

# Finally Growing Up to Humanity's Adulthood!

## Save Dying Democracies

This article identifies the root cause of the degradation and march toward demise of democratic governments in the US and elsewhere in the West. It also presents the only available way to reverse this descent by demonstrating how a new generalized theory of the mind empowers everybody to understand and manage previously inaccessible aspects of automatic human activities. This new theory creates a powerful set of problem-solving capabilities, which provides an opportunity to establish new ways of being that includes resuscitating and stabilizing self-governance in the West.

This politics article is part of a planned series of [articles](#) on overcoming mysterious human-nature phenomena to halt our West-wide descent into overall mediocrity. You should read the [Introduction](#) first and then the [Overview](#) before reading this article. I realize most people have become accustomed to consuming small bytes of information. There is zero chance that approach will reverse our fortunes. There are many fundamental problems we must overcome, and fortunately a process now exists to do that, but it will require you to devote a level of effort not like you dedicated to creating your professional expertise but instead more like a tough class you took when you were a student.

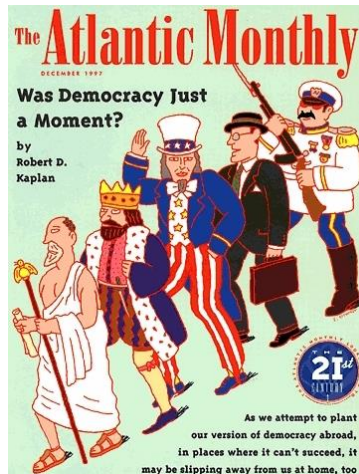
Also, to present this mysterious human-nature material with a broad perspective, the topic-specific articles rely on an extended set of intense discussions among four participants. You can see profiles of each participant toward the end of the Introduction article. The order of the Articles list does not relate to the sequence of our discussions. In fact, we often moved among topics as we progressed due to current individual interests and external events. However, the latter part of this article narrates a recent session we had shortly after the 2024 US presidential election where one of us was elated and the others were in agony but simultaneously hopeful because that event will now create sufficient discomfort to cause many people to want to make our urgently needed transformational changes. You can see a TOC at end of this article.

### **“There Never Was a Democracy Yet that Did Not Commit Suicide.”**

Barry: “In 1997, penetrating international-affairs observer and journalist, Robert D. Kaplan, published a jaw-dropping article titled, ‘Was Democracy Just a Moment?’ Democracies were working adequately then, so he was a bit premature. I read that prescient article in the Atlantic Monthly when it appeared. Although I was already studying dysfunctional aspects of human nature, I could not yet see the depth of the demise we are now suffering through. I do now and so do increasing numbers of political commentators, politicians, and panicked citizens of the US and elsewhere. The takeaway that resonated most with me about Kaplan’s article was the picture on the cover, which I thought graphically caught his ‘progression of governance’ point. I am sharing my screen so you can see it.”

Travis: “Wow, this image does produce powerful feelings. It doesn’t quite follow the West’s mega-transformations we discussed because it leaves out the role of popes along with monarchs during the Dark Age, but it does capture the essence of the fact that our current situation is not the way the world is, but just a slice of time that the West fortuitously has, or I should say had, been living through. It also depicts an oligarchy as the likely the next governing phase unless we take decisive actions now!”

## Was Democracy Just a Moment?



Becky: “I recently went to Philadelphia and toured through The Museum of the American Revolution. There were many quotes from our Founding Fathers, and when I got home, I looked up some more quotes from them. There is one that is applicable to our current situation that really disturbed me when I saw it. John Adams, in his inaugural address as the second US president on March 4, 1797, stated, ‘We should be unfaithful to ourselves if we should ever lose sight of the danger to our liberties if anything partial or extraneous should infect the purity of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent elections.’ His speech now seems insightful as it pertains directly to the dangerous attempted coup after the 2020 US presidential election.”

Travis: “I read that as Benjamin Franklin was walking out of Independence Hall after the Constitutional Convention in 1787, someone shouted, ‘Doctor, what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?’ Franklin purportedly responded, ‘A republic, if you can keep it.’ Happily, we kept it for well over two centuries. Tragically, we are now on track to lose it unless something extraordinary happens. Fortunately, 2Selfs Theory now provides a viable path to resuscitate our dying democracy<sup>1</sup>.”

Becky: “Here is the scariest quote of all for me. John Adams, in a letter to John Taylor in April 1814 stated, ‘Remember democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide’.”

Barry: “That was his observation about historical events and from insights into dysfunctional aspects of human nature that he inherited from the European Enlightenment. The major observation here is that we are committing that democracy suicide right now. One of the main goals of our discussion is to reveal human-nature root causes and identify solutions.”

## Implosion of the Modern West

Barry: “The triumphant era of the Modern West started to atrophy about a half century ago. We have now sadly reached the point where **the Triumphant West has died, and the Modern West is on life support because our self-governing systems are in the process of committing suicide.**”

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<sup>1</sup> The US is a constitutional republic, but we use democracy and self-governance casually to describe Western governments

## **Chewing-Gum and Baling-Wire**

Barry: “The Modern West was erected upon the pillars of two mental revolutions. As identified in the Overview article, the physical-domain revolution occurred when the philosophies that spawned it gave way to science processes and then indirectly to the science worldview, which constructed the mental foundation science needed. That momentous event then led to technology developments and product creations, which provided the physical side of our industrial revolutions.”

Travis: “Unfortunately, contemporary progress in the mental-domain fell chronically short of our long-term needs.”

Barry: “Philosophy helps us see across boundaries, but it does not seem capable of conquering new territories. The physical-domain revolution succeeded because it left the philosophy world and transformed into a root-cause science theory and worldview. However, the mental-domain got stuck in the world of philosophy, and therefore the Enlightenment was the best our predecessors could do.”

Rob: “I don’t know anything about philosophy, but I get the point. The Enlightenment provided what in my world we would call ‘jerry-rigged’ solutions to mental-domain problems.”

Becky: “Bravo, Rob! The insights from the Enlightenment allowed the Founding Fathers of the US to create checks and balances that kept our government going for about two and a half centuries, but unfortunately the Enlightenment legacy has now failed us.”

Barry: “Another way to look at this issue is that the Enlightenment provided chewing-gum and baling-wire to hold self-governing systems together in the West for longer than we might have expected because we now understand the depth of the mysterious underlying human-nature oddities involved.”

Becky: “We might identify the distinction between how we have been handling problems in the physical and mental domains as the difference between root-cause and empirical solutions. We have that same dichotomy in business, along with simplistic solutions, which are also running rampant in politics.”

Rob: “What do you mean by ‘empirical solutions’?”

