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Submission of Inputs to The Summit of the Future

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

A Proposal for a New Global Motivational Index (GMI) to Power a Shift in Global Governance and Societal Outcomes

OVERVIEW

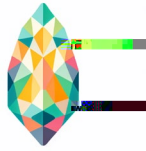
This proposal explores the potential of intrinsic motivation, a largely untapped resource in behavioural science, as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in how societies and governments operate. By leveraging a deeper understanding of what drives human behaviour, it proposes a new path forward that aligns individual and collective aspirations towards more sustainable, inclusive, and thriving societies, primarily realised through a proposed new measurement standard called the Global Motivational Index (GMI).

THESIS

Background and Introduction

The global governance landscape is at a crossroads, confronting tensions between established free-market capitalism and mounting challenges including authoritarianism, eroding trust in institutions, and growing environmental, social, and economic crises.

Traditional incentives, driven by extrinsic motivation, have fueled widespread short-termism, undercutting collective progress and sustainability. Yet, emerging behavioural science and new interpretations of Darwinian theory¹ indicate that humans are also inherently cooperative and driven by intrinsic motivation for mutual benefit². Despite this growing consensus on a more nuanced human nature, the prevailing global order still



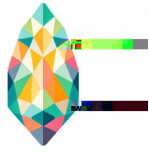
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environments that nurture an individual's inherent desire to learn, create, and grow. Recognising intrinsic motivation's role has shifted perspectives on human potential, emphasising the importance of autonomy and personal growth, and acknowledging the interplay between universal needs and cultural contexts. It highlights humans as proactive agents, driven by internal desires for personal fulfilment and growth.⁵

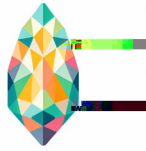
A Societal Crisis: Driven by Extrinsic Rewards and Fundamental Survival Motivators

Our economic, political, and social paradigm are reaching a critical point due to harmful incentives based on the assumption that selfishness and extrinsic rewards are the primary, albeit not motivators⁶, reflecting a Libertarian view of human nature⁷. This reliance on extrinsic motivation results in various adverse effects, including increased stress, mental health decline, widening inequalities, environmental harm, stifled creativity, and weakened community bonds, all eroding intrinsic qualities vital for personal fulfilment and societal health⁸.

While money, power, and status are recognised as classic extrinsic motivators, the less acknowledged factor of survival, with its competitive, zero-sum influence, significantly shapes the global order⁹. This approach, ironically amidst existential threats, is leading humanity towards self-destruction. Evidence increasingly suggests that our success as a species is attributed to prosocial behaviour rather than a "survival of the fittest" mentality. While



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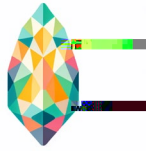


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The program would promote social cohesion by mixing participants from diverse backgrounds, flattening class distinctions. Successful completion would leave participants with enhanced skills, a strong work ethic, and a heightened sense of community and environmental responsibility. This program, if thoughtfully implemented, could be a powerful tool for societal development, resilience building, and class equality.

Enhance the UN's Call for a Renewed Social Contract

The call for a renewed social contract, as advocated by the UN's "Our Common Agenda," is critical in an era of rapid technological change and potential job displacement by AI. This new contract must shift the perception of work from a survivalist necessity to a means of meaningful societal contribution, emphasizing intrinsic motivation. It should seek to redefine work as engaging in activities that are inherently interesting or rewarding, moving away from the sole pursuit of economic survival. This reorientation is crucial in mitigating AI's impact on jobs, particularly by promoting roles in creative, collaborative, and care sectors less prone to automation. Implementing supportive policies like Universal Basic Income and educational reforms will provide the security and opportunities necessary for this transition. Ultimately, a fundamental societal shift is required to value work that fosters personal satisfaction, community we(mun)-12.un (y)-8.1 (w)q.4 (mun) i0 Tc 0 Tw ()Tj -0.00 (ec)-8.1



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ENDNOTES

Axelrod, Robert. "The Evolution of Cooperation." New York: Basic Books, 1984. Axelrod's influential work explains how cooperation can arise and be stable among self-interested entities through the analysis of the iterated prisoner's dilemma game.

