that it takes enormous effort to build these structures in the mind...Even child prodigies, such as Gauss in mathematics, Mozart in music and Bobby Fisher in chess, must have made an equivalent effort, perhaps by starting earlier and working harder than others.

"According to this view, the proliferation of chess prodigies in recent years merely reflects the advent of computer-based training methods that let children study far more master games and to play far more frequently against master-strength programs than their forerunners could typically manage...

⁴⁹ Nora Denzel, *The Top 10 Ways You Shoot Yourself in the Foot in the Workplace*, <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=15523>



"Ericsson argues that what matters is not experience per se but "effortful study", which entails continually tackling challenges that lie just beyond one's competence. That is why it is possible for enthusiasts to spend tens of thousands of hours playing chess or golf or a musical instrument without ever advancing beyond the amateur level and why a properly trained student can overtake them in a relatively short time...

"Instead of perpetually pondering the question, "Why can't Johnny read?" perhaps educators should ask, "Why should there be anything in the world he can't learn to do?"⁵⁰

According to the article, mental ability isn't innate. Everyone starts off on a level playing field. Those who go further than others do so because of the greater effort put into mastering their field of study.

All this has inspired the axiom:

Axiom A6: Correct your mistakes, welcome criticism, tackle challenges slightly beyond your abilities, and there's nothing you can't do.

Savants, Autism, And The Secret To Learning

An article in New Scientist seems to indicate that *attention to detail* is the key to extraordinary skills.

On analysing the results, one RRBI trait in particular emerged as the biggest indicator of talent. Children who "notice details that other people miss", or "remember details that other people miss" were twice as likely to have a special gift than those without these attributes (Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-7610.2009.02076.x).

Happé has concluded that this one aspect of autism rather than the whole "package", may turn out to be the "starting engine" for talent in savants. "An eye for detail is a cognitive style that runs through the normal population, and it is that quality that gives you the foothold into talent," she says.⁵¹

⁵⁰ *Scientific American*, August 2006, P69-71

⁵¹ Celeste Biever, New Scientist, How to unleash your brain's inner genius, 03 June 2009, (<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227111.500-how-to-unleash-your-brains-inner-genius.html>)



This stands to reason. The more you pay attention to details, the more you learn and the more fine tuned your perceptions become. As a result, the Aipotunian schools train their students to do this.

Of course, you can't master anything without extraordinary motivation, as the article later points out. This can best be summed up by Einstein: "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." This is something no teacher or parent can give to their student. It must come from within.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Every great advance in natural knowledge
has involved the absolute rejection of authority.

-- Thomas Henry Huxley --

[Technology] is merely the multiplication
of human effort by artificial means.

-- Boston T. Party⁵² --

"Today Big Bang theorists see a universe much like that envisioned by the medieval scholars -- a finite cosmos created *ex nihilo*, from nothing, whose perfection is in *the past*, which is degenerating to a final end. The perfect principles used to form this universe can only be known by pure reason, guided by authority, independent of observation. Such a cosmic myth arises in periods of social crisis or retreat, and reinforces the separation of thought and action, ruler and ruled. It breeds a fatalistic pessimism that paralyzes society.

A "By contrast, the opposing view, plasma cosmology, is empirical, a product of the scientific method of Galileo and Kepler. Its proponents see an infinite universe evolving over infinite time. The universe can be studied only by observation -- there is no final answer in science and no final authority. This approach, binding together thought and action, theory and observation, has proved, over the ages, to be a weapon of social change. The idea of progress in the universe has always been linked with the idea of social progress on earth."⁵³

Most every time a discovery appears that contradicts present scientific understanding, it is ignored or suppressed. The theory's formulator is ridiculed and sometimes even threatened.

The Wright brothers understood this well:

"Experts were so convinced, on purely scientific grounds, that powered heavier-than-air flight was impossible that they rejected the Wright brothers' claims without troubling to examine the evidence. It was not until President Theodore Roosevelt ordered public trials at Fort Myers in

⁵² Boston T. Party, *Bulletproof Privacy*, P 4/6

⁵³ Eric J. Lerner, *The Big Bang Never Happened*, P. 2



1908 that the Wrights were able to prove conclusively their claim and the Army and scientific press were compelled to accept their flying machine as a reality.

“In one of those delightful quirks of fate that somehow haunt the history of science, only weeks before the Wrights first flew at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the professor of mathematics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, Simon Newcomb, had published an article in *The Independent* which showed scientifically that powered human flight was ‘utterly impossible’.”⁵⁴

Why didn’t these so-called experts just go out and see for themselves? Why did they refuse to see the evidence? I’ll let Richard Milton explain.

“One way of explaining this odd reluctance to come to terms with the new, even when there is plenty of concrete evidence available, is to appeal to the natural human tendency not to believe things that sound impossible unless we see them with our own eyes – a healthy skepticism. But there is a good deal more to this phenomenon than healthy skepticism. It is a refusal even to open our eyes to examine the evidence that is plainly on view. And it is a phenomenon that occurs so regularly in the history of science and technology as to be almost an integral part of the process.”⁵⁵

Based on the above quotes, it’s possible that incredible scientific discoveries are being suppressed, not just for military or national security reasons, but also merely because of human nature.

Consider this:

“TIME was when all scientists were outsiders. Self-funded or backed by a rich benefactor, they pursued their often wild ideas in home-built labs with no one to answer to but themselves. From Nicolaus Copernicus to Charles Darwin, they were so successful that it’s hard to imagine what modern science would be like without them.

“Their isolated, largely unaccountable ways now seem the antithesis of modern science, with consensus and peer review at its very heart. Yet the “outsider” tradition persists. Think of Alfred Wegner, the father of plate

⁵⁴ Richard Milton, 1995, *Forbidden Science*, Fourth Estate, London, P. 11

⁵⁵ *Forbidden Science*, P. 13



tectonics and, more controversially, of Gaia theorist James Lovelock. Both pursued their theories in the face of strong opposition from their peers.

"Such mavericks can be crucial to progress, but are they a dying breed? Beyond young disciplines such as neurobiology, where the territory is largely uncharted, or esoteric areas like quantum theory, where it is hard to prove anything, the consensual nature of science can make it hard for lone voices to thrive.

"This may be inevitable. Peer review is inherently conservative, and increasingly only proposals that fit the research framework get funding. The sheer number of ideas in circulation means we need tough, sometimes crude ways of sorting geniuses from crackpots.

"The principle that new ideas should be verified and reinforced by an intellectual community is one of the pillars of scientific endeavour, but it comes at a cost.

"We shouldn't allow it to freeze out individuals who are courageous, brilliant or foolhardy enough to go it alone."⁵⁶

Department Of Science and Technology

The most exciting phrase to hear in science,
the one that heralds new discoveries,
is not "Eureka!" (I've found it!) but "That's funny...."
-- Isaac Asimov --

The eye does not see what the
mind is unwilling to look at.
-- Turkish Proverb --

Do you realize if it weren't for Edison
we'd be watching TV by candlelight?
-- Al Boliska --

The Department Of Science And Technology exists to advance human knowledge. It's in charge of funding scientific projects. It's also responsible for ensuring public money is properly spent.

⁵⁶ *New Scientist*, December 9-15, 2006, P. 5



Everyone has a vote in electing the minister of Science and Technology. This is because the fruits of science and technology affect everyone and everyone pays for it in the end.

The people running the department of Science and Technology are people with open minds and wide scientific backgrounds⁵⁷. The motto, “I believe in an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out,”⁵⁸ applies to everyone.

Do you know the difference between Religion and Science? Religion is rooted in Faith while science is rooted in Doubt.

Religion gets its authority from a feeling within us that there’s more to life than meets the eye. I know I have a soul and no one can convince me otherwise. I know what my faith tells me is true.

Science is based on observation. We observe something and we create a theory to understand it. We then revise the theory when an observation contradicts it.

When a theory stops being questionable, it stops being a science and becomes a religion. I’m not saying religion is bad. Many things aren’t scientifically verifiable and yet are true. The important this is, don’t confuse the two.

It’s worth mentioning that it is policy for the Department Of Science And Technology to never hire experts. Experts, such as Simon Newcomb, know their fields too well. There is no room for doubt – an essential ingredient in

⁵⁷ Ideally, only enlightened people would be hired. Here are some of the qualities I believe all enlightened people share.

Enlightened people:

- 1) Know the limits of their knowledge and abilities.
- 2) Actively strive to increase their knowledge and abilities.
- 3) Are willing to revise their worldview when necessary.
- 4) Examine the facts before making decisions.
- 5) Find out how others think and feel instead of assuming.

Strangely enough, I believe the book; *How To Be A STAR At Work* by Robert E. Kelley will help you cultivate many of these qualities.

⁵⁸ Arthur Hays Sulzberger



science. They do use experts as advisors, for the knowledge they possess.

Throughout history, people have formulated theories that evidence usually proves wrong or at least incomplete. To assume we finally know the Ultimate Truth is hubris.

Just because theory says a thing is impossible doesn't make it so. To support this principle, the Aipotunians rote this law:

Law R001: Theory cannot be used as a reason to prevent the funding of a project. The justification for funding a project must come from its ability to explain observation.

Big Brother Knows Best

In modern physics, the more scientists
learn about reality, the more apparent it becomes
that reality transcends theory, reason, and observation
-- Jill Di Donato⁵⁹ --

It is difficult to get a man to understand
something when his salary depends
upon his not understanding it.
-- Upton Sinclair --

Is there any dogma
more unsupported by the facts
than from the scientist who stands up and says,
'I know there is no God' ?
-- Francis Collins⁶⁰ --

In 1950, Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky published "Worlds in Collision". As a result, the scientific community immediately attacked Velikovsky for his bold theories. According to Alfred de Grazia et al:

"Dr. Velikovsky's historical and cosmological concepts, bolstered by his acknowledged scholarship, constituted a formidable assault on certain established theories of astronomy, geology and historical biology, and on

⁵⁹ Jill Di Donato, <http://www.nyspirit.com/issue114/article8.html>

⁶⁰ Francis Collins, *Discover Magazine*, 2007, P. 46



the heroes of these sciences. Newton himself, and Darwin were being challenged, and indeed the general orthodoxy of an ordered universe.

“What must be called the scientific establishment rose in arms, not only against the new Velikovsky theories but against the man himself. Efforts were made to block the dissemination of Dr. Velikovsky’s ideas, and even to punish supporters of his investigations. Universities, scientific societies, publishing houses, the popular press were approached and threatened; social pressure and political sanctions were invoked to control public opinion. There can be little doubt that in a totalitarian society, not only would Dr. Velikovsky’s reputation have been at stake, but also his right to pursue his enquiry, and perhaps his personal safety.”⁶¹

Is Alfred calling the United States a totalitarian society? This ill treatment of Velikovsky and his supporters was in direct violation of the United States Bill Of Rights (freedom of speech), and yet nobody objected. What’s the point of having a bill of rights if no one uses it⁶²?

The sensors claimed that they were acting in the best interest of the public, who they believed was unqualified to understand science. It was the Censor’s duty to protect the people.

This law exists to counter this unacceptable impedance to progress:

Law R002: A person has a right to express any scientific theory, no matter how controversial. This theory must live or die by its own merits.

The scientific community must prove, based on scientific facts alone, that

⁶¹ Alfred de Grazia, *The Velikovsky Affair*, University Press, 1966, P. 1

⁶² *Government Watch*, a branch of the Department of Departments, is responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of the people. It is this department that is responsible for caching these above issues. Of course, nothing can take the place of the vigilance of the people. This department is so important to the existence of a free and open society that it has its own minister. Everyone votes for this minister.



the theory is wrong, before rejecting the theory. All scientific theories must stand on their own merits and not on the merits of the person putting forward the theory. The scientific community must not reject a theory that is in full agreement with scientific data.

Law R003: No one has the right to protect another person from thoughts, philosophies, ideas, or beliefs, except for messages of pornography and hate.

No one has the right to decide how another person should think or behave. Doing so violates the three Laws of Government.

All the laws in creation are useless if not applied. For this reason, people learn the principles of science, logic and reasoning in school. (P. 73)

The sole purpose of education is to teach people how to think for themselves. This is the only way to global justice. The freedom to think is the greatest freedom of all, but is also the greatest responsibility.



HEALTH AND WELFARE

We all are born mad. Some remain so.
-- Samuel Beckett --

There is no medicine to cure a fool.
-- Bhartrihari --

Health care issues affect everyone. We all want to live long, healthy, productive lives, and why not? It is after all in keeping with God's great plan. Since the sales tax covers the health care system, each citizen has a vote in selecting the minister of Health.

In most countries, the health care system focuses on treating diseases. Countries spend billions of dollars yearly finding cures to real and imagined ailments. Don't get me wrong. The curing of disease is important; but more important is the prevention of disease. It's cheaper, easier and more pleasant to remain healthy, than to lose it and then have to regain it later on.

This story can best describe this philosophy:

"... a lord of ancient China once asked his physician, a member of a family of healers, which of them was the most skilled in the art.

"The physician, whose reputation was such that his name became synonymous with medical science in China, replied, 'My eldest brother sees the spirit of sickness and removes it before it takes shape, so his name does not get out of the house.

"My elder brother cures sickness when it is still extremely minute, so his name does not get out of the neighborhood.

"As for me, I puncture veins, prescribe potions, and massage skin, so from time to time my name gets out and is heard among the lords."

Because of its importance, children in school learn how to live healthy, active lives. Also, we find messages of health throughout Aipotunian society. The Aipotunians consider disease to be a failure of the health care system, which includes education.

Each person selects a family doctor. This system pays the doctor to ensure



the continued health of that person. The doctor stops getting paid for that client if the client gets sick or if they miss their annual checkup. Thus, it's in the interest of the doctor to make sure that their clients are as healthy as possible.

At the same time, each person is responsible for their own health. After all, it's the person that pays the ultimate price of ill health.

Personal Responsibility

The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.

-- Joan Didion --

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

-- Abraham Lincoln --

Each person is expected to live as healthy and active a lifestyle as they can. In addition, people are expected to see their doctor at least once a year for their annual checkup.

But many people find it a waste of time and effort to go see the doctor when they're feeling fine. I too am guilty of this. Even when they feel sick, they don't always go to the doctor. Whenever I feel sick, I think to myself, "What's the point in going to the doctor's office? The doctor will only tell me that I have a cold and I should take some Aspirin." Others don't go because of the fear of what the doctor might find. As the saying goes, "What I don't know can't hurt me."

On a news show I was watching, one lady suggested a way of dealing with the problem. According to her, people should think of the annual checkup in the same way they think of taking the car in for a tune-up. People in Aipotu learn to think of their annual checkup in the same way.

Many people take their cars in for maintenance in order to take advantage of their warranty and to ensure the warranty doesn't expire. An Aipotunian's warranty does expire if they don't go in for their annual checkup.

As mentioned in Taxation and Representation (P 38), part of the sales tax finances the health care system. As long as a person goes for their annual checkup, they get a tax credit. People refusing their annual checkup don't



get this credit⁶³.

People who don't take care of themselves are hurting others. They hurt the taxpayers because diseases caught later on are more expensive to treat. They hurt their loved ones because of the emotional stress and of course, they hurt themselves.

If people intentionally abuse their health, they're responsible for the results. They're not entitled to free health care. It's not fair to others. This is why Aipotu levies specialty taxes for items like cigarette and alcohol. These taxes cover problems arising from smoking and drinking. This ensures everyone gets adequate health care, even if they are the cause of their suffering.

Professional Responsibility

Never promise more than you can perform.

-- Publilius Syrus --

In the free market system, the quality of service an organization supplies decides the amount of business it gets. In the long run, this forces businesses to remain honest. The same is true of preventative medical services such as the dentist and the family doctor. In addition, clients can report to the authorities if there is any concern of malpractice.

Unfortunately, this model doesn't work for hospitals. People only go to hospitals when forced to by an emergency. This seldom gives them any time to choose a hospital.

While at the hospital, the patients get to evaluate the type of care they receive during their stay in the hospital. This rewards the best hospitals and doctors. Hospitals and doctors that perform badly go before the medical review board.

In the case of minors, the mentally ill, and those who can't speak for

⁶³ The Founding Parents considered imposing a service tax for people who refused to go for their annual physicals, in order to cover the extra costs incurred by the delayed diagnosis of potential problems. However, it they decided that reward was better than punishment, which is why people who take care of themselves get tax credits.



themselves, the guardians of the patient take on the responsibility of evaluating the medical institution.

Physical Fitness

Those who think they have not time for bodily exercise
will sooner or later have to find time for illness.

-- Edward Stanley --

The only exercise some people get is
jumping to conclusions,
running down their friends,
side-stepping responsibility,
and pushing their luck!

-- Unknown --

Physical fitness is important to the physical and mental health of a person in all aspects of life. In basic schooling, children learn the importance of fitness (see P. 68). Unfortunately, most people forget about fitness in the rush of daily life. To offset this, the Aipotunian government subsidizes fitness centers.

Research

If you cannot answer a man's argument,
all it not lost;
you can still call him vile names.

-- Elbert Hubbard --

Medical research in Aipotu focuses on finding new ways of keeping people healthy. This can involve looking into theories considered unorthodox, such as acupuncture. It's true that many folk remedies are useless, but if not scientifically examined, how can one know?

Sleep and Rest

That we are not much sicker and much madder
than we are, is due exclusively to that most
blessed and blessing of all natural graces, sleep.

-- Aldous Huxley --

Sleep is essential to ones physical and mental health. Studies have shown the dangers of lack of sleep.