Becky: “In our case, that refers to addressing auto-self activities indirectly based on trying different processes and selecting those that produce useful results, without the need to understand the underlying mental processes involved. We have discussed many examples of using empirical solutions in business to provide viable solutions to replace simplistic solutions until root-cause theories and their solutions emerge. Unfortunately, although transforming many types of solutions, particularly aspects of leadership, from empirical to root-cause solutions offers great benefits, most leaders do not yet feel that need sufficiently to take decisive actions. I expect that to change when Barry publishes the results of our business discussions.”

Travis: “The situation is quite different for our self-governing systems where the manipulations are so glaring that people are screaming about the impending end of democracy. Unfortunately, we do not even have viable empirical processes to help us head off this disaster because the legacy of the Enlightenment has failed. Instead, we have massive numbers of books, podcasts, newscasts, and other forms of digital communications that just alert us to this problem without providing needed solutions.”

Barry: “We cannot complain our way out of this problem. We must find a means to turn the fear, anger, panic, and disgust into viable solutions. And those solutions must create a way to understand and manage automatic human activities that discontinuously exceeds the helpful insights we inherited from the Enlightenment. We need a theory about this dysfunction that models it at the root-cause mental level, which 2Selfs Theory now uniquely provides!”

Rob: “There you go again. Why can’t you just speak in plain English? What does ‘discontinuously exceeds’ mean?”

Barry: “Sorry for the confusion Rob, but we need to distinguish getting incrementally better from becoming fundamentally different. One way to express that difference is to speak of continuous improvements and discontinuous transformations. The former refers to gaining more knowledge, which is a thinking-self activity. The latter indicates we somehow go through a transformation process so that we automatically do things differently, which is an auto-self activity. That is the essence of much of what we are talking about here.”

## **Our Luck Ran Out**

Barry: “Self-governing systems are inherently unstable, which is why historically they have had short lifespans. The West maintained successful self-governance for more than two centuries through some fortuitous happenstances. The first three industrial revolutions provided technologies and products to improve productivity. Market economies and individual freedoms provided the human-management mechanisms, including the passion to succeed, to leverage these technologies. That led to generation-over-generation prosperity improvements that normally created sufficient comfort so that populists could not gain a long-term foothold to usurp power and become dictators.”

Travis: “The major previous exception in the US was the populist Huey Long who was a dictatorial governor of Louisiana and a US senator. He rose to power during the Great Depression and attacked the ‘lying press’ when they exposed his manipulations, so that Trumpian playbook is common for populist manipulators during uncomfortable times. He also kept control of the Louisiana government even while serving as US senator. He was laying the groundwork to run for US President in 1936 against Franklin Roosevelt when he was killed, either by an assassin or inadvertently by his bodyguards, in the Louisiana Capitol after forcing through a bill to get rid of a political opponent. Whatever one may think of his socialistic reforms, most people agree he was a demagogue. Had he lived and eventually become president, he likely would have become a dictator in the US government just as he was in Louisiana and his contemporary Hitler became in Germany.”

Becky: “Fortunately, FDR got us out of the Depression and led us to victory in WWII. After the war, the US economy returned to growth, and voters became less susceptible to populist manipulators.”

Travis: “The situation now looks extremely bleak. Barry, do you think that another FDR might emerge to lead us out of our wilderness?”

Barry: “That is not possible because we are not in another economic downturn as happened on steroids during the Great Depression. Some fortuitous events helped citizens remain comfortable enough to keep Western self-governance going for longer than in retrospect we should have reasonably expected. We have now hit an existential threat to self-governance because our problems are systemic. We will not recover from our descent into mediocrity in many aspects of our lives unless we solve the root causes, and what we are discussing is the only current way to accomplish that feat.”

## **It's More than the Economy, Stupid!**

Barry: “During Bill Clinton's successful 1992 US presidential election against incumbent George H. W. Bush, Clinton’s adviser, James Carville, wrote three messages to campaign workers that included, ‘The economy, stupid.’ That message has become famous in the form, ‘It’s the economy, stupid,’ which has been adopted for many other topics. I repurpose that phrase here to emphasize that although most previous instances of widespread discomfort were based on economic downturns, which we eventually recovered from, this time the driving force of vulnerability to simplistic solutions is structural, for which no current types of solutions are adequate, so it’s more than the economy, stupid!”

Travis: “We might be tempted to look for new and more effective work-arounds to resuscitate the West’s self-governing systems, but the problems are much deeper than the issues we had to recover from in the past.”

Becky: “I get it, we have many types of currently unsolvable problems, including the twelve we are discussing here, so it’s more than the economy, stupid – much more! I also see that those currently intractable problems all require that the US and the whole West learn to understand and manage debilitating aspects of human nature discontinuously better to conquer these problems.”

Barry: “Our problems are so deep and widespread that the inescapable reality we now face is that the Modern West is dying. There is no way to revive it. The west is on a path to sink into a set of autocracies and continue suffering with the many other problems we cannot solve. Or we can seize the opportunity to launch a mental-domain revolution that can replace the Modern West, retain its previous advantages, and add many spectacular benefits including stability of our self-governing systems.”

Rob: “I agree with most of what we discussed about our growing unsolvable problems, except for your observations about our current political situation and some aspects of our discussions on religion.”

## **Snake Oil**

Barry: “Whenever widespread discomfort sets in, opportunistic salespeople inevitably emerge to peddle snake oil.”

Rob: “I have heard vaguely about snake-oil salesmen, but I have no idea why you bring that up here.”

Barry: “When a result or desired success is delayed, nebulous, or difficult to measure, people can make money by selling a process that satisfies the desire for a success without achieving the success desired. In other words, the structure creates an open season for con artists and hucksters. The so-called “patent medicines” in the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century provide an excellent example. Companies, traveling medicine shows, and snake-oil salespeople sold ‘miracle cures’ for almost anything including venereal diseases, tuberculosis, infant colic, digestive problems, and even cancer. They made money satisfying the desire to get well while doing nothing in the way of curing the disease.”

Travis: “I am quite familiar with that process. Simplistic solutions that satisfy a desire for a result without creating the result desired are seduction traps. They cater to strongly felt needs by providing plausible solutions that range from falling way short of their promises, to totally ineffective, to counterproductive, and even to dysfunctional – that is, to making the situation much worse.”

Rob: “So, what’s your point?”

## Selling to Felt Discomfort without Solving the Problems Causing It



Becky: “The point is that we are suffering through an extended period of chronic discomfort as poignantly illustrated by the issues associated with the dozen intractable problems we have been addressing, so snake-oil salespeople are springing up everywhere. It happened in business. Those simplistic solutions did not make the situation worse; they just robbed us of serious efforts to make it better. Sadly, I’m also seeing it in religion, especially with televangelists and mega-churches, where the preachers seem more interested in fame and fortune than in helping their captive flock.”

