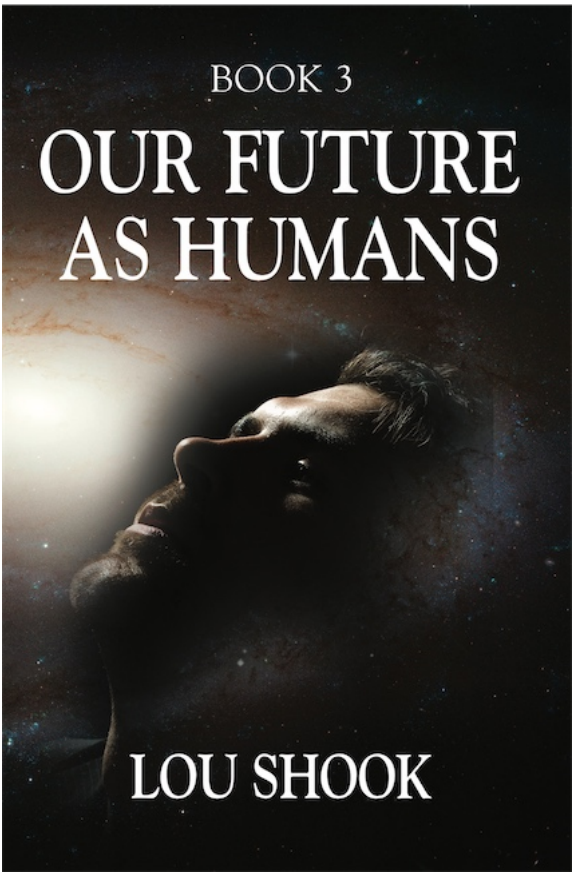

Having originated as a small group of humans over 315,000 years ago, we humans world-wide today are all related to each other. In our seeking plans for the future, it is important to remember the relationship that we share with each other.

OUR FUTURE AS HUMANS

by Lou Shook

BOOK 3

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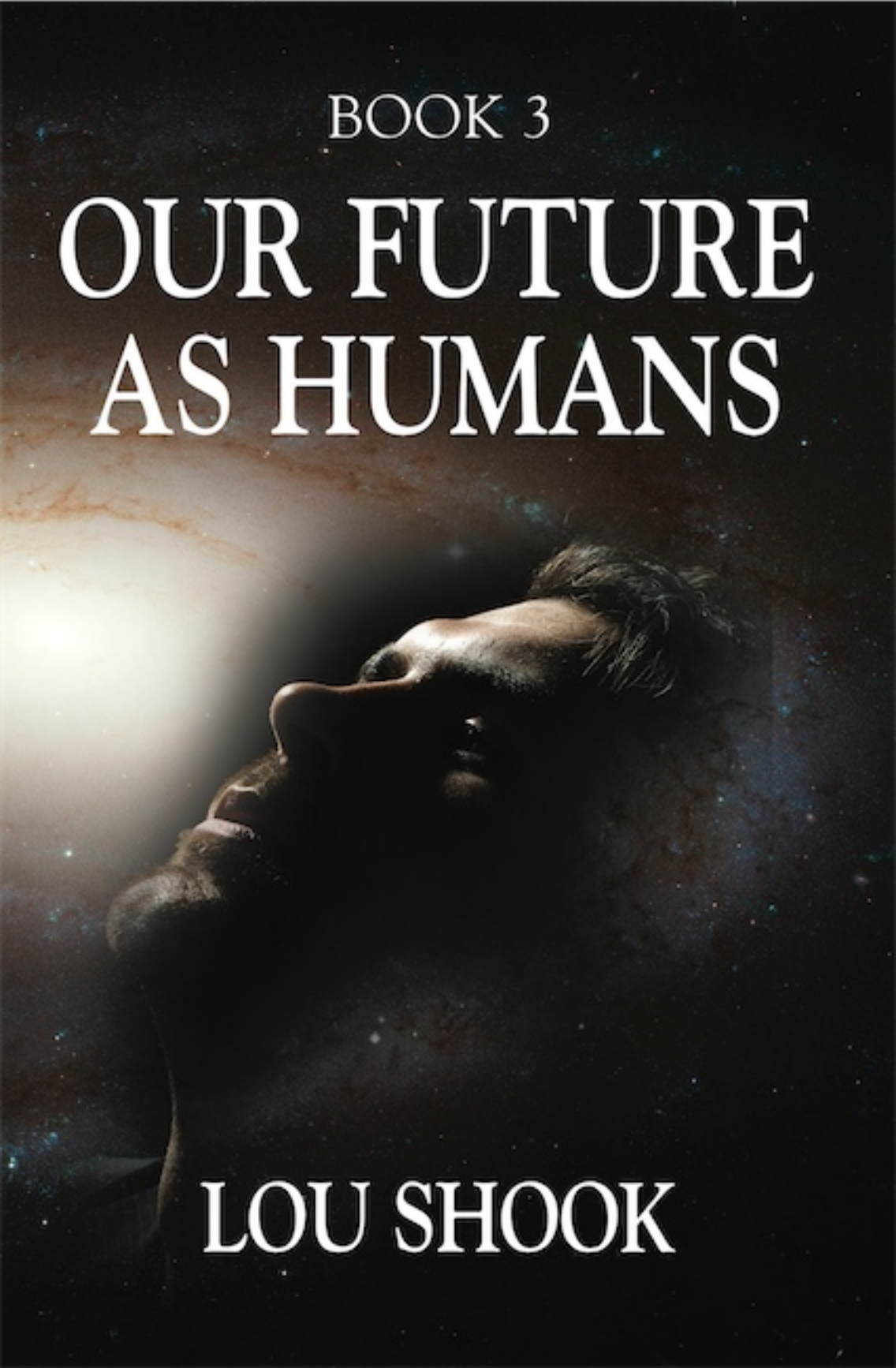