“...According to the analysis by the Department of Public Safety, between 42 and 49 percent of the commercial vehicle accidents in that state [Arizona] are due to drivers who are sleepy.”⁶⁴

According to Stanley Coren:

“In the test year (1988) in the United States, the cost of motor vehicle accidents caused by sleepy drivers was \$37.9 billion. Sleep debt related accidents in the public transportation accidents cost \$720 million dollars. Work-related accidents caused by sleepiness added up to \$13.4 billion. Falls and other accidents in public places that are directly due to sleepiness came to \$1.3 billion. Finally, accidents around the home due to sleep debt resulted in a cost of \$2.7 billion. The grand total came to over 56 billion dollars.”⁶⁵

Since sleep is so important to our welfare and that of society, it’s no surprise that Aipotu has laws to address this issue.

Law H001: Out of each standard day, a person must spend at least 10 continuous hours in non-work related activities.

This law tries to counter a trend in business that forces people to work ungodly hours. Would you like a surgeon who is barely awake operating on you? How about flying in a plane with snoozing pilots?

Law H002: All shift work must be done on a forward-only basis. This ensures the worker’s sleep cycles are disrupted as little as possible.

⁶⁴ Stanley Coren; (1998) *Sleep Deficit, Fatal Accidents, and the Spring Shift to Daylight Savings Time*

⁶⁵ Stanley Coren; (1998) *Sleep Deficit, Fatal Accidents, and the Spring Shift to Daylight Savings Time*



Euthanasia (Assisted Suicide)

Any man's death diminishes me
because I am involved in mankind,
and therefore never ask for whom the bell tolls;
it tolls for thee.
-- John Donne⁶⁶ --

Once you're dead, you're made for life.
-- Jimi Hendrix --

Think about this. A fundamental right a free person has is to choose to die. A slave does not have this right. Any failed suicide attempt on the part of the slave is harshly punished.

Debate swirls around the issue of euthanasia – an emotional subject filled with spiritual and religious questions. Some people think euthanasia is completely wrong and that to take one's life for whatever reason is morally wrong and unthinkable. Others consider forcing a person to endure endless suffering is immoral and that we should put such people out of their misery. Each side is so wrapped-up in their holy cause that they forget the person.

The official stand in Aipotu is that an adult of sound judgment has the right to decide whether or not they shall live. If this criterion is not fulfilled, then the choice is always towards Life. Only a living will can override this. A certified euthanologist must witness the signing of the will.

On the other hand, extraordinary means are not required to keep a person alive. After all, death is a natural part of life.

Sometimes we have people who are, for all practical purposes, dead, and the hospital is keeping the person "alive" through artificial means. Some people are alive only because of respirators, while others are certifiably brain dead. They fall into this category. Here, all that is required is consent from the next of kin and confirmation from a euthanologist.

There are cases where the person doesn't need a respirator to live, but will starve if not fed. In this case, the choice is always for life. Only a living will can override this.

⁶⁶ John Donne, *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions XVII*



Euthanologist

A euthanologist is a psychologist trained specifically to deal with the issues surrounding euthanasia. The job of the euthanologist is to help administer euthanasia, provided it's the wish of the client.

The first task of the euthanologist is to learn why the client wants to die. This is the hardest part since it is not always clear what the true motivation is. Is the client seeking euthanasia because they believe it's in their best interest, or is someone coercing them? Are they doing it because of obligation? Are they doing it because they are in horrible pain and there is no hope of recovery? Are they doing it because of emotional problems and the inability to cope? For those who are mentally ill, help is always available and freely given.

Once it is decided that a client of sound judgement has chosen to die of their own free will, the euthanologist then helps the client administer the euthanasia.

Because of the sensitive nature of the subject and because the choice is so final, all sessions with the euthanologist are recorded. These tapes are sometimes made available to the public with the permission of the client's family.

Safeguards

Some people think that if you allow euthanasia, mentally and physically disabled people will be put to death without their permission. Aipotunian law clearly forbids this.

Law H003: Only an adult of sound judgement has the right to decide when to end their life. The decision to die must be voluntary. It is forbidden to encourage the person to submit to euthanasia for any reason what so ever.

Law H004: It is forbidden to administer euthanasia to minors or adults who are incapable of sound judgment.

Members of the Department of Departments occasionally examine the tapes to ensure that euthanologists are not abusing their powers.

Coalition against Assisted Suicide

"When I work with clients who have committed suicide in former lives, the first thing most exclaim right after the moment of death is, "Oh, my God, how could I have been so stupid!" These are physically healthy people, not



those who are suffering from a debilitating physical illness. Suicide by a person, young or old, whose physical state has reduced the quality of their life to almost nothing is treated differently in the spirit world than those who had healthy bodies. While all suicide cases are treated with kindness and understanding, people who killed themselves with a healthy body do have a reckoning.”⁶⁷ – Dr. Michael Newton

Since the beginning of time, people have been committing suicide. At the same time there have been people trying to prevent this from happening. Religions ban its practice and governments pass laws against it. However, the Law of Freedom appears to safeguard a person's right to commit suicide. So what is a religious person to do?

Recently was started a movement to prove that the desire to end one's life is proof of mental illness. After all, the purpose of life and its principle desire is to live.

As the argument goes, we shouldn't allow mentally ill people to make such fatalistic decisions. Because they are mentally ill, they aren't competent to make such decisions.

It's like how we limit a child's freedoms because of their lack of physical, mental, and spiritual development. Those who are mentally ill fall under this category. Because of impaired judgment, they lack the essential ingredient of free will – the ability to rationally decide one's course of action.

Many groups, such as the Knights of Columbus, are trying to use this line of thinking to prevent people from using the above law to commit suicide.

Eugenics

Natural selection must be
replaced by eugenical artificial selection.
This idea constitutes the sound core of eugenics,
the applied science of human betterment.
-- Theodosius Dobzhansky⁶⁸ --

Did you know that people are applying eugenics right now? A couple goes to

⁶⁷ Michael Newton, Ph. D., *Destiny of Souls*, P. 153

⁶⁸ Theodosius Dobzhansky, *Heredity and the Nature of Man*, 1964



the doctor to find out if they have Sickle cell anemia. Based on the results, they decide whether or not they'll have children. This may not be as glamorous as genetic engineering, but still this is eugenics.

Many people would have preferred that we had never discovered eugenics. To them, manipulating genes in humans is like playing God and hubris is always punished. One reason for this is that we are fallible and so will make mistakes. The results of such mistakes will be quite unpleasant to say the least, not to mention the fact that the suffering generated could be very great. Would you like to be a failed genetic experiment? Another reason people object to eugenics is because they feel that no one has the right to alter what God has created.

It is however not possible to prevent eugenics. Humans, being what we are, will always want to be better and more perfect than we are at present. Throughout the world, parents are trying to give their children an advantage. Genetic engineering can confer to a child just such an advantage.

Also, someone somewhere will want to create either a super race that is capable of lording it over us mere mortals (Nietzsche's Superman) or a slave race designed to do our bidding. If you don't believe it, just look at history. The Nazis were of course the most infamous, but they were and are only one of many. The only way to minimize the danger of eugenics is to control the genie before it escapes the bottle. Because once we open the bottle, there's no turning back. EVER. For this reason, Aipotu has written these laws:

Law H005: It is forbidden to practice eugenics on human germ cells until after creation of a living organism from purely inorganic matter. This organism must perform all the functions of a living organism. A virus does not count.

For those who think that change is happening too fast, I've this consolation. Creating life from scratch could well take till the turnoff the century. This task is harder than most people realize. The last time I checked, science could not even duplicate the simplest protein from scratch. Everything produced so far comes from pre-existing proteins.

By the time we overcome this limitation, we will know all we need to about genes, as well as that stuff between genes, proteins and all the other fun stuff and how they interact with each other in the human body. Also, we



will have plenty of practice working on other animals so we will know what we are doing.

Once we start eugenics in earnest, these laws will come into effect:

Law H006: All genetic changes to an organism must be beneficial to that organism. Under no circumstance must we create a slave race of humans.

Law H007: A genetically modified human must be biologically compatible with all other humans. They must have the ability to mate with non-genetically modified humans.

Some scientists have proposed adding chromosomes to the human genome. This would make genetic engineering much simpler. They neglect to mention that children born with this extra chromosome will probably never have offspring. That's not a nice legacy for our children. As a result, the above law forbids such modifications.

These laws won't prevent adults of sound mind from benefiting from advances in genetics. Adults who are willing to accept the risks have the right to the benefits of genetic engineering. Currently gene therapies exist for many ailments.

Cloning

I shall clone myself,
and together we shall
ruuuule the world. Whahahaha
-- Unknown Evil Genius --

As with eugenics, many people would rather ban cloning. Many countries have already done so. However noble the idea, it's unrealistic. Sooner or later, whether legally or not someone somewhere will clone a person.

Some people will choose to clone themselves to satisfy vanity. They consider themselves too important to die. Having a clone will be a type of immortality. Others will do it for body parts. They think that just because it is their genes, they can do whatever they want with the clone. Aipotu has anticipated this and has created this law to deal with it.

Law H008: When cloning, once the genetic code of an individual is placed inside an egg and allowed to germinate, that instant it



becomes an organism separate from the donor organism. It shall have the same legal status as an organism created in the traditional manner (by sexual reproduction). The same laws that affect a naturally created organism will also affect it.

From one point of view, a clone of a person is in fact that person's identical twin, except for a difference in age. No difference – except. Present research with animals show that a clone is not as good as the real thing. The clones all suffer from health problems, and the problems increase as they age. This law exists to protect future citizens.

Law H009: Cloning will only be allowed when it is proven to be as safe as natural childbirth.



COMMUNITY

One of the oldest human needs is having
someone to wonder where you are when you
don't come home at night.
-- Margaret Mead --

My grandfather taught me to look
up to people others look down on.
-- Bill Clinton --

There is one question facing society, weather spoken or implied: Can we create a society where everyone can live in peace and harmony and where everyone is allowed to realize as much or as little of their potential as they choose? If so, how can we bring this future about?

Let's start with the basics. Every society exists because of two things: Childhood training and adult reinforcement.

As children, we learn the values of our society. These values include our beliefs in God and our place in society. Parents teach their children, by their words and especially by their actions, how to deal with themselves and the world around them. Society reinforces these beliefs. The media (television, internet, billboards, etc.) also influence the child's development. This is indoctrination and is what makes children full members of society.

As adults, the people we meet and the media continues our indoctrination. This is how culture continues from generation to generation.

If you want to create a peaceful, open society where everyone is welcome and where there is social justice, you must control these two sources.

Community Events

There can be no vulnerability without risk;
there can be no community without vulnerability;
there can be no peace,
and ultimately no life,
without community.
-- M. Scott Peck --

Each city in Aipotu has a minister of culture. Everyone votes for this minister. This minister is responsible for forming a strong community. The



minister in each city achieves this goal in four ways.

First, the minister is responsible for organizing community events and ensuring that as many people as possible participate in them. They work with community leaders to achieve these goals.

The public learn about these events through the media and from billboards. Radio and television stations are required by law to devote one minute each hour to community announcements. Most stations usually devote much more time to these announcements.

Second, the minister is responsible for organizing inter-city events. These events can sometimes be very large, with people coming from all parts of the country.

Third, the minister is responsible for educating the public. This education includes fostering understanding between cultures.

Finally, the minister is responsible for fostering the development of communities where everyone can feel welcome and where everyone knows each other.

Community Spaces

“If they are well used, public spaces wear out, and that is good. Anything that people use and love eventually need to be replaced or repaired. Demands on a place change and being open to the need for change, and having the management flexibility to enact that change, is what builds great public spaces.”⁶⁹

Community spaces and city layout are important factors in creating a positive atmosphere for a city. Badly laid out cities encourage crime and isolate people. Well-planned cities are inviting and friendly and reduce crime.

⁶⁹ Project for Public Spaces, Inc., *How to Turn a Place Around A Handbook for Creating Successful Public Spaces*, P. 77



Improving a city's ambiance need not be expensive. Some of the smallest changes can have the biggest impact, but only if the community as a whole is involved in the process.⁷⁰

Cities of the Future

"The ancient Romans had a tradition: whenever one of their engineers constructed an arch, as the capstone was hoisted into place, the engineer assumed accountability for his work in the most profound way possible: he stood under the arch." - Michael Armstrong

Regard it as just as desirable to build
a chicken house as to build a cathedral.
-- Frank Lloyd Wright --

This may be slightly off topic but Aipotunians have two cities worth special mentioning: They are Terrinopolis and Skytropolis.

Terrinopolis

Terrinopolis is a city built entirely underground and designed like a layered cake. The designers wanted to create a city built in harmony with nature.

The bottom layer contains factories, recycling centers, communication system, transit system, and other essential guts. Power comes from geo-thermal energy.

The living areas boast spacious apartment buildings, shopping centers and plazas. The public spaces are bright and airy, with plenty of things to do.

Above all this and at the surface are parks. No one flying above would imagine that there is a city buried below.

Skytropolis

Skytropolis is a super skyscraper that soars 5 miles into the air and uses over 100 acres of land. It's built entirely from the super construction material carbon, without the use of iron or concrete.

⁷⁰ The book, *How to Turn a Place Around* by Project for Public Spaces, inspired this section.



Transportation

For transportation, Skytropolis has its own airport. In addition, Skytropolis has an ingenious elevator system. This system is based on our familiar highway system. There is a parking lane, a slow lane and a fast lane.

In order to keep the elevator cars running fast, a maximum of five stops are listed for each trip.

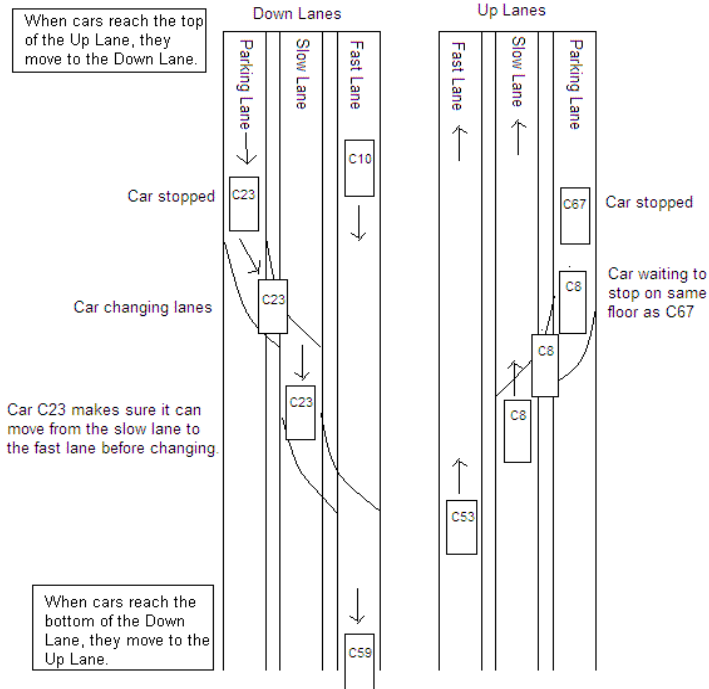
The whole system is computer controlled. For security reasons, the computer is isolated from the network. Service people use dedicated terminals in order to maintain the system.

The computer decides on the most efficient way to reach the desired floors based on which buttons are pressed. Every time a car reaches a stop, it adds a new stop to the list. That means it takes a maximum of 5 stops to get to your destination.

Imagine being a visitor to Skytropolis. You press the elevator button and in seconds, the doors open and people enter and exit. You are about to step in but realize the car is not going to your floor. You wait a minute and finally the car going to your floor arrives.

The car checks if the way is clear and starts to move upwards and to the right, where the slow lane is located. Here the car speeds up. At this point, the elevator merges with the fast lane. When it comes close to its destination, it merges with the slow lane, and then finally moves left to its destination. If there is a car at the destination, it waits one floor away until that car moves.

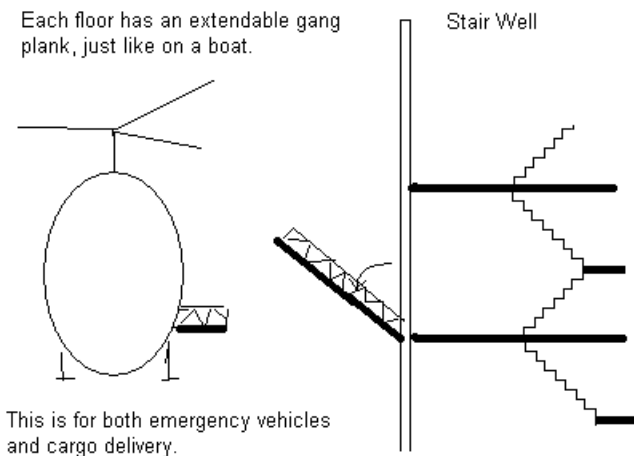




Security

For security, the city has two attack helicopters and a military jet to ensure only approved craft enters Skytropolis' airspace.

Skytropolis also has fire-fighting helicopters and ambulances that can rescue people from any floor. They dock at specifically designed locations on the building.



In addition, Skytropolis also has lifeboats for emergency use. The lifeboats are air vehicles designed to move people to the nearest landing area. In the case of an emergency, people enter the boat. When the boat is full, you press a button. The boat automatically launches and flies itself to a predetermined safe location.

On September 11, 2001, commercial aircraft collided with the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Both towers collapsed. Can you imagine if the World Trade Center in New York had such lifeboats or at least landing pads?

Lifeboats are required for all skyscrapers over 50 stories high. In addition, landing pads are required so Emergency vehicles can land on retractable landing pads, allowing easy evacuation of the building. They are similar to the above people ramps, except they are bigger and are only required on every 30th floor.