Barry: “Now, instead of selling useless and even dangerous products, snake-oil salespeople, most tragically increasing numbers of politicians, are peddling disinformation that they use to construct dysfunctional certainty illusions and even disastrous certainty delusions.”

Travis: “The snake-oil salesperson I am most concerned about is Donald Trump, who has been a con artist all his life. Just look into his defunct Trump University<sup>2</sup> as an illustrative example.”

Rob: “Not all Trump supporters are uneducated like me and my buddies who you probably think are most likely to succumb to buying what you call his snake oil. Some very rich and successful people also support him.”

Becky: “Yes, I expect they see themselves as the powerful oligarchs in a planned Trump autocracy, like happens in Russia.”<sup>3</sup>

Rob: “What’s an oligarch?”

Travis: “An oligarchy is a government run by hyper-wealthy people – oligarchs.”

Barry: “Trump gained great traction by hammering away at how dreadful things have become in the US. That was one topic he was right about, but he also manufactured problems that weren’t there, had no clue about the fundamental causes, and offered only simplistic solutions followed by constructing certainty illusions and delusions, making a systemic problem much worse.”

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trump-university-look-enduring-education-scandal/>

<sup>3</sup> Trump’s Next Term Could See America’s First True Oligarchs, Warns Democracy Activist Garry Kasparov: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-musk-america-oligarchs\\_n\\_6746b6efe4b0800c73f710a5](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-musk-america-oligarchs_n_6746b6efe4b0800c73f710a5)

## **It's the Abilities Mismatch, Stupid!**

Rob: “Barry, you have made me painfully aware of the many problems we have in society that we are not solving anywhere near adequately, but I still don't understand why you keep saying this problem is systemic and that we cannot repurpose existing problem-solving theories to rescue us. Why have we suddenly hit what you claim is a future-determining fork in the West's future?”

Barry: “**Democracies cannot survive long-term, widespread, systemic discomfort, which is the unfortunate situation the entire West has sunk into now.**”

Becky: “That is likely the underlying source of John Adams' famous quote regarding democracies always committing suicide. Happily, we now have a way to overcome the widespread discomfort by identifying and overcoming the root cause of our systemic discomfort.”

Barry: “Our underlying problem is caused by the fundamental divergence between how we solve problems in the physical world (science/technologies/products) and how we solve problems with human activities (social systems including politics and business; personal responsibilities including drug addictions and prisoner recidivism). This problem-solving divergence created a systemic abilities-mismatch time-bomb with a slow fuse that started causing explosions in the business world about five decades ago and created major political explosions in 2016 in the UK (BREXIT) and the US (Trump's, what we might call by analogy, ‘AmerExit’ from world leadership with his rigid nationalism).”

Becky: “I get it. Our predecessors managed to create root-cause theories and solutions for the physical domain but only empirical solutions for the mental domain. We fortuitously survived that mismatch for about two centuries, but the advent of digital technologies started the time-bomb ticking ever faster. That is why Barry keeps referring to our current situation as systemic because it is buried in the abilities mismatch legacy left to us by the progenitors of the Modern West, although they had no way to understand that they were doing that.”

Travis: “Surprisingly, and I would say tragically, until Barry came along, even our contemporary scholars didn't adequately grasp and therefore didn't solve this structural abilities-mismatch.”

Rob: “Okay, I get it that what you call our systemic problem is the fundamental mismatch between how we can solve problems in the physical world and how we can handle the mental-world ramifications of the sprawling technologies. But how do we overcome that fundamental problem?”

Barry: “That creates an additional way to understand why I keep claiming we must launch the 2Selfs Revolution. The only way to overcome the abilities mismatch, which has inevitably caused the Modern West to self-destruct, is to transform our ability to conquer the mental world from the empirical Enlightenment legacy to a root-cause solution. 2Selfs Theory operating within 2Selfs Worldview is the only extant way to accomplish that.”

Becky: “We can now see that it's the abilities mismatch, stupid! However, we are fortunate that we now have a way to escape our doom, and it appeared just barely in time.”

## **Dystopia: Ignorance Is Strength; Big Lies Are Truths**

Barry: “Let's now discuss the smoke and mirrors the whole West is struggling with as digital technologies enable many snake-oil salespeople to perpetrate seduction traps on innocent victims. We

turn our attention now to the political meltdowns and the crumbling of self-governing systems currently underway in the West, which has created an existential threat to our cherished way of life.”

## “Truth” Mirages

Barry: “Here is a direct quote from a famous person who identified how to raise the ‘Big Lie’ to an art form and used it repeatedly and disastrously.

In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility, because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature [their auto-self’s certainty-illusion mechanism] than consciously or voluntarily [their thinking-self]. Thus, in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds [by identify many anomalies], they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. The grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down. [Yes, certainty delusions have great staying power – just witness the millions who still believe the 2020 US presidential election was stolen from Trump.]

I leave it to you to find out if the above quote comes from a current manipulative politician or if another political figure previously wrote about and then relentlessly used the Big-Lie scam.”

Becky: “I get it. Big Lies told repeatedly with feelings, especially using digital mass media, broadly construct certainty delusions, which is a process of mental emasculation.”

Barry: “Yes, Big Lies construct ‘truth’ mirages. This insidious process causes people to deeply believe an assertion is true when it is just a delusion.”

Rob: “I still believe Trump won the 2020 election, but how are we supposed to tell the difference between something that is actually true and a Big Lie?”

Barry: “Before a certainty delusion sets in, making the thinking-self impotent on a particular topic, people need to look for anomalies, or assertions that do not align with facts. Another mechanism everyone can use is to stay alert for somebody relentlessly repeating the same slogan with feelings attached. It is easy to notice that activity and become very skeptical if you detect it early enough. Unfortunately, **after many repetitions, Big Lies automatically and imperceptibly migrate to certainty delusions, where they become potent internal fantasies that are painfully difficult to dislodge.**”

Becky: “That is why we should consider the MAGA movement to be a political cult because it works like religious cults and is equally disingenuous and dangerous.”

## A Charlatan’s Best Asset Is a Chronic Lie Ability

Barry: “Here is a play on words to get your attention, ‘a charlatan’s best asset is a chronic lie ability’.”

Rob: “That is cute, but what is a ‘charlatan?’ I’m guessing that is another word for liar.”



Becky: “A charlatan is a purveyor of disinformation, a manipulator, or a con artist. Does that sound like anyone you know?”

Travis: “Us lawyers have a saying – if the law is against you, argue the facts; if the facts are against you, argue the law. However, when both are against you, manipulate the emotions.”