LOU SHOOK

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This is a work of historical fiction, based on actual persons and events. The author has taken creative liberty with many details to enhance the reader's experience.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE LOOMING ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

In this consideration of the Future that lies ahead of us, we Humans first need to review 'Where We are Today'. We Humans have come a long way since our origination some 315,000 years ago in South Africa. Our progress during this time has been quite slow. By 70,000 BC, our Human Population World-wide had only grown to about 15,000. By 10,000 BC, our population was about four million - and by 3,000 BC (when the Egyptian Pyramid at Giza was built), our population was about seventeen million. Today our World-wide population is over seven billion. Furthermore, we Humans are the first entity/civilization to achieve control of Earth. No previous group progressed beyond tribal status.

Having originated as a small group of Humans over 315,000 years ago, we Humans World-wide today are all related to each other, regardless of our skin color, our language, our level of ability, or where we live. In our seeking Plans for the future, it is important to remember the relationship that we share with each other, around the World.

As we proceed, the Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard by Thomas Gray in 1750, is chosen to serve as Introduction for this book, "OUR FUTURE AS Humans".

> "The Curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
> The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,
> The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
> And leaves the world to darkness and to me."

A fitting Introduction for this Book, "Book Three, OUR FUTURE AS HUMANS". "Book Three" follows on the heels of the two previous Books, "Book One, WHO AND WHY ARE WE", and "Book Two, OUR HUMAN DESTINY". The intent herein is a multiple task - to explore all aspects affecting the future of us Humans.

This breaks down into two different phases. The First Phase is to explore, “WHERE ARE WE TODAY”. The Second Phase is to explore, “APPROACH TO THE FUTURE, and what action we Humans can take in directing the Future”.

In order to establish a starting point to use in following the development of our Human ancestors, we look to the first written words of our recorded history. It is generally agreed that true writing of language (not only numbers) occurred in at least two ancient civilizations and possibly more. The two places where it is most certain that the concept of writing was both conceived and developed independently are in ancient Sumer (in Mesopotamia), around 3100 BC, and in Mesoamerica by 300 BC - because no precursors have been found to either of these in their respective regions.

EASTERN HEMISPHERE DEVELOPMENT
(Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa)

Certainly by this time 3100 BC, our Human ancestors were well developed in the skills of survival and of advancement. One of the earliest major achievements of our Human Ancestors is the Great Pyramid of Giza. The Great Pyramid of Giza (also known as the Pyramid of Khufu or the Pyramid of Cheops) is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza pyramid complex bordering what is now El Giza, Egypt. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact. The immensity of this project gives us a needed understanding of the level of accomplishment achieved by our ancestors.