The introduction of affordable sky cars will compel sky scrapper owners to add garages for the use of tenants and guests. This would serve as natural emergency exits.

Guts

The interior of Skytropolis contains space for industry. Here are located the factories, recycling centers, and communication systems needed to operate the city. Power comes from wind, sun and geothermal energy.

The Most Social

Some of the most wonderful people
are the ones who don't fit into boxes.

-- Tori Amos --

Some of the most wonderful boxes
are the ones that don't fit people.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

To encourage people to contribute to society, people who chip in get special recognition.

Aipotu publishes a list of people who've contributed to the well-being of society. This list consists of people who donate at least 10% of their income to charity.

Yes, it is possible to be as generous as Bill Gates is, despite the fact that he



donates millions of dollars to charity every year.

Only the name, city and percent given are shown on the list. Some donators prefer being anonymous on the list, in which case the list shows only the city and percentage donated.

In addition to this, people who do volunteer work get recognition. A third list notes people who've performed heroic acts. Select people from these lists receive special awards.

Immigration

Remember, remember always that all of us,
and you and I especially, are descended
from immigrants and revolutionists
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt --

I love borders,
Because they are so EVIL.
-- Unknown Evil Genius --

Many more people seek to immigrate to Aipotu than the country can easily absorb. As is normal for other countries, immigration limits are therefore enforced.

People can get around this limitation on immigration if they are rich enough. A person can get immigrant status by paying one million. This directly benefits the Aipotu economy since people with proven earning ability are entering the country. This benefits other people seeking immigration rights, since fewer people are competing for the limited immigration numbers.

Family members and businesses sponsor most of the people who enter the country. In addition, many people enter the country as refugees.

All immigrants go on probation when entering the country. Probation lasts five years. They must remain law-abiding citizens, or risk deportation. Lawyers may appeal the decision to deport a criminal, but must do so while the criminal is outside the country. This rule is strictly enforced.

Once they pass this five-year period, the immigrant becomes a full citizen with the ability to vote and hold office. They're also safe from deportation. There is no such thing as guest workers, who have no rights other than the



right to pay tax and the right to go to jail if they don't pay tax. If there are insufficient workers, immigration is increased.

Entering Society

Immigrants must take courses that help them integrate into society. These courses introduce them to the history and culture of Aipotu. The courses also explain the laws of the land.

Only some people who enter the country have jobs. For the rest of the people, the National Placement Service (P. 45) is there to help.

The children go to school.

Squatters Rights

In some countries, if a squatter lives uninvited on a piece of land for ten years, then by law they own that land. This principle applies to the entire country of Aipotu. If an undocumented alien stays in the country without causing trouble for ten years, then they automatically gain citizenship.

Marriage

Accept the things to which fate binds you,
and love the people with whom
fate brings you together,
but do so with all your heart.
-- Marcus Aurelius --

Does it really matter what
these affectionate people do –
so long as they don't do it in the streets
and frighten the horses!
-- Mrs. Patrick Campbell --

"People often equate love with happiness. Yet happiness is a state of mind that must develop within you and not be dependent upon someone else...Love takes hard work and continual maintenance. I have had numerous divorced subjects who learn that their first loves were primary soulmates. Things might have worked out if they had both tried harder."⁷¹

⁷¹ Dr. Michael Newton, *Destiny of Souls*, P. 262



Marriage in Aipotu is very flexible. After all, what adults do is no one's business. There are however some rules governing marriage, but these are in place in order to protect people from harm.

Some cultures force children into marriage. This is rarely good for the child, hence this next law.

Law C001: Only an adult of sound mind may enter into a civil union. The participation in the union must be voluntary on the part of all participants.

We must note an important thing about marriages in Aipotu. All marriages are civil unions. People who wish to get married in a religious ceremony must abide by the rules of the religious institution involved. The reason is because there is an almost complete separation between church and state. As long as people don't harm others, they may do as they wish.

Family Name

In many parts of the world, people try to get sons in order to pass on their name. This has caused trouble for women throughout the centuries.

This law tries to overcome this problem:

Law C002: When joining in a civil union, the participants must take on the family name of the person with the highest social status.

This means that your family name can continue even with only daughters.

Secondly, this encourages mixing of families of different social status.

Annulments

In Aipotu, a civil union is only binding when a child is born or if the couple has adopted children. A childless couple may get an annulment if they choose. Annulments are a legal fiction. There are no religious implications involved.

Once a child is born or adopted, couples who wish to terminate their civil union must go through a formal divorce. This is in order to protect the children from as much harm as possible.



Child Rearing

Making the decision to have a child -
it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have
your heart go walking outside your body.
-- Elizabeth Stone --

It takes a whole village to raise a child.
-- Ashanti proverb --

Many people do not realize it but parents act as role models for their children. Parents show their children, both in words and in deeds, what roles men and woman play in society. A man demonstrates to a child how men are supposed to behave, towards themselves, others and the world. The same is true for women.

When people have children of their own, all they learned when young affect the way they raise their children. The problem is some people do not know how to raise children properly. Some parents improperly discipline children. Some teach children to treat people with less than human dignity, and some abuse children. This legacy passes on from parent to child.

The Aipotu people address this problem in two ways. First, teenagers learn how to raise children in formal child raising courses (P. 80). Second, physical, emotional, spiritual and social help is always available for those requiring it.

Community serves an important role. People are encouraged to think of each other as members of an extended family. Community events and public announcements serve to strengthen social ties.

Discipline

A lot of controversy surrounds the subject of disciplining children. Should we punish children? If so, what type of punishment is acceptable?

The problem started in the past, when parents and guardians punished children for no apparent reason. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was a famous expression. In the past, parents believed that beating children was good for them, perhaps because their parents did the same for them.

People punish their children for several reasons. One of them is revenge. "You hurt me so I must hurt you".

There is an old saying that "Vengeance is the Lord's". What this means is



that we as humans have no right to seek out revenge, as this usually causes problem in the long run. This is separate from seeking justice. No one can escape the effects of karma, whether in this world or the next.

In addition to vengeance, people punish in order to teach. The Zen master hits the disciple in order to help the student gain enlightenment. The parent taps the child on the hand in order to make sure the child understands what the parent is trying to say. As Edgar Watson Howe once said, "A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice."

As expected, parents get special training to help them deal with the problem of discipline. There is always professional help for those who need it.

Aipotunian society disapproves of punishment in all aspects of society. For instance, the justice system never seeks to punish criminals but to rehabilitate them and to protect the public from criminals. (P. 17) Proper training as children helps make the world a better place.

Runaways and Abducted Children

Each year countless children run away from home because they feel their lives are intolerable. They then find their mistake when it is too late. Unfortunately, the fear that they are unwanted prevents them from returning home.

Some abducted children may not know they've been abducted. Even if they did know, much of the time there is nothing they can do about it.

Starting from kinder-garden, children learn that they can control their lives. At first, guardians reward children for finishing simple goals. Their guardians teach them that they are special, wanted and loved.

Later on, children learn the proper role of parents. They learn the signs of child abuse, as well as the proper role of discipline. Childhood is the ideal time to learn these lessons, before children form their own opinions. It isn't important that they understand everything. What is important is that they remember.

At around the age of 5 years, children learn about the issues surrounding runaway and abducted children. They're shown what they can do should the need arise.



Teachers drill these lessons into children throughout their schooling years. They are essential lessons because they help build strong families and by extension, a strong society. The family is after all the basis of society.

Rights of the Child

If we don't stand up for children,
then we don't stand for much.
-- Marian Wright Edelman --

Have you noticed that in custody battles and issues dealing with children, guardians seem to treat children like property?

The problem is children are not capable of dealing with, or even understanding, custody issues. The following laws exist to protect the rights of children:

Rights Of The Child

- 1) Children have the right to a stable, harmonious environment.
- 2) Children have the right to the unconditional love of their caregivers.
- 3) Children have the right to both male and female role models.
- 4) Children have the right to develop their talents.

Law C003: In all issues dealing with children, the courts must an advocate to represent the interests of the child.

Abortion

With humans it's abortion,
but with chickens it's an omelette.
-- Unknown --

If it isn't a baby, then you aren't pregnant,
so what are you aborting?
-- Unknown --

"...I have never had a single case where a soul joined the fetus in the first trimester. The reason that souls do not begin their complex merger with a fetus under three months is quite simply because there is not enough brain tissue for them to work with at this stage..."

"...When a mother loses her child for whatever reason, I have found the odds are quite high that the soul of this baby will return again to the same mother with her next child. If this mother does not bear another child, the



soul may return to another close member of the family because that was the original intent.”⁷²

Controversy surrounds abortion. People have been threatened, injured and killed because of it. Some consider abortion to be murder, while others consider it the inalienable right of the woman. Should abortion be allowed, and if so when, where and how should it be permitted? These questions have stumped the greatest minds in history. In light of this, it is not surprising that even the Aipotunians have been baffled.

Aipotunians have chosen the conservative way. They have chosen to consider abortion only as a last resort.

Let me tell you a story:

The Long Wait

Fred and Harry are standing on the roof of a large building. Harry, who was quite tall, glances at his watch. It is 12 o'clock. "Looking forward to tonight's party, Fred?"

"Wouldn't miss it for the world," Fred, who was rather short, responds. The party was in 9 hours.

Both friends step to the edge of the roof to sit and admire the view. Just after sitting down, a gust of wind slams into them with terrifying force. Fred starts to fall off the roof. Harry grabs Fred's hand and prevents him from falling. Luckily, Fred finds a ledge and stands on it. Since Harry isn't strong enough to pull Fred to safety, they settle down for a long wait, with Fred holding Harry's leg for support.

Time passes. One o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock. At nine, the party guests would arrive, allowing Fred to be rescued. But Harry did not want to wait. He had things to do and people to meet. Four o'clock strikes. Harry, too impatient to wait, gets up and leaves. Fred, deprived of his support, plunges to his death.

⁷² Dr. Michael Newton, *Destiny of Souls*, PP. 382-384. (Newton explores the past lives of people using hypnotism. He claims that he can take people to a place between lives. In his book, he explores the reasons why people incarnate. It's an intriguing book and well worth the read, even if you don't believe any of it.)



Later, the police ask Harry why he left Fred when Fred's life was so clearly depended on him being there. Harry shrugs, "This is my body. I can do whatever I want with it and I chose to leave."

It's true that that was his body, but that's not an adequate reason to let go. In real life, Harry would have been convicted of manslaughter, at the least.

This same argument applies to the people who claim the right to have an abortion because it's their body. This is not an adequate reason since the fetus is a separate organism.

Whose Baby Is It?

A few years ago, I read an abortion case in the newspapers. The man wanted the baby but the woman did not. Since it was her body and all that sort of thing, the man had no say in the matter and the woman aborted the fetus.

In Aipotu, if the woman doesn't want the fetus, custody of the fetus automatically falls to the man. The problem is that the fetus cannot live outside the womb.

Requiring the woman to rent out her uterus solves the problem. This transaction falls under the jurisdiction of the rental board. The rental board deals with matters such as rent, boarding, complaints, etc. like any other rental matter.

The man then pays room and board for the unborn baby. At the time of conception, the man pays for the cost of moving out and for any damages caused when the baby used the living apartment.

Surrogate Motherhood

The Vatican is against surrogate mothers.

Good thing they didn't have that rule
when Jesus was born.

-- Elayne Booster --

In surrogate motherhood, a couple pays a woman to carry a child. When the baby comes to term, the couple takes custody of the child.

It is imperative to realize that the couple is NOT buying the child. The couple already had custody of the child from the start. What the couple is doing is paying the woman for her services. All they get from the surrogate mother



is room and board for the child. As mentioned before, the rental board controls all such rental matters.

Adoption

We look at adoption as a very sacred exchange.

It was not done lightly on either side.

I would dedicate my life to this child.

-- Jamie Lee Curtis, Adoptive mother --

Isn't it interesting that some people have children they do not want while other people want children but cannot have them? Unfortunately, in the case of adoption, children do not always go to the best couple.

Death By Prejudice

Sometime in the 1980's a white middle class family adopted a little boy because the authorities could not find a suitable black family. The couple loved him and gave him the very best of everything.

A group of people, who called themselves the Black Community, considered it an insult that a white couple should receive custody of a black child. They thought it implied that they could not take care of "their own kind".

A judge ruled that the white couple could keep the child if, in a month, no black couple was found. The adoption agency looked, and in an act of desperation, found a black couple.

The black couple took the child away, kicking and screaming. A few months later, the authorities found the child dead. The couple had beaten the child to death because he constantly cried for the previous couple. The white couple sued the agency and won.

In its rush to find black parents for the child, the adoption agency had not adequately researched the black couple. But why did they search for black parents?

One explanation was that only a black couple could properly raise a black child. Only a black couple can teach the child how to live in a white world. They are obviously living in the past when slavery existed. Now, education, upbringing and connections are more important. All this, the white couple could have easily supplied.

This law tries to prevent a repeat of this tragedy.



Law C004: When choosing a suitable guardian, the child must go to the couple that can best take care of its physical, mental, emotional, etc. needs. This is the only determining factor. Race, color, religion, etc. must not be used as criteria in the selection.

And yes, a court appoints a lawyer to represent the child's interests.

Musical Kids

A mother gave her child to a friend because she could not take care of it. Later on, the biological mother demanded the return of the child. The child did not want to return to the mother, but had no choice. I saw it on TV. It was a sad sight. Does the biological mother have the right to make this demand? What happens to the rights of the child?

This law addresses this problem:

Law C005: The moment a guardian gives up a child for adoption, that moment their privilege of guardianship ends.

We must not ignore a child's feelings and desires, just because they don't understand. They are people after all.

Foster Care

While a foster child is in your home,
you will receive a board payment
of \$400 to \$500 per month
-- www.njfofostercare.org/support.html --

Throughout the country, there are children in need of nurturing. Good people from all walks of life have come forward to take care of these children. Most foster parents wish the best for the kids they take care of.

Sadly, there are entirely too many bad apples. Some take care of children just for the money and consider the kids as just a hassle.

According to Linda Haley,

"Children died as a result of abuse in foster care 5.25 times more often than children in the general population...Children who received 'services'



from CPS died as a result of abuse 16 times more often than children in the general population..."⁷³

That is rather disturbing news.

The above quote shows that *Child Protection Services* (CPS) in some countries can be ineffective in protecting children.

CPS Visits

Childcare authorities make schedule visits to make sure that guardians treat foster kids well. They usually find nothing. This is because the authorities usually give the foster parents advanced warning. This allows abusive foster parents to hide their tracks.

Law C006: Social workers shall visit foster children without warning.

Sometimes the CPS ignores the concerns of children, family and friends. As a result, Aipotu has this law:

Law C007: Social workers must listen to foster children, family and neighbors when they say something is wrong.

To ensure child safety in Aipotu, the Department Of Departments keeps an extra close eye on the CPS. In addition, CPS agents, foster parents, and children get special training to ensure understanding. Only education can keep us free and safe.

⁷³ <http://stop-abuse.20m.com/foster-abuse.html>



FREEDOM AND OPPRESSION

Whenever a conflict arises between privacy and accountability,
people demand the former for themselves
and the later for everybody else.
-- David Brin⁷⁴ --

By that pseudo line of logic
you could dispose of the whole Bill of Rights.
-- James Lawrence Fly⁷⁵ --

Freedon is a function of awareness.
-- Dr. Slip Cam --

A constant battle storms between those who seek the freedom to live the way they choose and those who seek to control the way others live.

Governments seek to monitor private communications and private spaces to protect national security, fight crime and defeat terrorism. Foreign governments want the same to gain a tactical advantage. Advertising agencies want consumption data to target their advertisement. Insurance companies want to know how you live to lower risks when offering insurance. Doctors want medical records to diagnose health problems. Scientists want statistics to find patterns and discover new things. The next-door neighbor wants to know what you had for dinner.

The list of people who want to invade your privacy is endless. What can we do to protect individual privacy and at the same time ensure business goes on as usual?

The words of Dr. Steve Mann are appropriate here:

⁷⁴ David Brin, *The Transparent Society*, P. 12

⁷⁵ James Lawrence Fly (Federal Communications Commission Chairman 1939-1944) responding to a statement that an innocent person need not worry about being tapped, U.S. Senate, Wiretapping for National Security, P. 192, 1953



"The old freedoms and dichotomies must be restated in the age of the cyborg. Just as our concept of privacy must change, so too must our understanding of what it is to be free, politically, intellectually, and morally. Unrestricted movement means nothing in an age in which our very minds are fettered by the trappings of commercial society. Can our right to live as we choose be equated with an environment in which our every move is monitored for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing a positive marketing environment?"⁷⁶

Aipotu has taken a two-pronged approach to the privacy problem.

People learn the issues surrounding privacy in school.

In addition, laws exist to ensure that everyone knows when someone is collecting their private data, what type of data they are collecting, and how they are using it. These laws also ensure that citizens have the right to view and correct all personal data free of charge. Only through knowledge and understanding can personal freedom come about.

The Aipotunians have created a Ministry dedicated to balancing the needs of government, corporations and private citizens. Everyone votes for the minister.

The following are some of the issues dealt with by the Ministry Of Information:

⁷⁶ Steve Mann, *Cyborg*, PP. 211-212



Private Communications

To stop terrorism and organized crime,
the American people must give up
some of their personal freedom and privacy.
-- Janet "For-The-Kids" Reno --

Janet Reno asking us to give up "*some*" of our
personal freedom and privacy is like
a child molester asking a young girl to give up
"*some*" of her virginity.
-- Boston T. Party⁷⁷ --

Governments claim that they need to monitor private conversations in order to help find traitors, fight terrorism and flog crime into submission. Is this true? Do we need to give up our privacy in the interest of security?