Becky: “I remember in the O.J. Simpson murder trial that one of his attorneys used the slogan, ‘If it doesn’t fit, you must acquit.’ That was a visible example of manipulating emotions. Charlatans, with their chronic lie ability, increasingly prey on emotions of voters, primarily through digital channels. As we struggle through the demise of our Modern West existence, most people, tragically including voters, have not had adequate defenses to recognize and reject such widespread manipulations.”

## **Self-Governance Slippery Slope**

Barry: “Occurrences of widespread discomfort in voters open the gates to populists, who are always lurking around waiting for an opportunity to spring into action. When voters are making enough money, they usually are not populist fodder. However, many other forms of discomfort can impact their vulnerability to populist simplistic-solution manipulations. Previous vulnerabilities for voters resulted from cyclical economic downturns. This time is radically different because it is systemic. That is why we need to fear that we have meandered onto a slippery slope with nothing in our current structure to impede our downward slide.”

Rob: “So, just what does slippery slope mean in this situation?”

Travis: “In this context, it serves to help us understand the structural descent we have entered. Like accelerating down an icy hill on a toboggan, the Modern West has begun its descent, so we are heading for a crash in the form of a mediocre existence for multiple generations.”

## **The Perils of Populism**

Becky: “From a 2Selfs Worldview perspective, which I have gradually acquired, populism is a process that provides simplistic solutions to problems we cannot solve adequately within our Enlightenment perspective. As such, I now assume an unrecognized form of populism took hold of the business community for a long time in the form of a series of backward-looking best-practices books. I suspect that the perpetrators were not attempting to deliberately manipulate their audience but rather were naive about the actual value of the approach they employed. Massive numbers of business leaders were experiencing discomfort because they increasingly realized there was a large set of problems, which we might assemble under the umbrella term ‘soft’ success factors that they could not solve adequately. That left them vulnerable to simplistic books and programs that satisfied their need for a solution without providing the solution they needed.”

Barry: “The fundamental problem was that although they had vague feelings that they were missing critical success factors, they had no way to understand that these issues are buried in mysterious machinations of involuntary activities. 2Selfs Theory now overcomes that deep leadership deficiency.”

Travis: “The same populism process arises in religions when widespread discomfort sets in. During such times, we see a rise of many populist approaches that we often identify as revivals or awakenings.

In these cases, I suppose there are some who actually think they are solving problems, but the majority of these people likely see an easy path to fame and fortune. It's a con-artist's heaven!"

Becky: "While people who specialize in seduction traps always lurk in the fringes waiting for opportunities to spring their simplistic solutions, they ultimately get legs during times of widespread discomfort, which we are experiencing now with our self-governance meltdown plus the other issues we have been discussing. There are no solutions in sight except for what we are addressing here."

Rob: "I have seen that American evangelicals are a quarter of our nation's population and are the single largest religious group. As a nondenominational coalition, evangelicals can be found in nearly every Protestant denomination and tradition. Also, when you combine us with conservative Catholics, we are a very large voting bloc, so you can expect a return to good-old-fashion conservative Christian values. Also, we now own the Supreme Court, so we don't need to rely on electing conservatives. SCOTUS will reestablish Christian values for us."

Becky: "From our previous discussions, I have become painfully aware that agreed-upon Christian values do not exist."

Travis: "Some of the Supreme Court justices seem to act as if they put their hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible, but for now, let's focus on the perils of populism by politicians."

Barry: "When viewed from within a 2Selfs Worldview perspective, **political populism is just a Modern West euphemism for manipulations of voters suffering from discomfort.**"

Becky: "Populism, whether from the far right or the extreme left of the political spectrum, provides dramatic examples of the use of simplistic solutions in politics. Populism doesn't work by appealing to the intellect of voters or to systematic conservative or progressive platforms. Instead, it exploits vulnerable emotions. Populists offer pie-in-the-sky solutions to the deep wants of the downtrodden, stoke fears, and bray propaganda that promises results that they have no clue how to fulfill and no intention to satisfy. I see Trump as on that path."

Travis: "Populism is the bane of democracies because it exploits raw emotions, constructs widespread pretending, and as such makes countries vulnerable to descent into autocratic rule."

Barry: "The greatest nationalist/populist dysfunction of the Modern West was caused by rampant discomfort in the aftermath of defeat in World War I, along with the odious terms of surrender at Versailles that many Germans found humiliating, plus the Great Depression. That led to the end of democracy in Germany with the rise of Hitler and then to World War II. However, those painful precipitating events were transient. Currently, we are experiencing structural discomfort, leading to a systemic degradation in self-governing systems in the West. That discomfort will continue unless we launch a supraevolutionary ascent to overcome the abilities mismatch between our thinking-self-based technology developments and our inability to accommodate their human-nature ramifications, which is the underlying cause of our plunge from greatness. The growing perils of populism are leading to the end of the era of self-governing systems in the West because the grand experiment in democratic governments ushered in by the U.S. Constitution has now stumbled onto a slippery slope."

Travis: "Hitler not only exploited widespread discomfort, but he also stoked additional discomfort to rise to power. He focused on extreme nationalism and hatred for other groups, as the MAGA movement does now. He specialized in telling Big Lies. He constructed certainty delusions into

previously honorable Germans and caused them to perpetrate horrible atrocities. Once in power, he relentlessly persecuted people outside of his in-group, as Trump has promised to do.”

Barry: “The next phase of the maturation of humanity requires that we understand and manage human nature to a level that prevents that type of atrocity and many other forms of mind manipulations.”

Becky: “Trump is duping millions of otherwise honorable Americans into accepting his self-serving initiatives. I hate to see how far this will go if we don’t intervene.”

Barry: “Now that we understand human nature at a much deeper level, we can see how populist programs take over a country. It’s a two-stage process. First, exploit widespread discomfort by perpetrating simplistic solutions that provide the illusion they are solving the problems causing the discomfort without doing anything useful, which often creates still more discomfort. After enough citizens fall for those seduction traps, just keep telling Big Lies accompanied with strong feelings until a suite of certainty delusions emasculates the thinking abilities of a critical mass of citizens, and you have the Hitler Nazism playbook.

Travis: “I get it! That is what Trump and the maggot movement he created is doing their best to make that happen now.”

Barry: “Please, let’s not get petty by using the word maggot instead of MAGA. You know how much it upsets you when Trump keeps deliberately and rudely mispronouncing Kamala Harris’ first name.”

Rob: “Thanks, Barry, because I find that highly offensive.”

Barry: “It took defeat in the Second World War and massive casualties to finally overcome Hitler’s Nazi mania. This time, we have the opportunity to head off another tragic calamity in the West and perhaps for humanity by solving the root cause that is buried in our current inability to understand and manage mysterious aspects of human nature.”