The Great Pyramid of Giza is considered an architectural masterpiece. The pyramid was built as a tomb over a 10 to 20-year period, completed around 2560 BC. This was only possible because Human Society had advanced to working harmoniously together in large groups, under competent Leadership. Even so, it is difficult to conceive how this work was accomplished.

The Great Pyramid of Giza contains over 2.1 million blocks ranging in weight from 2.5 tons (5,000 lb.) to 15 tons (30,000 lb.) and is built on a square base with sides measuring about 230 m (755 ft), covering 13

acres. The original height of the pyramid was 146.5 meters (480.6 ft), the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years - covered by limestone casing stones that formed a smooth outer surface. Today it is only 138.8 meters (455.4 ft) high as 9 meters (33 ft) has gone missing due to theft of the fine quality white Tura limestone covering, or casing stones – which were then used for construction in Cairo. What is seen today is the underlying core structure. It remains the tallest pyramid.

Building the pyramid in 20 years would involve installing approximately 800 tons of stone every day. Additionally, since it consists of an estimated 2.1 million blocks, completing the building in 20 years would involve moving an average of more than 12 of the blocks into place each hour, day and night. Many of the casing-stones and inner chamber blocks of the Great Pyramid fit together with extremely high precision. Based on measurements taken on the north-eastern casing stones, the mean opening of the joints is only 0.5-millimetre-wide (1/50 of an inch).

The 2.1 million blocks of the Great Pyramid were transported from nearby quarries. The Tura limestone used for the casing was quarried across the river. The largest granite stones in the pyramid, found in the "King's" chamber, weigh 25 to 80 tons and were transported from Aswan, more than 800 km (500 mi) away. It is estimated that 5.5 million tons of limestone, 8,000 tons of granite (imported from Aswan), and 500,000 tons of mortar were used in the construction of the Great Pyramid. A modern construction management study estimated that the total project required an average workforce of about 14,500 people and a peak workforce of roughly 40,000 – working without the use of pulleys, wheels, or iron tools.

Two features stand out concerning the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza. One feature is to understand the methods and manpower used in the construction of this pyramid, much of the solution remaining today unresolved. The second feature is the seeming ability of this tremendous workforce to function together smoothly with no conflict. (We will find, as the centuries pass, that conflict grows in our efforts to function together.)

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A second major achievement was the Great Wall of China, begun in the 7th century BC to protect the north of the empire of China from enemy attacks by the Xiongnu tribes in the north of China. Nineteen walls have been built to extend the Great Wall of China. The most famous wall was built between 226–200 BC by the first Emperor of Imperial China, Qin Shai Hong, during the Qin Dynasty. Not much of this wall remains as people have been stealing from it. It was much farther north than the current wall. The current wall was built during the Ming Dynasty (AD 1368 to 1644).

The Great Wall of China is the longest structure humans have ever built. It is about 21,196 kilometers (13,171 miles) long, 9.1 meters (30 feet) wide and 15 meters (50 feet) high. There are 7,000 watch towers, block houses for soldiers and beacons to send smoke signals.

Other dynasties in China had also worked on the wall and made it longer. The Han, Sui, Northern and Jin Dynasties all repaired, rebuilt or expanded the Great Wall. During the Ming Dynasty, major rebuilding work took place. Thousands of workers died from giant falling stones, exhaustion, disease, animal attacks, and starvation.

#

Another major achievement was the smooth transition of the Government of Rome, from ‘Republic’ to ‘Empire’. In 27 BC, Augustus Caesar was faced with the problems involved in transforming the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. The Roman Republican Government had successfully governed Rome since 509 BC, nearly 500 years. The change meant that the existing 900 Senators plus two Annual Consuls, would no longer govern and would be effectively replaced by Augustus Caesar as Dictator. Augustus tremendous Leadership ability was demonstrated in the smooth transition of this major change to Roman Empire. One of the most effective and controversial leaders in human history, many consider Augustus to be Rome's greatest emperor.

This change in Government was another instance of a major World accomplishment with seeming little conflict, this time under Augustus Leadership.