The answer is a resounding NO! Society can survive and even prosper without these measures. The Aipotonian authorities were so confident of this that they created this law.

Law F001: People have the right to encrypt all private communications.

Many people objected to this law when it was first proposed. They felt that it would compromise national security. They said that criminals and terrorists would use this law to plot diabolical schemes against society. After all, with modern encryption, no one can know what you are saying.

All this may be true. However, the freedom we gain from possible tyranny more than compensates for the possible danger of destruction by those who would abuse the system (P. 177). Besides, a court can always order a decryption⁷⁸ key if needed.

⁷⁷ Boston T. Party, *Bulletproof Privacy*, P.1/1, ISBN 1-888766-02-6

⁷⁸ An encryption key encrypts data and a decryption key decodes the data.



Surveillance

The right to be let alone
is indeed the beginning of all freedom.
-- Justice William O. Douglas --

These days,
if you feel like somebody's watching you,
you might be right.
-- Benny Evangelista --

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/46559>
-- CNBC "Big Brother, Big Business" Recorded Nov 1, 2006 --
(This video is both informative and scary)

We are monitored everywhere we go. We can find those black globes (which are sometimes empty) everywhere people gather. That's just the tip of the iceberg. Much of the time, we never know when we are under surveillance. Big Brother is watching us and wants us all to be good little boys and good little girls. (Place evil laughter here.)

In his book *Cyborg*, Dr. Steve Mann argues that we jealously guard our privacy but willingly expose ourselves to the public.

We can explain this contradiction this way. The intent behind surveillance is for social control. This is an attack on freedom. We instinctively understand this, which is why we hate surveillance.

Surveillance is also a form of voyeurism. Someone hidden in the shadows is watching, waiting to find something to use against you.

But when we expose ourselves to the public, we do so on our own terms. We decide what others see or don't see.

How do we balance the need for privacy and also the need for security?

According to Mann:

"People who are being watched by a camera have the right not only to know that they are being watched, but also to know what others are



seeing. They have the right not only to see the camera, but also to view the signal it produces.”⁷⁹

This is the basis for the following laws:

Law F002: It is illegal for the government or organizations to use hidden cameras as its normal mode of operation. All surveillance must be overt and the purpose of the surveillance must be clearly stated. The recorded material must be made freely available to the people being monitored.

All public places in Aipotu that have cameras, also have monitors displaying what the cameras are recording. For instance, a grocery store will have a monitor at the front showing what the cameras record throughout the store.

I wonder how people would react if they knew a camera was watching them undress in a department store? How would the watchers react if the tables were turned?

Mann knows. Sometimes he asks store managers why they are monitoring him. They typically ask him why he is being so paranoid. Only criminals are afraid of cameras. But the moment he takes out a fake camcorder, the managers typically get angry and try to stop the taping⁸⁰. Go figure.

Mann argues in his book that the only way to counter the negative effects of surveillance is with sousveillance, hence this law.

Law F003: A government or organization that uses surveillance cannot forbid others from using sousveillance in the affected area.

Cameras can be intimidating. It robs us of our dignity. Being able to record what Big Brother or Big Cousin (Corporation) does is empowering. Now we have the power. Now we can do the laughing.

⁷⁹ *Cyborg*, P. 146

⁸⁰ *Cyborg*, P. 170-171



You might be wondering, what is 'sousveillance'? With surveillance, Big Brother or Big Cousin watches from above. With sousveillance, we watch the watchers. It's a term coined by Dr. Steve Mann.

It's acceptable to have surveillance in public spaces but not private spaces. What someone does in the privacy of their own homes is no one's business but their own.

What about national security? This law seeks to answer these concerns.

Law F004: It is illegal for anyone to monitor a person's private communications without a warrant or the recorded permission of that person.

Law F005: It is illegal for anyone to monitor private spaces without a warrant or recorded permission of the owner of a private space.

A person is safe as long as they are in their own private space. When you phone someone, you are entering their space. When someone phones you, they are entering your space. It's illegal to wire tap a person's phone. It's okay if that person phones you and you record the message. However, this is discouraged as a normal means of doing business.

Surveillance At Home

A TV show talked about the increasing use of cameras in the house. One company offered to monitor the activities of the baby-sitter while the parents were away. But some people think such monitoring is immoral and should be illegal.

Isn't it interesting that when Big Brother or Big Cousin (Corporation) does the monitoring, no one objects? When a citizen does it, it's immoral and evil.

Just as a side note, one baby sitter complained, "Why should I put so much effort into training and entertaining the children when their parents do not?" What this baby sitter did not seem to realize was that the parents were paying her to perform these services.



Authorized Use of Private Information

We shall respect your privacy -
as long as the recordings of what you are doing
are too boring to be looked at.
-- Big Brother --

Both governments and industry need personal information in order to operate. How do we ensure that they aren't misusing the data? What are the rights of the people?

Law F006: All personal information belongs solely to the person. This information is available on a need to know basis.
The government and those who need it for business purposes must obtain recorded permission from the person.
The type of information needed must be explicitly stated, and how long it will be kept. The information must be deleted when no longer needed. The exception is information entered into the Personal Statistics Database.
The unauthorized storage of this information by government and those who use it for business purposes will be considered a criminal act, prosecutable under the criminal code.
Personal information includes but is not limited to medical records, financial records, personal secrets and contact information.
Personal information that has been legally released to the public as well as legally produced surveillance records may be freely distributed.⁸¹

Knowledge is power. Knowledge is freedom. We can only take control of our lives when we know what forces are acting on us.

Law F007: A person has the right to view, as well as to correct all data pertaining to them. They must not be charged for exercising their rights to view or correct such data.

⁸¹ See Page 150



Trojan Horses

Companies sometimes design products to secretly gather information about the person. This violates a person's right to know when they're being monitored and hence the reason for this law.

Law F008: Producers of consumer products must clearly specify in writing the type of information the product reveals about the consumer.

Other products employ hidden features. I once bought some software to copy DVDs. When I tried to use it, I discovered I needed to activate it on the Internet before using it. I can no longer use the product because the company no longer supports it and they refuse to allow me to activate it.

I once bought software to recover an accidentally deleted file. I discovered that the company built the software to modify itself on first use so that no one could use it on another computer. I would never have bought it had I known.

This would never happen in Aipotu because of this law.

Law F009: Producers of all consumer products must clearly specify in writing all security features built into their products.

Personal Enhancement Technology

Only open and free access to technology
can advance the cause of individual freedom.

-- Steve Mann⁸² --

Technology can either enslave people or liberate them. When controlled by a central source, the effect is a loss of freedom. When controlled by the people, greater justice is available for all.

This is why Linux is so popular with those who value freedom. When you buy Linux, it is yours. You have the right to modify it any way you want. You can also sell it to anyone you want.

⁸² Cyborg, P. 45



Central authorities own products like Windows™ (Microsoft™ in this case). When you “buy” Windows™, what you’re buying is the permission to use it in a predefined way, and that’s all.

Aipotu has created laws to promote the spread of what Mann calls Humanistic Technology (HT). Humanistic Technology enhances personal freedom. Linux is an example of Humanistic Technology while Windows™ is an example of Corporate Technology (CT).

Years ago, I bought a watch that acted like a TV remote control. After years of use, I needed to change the battery. When I opened the watch, I discovered I couldn’t remove the battery. Battery replacement required specialized equipment. That violated the Humanistic Technology philosophy.

The Customer Protection Agency creates guidelines for consumer products. Products that pass the Humanistic Technology guidelines get the HT logo while products that fail it get the CT logo.

There’s nothing wrong about Corporate Technology. Corporations can create incredible products. It’s just that we need to know the difference, so that we can make an informed decision.

Wearable Technology

Research is at present being done to create the perfect smart house and smart world. These places would monitor everyone and try to make them as comfortable as possible. Mann believes this takes away some of a person’s freedom since you’re at the mercy of an outside force.

But wearable computers help retain ones power. You have control of your own personal space. When you want the light to come on, you tell it to come on rather than having the light decide for you.

Unfortunately, personal freedom is a threat to some people. They would rather have everyone obey them rather than have people making their own decisions.

Law F010: A person has the right to wear personal enhancement technology at all times, except where complete nudity is required, but only as long as there is no surveillance. The above exception does not apply to technology embedded inside the human body.



Yes, nudity is popular in many places.

Law F011: A person wearing personal enhancement technology has a right to broadcast surveillance records to the world, provided the records do not violate privacy and copyright laws.

Science and Privacy

Where is the knowledge that is lost in information?

Where is the wisdom that is lost in knowledge?

-- T.S.Eliot --

Science needs personal data to perform statistical analysis. For instance, research showed that more people died in accidents in the spring when clocks move forward and people get one less hour of sleep. This discovery was only possible by looking at the records of those who died in accidents in the affected area.

Personal Statistics Database

The department of Science and Technology has created a database with the personal information of all citizens, to help advance science.

Here's how it works. The only question allowed by the database is, "How many?" Even then, the database forbids certain questions.

For example, you may ask how many people died each day in the state of Modeerf over the last 10 years.

What happens if you ask for the number of people who have the credit card number of 123-456-789? The system blocks this query because sensitive information has extra security.

To further ensure security, there are two database administrators located in separate cities. Only they have the power to enter general queries or modify the database.

To enter a query or modify the database, both administrators must log on at the same time. In addition, both must submit the same query or modification within 5 minutes of each other before the command is accepted.



Also, the system records all modifications to the database. These records are available to organizations that have the appropriate clearance.

A criminal organization has to have agents in both locations and know the passwords to log in. Since security monitors the database rooms from remote locations, and since attempting to turn off security automatically notifies the authorities, it would be difficult for a criminal organization or a group of spies to get away.

The down side of the system is that it's not easy to correct data once entered into the system. Therefore the authorities are very careful when entering data or modifying the database.

The Department of Science spent years developing the Personal Statistics Database. Once developed, the specifications became public. This allowed the public to critic it. The department then rewarded anyone who could find security holes in the system.

The next step was to put the database online with dummy information. The department gave out additional rewards for anyone finding security issues. Eventually they raised the reward to a million dollars. After five years, when no one could find any bugs, the database came online for business with live data.

Back It Up

Anyone who has lost stuff on the computer knows how important it is to backup data. This is even more important for large databases. Some companies have gone bankrupt because of data-loss.

The database administrator backs up data in special Data Boxes. These Boxes connect to the machine to backup or restore data. Only the boxes and the database know the code needed to unlock the data. Entering the wrong code into the box automatically destroys the data. Attempting to open the box that contains data will do the same thing.

Posterity

Personal data is most useful while a person is alive. Once a person is dead, the most important use for the data is for historical and scientific purposes. For this reason, the system only releases personal information 100 years after a person's death. A person's estate may request that personal information remain confidential for an additional 50 years.



It's possible to trick the system into releasing the data prematurely by changing the date. However, since only the database administrator have the authority to modify the system; it's easy to tell if something goes wrong.

The Media

It's ironical that the first people to
demand free speech are the first
people to deny it to others.

-- Claude T Bissel --

Restriction of free thought and free speech
is the most dangerous of all subversions.

It is the one un-American act
that could most easily defeat us.

--Supreme Court Justice William Douglas --

Liars have impure hearts
and can't make good soup.

-- Ludwig van Beethoven --

The Media are the eyes and ears of the nation. It informs, entertains and helps us understand our world.

The media's job is to report the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as accurately as possible.

However, a difference exists between reporting news and reporting gossip. News is useful and important. Gossip, is only relevant to the people involved. For instance, the private lives of celebrities are no one's business but theirs.

The constitution describes the role of the press:

The Press

Law F012: The press is a self-regulating body that is responsible for the behavior of all its members.

The Customer Protection Agency and other watchdog agencies keep track of the media.

In order to be effective, the press must be free to act.

Law F013: When reporting news of concern to the public, the press and



those who represent the press have the right, obligation, and duty to reveal the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

It is the responsibility of a court to determine whether or not what the Press reports is both accurate and relevant. This protects members of the media from litigation and harassment from government officials.

Who are the press?

Law F014: A member of the press is anyone who claims to be one. Once a person makes that claim, that person is legally bound by the rules controlling the press and those who represent the press.

Who Are You?

Secrecy is the freedom tyrants dream of.

-- Bill Moyers --

While all deception requires secrecy,
all secrecy is not meant to deceive.

-- Sissela Bok --

Secrecy is the element of all goodness;
even virtue, even beauty is mysterious.

-- Thomas Carlyle --

Many law-abiding citizens prize their privacy and solitude. They believe that only criminals should suffer the indignity of being tracked and monitored.

Unfortunately, it is very hard being anonymous in the world we live in. The Aipotonian authorities created this law to help law-abiding citizens to keep their privacy.

Law F015: Law-abiding citizens have the right to own more than one identity, provided this does not harm others. When creating a new identity, the link to the pervious identity may only be kept for a maximum of one year. This information can only be used for legal purposes while the data exists.

Many government and organizations ask women their maiden name. They also insist on knowing a person's original name if there's been a name change. Why should they demand non-relevant information?



Law F016: The government or organizations may only ask for one of a person's legal identities, even if many exist. The choice of identities is up to the person.

Neither Big Brother nor Big Cousin (Corporation) needs to know where you live. They only need to know how to contact you for official business, hence this law.

Law F017: A person has a right to give out contact information of their own choosing, as long as they can be easily contacted.

Digital Cash

It's as if anonymous depositors put cash
into your account and every "check"
has an untraceable payee.
-- Boston T. Party⁸³ --

We need money for goods and services. Money in one form or another will probably always exist. Even with Star Trek replicators, where you can create anything you want by pressing a button, you would still need new programs. Not all these programs will be freeware. As for services and limited resources, many of them will still need money (for the foreseeable future).

The only question is the method of payment. Cash, checks and credit cards are some of the most used forms of money exchange. But a new kid is on the block. This is digital cash.

A company called DigiCash once created secure digital cash. It went bankrupt, probably because it was too secure for the authorities. It was impossible for the authorities to trace what the money was buying.

Here is an extract from the now defunct website www.digicash.com.

"Using ecash is like using a virtual ATM (Automatic Teller Machine). When connecting to it over the Internet, you authenticate ownership of your account and request the amount of ecash you want to withdraw, much like

⁸³ Boston T. Party, *Bulletproof Privacy*, P 8/2



in person. But instead of putting paper cash in your wallet, your software stores the digital cash it obtains onto the hard disk of your PC.

“When you are asked to make a payment on the net, you confirm the amount, purpose and payee and then your ecash software transfers the correct value in coins from your disk. Sellers, ranging from casual participants in the global Internet bazaar to mega-retailers, deposit the digital coins they receive into their accounts.

“Behind the user interface, your computer actually chooses the serial numbers of the electronic coins based on a random seed. Then it hides them in special encryption envelopes, provides them to the virtual ATM for signing, and removes the envelopes from what is returned--leaving the bank's validating digital signature on the serial numbers. This way, when the bank receives from the shop the coins you spend, it cannot recognize them as coming from any particular withdrawal, because they were hidden in envelopes during withdrawal. And thus the bank cannot know when or where you shop or what you buy.

“The serial number of each signed coin is unique, allowing the bank to be sure it never accepts the same coin twice. In case you wish to identify the recipient of any of your payments, you can also reveal the serial number and prove that you formed it. And, in case your computer were ever to break down, if you had written down the secret random seed number you chose initially when opening your account, future versions would let you use it to re-create the coins in envelopes and thereby obtain a free re-issue of the signed coins that were lost.

“How safe is it

“Security is fundamental to electronic cash. The cryptographic coding protecting every 5 cent ecash payment is the same as that routinely relied upon for authenticating requests to move huge sums between banks and even for national security. But in principle ecash goes beyond such communications security to achieve true multiparty security: no one (buyer, seller, bank) can cheat anyone else, no matter how they might modify their own software; even if two parties collude, they cannot cheat the third.

“Replacing paper and coins with ecash would make life much harder for criminals. Because the payer's computer chooses the serial numbers of the coins, he or she can later irrefutably identify blackmarketeers, extortionists, and acceptors of bribes--were they to take ecash. Paper notes, briefcases full of which can be received without leaving any record, allow money laundering and tax evasion today. With ecash, however, all the amounts each person receives are known to their bank. Significant criminal activity could thus be thwarted by completely replacing paper



money; moreover, the privacy of ecash would be essential to widespread acceptance of any electronic payment system that in effect becomes mandatory.”

Digital cash created in a process described above is immune to fraud and is popular in Aipotu. The World Bank is in charge of maintaining the digital cash service.

Smart cards allow people to carry their money anywhere they go. There’s no danger of theft. If someone steals your key chain, you report it to the authorities, who render the money useless.

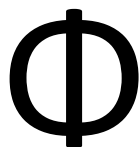
The fundamental difference between DigiCash and a credit card is that, just like regular cash, it’s not possible for anyone to tell what you bought.

Law F018: A person has the right to pay for goods and services using any payment method that is as safe from fraud as cash.



PART 2

I Am the Dreamer and I Am the Dream
-- God --



UNITED COUNTRIES OF EARTH

We were born to unite with our fellow men,
and to join in community with the human race.

-- Cicero --

Leadership is the wise use of power.
Power is the capacity to translate intention
into reality and sustain it.

-- Warren Bennis --

Aipotu is a member of the United Countries of Earth (UCOE). The UCOE exists to create a stable environment for member countries to thrive.

The UCOE's primary function is to ensure that member countries are safe from outside attack. The military serves this function.

The UCOE's secondary function is to deal with inter-national issues. This includes disputes between countries, trade issues, the environment, human rights issues, etc.