Becky: “Let’s hope the 2Selfs Revolution happens quickly before the MAGA crusade causes irreparable damage to our self-governance and to America’s morals and well-being.”

## **Naming and Shaming the Proxymoron Process**

Travis: “Many people, especially politicians, obfuscate the truth. However, Donald Trump has lifted this process to an art form. He persistently turns reality on its head by claiming his adversaries are committing misdeeds that he specializes in.”

Barry: “Unfortunately, we don’t quite have an adequate word or term to describe what he does.”

Becky: “We discussed many possibilities, including ‘gaslighting,’ psychologists’ concept of ‘projection,’ and ‘doublethink’ from George Orwell’s dystopian classic 1984, and even variations of ‘reverse-think’ or ‘inverse-think’.”

Travis: “Trump does something different than those terms identify. He constructs certainty delusions to divert attention away from his own misdeeds. A grand example is constantly railing against what he calls ‘fake news.’ It would be hard to think up a more audacious con game perpetrated by a man who constantly traffics in propaganda and whopper Big Lies.”

Rob: “I don’t trust the ‘lamestream media.’ I think they lie all the time.”

Becky: “All that shows is that you imbibed Trump’s Kool-Aid. The mainstream media, which for the most part consists of what we might call ‘correspondence correspondents,’ sometimes provides misinformation. However, they strive to avoid disinformation. They have people who do fact checking, so they strive to provide news that corresponds with facts.”

Travis: “On the other hand, many social-media channels and one prominent cable channel routinely spew disinformation. They make assertions that have been debunked by credible fact checkers. Rob, I suspect you don’t expose yourself to possible anomalies that identify Big Lies and conspiracy theories in stories from these propaganda channels, which allows you to avoid experiencing the concomitant cognitive dissonance.”

Rob: “I don’t encounter any anomalies, and I get my information from several sources including Fox News, Newsmax, X, and Truth Social, which says it ‘encourages an open, free, and honest global conversation’.”

Travis: “You have got to be kidding us. Encountering Trump and truth or honest in the same sentence is an oxymoron.”

Barry: “That statement provides an opening for creating a name for the dysfunctional process we are discussing. Oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear next to each other. Examples include ‘awfully nice,’ ‘exact estimate,’ ‘negative growth,’ and ‘clearly misunderstood.’ Sometimes people just mess up their language when they use oxymorons. Other times, people deliberately use them for affect.”

Rob: “I don’t see how oxymoron as you just defined it relates to the process we have been discussing.”

Travis: “It doesn’t, but as usual I suspect that Dr. Barry is leading us to a new form of solution to this issue. Here is an oxymoron near and dear to you Rob as a self-declared libertarian Trump supporter. Trump’s MO is to construct certainty delusions. Once that happens to people, they lose all freedom to think effectively about the involved issue. They become mentally impotent for crucial types of topics. You are an existence proof of a related oxymoron Rob because you somehow still believe the 2020 presidential election was stolen in the face of an overwhelming assortment of anomalies. Trump and liberty do not go together. A Trump libertarian is an oxymoron.”

Barry: “Back to my focus on naming and shaming the obfuscation processes of hiding your misdeeds by accusing others of doing what you are deliberately trying to conceal about your own dysfunctional behaviors. I propose coining a new word related to the familiar word oxymoron, ‘proxymoron,’ because constructed certainty delusions are proxies for truth that strive to produce morons with respect to specific topics. The goal is to create the constructed form of truth to supplant the correspondence form. ‘Fake news’ is a proxymoron used to cover up the disinformation, including outrageous Big Lies, promulgated by Trump and many of his acolytes. Can anyone think of another proxymoron example?”

Rob: “I support Trump, and I resent that you call me a moron.”

Barry: “You are right, Rob. We need to be careful not to disparage the casualties. We should reserve proxymoron for the obfuscation process, not for its victims.”

Travis: “I agree we should not mock the afflicted, as Trump has done. However, I suspect the perpetrators take great glee in emasculating the thinking process of their targets and probably snicker at how easily Trump can dupe them.”

Becky: “Before I offer an example, I want to acknowledge that we do need a word to describe Trump’s obfuscation process so that many people, especially influencers using various media, can have an effective way to expose it. I also like the word proxymoron because it combines familiar words that relate to this mechanism. Many in the mainstream media are unfortunately losing human-nature unfair fights. They operate almost exclusively at the thinking-self level, whereas those perpetrating proxymorons operate at the auto-self level. **The correspondence press must learn to name and shame proxymoron manipulations to help launch the 2Selfs Revolution, and save themselves!**”

Barry: “Yes, the correspondence press is among the domains in desperate need of a supraevolutionary ascent into 2Selfs Age activities.”

Becky: “How about the ‘drain the swamp’ proxymoron? Trump was the swamp master. He expected every appointee to be beholden to him and not the Constitution. He tried, and often succeeded, in getting many in the Justice Department to act like his personal attorneys, including at least one of its chiefs. He appointed foxes to guard the chicken coops. He would fire anyone interested in doing their putative jobs – their mission had to be loyalty to the swamp king. Drain the swamp indeed!”

## **The Proxymoron Emperor Has No Clothes**

Travis: “My favorite proxymoron that Trump and many of his prominent followers keep using when they can’t get enough voters to support them is ‘rigged election.’ Multiple vote tabulations in swing states and decisions by courts verified that the 2020 US presidential election did not have any issues that affected the outcome. However, repeatedly using that proxymoron provided cover for Republicans in many states to create election-law changes that would allow them to overcome results that did not favor them. They also use the election-integrity proxymoron to push legislation that makes voting more difficult for many people, while falsely claiming their opponents are doing that.”

Becky: “We could identify more examples of Trump’s use of proxymorons, but naming the process he uses will help people identify it to avoid disastrous consequences in the future.”

Barry: “**Naming and shaming some devious Modern West manipulations that we can now see clearly from a 2Selfs Worldview perspective, including simplistic solutions, proxymorons, the constructed form of ‘truth,’ Big Lies, and certainty delusion constructions, will create a giant leap forward for the West and for the maturation of the human species.**”

Becky: “While not technically a proxymoron, Trump’s social media outlet, Truth Social, uses another audacious form of deception. Trump doesn’t have any interest in the correspondence form of truth.”

Barry: “Actually, that social medium is designed to create the constructed form of realities, which masquerades as information that people assume corresponds to something outside of the certainty delusions it is designed to construct.”

Travis: “His social network should be called Disinformation Social or Certainty-Delusion Social.”

