

Introduction

The Six Drivers of Global Change

My Cultural Frame
The Future Agenda
The Congressional Clearinghouse on the Future
Pathological Disregard of Future Consequences of Present Actions

How This Book Came to Be

My Point of View

Every Culture Has Its Own Way of Thinking About the Future

Progress

Plato
St. Augustine
Francis Bacon

Technology and Humanity

Hope v. Despair

Optimism v. Pessimism

The Scientific Revolution

Charles Lyell, 1830, Principles of Geology
Decline of War
Decline of Poverty
Internet-Based Democracy

Social Discounting

The History of the Future

Divination
Mesopotamia
Ancient Greece
The Renaissance and the Enlightenment
Bell
Toffler
Naisbitt
Fractals
DNA
Holography

Absence of U.S. Leadership

Degradation of Democracy
No Available Substitute
Systemic Effects
Dysfunctional Global Governance
Capitalism Encroaching on Democracy
Dysfunctional Media

Linear v. Exponential Change

Single Cause v. Multifactorial Change
Accelerated Rate of Change
Simultaneity of Multiple Revolutions
Emergence
Christian Linearity
Complexity
Compression of Cycles
Convergence
Prigogine
Through Chaos to New Order

Neuroscience of Change Perception

Selective Attention
Scale Dissonance
Human Life Cycle as Metaphor
St. Augustine: Progress Toward a Better World, Between Life and Death
The Future Is in Heaven or Hell

Short-Termism

Geologic Time
Evolutionary Timescale

Yet We Are Now a Geologic and Evolutionary Force