The council of the UCOE consists of representatives of member countries. Each member country supplies a councilor to represent its interests. Each councilor has one vote on the council and no one has veto power.

The President of the council oversees the council and functions as a moderator. The president has no vote but can break a tie if needed. The president acts as the representative of the UCOE when necessary. The council elects the President from candidates of member countries. The position is for life or until the President's unsuitability is proven.

The President and councilors become lifetime citizens of all member countries. This is to ensure they have no ties to any specific country.

To ensure the UCOE does not grow too big for its britches, these laws have been included in the constitution of the UCOE.

Law U001: It is forbidden for the UCOE or member countries to use political, economic or military pressure to interfere with the internal affairs of a member country, except when invited to do so by the member country, and only for as long as the



The High Seas

member country wants them to.

Law U002: The jurisdiction of the UCOE extends from the center of the Earth to a distance of 200,000 Km from the center of the earth.

In addition to this, the UCOE is bound to the three laws of government as described above (P. 18).



THE HIGH SEAS

If people concentrated on the really
important things in life,
there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.
-- Doug Larson --

Captain, they've already said
they're going to swab the decks with our blood!
-- John Hawkins⁸⁴ --

Pollution

The flood of money that gushes into politics today
is a pollution of democracy.
-- Theodore White --

There's so much pollution in the air now
that if it weren't for our lungs
there'd be no place to put it all.
-- Robert Orben --

The air and the seas know no boundaries. When one country pollutes, the entire world suffers. To whom can the world turn for protection?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deals with global environmental issues. The EPA monitors the air and the seas and can take suitable actions to protect both. In the limited case of protecting the environment, the EPA has the authority to fine all offending parties, as well as the authority to seize property if necessary. The EPA also has the authority to place tariffs on all countries, not just member countries. It is the only agency in the UCOE that has this power.

⁸⁴ John Hawkins, *Liberals On The High Seas*



The High Seas

What About The Fishies?

There are two types of fisherman -
those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish.
-- Author Unknown --

Many men go fishing all of their lives
without knowing that it is not fish they are after.
-- Henry David Thoreau --

People have been depending on the bounty of the sea from pre-historic times. But people have taken more from the oceans than the oceans can replace. Throughout the world, over-fishing is depleting the seas.

The Department of Fisheries, a branch of the EPA, exists to ensure the survival of the fishing industry. It is the duty of the Fisheries Department to prevent over-fishing, and ensure the health of the seas. One of its functions is to keep the oceans stocked with fish by maintaining fish nurseries. These nurseries then release these fish into the ocean.

Fishing ships pay tax based on what they take out of the seas – even if they throw most of it back again⁸⁵. This money is used to finance the Fisheries Department. Each species of sea life has an associated tax. This tax applies even if the boat discards most of its haul. Only sea life unharmed by the fishing process is exempt from the tax.

New Ways for Old Fishies

Fishermen, like the rest of humankind,
will talk relentlessly and authoritatively
about what they understand least.
-- Ted Leeson --

To get something you never had,
you have to do something you never did.
-- Unknown --

The Fisheries Department allows whaling, as well as sharking. A company

⁸⁵ Many fishing boats catch hundreds of species, but throw most of it back because they have no commercial value. This harms the environment without benefiting anyone.



buys a pod of whales from the Fisheries Department. This pod becomes the exclusive property of the company. The company may do whatever it wants with the pod.

The same is true for sharks. A company buys undersea property from the Fisheries Department in the area where sharks frequent. In this area, the company has exclusive sharking rights. The smallest area sold is almost 1000 square miles.

This policy of selling fishing rights to large tracks of the sea and to pods of whales came from observations of elephant husbandry in Africa.

Studies show that when a village takes ownership of a herd of elephants, the number of elephants in the herd expands. Contrast this to elephants in animal reserves. The biggest problem in animal reserves is poaching. In exchange for the right to the elephant meat and ivory, the villagers protect the herd from poaching. It's in the villagers' interest to keep the elephants healthy and safe.

Here are some links you might want to look at:

- <http://mikeheine.blogspot.com/2006/05/grow-your-own-elephant-and-shoot-it.html>
- http://www.reason.org/commentaries/dealessi_20030400.pdf
- Also Google *Economic Incentives for Conservation*

The fisher folk elect the Minister of Fisheries. Every person licensed for commercial fishing holds one vote in the election process.

Revitalizing the World

The uniqueness of a person is made up of the insane
and twisted as much as it is of the rational and normal.

-- Thomas Moore --

It is at night that faith in light is admirable.

-- Edmond Rostand --

Global warming, pollution and agricultural runoff are harming the marine ecosystem causing ever increasing dead zones. In these zones, no life can flourish for lack of oxygen in the water.

To combat this, the EPA has started an ambitious project. They've placed oxygen generators in the dead zones of the oceans to force oxygen to



The High Seas

normal levels. The simplest solution is to pump air into the bottom of the ocean through giant tubes. Wind turbines and ocean tides power this.

Photosynthesis normally only happens in the top 20m-200m of the ocean. Beyond this point, not enough light reaches for photosynthesis to occur. The EPA has placed giant lamps deep underwater, to increase the ability of the oceans to support life. The EPA places the lights in ocean currents, facing downstream to prevent the lights from clogging with seaweeds etc.

These initiatives saw their share of controversy when first proposed. Some felt interfering with the world oceans was wrong. It wasn't a convincing argument since we've already messed with the world oceans and the above initiative was only correcting a mistake. Another argument was that the lights had to stay on forever. Once the lights go out, the marine ecosystem that depends on it will die. The argument is valid but poses no real danger. We can maintain the lights as long as civilization exists. Should civilization die, the effect of people will stop and the oceans will no longer be in danger. The ocean will regain its balance.

I should mention another EPA initiative. To combat ozone depletion, the EPA has placed ozone generators in the upper atmosphere of the Earth. This was and is a controversial move. Many environmentalists felt that patching the hole lessens the importance of fixing the problem that caused the hole. Why should industry change if the hole in the ozone layer no longer exists?

Fishies Need Love Too

He catches the best fish
who angles with a golden hook.

-- Proverb --

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and he will bore you stupid

-- Lorrie B. Potters --

The propellers of passing boats and ships injure hundreds of whales, dolphins, manatees, and many other sea creatures every year. Also, ships hit many sea mammals when they surface to breathe or feed.

The Right Whale, an endangered species of whale living in the Bay of Fundy in Canada is especially vulnerable to this. A shipping lane runs right through their feeding grounds. Every year, passing ships hit and kill hundreds. Fortunately, Canada has rerouted many shipping lanes and enacted laws



giving the whales the right of way.

To protect the oceans, the UCOE created these laws.

Law U003: A wire grating must cover the propellers of all boats and ships in order to protect the sea life.

Law U004: All sea mammals have the right of way. When a sea mammal is in the way of a ship, the ship must either go around the animal or warn it so it can get out of the way.

Law U005: Killing an endangered sea mammal through carelessness will have the same penalty as hunting it.

Fishing boats often dump unusable nets into the ocean. These nets float through the oceans for years, trapping and killing countless sea animals. Untold numbers of sea creatures die without any benefit to people. Law U006 seeks to address this problem.

Law U006: It is forbidden to discard used fishing equipment into any body of water.

The Ocean Guard

Semper Paratus

(Always Ready)

-- US Coast Guard Motto --

Sea traveling is dangerous. Countless ships, submarines and planes are lost each year. Some vanish without a trace. Some get sucked into the Bermuda Triangle.

The Ocean Guard, relative of the US Coast Guard, exists to protect international waters and those who traverse them. The Ocean Guard operates within international waters and the waters of member countries.

The Ocean Guard has access to very specialized equipment. One is a rescue submarine. It docks with damaged subs, allowing people to escape.

Another piece of equipment is a giant butterfly net designed to scoop people out of the ocean. It attaches to a helicopter by a robot arm.



The High Seas

A third piece of equipment is a crane designed to rescue beached whales. The crane, with its rubberized fingers, gently lifts whales and moves them to deep waters.

To perform its duties, the Ocean Guard has the authority to arrest people and seize property of fishing and dumping violators. It cannot prevent people from crossing the oceans. Neither can it arrest people for crimes done outside the world ocean.



TAXATION AND FINANCE

The hardest thing in the world
to understand is income tax.

-- Albert Einstein --

A budget tells us what we can't afford,
but it doesn't keep us from buying it.

-- William Feather --

The UCOE has the right to tax the Gross National Product of member countries (the National Tax). It also has the right to fine member countries for breaking international laws.

The National Tax finances the normal running of the UCOE. The National Tax has two parts. The defense tax supports the military. The second part supports all other activities of the UCOE.



JOINING THE UCOE

The world is round and the place, which
may seem like the end may also be the beginning.

-- Ivy Baker --

Any country may join the United Countries of Earth provided they comply with the following entrance requirements.

Law UJ01: When joining, a country must add the three laws of government to its constitution.

It is up to the country to decide whether or not to obey the three laws of government (P. 18), since the UCOE cannot interfere with the internal affairs of a country without permission.

Law UJ02: When joining, a country must agree to comply with the rules and regulations of the United Countries of Earth.

This requirement is obvious and hardly worth mentioning.

Law UJ03: When joining, a country must forever give up complete control of its military. Control of the military will be transferred to the UCOE. Ownership of all military equipment, military facilities, military technology, and so on will forever be transferred to the UCOE. The constitution of the joining country must be updated to state that it may no longer maintain or operate a military force.

This requirement is essential for the peaceful coexistence of all countries. See 'The Military' (P. 170) for details.

Most countries entering the UCOE own a military. This military still has a strong allegiance to its former country. What's to prevent the country from using its former military for political ends? To help overcome this potential treat, the UCOE uses this rule.

Law UJ04: All military personal above the rank of Colonel must give up their citizenship and alliance to their countries of origin. Instead, they and all members of their families shall become full citizens for life of all member countries.



LEAVING THE UCOE

Ever has it been that love knows not
its own depth until the hour of separation.

-- Kahlil Gibran --

Any country may leave the UCOE at any time if it chooses to do so. However, no country has ever chosen to do so. This is not surprising, since there is so much to lose and so little to gain.

The UCOE has only one exit requirement:

Law UL01: When a country leaves the UCOE, the UCOE must remove all its military forces from the country. The UCOE must also remove all military equipment and military technology. The UCOE must also decommission all the military facilities in the country. Military personnel who are also citizens of the leaving country may leave the military if they so choose.

If you will remember, a country gives up complete control of its military when it joins the UCOE. Therefore, a former member country wishing to have a military must rebuild it from scratch, without any help from the UCOE.

Expulsion

Rather than waging war with threats of expulsion,
the focus should be on finding solutions
to the legitimate problems of clubs."

-- Thomas Kurth --

I have been advised that my expulsion
was unlawful and against the federal constitution.

-- Anwar Ibrahim --

The UCOE may expel a country for several reasons. Here are just two reasons.

The first reason for expelling a country is if it removes any of the three laws of government from its constitution. While the three laws are in the constitution, it acts as a thorn in the side of the country, spurring it on to deal with the world in a just manner.



The second reason for expelling a country is if it changes its constitution to allow it to maintain a military, or if it illegally builds a military. The proven support of militant or terrorist groups is also a reason for expulsion.

The problem with dealing with military build-up is that there no clear way to deal with it. After all, the UCOE cannot interfere with the internal affairs of a country. Also, even if specific laws were in place to deal with this, how would you implement it? How would you decide what military, political, or economic action to take?

For the above reasons, expulsion is the simplest way of dealing with the problem. Of course, this only happens when negotiations fail. Once expelled, the UCOE may apply political and economic pressure to deal with the country.



ECONOMICS

♪ The light you see at the end of the tunnel -
is the headlamp of a fast approaching train. ♪
-- Unknown --

Always live well within your means.
-- Economics 101 --

Always know the true cost of everything you use.
-- Economics 101 --

Always invest in people.
-- Economics 101 --

Education is the only thing
that justifies going into debt over.
-- Economics 101 --

Ending America's dependence on carbon fuels would power the nation's economy the way abolition of slavery unleashed the Industrial Revolution in Britain. — Robert F. Kennedy⁸⁶

Economics is an international concern. Unsound business practices in one part of the world is soon felt everywhere. Because of this, banking and business comes under international law. This is the only place where the UCOE have the authority to interfere with what some might consider the internal affairs of a country. The following will try to explain why this interference is necessary for international good.

⁸⁶ Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Saturday, March 7, 2009, P. A5



Economics

Recession

There was a time when a fool and his money were soon parted,
but now it happens to everybody.

-- Adlai E. Stevenson --

To think that the new economy is over
is like somebody in London in 1830 saying
the entire industrial revolution is over because
some textile manufacturers in Manchester went broke.

-- Alvin Toffler --

Failure doesn't mean you are a failure
it just means you haven't succeeded yet.

-- Robert H. Schuller --

Here is something to consider:

“Lowering interest rates encourages more people and businesses into debt in the name of building a healthier economy. It claims that the economy is less healthy than it could be because either not enough people and businesses are in debt or because those that are in debt are not yet deep enough in debt. Yet it is debt that destroys individuals, businesses and, ultimately, economies.”⁸⁷

In his book, “HONEST MONEY A Challenge to Banking”, John Tomlinson argues that the lending of money that’s not your own is the sole cause of economic depressions. The recession starting December 2007 seems to bear it out.

The gist of John’s arguments is that the whole banking system is like a giant Pyramid Scheme, supported by the acquisition of new loans. Eventually the pyramid collapses, destroying the economy.

Money represents a unit of service performed. The money you own represents the work you’ve performed. According to John, the effect of lending money that’s not yours is to increase the total supply of money in the economy.

The example Tomlinson gives is:

⁸⁷ John Tomlinson, HONEST MONEY A Challenge to Banking, P. 43



"A hundred years ago, a Mr Goldsmith opened Anybank. His first depositor, Mr Sure, came in to lodge a gold coin for safekeeping. Mr Goldsmith gave him a receipt. Mr Short then came in, to borrow a gold coin, to buy a horse from Mr Trainer. In exchange for his horse, Mr Trainer accepted the gold coin from Mr Short. He took it to Anybank, and lodged it with Mr Goldsmith, who gave him a receipt. A normal set of transactions when the gold standard existed.

"The strange thing about this story, however, is that Mr Goldsmith had issued two receipts, yet he had only one gold coin. Both receipts were available for use in the marketplace. Yet only one gold coin actually existed against which Mr Trainer and Mr Sure could validly claim. The marketplace will, therefore, have been led to believe that there was one more gold coin in existence than there was in reality. So the mechanisms of misrepresentation are created."⁸⁸

This increase means that the money you worked so hard to earn has now been devalued. That's not very nice, is it? Forcing lenders to only lend money they themselves own would solve the problem. Unfortunately, that's impractical.

Global Banking

Time is the scarcest resource and unless
it is managed nothing else can be managed.

-- Peter Drucker --

The gambling known as business looks with austere disfavor
upon the business known as gambling.

-- Ambrose Bierce --

If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys.

-- Sir James Goldsmith --

The UCOE has created a bank of last resort to deal with all issues dealing with the global banking/lending system. This World Bank is independent of the control of the UCOE and member countries.

⁸⁸ John Tomlinson, HONEST MONEY A Challenge to Banking, P. 12



Economics

Mission Statement: It is the function of the World Bank to ensure a stable monetary system for doing business.

To fulfill this mission, the following laws were created.

Law UE01: The World Bank is independent of the control of the UCOE and member countries. It may not interact politically with countries or businesses or individuals, unless this interaction helps protect the economic stability of the world.

All people above the age of adulthood in all member countries have the right to vote for the president and all vice-presidents of the World Bank. The positions of president and vice-presidents are for life.

Numerous watchdog organizations monitor the operation of the bank. The president or vice-presidents may be fired for incompetence, corruption or if it is proven that their actions are endangering the world economy.

Having a global monetary system tied to a single country or a few countries makes the world vulnerable to political, economic and other issues arising in the country or countries. This is why the UCOE has a single currency for all member countries. As a result, we have this entrance requirement for joining the UCOE.

Law UE02: When joining, a new country must give up control of its monetary system and instead use the currency of the UCOE.

The World Bank has the power to print money. It uses this power to manage the total money supply.

Law UE03: The total amount of units of currency in circulation and in reserve must be equal to one billion times the number of people living within the whole earth sphere.

This law fixes the total amount of money in circulation, making sure a person's investments are never devalued. At the same time, it compensates for an increasing population. The more people there are the greater is the demand for money. Proportionally increasing the money supply ensures that demand, and hence value, remains constant.

The World Bank controls the interest rates of all lending institutions within its domain, both national and international. The Bank adjusts the interest



rates in such a way as to make it impossible to exceed the total amount of currency. The Bank makes an exception for science and education, where the interest rates charged are zero. The reason is because science and education are the most powerful tools available for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the global and local economy.

Law UE04: The World Bank shall have the power to control the interest rates of all lending institutions operating within member countries of the UCOE.

It shall adjust the interest rates for each lending institution proportional to the total amount of outstanding loans of the institution, in such a way as to make it impossible to exceed the total amount of currency in circulation and to ensure fairness to all lenders and borrowers.

The interest charged to lending institutions shall be zero for all loans for science and education.

The interest charged to lending institutions shall be zero when the lending institution lends money that it owns.

It's up to the World Bank to decide on the actual interest rates. The total amount of money in existence is finite. It's not fair that one or a few organizations hog all the money.

Law UE05: The World Bank must keep sufficient funds in reserve to ensure the stability of the financial system.

Law UE06: Of all the money spent by the World Bank, a minimum of 10% must go to global education.