#

WESTERN HEMISPHERE DEVELOPMENT
(North and South America)

The peopling of the Western Hemisphere by Humans emanating out of Africa, lagged some 3,000 or more years behind the peopling of the Eastern Hemisphere. Thus the earliest development of note in the Western Hemisphere was Sacsayhuamán, a citadel on the northern outskirts of the city of Cusco, Peru, the historic capital of the Inca Empire. Sections were first built by the Killke culture about AD 1100; they had occupied the area since AD 900. The complex was expanded and added to by the Inca from the 13th century; they built dry stone walls constructed of huge stones. The workers carefully cut the boulders to fit them together tightly without mortar. The site is at an altitude of 3,701 m (12,142 ft).

The best-known zone of Sacsayhuamán includes its great plaza and its adjacent three massive terrace walls. The stones used in the construction of these terraces are among the largest used in any building in pre-Hispanic America. They display a precision of fitting that is unmatched in the Americas. The stones are so closely spaced that a single piece of paper will not fit between many of the stones. This precision, combined with the rounded corners of the blocks, the variety of their interlocking shapes, and the way the walls lean inward, is thought to have helped the ruins survive devastating earthquakes in Cuzco. The longest of three walls is about 400 meters. They are about 6 meters tall. The estimated volume of stone is over 6,000 cubic meters. Estimates for the weight of the largest Andesite blocks vary from 128 tonnes to almost 200 tonnes.

Sacsayhuaman was described by Pizarro's Spanish Expedition as, "On top of a hill, they [the Inca] had a very strong fort surrounded with masonry walls of stones and having two very high round towers. And in the lower part of this wall there were stones so large and thick that it

seemed impossible that human hands could have set them in place...they were so close together, and so well fitted, that the point of a pin could not have been inserted in one of the joints. The whole fortress was built up in terraces and flat spaces."

The Sacsayhuaman fortress-temple complex lies at the northern edge of the former Inca capital Cuzco. Constructed during the reign of Pachacuti (1438-1471 CE) and his successors, its massive, well-built walls remain today as a testimony not only to Inca power but also the skills of Inca architects and their approach of blending their monumental structures harmoniously into the natural landscape.

The fortress was the largest structure built by the Incas. It was constructed on an elevated rocky promontory facing the northern marshy ground outside the Inca capital of Cuzco. Begun in the reign of the great Inca empire builder Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui, or perhaps his son Thupa Inca Yupanqui in the mid-15th century CE, the design was credited to four architects: Huallpa Rimachi, Maricanchi, Acahuana, and Calla Cunchui. The first structures were made using only mud and clay. Subsequent rulers then replaced these with magnificent stonework which employed huge finely-cut polygonal blocks, many over 4 meters in height and weighing over 100 tons. To complete such a massive project, 20,000 laborers were drafted in under the well-established Inca system of extracting both goods and labor from peoples they conquered. Working in a system of rotation, 6,000 were given quarrying duties while the other 4,000 dug trenches and laid the foundations. The walls of the fortress were built in vertical sections, probably, each section being the responsibility of one ethnic labor group.

The Incas were master stonemasons. Huge blocks were quarried and shaped using nothing more than harder stones and bronze tools. Marks on the stone blocks indicate that they were mostly pounded into shape rather than cut. Blocks were moved using ropes, logs, poles, levers, and earthen ramps (telltale marks can still be seen on some blocks), and some stones still have nodes protruding from them or indentations which were used to help workers grip the stone. That rocks were roughly hewn in the quarries and then worked on again at their final destination is clearly indicated by unfinished examples left at quarries and on various routes to building sites. The fine cutting and

setting of the blocks on site was so precise that mortar was not necessary. Finally, a finished surface was provided using grinding stones and sand.

It would have taken many months to produce a single wall. The Incas also ensured that their blocks interlocked, and the walls were sloped to maximize their resistance to earthquake damage. Time has proved their efficiency as 500 years of earthquakes have done remarkably little damage to Inca structures left in their complete state and Sacsayhuaman is no exception.

The fortress has three distinct terraces which recede backwards on each other. The walls, each reaching a height of 18 meters, are laid out in a zigzag fashion stretching over 540 meters so that each wall has up to 40 segments, which allowed the defenders to catch attackers in a crossfire; a result helped also by the general curvature of the entire fortress facade.