Becky: “We must continue to expose the proxymoron process so that we undress the proxymoron emperor and leave him shivering butt naked in the cold with no clothes to hide his puny deficiencies.”

Travis: “As Barry already said, political populism is a euphemism for manipulation of uncomfortable voters. We must start equipping hapless voters with defenses against these mental emasculations.”

Barry: “Publishing our discussions will get influencers going, but mentally inoculating a critical mass of voters against populism is a longer-term project that will require upgrading our education systems.”

## **Immaculate Deception**

Travis: “No one knows who fathered QAnon, so I guess we can say this is a celebrated case of immaculate deception.”

Becky: “Very clever! Your somewhat blasphemous statement has some merit because massive numbers of people embrace that and other conspiracy theories with a fervor that mimics religious beliefs.”

Rob: “It doesn’t matter to me where QAnon came from, I believe it’s true because the Democrats are such devious people.”

Travis: “QAnon is a good example of using a proxymoron. Do something horrendously bad and claim you are doing it to overcome something you make up as horrendously bad. Sad to say Rob, but this is really creating morons out of otherwise responsible citizens.”

Barry: “This type of deception provides poignant evidence that we are indeed descending into a manipulation chasm where sometimes naive perpetrators, but increasingly malicious culprits, are exploiting digital communications channels to construct dysfunctional certainty illusions and devastating certainty delusions. Oh, how we are struggling to grow up as a human species!”

Travis: “Becky, I think another major Trumpian travesty is how he stole the Republican brand without much of a fight.”

Becky: “It is dreadful that the Grand Old Party in the United States, which has been around since Abraham Lincoln, let an outsider steal the Republican brand. The current MAGA Party bears almost no resemblance to the party of Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Reagan, and the Bush’s. The GOP formerly had a coherent brand based mainly on small central government, muscular defense, and conservative values. The MAGA crowd are the real RINOs, but the mainline Republicans unknowingly engaged in an unfair fight and thereby allowed a usurper to foist that branding on them.”

Travis: “It seems that support of Trump is no longer sufficient. Most elected Republicans have abandoned their past espoused values and many of their policy positions because they lack the courage to continue advocating them. They seem to believe that showing fealty to the American emperor is now required to get elected. Remember what Lord Acton said many years ago: ‘Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.’ By surrendering their moral courage, they are in danger of ceding dangerous power to an indicted insurrectionist who has also been held liable by a jury for sexual misconduct.”

Becky: “Tragically, so many formerly honorable elected Republicans have now sold their soul for short-term political expediency that could end up being a long-term political disaster. It breaks my

heart that we don't have more heroic prominent Republicans like Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger who are willing to make personal sacrifices to fight for the rehabilitation of the no-longer grand GOP.”

Travis: “**2Selves Theory and 2Selves Worldview now provide a viable path to take the self-governing systems of the US and the rest of the West from dying experiments to sustainable realities.** However, Trump and other demagogues in the West have no interesting in solving our systemic problems in politics and other social systems. They are snake-oil salespeople who are in the business of exploiting our structural problems, not solving them!”

Barry: “Yes, we need many supra-humans to step up in politics, especially right now in the US, and in other domains throughout the West to take decisive actions to become leaders of our transition to 2Selves Age – to launch the 2Selves Revolution!”

## Becoming Supra-Humans

Barry: “The supraevolution process creates new types of humans. Human nature provides *natural-humans* with many properties in common with other animals, a brutish nature, and little problem-solving abilities. The long struggle to create more-productive humans has led to one constructed type, and a second type we will need to construct, both of which we will examine now.”

## Being Natural-Humans

Barry: “Biological evolution blindly created the human species with mysterious properties that most spectacularly includes a non-physical mind that depends on, but operates separate from, the physical brain. Amazingly, **the human mind has some properties that are so strange that they have precluded effective understanding and management – until now.** Humans emerged from their primitive fog when they started acquiring the ability to tell stories. Once that happened, they began wondering how they got here and what was the nature of the world around them that they could see and that they had to interact with. Lacking an empowering worldview to analyze their environment, society's universally created deities to explain origins and major events. These explanations were simplistic solutions that satisfied the inherent human need to understand their environment.”

Travis: “I think I get the next part of this story. Because some aspects of human nature were barely different from the animal predecessors from which humans evolved, we retained automatic survival-of-the-fittest drives. That led to aggressive behaviors. In a primitive attempt to create more-civilized behaviors, most societies established some behavior rules and attributed them to their deities or deity, which imbued those rules with magical force. Even more determinative, and unbeknownst to those societies, repetitions of attribution to deities eventually constructed worldviews that were the actual mechanisms for enforcing prescribed and proscribed behaviors. Unfortunately that locked in many forms of primitive attempts at behavior management, some of which still haunt us today, but that is a topic we discussed in other sessions.”

Rob: “I don't see how this discussion relates to the issues we are struggling with.”

Barry: “The point here is that natural-humans, even when they have a spiritual worldview constructed within them, can make some effort at behavior management, but they are not effective problem solvers in either the physical or mental domains.”

## Recognizing Previously Constructed Thinking-Humans

Barry: “I am now sharing a new version of worldview-progression map that includes types of humans.

### Adding Types of Humans We Were/Are to Worldview-Progression Map

Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	<b>Modern West</b>	
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400	Triumphant West	<b>Mediocrity</b>
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy	1770-1970	1970→?
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog	Christian/many	many
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog	<b>Science</b>	<b>Science</b>
# of Worldviews	1	2	1	Enlightenment	manipulations
Symbolic Maturity	Infant	Child	Infant	2+	2-
Mega-Transformations		Mega-Ascent	Mega-Descent	Teenager	Pubescent
Big History Eras	←T7	Era 7		<b>Mega Ascent</b>	<b>Descending</b>
Types of Humans	Natural	Thinking	Natural	T8	Era 8
				<b>Thinking</b>	Thinking

One way to view the Science Revolution is that it constructed *thinking-humans* that 2Selfs Theory models as our thinking-self operating within a physical-domain worldview. With a little help from the legacy of the Enlightenment, that created the Triumphant West that did well for two centuries. Now the Modern West has irreversibly hit the end of its viability! The abilities mismatch unleashed by the digital technologies of the Third Industrial Revolution started having negative consequences about a half-century ago, as you have seen in previous worldview-progression maps.”

Rob: “Before we discuss the new line on the bottom of this diagram, I noticed that you made a change at the top of the Modern West era. You show it lasting for about 2.5 centuries, as before, but you broke it into Triumphant West and Mediocrity eras, which is consistent with what we’ve been discussing but I think shows it in a more accessible way.”