Protectionism

The incestuous relationship between government and big business thrives in the dark.

-- Jack Anderson --

Do unto Others. This is an ethical model and in my opinion is the best one we've ever come up with, but we don't apply it to our economic actions.

-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jhf5oogJA4> --

Capitalism is good for the world because it rewards individual effort. The advances in the standard of living we all enjoy are the direct result of capitalism. But capitalism can only work on a level playing field.



Economics

Governments place tariffs and other protections on commerce in the mistake belief that it will help their own people. Protectionism only serves to increase the suffering in the world and to make citizens pay extra for products. Protectionism also makes companies less competitive in the global market place.

Law UE07: It is forbidden for the UCOE or member countries to use economic pressure to affect commerce between member countries. This includes subsidies and tariffs.

Member countries may only levy tariffs against non-member countries. Governments have the right and obligation to encourage their citizens to buy local.

-----Who's Running This Company?

There is only one boss. The customer.
And he can fire everybody in the company
from the chairman on down,
simply by spending his money somewhere else.
-- Sam Walton --

We don't have a monopoly.
We have market share.
There's a difference.
-- Steve Ballmer --

The right to decide how a company operates should reside with the people most directly affected by its operation. These are the employees.

This benefits member countries since the control of business is now where it belongs, within the country. In the case of multinational companies, control is often in foreign countries and the owners don't always do what's best for the country or the workers.

All multi-national companies must obey these laws to operate within UCOE countries.

Law UE08: Each employee in a multi-national company shall be given one common share in that company for every time period they have worked for that company.
Additional shares may be given out to employees based on



performance. The performance criteria must be well documented.

Common shares may not be given out to non-employees.

Law UE09: A holder of common shares in a multi-national company is entitled to one vote for each share held at all shareholders meetings. Only common shares have voting power.

Law UE010: A common share in a multi-national company shall be degraded to a non-voting share when sold, inherited, given away, etc.

If you own common shares when the company starts operating in a UCOE country, those shares are still valid and you can still vote with the same voting power you had before. It's only when the shares are sold or given away do they become non-voting shares.

One effect of this law is that unions will become obsolete since the power to run the company now resides where it belongs – in the hands of the employees. Now that's democracy.

Some people might argue this will prevent the company from being flexible in the marketplace. After all, who would want to vote themselves out of a job when a company gets into trouble? However, this is not a real danger since a company always acts in its own best self-interest. Also, senior members have greater voting power.

Investors still have a say in the running of the company by the fact that they are investing in the multi-national company and in specific projects. Investors only invest in projects they like and refrain from projects they don't like. This gives them enormous voting power. The only problem before was that in the past investors had almost all the voting power. The above laws ensure that the power is more evenly balanced.

Customers also have a say in how the company does business, because they are the ones who are buying the products and services. If a customer doesn't like what a company is doing, it can refrain from buying its products or services. The only problem is that customers don't normally act in a united way, and so their vote is mostly wasted.



Economics

Then there is the government of individual countries. There are there to enforce safety, environmental and other regulations.

Finally, there is the ministry of commerce of the UCOE.

Global Business Bureau

Corporation: An ingenious device for obtaining
profit without individual responsibility.

-- Ambrose Bierce --

The herd instinct among forecasters
makes sheep look like independent thinkers.

-- Edgar R. Fiedler --

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow
why the things he predicted yesterday
didn't happen today.

-- Laurence J. Peter --

Businesses are becoming so big and powerful that some have more influence over world economics than some countries. As a result, failure of these companies has global consequences. The global recession starting in 2007 is a good example of this. Being systemic in nature, the causes for the global recession couldn't be handled by just one country or region. The Global Business Bureau (GBB) exists as a result of this.

The function of the GBB can be summed up in its mission statement.

Mission Statement: It is the function of the Global Business Bureau to regulate global business in such a way as to ensure global economic stability and the success of member businesses.

International banks, being businesses, fall under the control of the GBB. The World Bank mentioned above doesn't regulate banks. All it does is regulate the interest rates that all lending institutions must pay in order to safeguard the monetary system. The GBB and the World Bank are independent organizations.

Local businesses and local banks are only accountable to the government of countries they happen to be in. Only when a business, operating in its own



country, expands to include other countries, will it come under the jurisdiction of the GBB.

To fulfill this mission, the following laws were created:

Law UE11: The Global Business Bureau is independent of the control of the United Countries of Earth and member countries. It may not use its power for political ends, unless this interaction helps protect the economic stability of the world economy.

Law UE12: It is the duty of The Global Business Bureau and each ministry to regulate business activity in such a way as to ensure business is conducted in a sustainable manner.

Some people are pushing for a rule that says that each financially independent business may only operate in one business sector. This wasn't resolved when I returned from visiting Aipotu.

Elections

The GBB regulates industry by sector. Each sector has a vice-president that regulates it. Each financially independent international company operating in that sector has one vote for electing the vice-president.

A president heads the GBB. All financially independent international companies vote for the president of the GBB.

The president and vice-presidents are elected for life.

Numerous watchdog organizations monitor the operation of the GBB. A minister may be fired for incompetence, corruption, lack of faith by its constituents or if it is proven that their actions are endangering the world economy.

Fines And Taxation

The GBB has the power to tax individual businesses. Taxes are charged based on sector. This money is collected based on where the transaction takes place. If a physical transaction takes place, then the country the transaction took place in gets credit for the transaction. If an Internet transaction takes place, then the country containing the delivery location of the transaction gets credit for the transaction.



Economics

The purpose of the tax serves three purposes. The first is to finance the operation of the GBB.

The second is to raise money for education. This money goes to the resident country of the transaction, without strings. Of course, the wiser countries will spend the money on education.

The third purpose is to raise money for research. This money goes to the resident country of the transaction, without strings. As above, the wiser countries spend the money on research.

Aipotu uses this money to defray the costs of education, research and the running of the National Placement Service.

Businesses have the power to vote on any changes to the tax code. Also, all tax laws have to be renewed every 5 years. This is the same as in Aipotu, where a non vote is the same as a 'yes' vote. A company has to specifically vote 'No', or it is assumed the vote is 'Yes'.

In addition to taxation, the GBB has the power to fine businesses for breaking business rules.

Also, the GBB has the power to award businesses that improve the environment and enhance the lives of people, above and beyond what is expected of them.

Banning Speculations

The problem with economic speculation is that it distorts the actual value of goods and services. Houses for instance become more expensive with time, even though nothing has changed⁸⁹.

Watch Colin Jones' YouTube video "Utopia Now - #4"⁹⁰. He makes an excellent argument detailing the dangers of speculation.

What would happen if economic speculation was banned? How would it affect the economy? I believe it would make the economy more robust and sustainable.

⁸⁹ There are other forces at work, but this is one of them.

⁹⁰ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jhf5oogJA4>



It's not possible to eliminate speculation, but every effort should be made to control it.

Law UE12: The Global Business Bureau has the authority and responsibility of regulating global businesses so as to control speculation and excessive leveraging, in order to ensure the stability and sustainability of the world economy.

The same is true with leveraging. Some leveraging is essential for the normal function of businesses, but excessive leveraging has a nasty habit of causing recessions⁹¹.

As mentioned above, the United Countries of Earth has a single currency. This eliminates all currency speculation. People who make money trading currency are now forced to produce something of value.

Down With The Stock Market

I wonder, what would happen if the stock trading was rendered illegal? What would replace it?

Colin Jones proposes a solution in his YouTube video, "Utopia Now - #7"⁹². It's best you see his video and his other videos at <http://www.youtube.com/user/UtopiaNowCanada>. He can argue his points better than I can.

In short, each company would sell preferred stocks directly to the investor. Businesses could assist in the transactions, but they can't trade the stocks like they do now. The companies would then buy back the stocks after a fixed period of time. To raise money, the company just sells more stocks.

Innovation

Innovation is the life-blood of business. It pulls economies out of recession faster than anything else. As a result, one of the mandates of the GBB is to foster innovation.

⁹¹ Here is another over-simplification.

⁹² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWJPQmeWH1Q>



Economics

A good book on the subject is, *"Closing the Innovation Gap"*. Judy Estrin talks about the importance of innovation and ways for companies to innovate



THE MILITARY

Governments need armies to protect
them against their enslaved and oppressed subjects.

-- Leo Tolstoy --

I believe in compulsory cannibalism.
If people were forced to eat what they killed,
there would be no more wars.

-- Abbie Hoffman --

"Strength is not just a matter of extensive territory and a large population, victory is not just a matter of efficient armaments, security is not just a matter of high walls and deep moats, authority is not just a matter of strict rules and frequent punishments. Those who establish a viable organization will survive even if small, while those who establish a moribund organization will perish even if they are large."⁹³

The military of a country is a constant threat to its neighbors. What's to stop a country from conquering its neighbor? It is the threat of retaliation.

The only way for a country to defend itself against an invading country is for it to muster an army of its own. In such a situation, whoever owns a bigger military wins. That was one reason for the cold war between the US and the USSR. Each tried to increase its military to win the arms race. In such a race, both countries lose. It takes money to maintain and expand the armed forces, which might be a partial reason why the Soviet Union collapsed.

In the interest of peace, security and long-term prosperity, the best solution is for all countries to disband their militaries. This would ensure that no country could threaten another.

As noble as that sentiment is, there is one tiny problem. Once all countries disband their military, what's to prevent a renegade country from secretly

⁹³ Thomas Cleary (translator), *The Art Of War, An Illustrated Edition*, ISBN: 1590301854, P. 18

The Military

building an army? This country could conquer its neighbors without opposition.

The United Nations (UN) has taken the route opposite to that of complete disarmament. It has chosen to make the militaries of the member countries strong. As is typical of human nature, some of these countries have used these bigger and badder militaries to attack other countries. Nice going UN.

Creating a military power that all countries are accountable to would fix the problem. This power would ensure the protection of the threatened countries. It is the mandate of the UCOE military to fulfill this function.

These directives clarify the role of the military:

Directive D01: The primary function of the military is to defend member countries from outside attack, prevent militants in member countries from attacking other countries, and fight terrorism.

If a non-member country or a militant group in a non-member country attacks a member country, the UCOE military must retaliate against the offending country and conquer it. Once conquered, the attacking country must be forced to join the UCOE.

The UCOE military shall then take possession of the military of the conquered country. All militant groups within the newly acquired country that took part in the offensive shall be disbanded and their military equipment confiscated. Militant groups without government affiliations that did not take part in the offensive are except from being disbanded. If a militant group in a member country attacks another country, the military shall attack the offending militant group and force it to disband.

The military is responsible for fighting terrorism. This is because the constitution of the UCOE defines terrorism as an act of war – against civilization itself.

We must distinguished Terrorism (P. 177) from guerilla warfare.



War

If you have to use force to resolve a dispute,
then you're doing something wrong.

-- Dr. Slip Cam --

Countries create militaries to protect themselves from attack. That's the role of the UCOE military. But this raises several questions.

First: How far should you take a war? When should hostilities cease?

Second: What should you do after the war has ended?

Third: If a country can attack once, it can and may attack again. What's to prevent future hostilities?

Directive 1 mentioned above answers these questions.

This controversial law permanently deals with all military threats. No country can wage war without a military. If you don't want your country to become a member of the UCOE, don't attack any member countries.

Note that militant groups with no government affiliations and that don't pose a threat to other countries are allowed to exist. This is because these militant groups were created to deal with problems within the country, and as such are considered the internal affair of the country.

Humanitarian and diplomatic help is always available to countries to help them deal with militant groups within their country. However, military help is never an option. The only exception is if the militants are intestinally harming civilians for political purposes (Terrorism).

National Emergencies

"Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction."⁹⁴

No matter where you live, no matter how peaceful everything seems, there is always the possibility that a national disaster could strike. That's where the UCOE and the military come in.

⁹⁴ *Eve Of Destruction*, By Barry McGuire, 1965



The Military

Directive D02: The secondary function of the military is to help Member Countries deal with disasters when asked to by the affected Member Countries and when approved by the UCOE council.

In this capacity, the military may:

- 1) Help with civil engineering projects.
- 2) Supply resources to communities that need it.
- 3) Help local authorities suppress violence within the member country and prevent the country from disintegrating.

Martial Law

There will no doubt be a time when an emergency calls for martial law. The next laws exist to ensure that the military uses martial law as a last resort.

Law UM01: A state of emergency must not be allowed to last more than one standard year in a given area. If it does, the person requesting the state of emergency must be executed. At this point, a second person will be placed in the office of the executed person. The new person will have the choice of either continuing the state of emergency or stopping it. If the choice is to continue, the state of emergency will extend for another year.

This may sound brutal but it is necessary. We can compare martial law to a tourniquet. It can stop a patient from bleeding to death, but will lead to gangrene if tied too long. Martial law will cause serious damage to a society if maintained too long.

Law UM02: The person, who fills the office that has the power to declare martial law, must do so freely.

Law UM03: A new state of emergency cannot be declared less than one standard year after a previous state of emergency was declared within a specified area.



Military limits

Now the big question is what's to stop the UCOE military from causing trouble and taking over the world? The answer is these directives:

Directive D03: It is forbidden for the military to interfere with the internal affairs of a culture or society, unless deemed necessary to comply with Directives D01 and D02.

This directive allows non-member countries to self-rule without fear of retaliation or pre-emptive strikes. This includes developing nuclear, biological, or any other kind of weapon. The directive simplifies the control of the military. When do you decide when military action is necessary? It only becomes necessary when a member country comes under attack, in which case retaliation is automatic.

Directive D04: It is forbidden for the military to harm any intelligent life form, unless this is necessary in order to comply with Directives D01 and D02.

Directive D05: The military may not be used for political purposes for any reason whatsoever, no matter how great the perceived benefit.

Directive D06: The military may only act within the jurisdiction of the UCOE.

Directive D07: It is forbidden for the military to help non-member countries for any reason whatsoever.

Directive D07 prevents the military from helping non-member countries, even for humanitarian reasons. This may not seem fair but it was set up for two reasons. The first is to limit the powers of the military. The second is to give non-member countries incentive to join. Help becomes automatically available once a country joins the UCOE.

In light of the above directives, it's clear that the UCOE's military poses no threat to any country. The military only has the power to defend member countries. It is incapable of launching an unprovoked attack on any country



The Military

for any reason whatsoever. The military poses a threat only to attacking countries.

The Cold War would never have taken place if these restrictions bound the militaries of either the US or the former USSR.

Guarding the Guards

Beyond all this, there sits a watchdog organization (Military Watch) designed to make sure the military is accountable to the UCOE for all its actions, as well as its spending habits. Any soldier may report a problem to the Military Watch without fear of disciplinary actions.

In order to perform their jobs, top-level members of Military Watch have full security clearance.

This next directive controls the military from within:

Directive D08: All military personal must obey their superior officers, unless the order is illegal. In this case the soldier shall refuse to follow the order and must report the incident to the appropriate authorities. Obeying an illegal order is a court-martial-able offence.

When the US went to war against Iraq to 'liberate it' from Saddam Hussein, some American soldiers were accused of ill-treating prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention. The soldiers claimed they were only following orders. Directive 8 clearly states what the soldiers should have done.

This next directive permits no excuses for failure to obey the directives described by the Geneva Convention.

Directive D09: A person must understand and agree with all the military laws and directives before being allowed to become an active member of the military.

All military personal get special training to ensure compliance with the above directive.



Objecting to Immoral Wars

In July 2006, a US soldier refused to deploy to Iraq because he believed the Iraq was unjustified. What he didn't realize was that when he signed up, he gave up his right to decide whether or not a war is justified.

It is the duty of a soldier to fight and kill the enemy regardless of the reasons for fighting.

It would be a different story if the military were attacking and killing unarmed civilians. It is of course illegal to harm civilians except in self-defense.

Directive 1 removes the issue of morality from the picture. It's never wrong to defend a country from attack.

Military Secrets

Everyone keeps secrets and the reasons for keeping these secrets are many. The reasons range from political to social to military to economic to personal. However, no matter what the secret is, there will eventually come a time when the reason for keeping the secret disappears. The problem is that when something becomes classified, it remains classified even when the reason for it remaining secret disappears.

Law UM04: All documents controlled by the UCOE or the UCOE military must be declassified after 50 years. If a party believes a document should remain classified, that party must justify keeping that document classified.
A 50-year extension can be requested for the continued classification of a document. This extension must be justified in terms of public security. No more extensions may be made after this.

A similar secrecy law exists within the constitution of Aipotu.



TERRORISM

Victory against terrorism will not take place in a single battle,
but in a series of decisive actions against terrorist organizations and those who
harbor and support them.

-- George W. Bush --

Want to promote stable democracy in struggling nations?
Send timely packages of food, seeds and medicine

-- Jeffrey D. Sachs⁹⁵ --

Don't Panic
-- Douglas Adams⁹⁶ --

It's not possible to fight terrorism using guns and bombs; it must be fought ideologically.

So what's terrorism? According to the constitution of the United Countries of Earth, "terrorism is the intentional attack of civilians for political, social or religious reasons." We must distinguish this from guerilla warfare, where the object of the attack is the military or the government. Members of the military, the police and political leaders are fair game for military action. Civil servants, fire fighters and other emergency aid workers are not targets of military action since they are civilians.

Terrorism is a direct attack against civilization itself. Therefore, terrorism is harshly punished.

Because terrorists pose such a great threat to civilization, they've no rights under the law.

Interrogation

As long as terrorist organizations exist, there will be a need for intelligence. The quickest way of getting this information is by torturing questioning prisoners.

⁹⁵ *Scientific American*, August 2006, P. 35

⁹⁶ Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*



The problem is some countries get a little over-zealous when fighting terrorism. They punish anyone suspected of being a terrorist.