In another defensive consideration, there is only one small doorway on each terrace which gave access to the interior buildings and towers on the hillside behind. Eyewitness Spanish accounts describe a large circular four or five-story tower centrally placed within the fortress and its foundations (along with those for two others), which can be seen today. To the rear of the complex, in an area known as the Suchuna (slide), there were more terraces, patios, outbuildings, and a system of water supply including cisterns and aqueducts. Finally, there is an area of stepped terracing cut into the side of the Rodadero Hill, which is thought to have been a religious shrine, perhaps dedicated to the earth goddess Pachamama, or a viewing platform from which the Inca ruler watched ceremonies, or a place for astronomical observations.

On completion, the fortress was said to have had a capacity for at least 1,000 warriors, but it was rarely needed as the Incas did not suffer invasions from enemy states. Probably, for this reason, Sacsayhuaman was designed as much more than a fortress. The complex included temples, notably one to the sun god Inti, and was used as a location for Inca ceremonies. Sacsayhuaman was also a major Inca storage depot where arms, armor, foodstuffs, valuable textiles, ceramics, metal tools, and precious metals were kept.

#

Following this brief review of our History as Homo sapiens (Humans) since our Beginning some 315,000 years ago, several important features are noted:

1. It took many thousands of years before we Humans reached a Level of major achievement.
2. Throughout our History, we Humans have been driven by the Goal of a Better Life – advances in medicine, engineering, science, government, Human welfare, and much, much more. Today, with the tremendous advances made thus far, we Humans may have exhausted much further opportunity? If so, where then do we direct this Energy of Achievement?
3. Inequality between the Progressives (left-wing) and the Heartlanders (right-wing). Between 1993 and 2010, the top 1 percent in the United States saw their incomes grow by 58 percent, compared with 6.4 percent for everyone else. In 2010, 388 people owned/controlled fully half of the world's wealth.
4. A front page story on September 16, 2018, was titled, "A decade after the financial crisis, many Americans are still struggling to recover."
5. The liberal world order established by the United States in the aftermath of World War II, a little over seven decades ago is collapsing. This long period of prosperity, widespread democracy, and peace among the great powers has been a dramatic departure from the historical norm. Liberal ideas triumphed because, for the first time, they had power behind them – the United States. That order - with its mutually reinforcing security, economic, and political components – created a geographical and geopolitical space in which liberalism took root, spread and evolved. But it was always artificial and tenuous, challenged from without and within by natural forces – the always potent antiliberal aspects of human nature and the competitive and anarchic tendencies of geopolitics. Today, the U.S. seems bent on relinquishing its duties in pushing back this jungle of natural forces – this ecological crisis.

6. Ecosocialism. Ecosocialists advocate for the revolutionary succession of capitalism by ecosocialism — an egalitarian economic/political/social structure designed to harmonize human society with non-human ecology and to fulfill human needs — as the only sufficient solution to the present-day ecological crisis, and hence the only path towards sustainability. Sustainability is viewed not as a domain exclusive to scientists, environmental activists, and business leaders - but as a holistic project that must involve the whole of humanity redefining its place in Nature: "What every environmentalist needs to know ... is that capitalism is not the solution but the problem, and that if humanity is going to survive this crisis, it will do so because it has exercised its capacity for human freedom, through social struggle, in order to create a whole new world of coevolution with the planet."
7. Climate Change. The fact that the earth's atmosphere cannot safely absorb the amount of carbon we are pumping into it is a symptom of a much larger crisis, one born of the central fiction on which our economic model is based: that nature is limitless, that we will always be able to find more of what we need, and that if something runs out it can be seamlessly replaced by another resource that we can endlessly extract. But it is not just the atmosphere that we have exploited beyond its capacity to recover — we are doing the same to the oceans, to freshwater, to topsoil and to biodiversity. The expansionist, extractive mindset, which has so long governed our relationship to nature, is what the climate crisis calls into question so fundamentally. The abundance of scientific research showing we have pushed nature beyond its limits does not just demand green products and market-based solutions; it demands a new civilizational paradigm, one grounded not in dominance over nature but in respect for natural cycles of renewal — and acutely sensitive to natural limits, including the limits of human intelligence.

New England waters are in the midst of record-breaking warmth. These Gulf of Maine waters off of New England are already warming faster than most of the world's oceans, and year 2018 was one of the hottest summers in their history. Unusual weather conditions were seen all over the planet this year – including wildfires and heatwaves. This

warming in the Gulf of Maine has jumped to more than seven times the global average in the past 15 years. Warming in the GOM has been pushing out native species like cod, kelp and lobster, and fostering populations of species typically found in the Carolinas.