Brown, Brené. "Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts." Random House, 2018. Brown discusses how extrinsic carrots-and-sticks leadership diminishes engagement compared to purpose-driven work.

Chomsky, Noam. "Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth & Power." New York: Seven Stories Press, 2017. Based on the documentary of the same name, Chomsky discusses how wealth and power have concentrated in the hands of a few, undermining democracy and economic equality.

Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly. "Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience." New York: Harper & Row, 1990. This book introduces the concept of flow, a state of concentration and engagement in activities that leads to high levels of satisfaction and achievement.

de Waal, Frans. "The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society." New York: Crown, 2009. De Waal explores the naturally occurring empathy in primates, including humans, arguing for its significant role in social bonding and conflict resolution.

Duckworth, Angela. "Grit: the power of passion and perseverance" (TED2016): Discusses "grit" as a significant predictor of success and defines it as passion and sustained persistence applied toward long-term achievement.

Duckworth, Angela. "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance." New York: Scribner, 2016. Duckworth explores the concept of grit and its role in success, arguing for the importance of passion and persistence in achieving long-term goals.

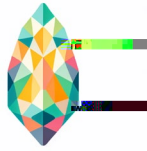
Dweck, Carol. "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success." New York: Random House, 2006. Dweck explores the concept of mindset and how believing in the ability to grow and improve can fundamentally influence all areas of life.

Dweck, Carol. "The power of believing that you can improve" (TEDxNorrköping): Introduces the concept of a "growth mindset," emphasising the ability to grow one's brain's capacity to learn and solve problems through perseverance and effort.

Eisenstein, Charles. "Climate: A New Story." North Atlantic Books, 2018. Eisenstein links environmental harm partly to extrinsic profit motives, arguing for intrinsic motivators like interconnection with nature.

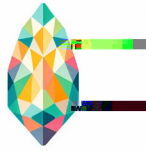
Eisenstein, Charles. "Sacred Economics: Money, Gift, and Society in the Age of Transition." Evolver Editions, 2011. Eisenstein envisions economics based on gratitude, generosity and community, not scarcity and self-interest.

Eisler, Riane, and Fry, Douglas P. "Nurturing Our Humanity: How Domination and Partnership Shape Our Brains, L-5.9 (har)0.7 (m)-6.9 ()0.5 (p



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Kohn, Alfie. "Punished by Rewards: The Trouble with Gold Stars, Incentive Plans, A's, Praise, and Other Bribes." Boston:



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Schwartz, Barry. "The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less." Ecco, 2004. Schwartz provides research showing extrinsic incentives around maximizing personal choice do not increase happiness and often diminish it.

Seligman, Martin E.P. "Flourish: A Visionary New Understanding of Happiness and Well-being." New York: Free Press, 2011.

Seligman expands on Positive Psychology, providing insights into well-being, happiness, and the foundations of a good life.

Seligman, Martin: "The new era of positive psychology" (TED2004): Seligman discusses Positive Psychology as a field of study and its implications for understanding what makes life most worth living.

Shiva, Vandana. "Oneness vs. the 1%: Shattering Illusions, Seeding Freedom." Chelsea Green Publishing, 2020. Shiva critiques wealth consolidation by a corporate elite, arguing their domination is based on false ideologies. She advocates equitable, sustainable economies grounded in community and interconnectedness.

Shiva, Vandana. "Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply." Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2000. Shiva contends that industrial agriculture and commodification of food undermine small farmers, diversity, and nature.

Stiglitz, Joseph E. "The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future." New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2012. This book discusses how current levels of inequality are unsustainable and counterproductive to economic growth and democracy.

Thiel, Peter. "Zero to One: Notes on Startups, or How to Build the Future." New York: Crown Business, 2014. Thiel is critical of stagnant innovation under the current system and proposes new models.

Turkle, Sherry: "Connected, but alone?" (TED2012): Examines the modern relationship with technology, particularly mobile and social media, and its effect on our social lives, suggesting a need for more meaningful face-to-face interaction.

Turkle, Sherry. "Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other." New York: Basic Books, 2011. Turkle examines the relationship between people and technology, advocating for technology use that enhances human connections and well-being.

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