Becky: “I get your new bottom line. With only a spiritual-domain worldview, we are just natural-humans. When we add the physical-domain worldview, we become thinking-humans, and the map shows that we hit a peak during the Triumphant West era but now our thinking abilities are shrinking due to the massive, unmanaged manipulations including certainty-delusion constructions.”

## Deconstructing Civilized-Humans

Barry: “Before we get into our crucial discussion of constructing supra-humans, I’d like to engage us to examine how we deconstruct previously established civilizing worldviews.”

Rob: “This may be getting too complicated for me.”

Becky: “You will be able to follow this. The Bible identifies primitive values that indirectly construct values-worldviews. Some of these have been beneficial to societies, such as the 10 Commandments and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ However, many have been detrimental, including ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’ and the death penalty for many types of transgressions – it all depends on the metabible people create and use!”



Travis: “More recently, countries in the West went through a long painful process of enacting more-civilized aspirational values, many of which they articulated at their entry into the Modern West.”

Barry: “This brings us to the main point of this topic. Natural-humans lack civilizing worldviews or only manage to construct primitive ones. The creation of civilized humans takes place in the construction of values worldviews. Before the advent of 2Selves Theory, that process was a slow, painful indirect activity. However deconstructing auto-self-based values can be a much quicker process because it just removes the civilizing supraevolutionary layer and pushes people back to their uncivilized biological-evolutionary level of natural-humans.”

Travis: “Without understanding the nature of certainty illusions, Trump has acquired the empirical process to deconstruct hard-won values-worldviews on a large scale.”

Rob: “I now understand that Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan must have done that leading up to and during WWII, but I don’t see Trump doing that.”

Becky: “You have not been paying close attention. Just watch his actions if he gets back in office.”

## **Constructing Supra-Humans**

Barry: “Now I want to introduce the powerful concept of constructing *supra-humans*.”

Rob: “Okay, Dr. B, now you are taking us into new territory. What is a suprahuman?”

Barry: “**Our biological-evolution status is what we have. Our supraevolution status is what we construct.**”

Becky: “That’s a powerful short statement, but it does not let me understand any details.”

Travis: “I assume supra-humans refers to people who can understand the supraevolutionary process and manage it.”

Barry: “Partially correct. Also, finally becoming overall adult-level problem solvers. Thinking-humans were qualitatively different from natural-humans of the Mental-Prison Age because they had a thinking worldview systematically constructed within them through mandatory education, and that included a potent physical-domain worldview and a relatively puny mental-domain worldview. Now we will keep the thinking-worldview and add a supra-worldview in the form of 2Selves Worldview.”

Rob: “Why invent another word, *suprahuman*? Isn’t that just going to create additional confusion when trying to communicate these emancipating concepts to a wider audience? Why not just refer to the future state of advanced humans as citizens of 2Selves Age?”

Barry: “We could do that, but it’s not a very catchy way to refer to our new state of being, and it doesn’t compare naturally to our current state as thinking-humans.”

Becky: “I like thinking of myself as becoming a supra-human, and having that as a result of our future supraevolutionary ascent.”

## From Teetering Experiment to Stable Reality

Barry: “Our previous discussions occurred before the symbolic political tactical nuclear bomb detonated in the US on November 5, 2024. Now, we must switch gears and focus on the existential threat to self-governance in the US and likely elsewhere in the West.”

### Mourning in America

Becky: “When Trump won the 2024 presidential election, I became apoplectic and then depressed. How could so many people vote for such a scoundrel? Nearly everyone in my network is horrified at the prospect of us losing our self-governing system to a tyrant who shows no respect for our Constitution. Everybody is floundering around trying to find out what happened, but we now know they have no chance of finding a viable solution because the root cause is the structural abilities mismatch. I am terrified that if we do not quickly provide the results of what we are working on to people who can make a difference, we may be in for an excruciatingly long era of autocratic rule.”

Travis: “I am terrified that Trump intends to become a Hitler or mini-Hitler. Does the MAGA movement prevail after Trump and keep us trapped in an on-going plutocracy? Russia started to recover after the collapse of the Soviet Union, but the self-governing worldview did not set in solidly enough to prevent the rise of the plutocracy under Putin.”

Rob: “I continue to tell you guys Trump is not the threat you imagine. I’ve heard of an autocracy, but what in the world is a plutocracy? Will we be ruled by creatures who come here from Pluto?”

Travis: “Very funny. A plutocracy is an authoritarian government run by an elite ruling class of people whose power derives from their wealth. Think about Elon Musk, who reportedly spent a quarter billion dollars helping Trump get elected in 2024.<sup>4</sup> I am eagerly waiting to see the breakdown between Trump and Musk, who seems to be emerging as a co-president. Two self-aggrandizing egomaniacs cannot coexist for long. The heroes who launched the physical-domain revolution had to overcome oppression from monarchs, popes, and some nascent Protestant leaders, in addition to the automatic human-nature resistance to worldview reconstructions. Now we might need to overcome repression from dictators, their supportive plutocrats, and religious zealots, in addition to the automatic human-nature resistance to worldview reconstructions.”

Rob: “How do oligarchies differ from plutocracies?”

Becky: “For our purposes, they are equivalent.”

Barry: “Here is another bootstrapping conundrum: **The 2Selfs Revolution will create supra-humans, but it will take supra-humans to launch the 2Selfs Revolution.** The set of articles documenting our discussions is designed to launch the process of accomplishing both transformations simultaneously!”

Becky: “My parents were enthusiastic supporters of President Ronald Reagan. They are in shock now. They remember nostalgically Reagan’s campaign slogan, ‘It’s morning in America.’ Now, after the tragic results of the 2024 US presidential election, for us old-line Republicans, our new mantra is tragically becoming, ‘It’s mourning in America.’”

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/elon-musk-spent-quarter-billion-dollars-electing-trump-financing-myste-rcna182922>

Travis: “Judging from the correspondence press, we have also entered an era of ‘moaning in America.’ **We cannot take time out to mourn or reduce our agony by just moaning because we are facing an existential threat to the very concept of America.** Instead, we must passionately move to elevate the US and the rest of the West to an unprecedented adult-level of existence, which fortunately is now possible.”

Rob: “You three are confused. You just can’t face the fact that most of us are tired of your do-gooder woke agenda. We want Trump to make America great again for us poor working stiffs.”

Travis: “F-you, Rob. Unlike the scoundrel Trump, the Democrats are peacefully and cooperatively turning the executive branch over to him although they realize disastrous consequences may follow.”

Barry: “Yes, they have a pro-America worldview deeply embedded in their collective certainty illusions that compel them to cling to the viability of our dying constitutional republic.”