At a time when a growing number of people agree with the protesters at Occupy Wall Street, many of whom argue that capitalism-as-usual is itself the cause of lost jobs and debt slavery, there is a unique opportunity to seize the economic terrain from the right. This would require making a persuasive case that the real solutions to the climate crisis are also our best hope of building a much more enlightened economic system; one that closes deep inequalities, strengthens and transforms the public sphere, generates plentiful, dignified work and radically reins in corporate power. It would also require a shift away from the notion that climate action is just one issue on a laundry list of worthy causes vying for progressive attention. Just as climate denialism has become a core identity issue on the right, utterly entwined with defending current systems of power and wealth, the scientific reality of climate change must, for progressives, occupy a central place in a coherent narrative about the perils of unrestrained greed and the need for real alternatives.

#

Arriving at these new systems is going to require shredding the free-market ideology that has dominated the global economy for more than three decades. What follows is a quick-and-dirty look at what a serious climate agenda would mean in the following six arenas: public infrastructure, economic planning, corporate regulation, international trade, consumption, and taxation. For hard-right ideologues like those gathered at the Heartland conference, the results are nothing short of intellectually cataclysmic.

1. Reviving and Reinventing the Public Sphere. Climate change is a collective problem, and it demands collective action. One of the key areas in which this collective action must take place is big-ticket investments designed to reduce our emissions on a mass scale. That means subways, streetcars, light-rail systems, etc. that are not only everywhere but affordable to everyone -

and a massive research effort to ensure that we are using the best methods possible. The gravity of the climate crisis cries out for a radically new conception of realism, as well as a very different understanding of limits. Changing our culture to respect those limits will require all of our collective muscle, to get ourselves off fossil fuels and to shore up communal infrastructure for the coming storms.

2. Remembering How to Plan. In addition to reversing the thirty-year privatization trend, a serious response to the climate threat involves recovering the art of planning - lots and lots of planning. Every community in the world needs a plan for how it is going to transition away from fossil fuels, an “energy descent action plan.” Climate change demands other forms of planning as well — particularly for workers whose jobs will become obsolete as we wean ourselves off fossil fuels. That means bringing back the idea of planning our economies based on collective priorities, giving laid-off employees of car plants and coal mines the tools and resources to create jobs - for example, with Cleveland’s worker-run green co-ops serving as a model. Agriculture, too, will have to see a revival in planning if we are to address the triple crisis of soil erosion, extreme weather and dependence on fossil fuel inputs. We are not talking about a return to authoritarian socialism, after all, but a turn toward real democracy.
3. Reining in Corporations. A key piece of the planning we must undertake involves the rapid re-regulation of the corporate sector. Much can be done with incentives: subsidies for renewable energy and responsible land stewardship, for instance. We are going to have to get back into the habit of barring outright dangerous and destructive behavior. That means getting in the way of corporations on multiple fronts, from imposing strict caps on the amount of carbon that corporations can emit, to banning new coal-fired power plants, to cracking down on industrial feedlots, to shutting down dirty-energy extraction projects like the Alberta tar sands (starting with pipelines like Keystone XL that lock in expansion plans).
4. Relocalizing Production. The devastating impacts of free trade (government out of the way of the corporate sector) on manufacturing, local business and farming are well known. But

the ‘atmosphere’ has taken the hardest hit of all. The cargo ships, jumbo jets and heavy trucks that haul raw resources and finished products across the globe devour fossil fuels and spew greenhouse gases. And the cheap goods being produced — made to be replaced, almost never fixed — are consuming a huge range of other nonrenewable resources while producing far more waste than can be safely absorbed. This model is so wasteful, that it cancels out the modest gains that have been made in reducing emissions many times over. Climate change demands an end to the reckless form of “free trade” that governs every bilateral trade agreement as well as the World Trade Organization. This is more good news — for unemployed workers, for farmers unable to compete with cheap imports, for communities that have seen their manufacturers move offshore and their local businesses replaced with big boxes. But the challenge this poses to the capitalist project should not be underestimated: it represents the reversal of the thirty-year trend of removing every possible limit on corporate power.