This law exists to ensure the safety of innocents:

Law UT01: Prisoners must be convicted of terrorism in a civil court of law before they can be treated as terrorists. They must receive a fair trial.

Once the courts convict a person of terrorism, the Anti-Terrorist Squad has the legal right to use any means necessary to gain information, even if this results in the terrorist's death. The Anti-Terrorist Squad is the branch of the UCOE military created to deal with terrorism. Because of the nature of the work it does, various watchdog organizations keep track of how it does its work.

The Real Culprit

A good question is who's guiltier, the suicide bomber who gets killed or the ringleaders who give the orders?

Most terrorists are brainwashed into believing they're actions are just. Half the time they're just kids who don't understand what they're doing.

The guilt must rest with the ringleaders. They're the true enemies of civilization. People have suggested the death penalty for them. However, that would only make them martyrs. As the result, they always get life in prison.

Preventing Terrorism

Terrorism is an evil flower that needs bad soil to grow. Terrorism thrives on social and economic injustice. It feeds on human misery and fear.

The way to defeat terrorism is by ensuring justice for all. Contented people don't have a need to follow hate-mongers like Hitler or Osama bin Laden.

Education is a powerful weapon against terrorism.



Terrorism

Suicide bombers

Suicide bombers strike throughout the world. They strap dynamite to themselves and kill dozens of people along with themselves. They do this in the name of Jihad.

The question that we must ask is, “Why do they kill themselves?” It doesn’t make any sense. Normally when people fight for a cause, they try to stay alive. But suicide bombers intentionally get themselves killed.

Could they be members of a cult?

In the US, a suicide cult called Heaven's Gate existed. Their leader convinced them that if they killed themselves when Comet Hale-Bopp appeared, Aliens would take them to heaven.

In the same way, the bombers are convinced that if they died in the name of Jihad, they would go to heaven.

But they aren’t dying in the name of God. Instead, they are dying for selfish reasons, which render their actions a waste of effort. The proof they are acting for self is that they intestinally kill themselves in the act of terrorism.

Killing yourself in the name of Jihad is not something the bombers’ forefathers knew about. Who ever heard of killing yourselves as a means of fighting Jihad? In addition, committing suicide is a sin, which automatically bars you from heaven.

As a Jewish friend of mind commented, you should kill anyone who tries to take you away from the ways your forefathers knew about. The masterminds behind the terrorists are trying to take the bombers away from the ways of their forefathers. What the bombers should do is clear.



THE FALL OF EMPIRES

Little evil would be done in the world
if evil never could be done
in the name of good.

-- Marie von Ebner Eschenbach --

Rome is a great example of what can go wrong when we fail to apply the Law of Balance.

Rome was a great political, economic and military power. Its civilization stood second to none, its knowledge, power and civilization feared and coveted by all.

It held the potential to improve the lives of the people in the rest of the world. Unfortunately, the Romans hoarded their power and became corrupt and lazy. The barbarian horde swarmed them and the rest is history.

Like the Romans, the ancient Chinese created a great civilization. They tried to protect their civilization with a giant wall. Guess what, it didn't work.

History is full of examples of the results of an imbalance of wealth and power. The Haves hoard their wealth. The Have-nots yearn for some of it. The Have-nots always outnumber the Haves. If the Haves do nothing to level the imbalance, war or revolution breaks out.

This axiom expresses this danger:

Axiom A7: Beware the barbarians howling at your gate. Share with them the bounty the bounty of the land or be destroyed by them.

This expresses the view that any time you shun a segment of society, you run the risk of it coming back and bighting you in the butt.

Sanctions

Nations of the world use sanctions and embargos to punish erring nations. But sanctions don't work because they misjudge human nature. When attacked, people respond by fighting back. They respond by being stubborn. You've got to practically destroy a country before it complies. Most of the



The Fall of Empires

time, it's the innocent who suffer. This is why the United Nations of Earth forbids interference in the internal affairs of member countries.

The best tools to deal with countries are diplomacy and psychology. You must work within a society, and understand its customs and culture in order to win a people to your way of thinking. Of course, it helps that what you want is justice for all and it that obeys the laws of government.

Nuclear Powder Keg

It's hypocritical to ask countries such as North Korea to stop developing nuclear weapons⁹⁷ when other countries have them. The last I checked (2006); the cold war between Russia and the US is still going on. Each is ready to attack the other with nuclear weapons at the drop of a hat. Only when both Russia and the US stand down from Mutually Assured Destruction will they have the moral authority to criticize another country about their desire for nuclear weapons.

Iraq War

Iraq is a good example of what happens when you take the attitude of “my way or the highway” with other countries. President George Bush decreed that Saddam Hussein was an evil man who must be taken down. Bush then set on this righteous crusade, and took down Saddam Hussein. In the process, he destroyed Iraq.

As the ancient warrior philosopher Sun Tzu once said, “When fighting another country it is best not to destroy it in the process”. In hindsight, we can see why. The destruction of the government and much of the country's infrastructure caused the death of countless Iraqi civilians in sectarian violence. The US too paid a heavy price in both lives and resources.

As I stated in Ruling of a Nation (P. 7), a government stands or fall by the will of the people. The only way to transform a country is from within. You must

⁹⁷ In 2006, North Korea violated international laws by conducting some nuclear tests.



convince the people that your way is best. You must show them how they will benefit by following your way.

Evolution and Revolution

I consider the war with the former Saddam Hussein government anti-democratic. As I said in Ruling of a Nation (P. 7), all governments stay in power because of the will of the people.

Many Iraqis didn't like the oppressive Saddam Hussein government. But the reason the Saddam government was stable was because Iraqi culture demanded a strong government. The rule of law is absolutely essential in Muslim culture. Absolute law requires absolute punishment, which Saddam supplied in great abundance. Absolute law comes from absolute authority. Absolute authority comes from God and those who interpret God's laws. As a result, the foundation for a democracy didn't exist, and couldn't exist and cannot exist. The concept of electing a ruler is idiotic from a divine point of view. The only people fit to rule are those who understand Divine Law and who are strong enough to maintain Divine Law.

Only a change in culture will allow democracy to appear in countries such as Iraq. The only way to bring democracy to a country is to convince the people that democracy is in God's great plan. You must convince them that self-rule and personal responsibility is what God wants.

The reason the American Revolution was so successful was because the people desired it and were willing to fight for it. The American people believed in their hearts they had both the ability and the right to self-rule. This proved that they were ready for democracy.

The Only way to grow a democracy is to plant the ideas of democracy in the culture. This desire MUST spark a grassroots event. When enough people desire it, democracy will come about peacefully and naturally. This process cannot come about through external force or coercion. Such force can only result in failure and suffering.

Recall Law U001 (P. 146), It's forbidden for the UCOE or member countries to use political, economic or military pressure to interfere with the internal affairs of a member country, except when invited to do so by the member country, and only for as long as the member country wants them to.



The Fall of Empires

This law forbids either the UCOE or member-countries from supplying money or weapons to political groups within a country because that would cause the balance of power to change within the country.

Law U001 doesn't forbid the UCOE or member-countries from using ideas to change a culture from within. However, the messages must be overt. The reason is because people can either accept or reject an idea as they choose. By working within the framework of a culture, you can gradually introduce ideas that can change the world. Only through mutual respect and the consideration of others can we forge a better world.

Timely delivery of food and medicine

To stabilize a region one must satisfy the needs of the people. An article in *Scientific American* best addresses this issue:

"If U.S. leaders better understood the politics of impoverished and crisis-ridden countries, they would more efficiently protect American national security by advancing the causes of economic development and democracy...Timely development assistance to places hovering between democracy and disarray can yield enormous benefits...

"When a public thinks that a newly elected national government will succeed, local leaders throw their support behind it. Expectations of the government's longevity rise. Individuals and companies become much more likely to pay their taxes, because the government will have the police power to enforce the tax laws."⁹⁸

Success builds on success and before you know it, the country becomes a nice place to live in.

Non-profit organizations have begun offering micro-loans. This allows the very poor to start businesses and improve their lives.

"Anyone who scoffs at the value of 62 cents should talk to Muhammad Yunus. In 1976, the Bangladeshi economics professor tried an experiment. From his pocket, he lent the equivalent of \$26 to a group of 42 workers. With that 62 cents per person, they bought the materials for a day's work weaving chairs or making pots. At the end of their first day as independent

⁹⁸ *Scientific American*, August 2006, P. 35



business owners, they sold their work and soon paid back loan... Microcredit goes directly to poor people. It creates jobs in villages. It helps women develop confidence and independence. Microcredit can win new political backing for anti-poverty programs abroad that the poor still desperately need.⁹⁹

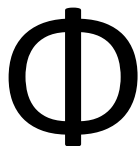
All this makes sense, doesn't it? After all, desperate people do desperate things. When given the tools needed to help themselves, their lives improve and the world becomes a better place.

⁹⁹ Micro Loans for the Very Poor, *The New York Times*, Sunday, February 16, 1997



PART 3

Give me an army of Teachers and I will
change the world



UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS

To boldly go
where no one has gone before
-- Star Trek --

After centuries of effort, humanity has finally spread across the solar system. The key to opening up space for colonization was cheap space travel and the ability to mine the asteroids.

Mars now has 27 countries, with millions of people in each country. Mars also has a world government. This is an entrance requirement to join the United Federation of Planets.

The United Federation of Planets was created to ensure the peaceful co-existence of all planets, and was based on the United Countries of Earth.

The primary function of the Federation is to deal with issues such as disputes between planets, trade issues, human rights issues, and so on.

The secondary function of the Federation is to ensure that member planets are safe from threats from outer space. Starfleet exists to serve this function. Starfleet is also responsible for space explorations.

A council, consisting of representatives of all member planets, controls the Federation. Each member planet supplies a councilor to represent its interests. The councilor stays on the council as long as their member planet chooses. Each councilor has one vote on the council and no one has veto power.

The president of the council acts as a moderator on all council meetings. The president has no vote but can break a tie if needed. The president acts as the representative for the Federation. The council elects the president from candidates chosen from member planets. Presidency is for life or unless proven unsuitable for the job.

The president and councilors, as well as their immediate families, become full citizens of all member planets. This citizenship is for life. This tries to ensure that the leaders have no ties to any specific planet.

In order to ensure that the Federation does not grow too big for its britches, this law appears in the constitution of the Federation.



Law F001: It is forbidden for the Federation, member planets or Starfleet to use political, economic or military pressure to interfere with the internal affairs of any culture or society, except when invited to do so by the culture or society, and only for as long as the culture or society wants them to.

In addition to this, the three laws of government (P. 18) bind the Federation and all member planets.



TAXATION AND FINANCE

Death and taxes may be certain,
but we don't have to die every year.
-- Unknown --

The Federation has the right to tax the Gross National Product of member planets. It also has the right to fine member planets for breaking inter-planetary laws.

The Planetary Tax finances the running of the Federation. The Planetary Tax has two parts. The first part finances Starfleet. The second part finances all other activities of the Federation.



STELLAR ECONOMICS

Quark: I wonder who came up with the idea of
suspending liquid latinum inside worthless bits of gold.

Lt. Commander Jadzia Dax: Probably someone who
got tired of making change with an eyedropper

-- Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Who Mourns for Morn? --

conomics is a concern for everyone. Even the Federation has to deal with this. As a result, the Federation has its own monetary system, as well as an organization for dealing with all inter-planetary trade.

The Bank

The Federation Bank is similar to the World Bank of the UCOE. As with the World Bank, the Federation Bank is responsible for maintaining a monetary system for the normal operation of business. The difference is that Federation currency is only required for inter-planetary commerce. Each planet may use whatever currency it wants for internal commerce.

Federal Business Bureau

The Federal Business Bureau is responsible for managing inter-planetary business. The Federal Business Bureau operates under similar rules as the Global Business Bureau.



JOINING THE FEDERATION

You can learn new things at any time in your life
if you're willing to be a beginner.

If you actually learn to like being a beginner,
the whole world opens up to you.

-- Barabra Sher --

To join the Federation, a planet must have one unified government and must agree to the rules and regulations of the Federation.

A planet must also add the three laws of government to the constitution of its planetary government (P. 18). However, a planet may decide not to obey these three constitutional laws if it so chooses, since the Federation cannot interfere with the internal affairs of a planet without permission.

Finally when joining, a planet must limit its sphere of influence to an area to be decided by the Federation council. The Federation sees this as essential for the peaceful coexistence of all planets, as it prevents wars.

What's the Federation's definition of "planet"? A planet is anything the Council agrees is a planet. An asteroid, a space station, a star system or even a galaxy can be designated a planet if there's enough political support for it.

The Federation has designated the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter (the Main Asteroid Belt) as a planet. They have also defined the ring of asteroids and proto-planets beyond Neptune and still within the solar system (Kuiper Belt) as a single planet.

Jupiter and its satellites together make up a single planet. The same holds true for all the other traditional planets. For historical reasons, the Earth's Moon has the title of planet, independent of the earth. The Moon fought for its independence because it didn't want to be just an Earth colony. The Moon finally gained its independence from the Earth when its population reached 10 million people.

Occasionally, groups of people have requested recognition as a planet. One newly added requirement for admission as a planet is that the heavenly or manmade body contains at least 100 million citizens. Many people felt that it was discrimination, especially since the Moon and the other political planets did not have to meet this requirement.



LEAVING THE FEDERATION

Good night, good night!
Parting is such sweet sorrow
-- William Shakespeare¹⁰⁰ --

Any planet may leave the UCOE at any time. Of course, the departing planet no longer benefits from the resources of the Federation. To date, no planet has left.

¹⁰⁰ William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (II, ii, 185)



STARFLEET

Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Her five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before.

-- Captain James T. Kirk --¹⁰¹

"You are saying that the Maquis crew is rigid and inflexible.

That they will never adjust to Starfleet rules" -- Tuvok

"No, Mr. Vulcan. I am saying that
you are rigid and inflexible..." -- Neelix¹⁰²

Starfleet originally formed when NASA combined with several other space exploration organizations. As such, its primary mission has been to explore the Universe.

Later on, as technology improved, Starfleet took on the role of protecting the member planets and all spaceships from the hazards of space. Two of these hazards include space-pirates and asteroids.

Only after a skirmish between Mars and Jupiter did Starfleet take on its role of peacekeeper. It also defends member planets from outside attack.

Starfleet Mandate

The charter of Starfleet was based on the charter of the United Countries of Earth (UCOE) military. The same rules and reasoning applies here as there. Here are some rules and regulations:

Mandate M01: The primary function of Starfleet is to explore the universe in order for us to understand our place in the scheme of things and to go where no one has gone before.

Mandate M02: The secondary function of Starfleet is to protect member planets and spacecraft from the hazards of

¹⁰¹ Opening monologue of *Star Trek* by Captain James T. Kirk

¹⁰² *Star Trek Voyager*, Learning Curve



space. In the role of protector, Starfleet shall:

- 1: Prevent the military of foreign powers from entering the territory of a member planet without the expressed permission of the member planet.
- 2: Defend member planets from threats that originate from beyond the member planet's sphere of influence. This includes military attacks, threats from meteors, space pirates, and other threats. When defending member planets from outside attack, Starfleet has the right to destroy military equipment situated within the attacker's sphere of influence, provided the military equipment is actively being used to attack the member planet.
- 3: Protect spacecraft in inter-planetary space from space threats.
- 4: Respond to distress calls.
- 5: Protect non-member planets from external threats, provide the culture or society is kept unaware of the received help. If this is not possible, the non-member planet must formally request entry into the United Federation of Planets before help can be given.

If you note, #5 is a little vague on the definition of an external threat.

In one episode of *Star Trek the Next Generation*, the crew of the Enterprise encounters a planet that's about to explode.

Captain Picard asks, "How do you decide when to interfere in the internal affairs of a people or society?"

The answer lies in the question: "Will the interference change the culture or society?" If a dictator is terrorizing a society, the answer is - Yes. Interfering will change the society and so the mandate forbids the Federation and Starfleet from using Political, Military and Economic pressure to affect the situation.

What if the people unleash a disaster that's about to destroy them? In this case, they've chosen their own fate. This again prevents the Federation and



Starfleet from using Political, Military and Economic pressure to affect the situation without permission.

Will curing a disease change a culture or society? It could if the disease is part of the culture.

The situation Picard faced above was relatively simple. The people did not know what was happening to the planet. All they knew was that the earthquakes were getting extreme. The crew of the Enterprise rescued the planet without the people knowing.

With power comes responsibility. By choosing not to act, you choose to let a situation continue for better or for worse. By action and by non-action, we're responsible for the outcome of a situation.

We may not interfere directly with a people or society, but that doesn't mean we cannot change it from *within* as stated earlier.

The next mandate is controversial.

Mandate M03: Starfleet and the Federation may help a member planet deal with emergencies provided:

1: The member planet asks for the help and only for as long as the member planet wants the help.

2: The Federation Council agrees to supply the requested help.

3: Neither Starfleet nor the Federation affects the political, economic, social, religious, etc. state of the member planet.

Starfleet and the Federation must withdraw all support if they cannot obey the above restrictions.

Starfleet and the Federation may supply advisors to the planet without restriction.

Just because the Federation has permission to help a planet, that doesn't mean it can use that help to force political, economic, social, or religious change. If change is necessary for the resolution of the emergency, then it's the duty of the planetary government to make the change, or be destroyed.



This mandate allows member planets to ask Starfleet's help to police the space controlled by the member planet and to help distressed spacecraft within the member planet's space.