5. Ending the Cult of Shopping. There is a growing body of economic research on the conflict between economic growth and sound climate policy, led by ecological economist Herman Daly at the University of Maryland, as well as Peter Victor at York University, Tim Jackson of the University of Surrey, and environmental law and policy expert Gus Speth. As Victor and Jackson argue, greater efficiencies simply cannot keep up with the pace of growth, in part because greater efficiency is almost always accompanied by more consumption, reducing or even canceling out the gains (often called the “Jevons Paradox”). As Jackson argues in Prosperity Without Growth, “Those who promote decoupling as an escape route from the dilemma of growth need to take a closer look at the historical evidence — and at the basic arithmetic of growth.” The bottom line is that an ecological crisis that has its roots in the overconsumption of natural resources must be addressed not just by improving the efficiency of our economies but by reducing the amount of material stuff we produce and consume. Yet that idea is anathema to the large corporations that dominate the global economy, which are controlled by footloose investors who demand ever greater profits year after year. We are therefore

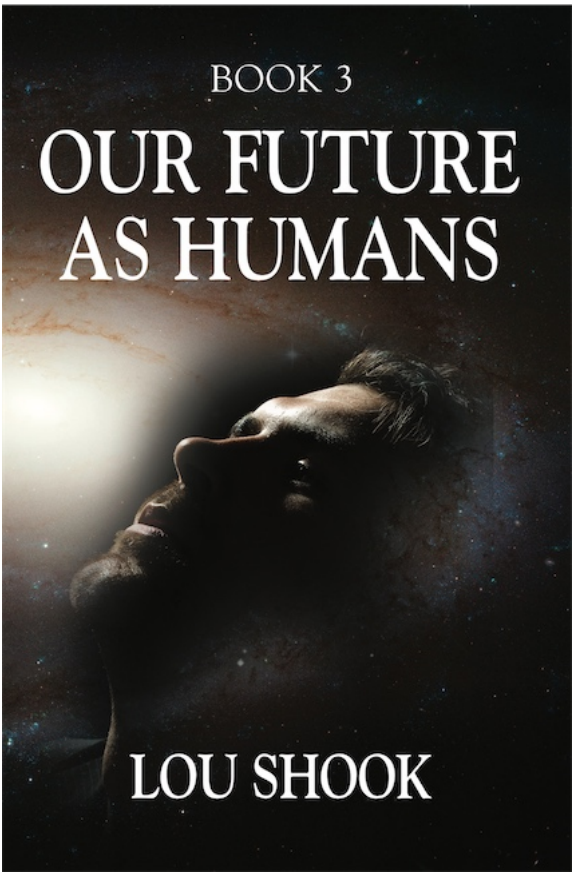
caught in the untenable bind of, as Jackson puts it, “trash the system or crash the planet.”

6. Taxing the Rich and Filthy. That means taxing carbon, as well as financial speculation. It means increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy, cutting bloated military budgets and eliminating absurd subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. And governments will have to coordinate their responses so that corporations will have nowhere to hide. Most of all, however, we need to go after the profits of the corporations most responsible for getting us into this mess. The top five oil companies made $900 billion in profits in the past decade; ExxonMobil alone can clear $10 billion in profits in a single quarter. Since corporations can be counted on to resist any new rules that cut into their profits, nationalization (the greatest free-market taboo of all) cannot be off the table.

Responding to climate change requires that we break every rule in the free-market playbook and that we do so with great urgency. We will need to rebuild the public sphere, reverse privatizations, re-localize large parts of economies, scale back overconsumption, bring back long-term planning, heavily regulate and tax corporations, maybe even nationalize some of them, cut military spending and recognize our debts to the global South. Of course, none of this has a hope in hell of happening unless it is accompanied by a massive, broad-based effort to radically reduce the influence that corporations have over the political process. That means, at a minimum, publicly funded elections and stripping corporations of their status as “people” under the law. In short, climate change supercharges the pre-existing case for virtually every progressive demand on the books, binding them into a coherent agenda based on a clear scientific imperative. We Humans must work together in our quest to resolve this disaster.

With so much at stake, it should come as little surprise that climate deniers are, on the whole, those most invested in our highly unequal and dysfunctional economic status quo. One of the most interesting findings of the studies on climate perceptions is the clear connection between a refusal to accept the science of climate change and social and economic privilege. Overwhelmingly, climate deniers are not only conservative but also white and male, a group with higher than average

incomes. And they are more likely than other adults to be highly confident in their views, no matter how demonstrably false.



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