Military Limits

All large and powerful organizations need limits. Without limits, you have either a dictatorship or anarchy. Balance in all things is the law, hence these directives:

Prime Directive: It's forbidden for all spaceships and members of Starfleet to interfere with the internal affairs of any culture or society. This directive is more important than the protection of spaceships or members of Starfleet. Losses are tolerated as long as they are necessary to observe this directive.¹⁰³

Starfleet must obey the rules and customs of a culture or society while operating in the territory of the culture or society.

The directive does not prevent Starfleet from protecting spacecraft located *outside* the territory of the attacking culture or society, even if the attacks originated from within the territory of the attacking culture or society. The reasoning is that such an attack is by definition not an internal affair but an external affair.

Federation ships have the right to defend themselves if attacked outside the territory controlled by the culture or society.

What happens if the culture or society attacks a Starfleet ships within its territory? In this case, the Starfleet ship must retreat and may not retaliate. They may retaliate once outside the foreign territory, but only if they're still facing attack.

¹⁰³ I changed the wording from 'normal development' to 'internal affairs' because the term 'normal development' is too vague a term to be applied in a legal setting. Who gets to decide what is 'normal development'?



In addition, the directive forbids Starfleet ships from protecting spacecraft located within the territory of the attacking culture or society.

What happens if the foreign culture or society invited the Starfleet ships into its territory? In this case, Starfleet ships have the right to self-defense but must leave the territory immediately.

Directive D02: Starfleet may not be used for political purposes for any reason what so ever, no matter how great the perceived benefit.

Directive D03: All Starfleet personal must obey their superior officers, unless the order is illegal. In this case, personnel shall refuse to follow the order and must report the incident to the appropriate authorities. Obeying an illegal order is a court-marshal-able offence.

Directive D04: All personnel must understand and agree to all Starfleet laws and directives before becoming active members of Starfleet.

In addition, various watchdog organizations monitor Starfleet in order to keep it accountable for all its actions.



KLINGONS, AND ROMULANS, AND VULCANS! OH, MY!

Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

-- Judy Garland¹⁰⁴ --

The invention of the Warp Drive allowed people to leave the solar system, visit other stars and galaxies, and meet intelligent life from other worlds.

The United Federation of Planets evolved to become the Human Alliance. Its domain was fixed to the Solar System and a few star systems colonized by humans.

At the same time, a new United Federation of Planets came into existence. This final version is closest to the Star Trek vision of the United Federation of Planets.

This new United Federation of Planets has the same structure as described above for the now renamed Human Alliance.

Each intelligent species has its own area of influence, which is its own sovereign domain. Each species government chooses a representative for the council of the United Federation of Planets. All obey the three laws of government in the best way they know how, however no one is forced to do so.

Greater organization will follow, as galaxies unite, but that is something for the future.

¹⁰⁴ Judy Garland (Dorothy), Wizard of Oz Movie Quotes (1939)

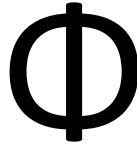


PART 4

“You stop a tyranny with freedom for all;
You end violence by being peaceful;
You eliminate hatred with love;
You end dogma with freedom of expression;
And you remove divisions by realising
that all of us are One –

all aspects of the same infinite consciousness we call God.”

-- David Icke, *I Am Me I Am Free - The Robot's Guide to Freedom*, P. 15 --





CONCLUSION

Destiny is no matter of chance.

It is a matter of choice.

It is not a thing to be waited for,
it is a thing to be achieved.

-- William Jennings Bryan --

If you want to know who is going
to change this country, go home
and look in the mirror.

-- Maude Barlow --

“Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually. Peace, for example, starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us.

“When our community is in a state of peace, it can share that peace with neighboring communities, and so on. When we feel love and kindness towards others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace. And there are ways in which we can consciously work to develop feelings of love and kindness. For some of us, the most effective way to do so is through religious practice. For others it may be non-religious practices. What is important is that we each make a sincere effort to take our responsibility for each other and for the natural environment we live in seriously.¹⁰⁵

Injustice fills the world. There are people of ability out there, capable of making important contributions to society, but they never will. No one gave them an opportunity.

Others who are given infinite opportunity, but they squander it.

There are people dying of starvation while others die of obesity.

There are people... You get the point.

¹⁰⁵ HH the Dalai Lama, The Nobel Lecture, December 11, 1989



Can we create a society where everyone has equal opportunity and where justice is universal? I believe it can, but only if we keep these points in mind.

We create governments to perform three important functions:

1. Keep its citizens safe.
2. Supply its citizens with needful services.
3. Help ensure the greatest freedoms for everyone.

To help fulfill the above points, Aipotu, the United Countries of Earth, and the United Federation of Planets have adopted the three laws of government. These laws are:

- 1) Law Of Freedom
- 2) Law Of Balance
- 3) Law Of Reason

Are these principles viable? Only time can tell.

Of the three laws of government, the Law of Reason was the hardest to formulate. It's the hardest to apply since it requires people to think for themselves, an activity few are willing or capable of doing. Only by exercising our reason can we cultivate these qualities.

Here is the rundown of all the features covered in the book.

Ruling Of A Nation

Why do so many people hold democracy in such high regard? It's because it makes government accountable to the people. We can replace incompetent or evil governments come election time.

The Department Of Departments and the Customer Protection Agency exists to help regulate the government and make it more accountable to the people. They join together with the media and private citizens to make the government and businesses in Aipotu accountable. Now that's true democracy, with justice for all.

It also helps that the people running for office must meet minimum standards for the job.



Conclusion

Law And Order

We can express Aipotunian law in three words: *Do no harm*. This Golden Rule makes moral and ethical rules so simple that a child can understand it. It's also a rule so profound that only a sage could devise it.

Can you imagine a world where no one had a desire to hurt anyone? You can't? Neither can I. However, by applying this rule to a person's actions, you can judge whether an action is criminal.

Justice in Aipotu is not based on punishment. It is based on correcting wrongs and finding ways to make sure that the wrongs are not committed again. But sometimes the most efficient way of dealing with criminals is to give them a timeout. Even with kids, a naughty corner (jail) is important.

Rehabilitation and training in various life skills is required for all prison inmates. The individual gets training specific to their needs.

Taxation And Representation

In Aipotu, taxation and representation are closely linked. Only people who pay tax have the right to vote. As they say, no taxation without representation. No representation without taxation. In addition, each form of tax has a specific purpose and use. This forces accountability on how the tax money is spent.

Aipotu has no estate tax, since it is immoral to tax the dead.

Business As Usual

Businesses are accountable for their actions. The businesses that prosper are those most in tune with their environment and their customers.

Employment

The National Placement Service (NPS) is Aipotu's solution for employers looking for good workers and for people looking for fulfilling work. The NPS takes the guesswork out of employment. This makes the workplace very responsive to the changing needs of business.

A possible downside is that people constantly move from company to company and company to school and back again. Immigrants tend to have the greatest problem since they don't have the years of training given to children.



Another mandate of the NPS is to encourage as many people as possible to become entrepreneurs. Extensive help is available to those starting businesses.

Education

“To sense and comprehend after action is not worthy of being called comprehension. To accomplish after striving is not worthy of being called accomplishment. To know after seeing is not worthy of being called knowing. These three are far from the way of sensing and response.

“Indeed, to be able to do something before it exists, sense something before it becomes active, see something before it sprouts, are three abilities that develop interdependently. Then nothing is sensed but is comprehended, nothing is undertaken without response, nowhere does one go without benefit.”¹⁰⁶

The above best describes an expert. An expert is born after years of effortful study and training. The first paragraph above describes the inexperienced person; the second describes the expert.

The true purpose of education should be to teach people to think for themselves and make them adaptable to whatever life throws their way. People with these skills make for the very best employees and the most valuable citizens.

Education is more important than anyone understands. The correct education, delivered to enough people can do more to bring peace and prosperity to the world, fight terrorism and crime, than any government action can possibly do.

As someone once said, “Education is learning things you didn't know you didn't know.”

Research And Development

Research in Aipotu focuses on whether theory fits observation. A project is never rejected because *theory* claims a thing impossible. Every project is judged by its own merits.

¹⁰⁶ Thomas Cleary (translator), *The Art Of War, An Illustrated Edition*, ISBN: 1590301854, P. 13



Conclusion

According to Arthur C. Clarke, “When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.” History has shown repeatedly that this is true. Why should *now* be any different?

Health And Welfare

A healthy mind and body is considered natural: sickness a failure by the system. Public funds dedicated to medical research are used primarily to find ways to maintain health. It is better to remain healthy than to get sick and then try to get healthy again.

Community

People are all we have in this world. Only by developing communities, can we bring crime down and let people live fulfilling lives.



Freedom And Oppression

We all live in a global society where everyone is connected. Technology is shrinking the world faster than anyone realizes. As a result, more undesirable people know our secrets than we realize. Having a legal right to our own data goes a long way to ensuring personal freedom and security.

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.cosatu.org.za/docs/2000/strugglen.htm>



On the other hand, the right to know what Big Brother does is essential to a free and open society. According to Professor Geoffrey de Q Walker:

“One of the fundamental contrasts between free democratic societies and totalitarian systems is that the totalitarian government [or other totalitarian organization] relies on secrecy for the regime but high surveillance and disclosure for all other groups, whereas in the civic culture of liberal democracy, the position is approximately the reverse.”

Steve Mann concludes by saying:

“Totalitarian regimes are often the cause of terrorism, or at the very least, often have a higher incidence of terrorism than less oppressive regimes. Thus increasing ‘security’ may actually increase terrorism, rather than reduce it.”¹⁰⁸

United Countries Of Earth

There are some things we can only address on a global scale. These include security, global control of companies and finance.

The Military of the United Countries of Earth ensures that countries are protected from attack in a way that is non-threatening to other countries.

A major objection to capitalism is that it turns people into slaves. Placing the power of self-governance within the hands of the workers solves the problem. However, this can only happen on a global scale since companies are global.

According to John Tomlinson, lending institutions are the cause of recessions and inflations. By lending other people’s money, both banks and governments create the illusion that more money is in the system than there is. Only by controlling lending practices on a global scale can we bring the global economy under control.

¹⁰⁸ <http://wearcam.org/sousveillance.htm>

¹⁰⁹ Image courtesy <http://www.prankplace.com/costumes1.asp?id=wedgie>



Conclusion

United Federation Of Planets

The United Federation of Planets was formed to ensure peace among the stars. Eventually we will need this when we spread out among the stars. We should start thinking about this now.

Help Needed

Comment Is Invited

-- Captain Picard, Star Trek --

Don't shoot us down, make suggestions.

-- Colin Jones¹¹⁰ --

Many people will strongly disagree with my comments. As I have probably left out subjects that should've been included. Also, I may not have explained things in adequate detail.

If you find this the case, please let me know so I can revise this book.

It is important to question things and not take anything on blind faith.

Thank-you for your comments and advice,

Your friend,

Trevannon

P.s. You can find an online copy of this book at
<http://trevyco.com/Comments/UtopiaNow.pdf>

¹¹⁰ Colin Jones, <http://www.youtube.com/user/utopianowcanada>



BOOKS WORTH BURNING

Where they have burned books,
they will end in burning human beings.

-- Heinrich Heine --

It's not possible to know what's not possible.

-- Frances Moore Lappe --

Here are some books certain people would like to see burned:

Science

- 1) Eric J Lerner, *The Big Bang Never Happened*
- 2) Immanuel Velikovsky, *Earth in Upheaval*
- 3) Michael A. Cremo, Richard L. Thompson, *Forbidden Archeology: The Hidden History of the Human Race*
- 4) Michael Talbot, *The Holographic Universe*
- 5) Richard Milton, *Shattering the Myths of Darwinism*
- 6) Richard Milton, *Forbidden Science*
- 7) Rudy Rucker, *Infinity and the Mind: The Science and Philosophy of the Infinite*
- 8) Steve Mann, *Cyborg*

Psychology

- 1) Michael Newton, *Journey of Souls*
- 2) Michael Newton, *Destiny of Souls*
- 3) Stanislav Grof, *The Adventure of Self-Consciousness*

NLP, Ericksonian Hypnosys, Seduction

These books and web sites are rather controversial. However, I think people should know about these things. Here are just a few books available on the subject. Is this stuff dangerous, or is it just a bunch of nonsense? You decide.

- 1) John Grinder, Judith DeLozier, Richard Bandler, *Patterns of the Hypnotic Techniques of Milton H. Erickson, M.D.*
- 2) Richard Bandler and John Grinder. *The Structure of Magic: A Book About Language and Therapy*
- 3) Igor Ledochowski, *The-Power-of-Conversational-Hypnosis*
- 4) John Wingert, <http://www.exhostage.com/>

- 5) Tyler Durden, <http://www.RealSocialDynamics.com/>
- 6) Robert Greene, *The Art of Seduction*

Education/Self-Improvement:

- 1) Richard Nelson Bolles, *What Color Is Your Parachute*
- 2) Kelley, Robert E., *How To Be A STAR At Work*

Business/Environment

- 1) William McDonough, Michael Braungart, *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*
- 2) Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*
- 3) Wallace D. Wattles, *The Science of Getting Rich*
Available at: www.scienceofgettingrich.net

Health

- 1) Bob Cooley, *The Genius of Flexibility*

Politics

- 1) Colin Jones, <http://www.youtube.com/user/UtopiaNowCanada>

Spirituality

- 1) Anime
 - a. *Noein, to your other self*
- 2) Movies
 - a. *Flight of the Unicorn*
 - b. *Labyrinth*, David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly, Toby Froud, Shelley Thompson
 - c. *The Polar Express*, Director: Alan Silvestri
 - d. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, Jason Robards, Jonathan Pryce, Diane Ladd, Royal Dano
 - e. *Spirited Away*, Director Hayao Miyazaki
 - f. *The Never-ending Story*, Noah Hathaway, Barret Oliver, Tami Stronach, Gerald McRaney
 - g. *What Dreams May Come*, Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding Jr., Annabella Sciorra, Max von Sydow
- 3) Books
 - a. C. S. Lewis and Michael Hague, *The Pilgrim's Regress: An Allegorical Apology for Christianity Reason and Romanticism*
 - b. John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*
 - c. Robert A. Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*





Only by fighting for justice can justice prevail in the world.
You cannot force a person to be free,
But you can teach them to be free.
You can make a difference.
The power is in you.



APPENDIX

One snowflake says to another,
"What do you think will happen after we melt?"

The other snowflake replies, "When we melt, that's the end."

With conviction a third snowflake puts in,
"When I melt, I'll reincarnate as another snowflake".

All three look at their master and one snowflake asks,
"What do you think will happen when we melt?"

The master looks at the other snowflakes and replies,
"I'm water posing as a snowflake",
and promptly melts.

-- Unknown Ice Master --

Binary Voting

Voting may not be easy, is often confusing,
and full of regret,
but it's never boring.
-- Dr. Slip Cam --

One voting scheme that the Aipotunian people seriously considered is binary voting. In this process, we pair up the candidates in all possible combinations. The voters then choose between the two in each pairing.

As an example, we have 4 candidates for President: Jane Austen, John Smith, Judy Garland, and Johnny Cash.

The voters cast ballots like so:

Candidate 1	Vote	Candidate 2	Vote	Winner
Jane Austen	5747	John Smith	4667	1
Jane Austen	6643	Judy Garland	7343	2
Jane Austen	5466	Johnny Cash	5433	1
Will Smith	6432	Judy Garland	2546	1
Will Smith	6433	Johnny Cash	4354	2
Judy Garland	4353	Johnny Cash	3345	1

Jane Austen beats Will Smith and Johnny Cash:



Winner	Looser
Jane Austen	Will Smith
Jane Austen	Johnny Cash

This indicates that the voters would rather have Jane Austen to either Will Smith or Johnny Cash.

However Judy Garland beats Jane Austen, and so goes on top.

Winner	Looser
Judy Garland	Jane Austen
Jane Austen	Will Smith
Jane Austen	Johnny Cash

John Smith beats Judy Garland, giving the breakdown like so:

Winner	Looser
Will Smith	Judy Garland
Judy Garland	Jane Austen
Jane Austen	Will Smith
Jane Austen	Johnny Cash

Johnny cash beats Will Smith:

Winner	Looser
Johnny Cash	Will Smith
Will Smith	Judy Garland
Judy Garland	Jane Austen
Jane Austen	Will Smith
Jane Austen	Johnny Cash

Finally Judy Garland beats Johnny Cash:

Winner	Looser
Judy Garland	Johnny Cash
Johnny Cash	Will Smith
Will Smith	Judy Garland
Judy Garland	Jane Austen
Jane Austen	Will Smith
Jane Austen	Johnny Cash

This gives Judy Garland as the final winner.

If there were a tie, the citizens would vote again to break the tie.



Binary voting is not the easiest method for choosing the best candidate, which is probably why no one has ever used it before.



Poem by Martin Niemöller

Als die Nazis die Kommunisten holten,
habe ich geschwiegen;
ich war ja kein Kommunist.

As the Nazis took the Communists,
I stayed silent;
I was no Communist.

Als sie die Sozialdemokraten einsperrten,
habe ich geschwiegen;
ich war ja kein Sozialdemokrat.

As they locked up the Social
Democrats,
I stayed silent;
I was no Social Democrat.

Als sie die Gewerkschafter holten,
habe ich nicht protestiert;
ich war ja kein Gewerkschafter.

As they took the trade unionists,
I made no protest;
I was no trade unionist.

Als sie die Juden holten,
habe ich nicht protestiert;
ich war ja kein Jude.

As they took the Jews,
I made no protest;
I was no Jew.

Als sie mich holten,
gab es keinen mehr, der protestierte.

As they took me,
There was no one left to protest.

To win without fighting is best.

-- Sun Tsu --