Becky: “Here is a cruel irony. Trump and his mega-wealthy supporters will certainly benefit from Trump’s shenanigans. Any trickle-down benefits to the working-class people who voted for him will be incidental. I expect that to increase widespread discomfort, which will make our political instability worse. An increasing wealth gap is unsustainable in a democracy. Trump hasn’t completely neutered the mental capacity of Rob and his cohorts, so many of them will figure out they have been duped and vote for the 2Selfs Age future next time. That is why I fear Trump will attempt to prevent a fair election in 2028.”

Travis: “As Trump assembles his new cabinet, we now have the inmates running the asylum.”

Rob: “You guys just don’t like wonderful conservative politics. After all, he has appointed some competent people including governors and a senator.”

Becky: “True, but he also picked Robert Kennedy Jr., Matt Gaetz, Kash Patel, Tulsi Gabbard<sup>5</sup> for director of national intelligence, and Pete Hegseth, who besides his behavior handicaps has advocated launching a new Christian Crusade<sup>6</sup>, to head the DOD. Those people are among the most unprepared and incompetent nominees for their roles in the history of the US.”

Barry: “We must overcome Trump’s manipulations at the auto-self level, not the thinking-self level!”

Travis: “Trump is the deep state master, fake news promulgator, and Justice Department weaponizer. Wake up free press, start counteracting his proxymoron-powered certainty-delusion constructions.”

Becky: “Trump is replacing competency with loyalty. That is the formula for creating a directorship.”

Barry: “The governing situation in the US is likely going to become terrible starting in 2025. The challenge we face is can we become effective quickly enough in launching the 2Selfs Revolution to reverse our projected demise into a Putin-style plutocracy?”

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<sup>5</sup> Tulsi Gabbard's Russia Views 'Dangerous'—Former NATO Ambassador <https://www.newsweek.com/tulsi-gabbard-russia-views-memo-crimea-rt-nato-1996579>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/12/05/us/hegseth-church-crusades.html>

Travis: “I fear it could become even worse. Trump seems hell-bent on becoming a dictator. We could be experiencing Hiter redux.”

Rob: “You guys are just in panic mode. Trump will just make America great again. He won’t become another Hitler or even Putin.”

Becky: “I wish I shared your tranquility about our current disastrous situation. We now have a plurality of American voters who support a condemned sexual predator, an indicted insurrectionist, a serial adulterer, a chronic liar, a life-long con-man, and an antiscience idiot who will plunge the earth deeper into tragic global warming that will be exceedingly difficult to reverse. The preacher in my church even supported the immoral Trump. I have stopped going there because it has lost its moral compass. I will need to find another church with a preacher who has moral underpinnings.”

Rob: “I resent that you label Christian groups immoral just because they support a great leader.”

Becky: “The Christian organizations that support such a disgusting person do not align with my Christian values.”

### It’s Always Darkest Before the Spawn

Barry: “When we started our discussions, I showed you a set of worldview-progression maps that eventually identified how we had a choice between suffering with our current dark descent and launching a magnificent mega-ascent. Now, our situation has become more urgent and the consequences more real after the fateful 2024 US presential election. Therefore, I have created a new governing-focused version for us to discuss, which I am sharing with you now.”

### Abandoning or Constructing the Future Greatness of the US and West?

		Which Destiny?					
		Modern West (Thinking-Self Age)		Autocracy Age		2Selfs Age	
Major Periods	Dark Age	Triumphant West	Mediocrity	Democracy Suicide	Now→	Now→	Now→
Approx. dates	300-1400	1770-1970	1970→Now				
Spiritual Domain	Papacy	Christian/many	many	Christian/many?	many		
Physical Domain	fog	Science	Science	Science	Science		
Mental Domain	fog	Enlightenment	manipulations	manipulations	2Selfs		
# of Worldviews	1	2+	2-	2-	3		
Symbolic Maturity	Infant	Teenager	Pubescent	Pubescent	Adult!		
Mega-Transformations	Mega-Descent	Mega-Ascent	Descending	Descent	Mega-Ascent		
Big History Eras	E7	F8	E8	E8	F9	E9	
Types of Humans	Natural	Thinking	Thinking	Thinking	Supra		

Rob: “That diagram is very complicated. I’m not sure I understand it fully even after our many discussions. I don’t think I could ever get my buddies to even look at it.”

Barry: “Think about studying physics or calculus or organic chemistry. How about studying for the law or CPA exams? Understanding this diagram and even the entire set of articles is a walk in the park compared to those arduous tasks.”

Becky: “Rob, I don’t think your chums will read these articles. As we learned when we discussed the supraevolutionary ascent of education, in the future most students must learn about the basics of understanding and managing human nature in their normal pre-college education, like they do now with basic math and science. However, we have already seen most of the content of the above diagram, so I don’t expect us to have difficulty understanding and benefiting from the additions Barry made.”

Travis: “I have been studying it, and Barry, it is brilliant. The Which Destiny columns in this version of the worldview-progression map powerfully capture the current dire situation of passively watching our cherished way of life being snatched from us or experiencing the exhilaration of being part of a magnificent supraevolutionary ascent that will be as momentous as the Science Revolution.”

Barry: “Let’s take turns analyzing each item on the two pairs of columns below Which Destiny.”

Becky: “I agree these are our two wildly divergent destinies. This powerfully displays the assertion Barry made at the beginning of his Introduction article that the West has hit a fundamental fork in the road. With the results of the 2024 US presential election and the advent of Barry’s emancipating 2Selfs Theory, we now can vividly see the stark choice we face.”

Travis: “Actually, at this point we don’t have any further choosing to do on the left branch. We either choose to launch the 2Selfs Revolution and heroically charge down the right path to a greater future than humanity has even experienced, or we meander down the left path to become dominated by what will probably be generations of a more pathetic life than most people can currently imagine.”

Rob: “Although I deeply disagree that Trump will destroy our democracy as shown on the left branch, I do support taking actions to get us on the right branch because launching the 2Selfs Revolution will empower us to solve the many currently devastating problems we have been discussing. I like the possibility of a 2Selfs Age, and I see Barry added Thinking-Self Age to our current period for comparison.”

Barry: “The Spiritual Domain line is interesting. For the right column, the West will continue having many religions and hopefully they will become more-consistently beneficial as we previously discussed amongst ourselves. It’s difficult to predict what would happen on the left branch. There are many powerful forces in the MAGA universe that want to turn us into a Christian theocracy, but Trump will likely not allow that to happen because he appears to be totally non-religious, and he will almost certainly aim toward a plutocracy. However, he will continue duping religious communities into supporting him, and I expect many religious leaders to be staunch supporters of a Trump oligarchy and become part of it as Russia Orthodox Christian Patriarch Kirill does for Putin. Forbes magazine has reported that Kirill had a personal wealth of about \$4 billion, way back in 2006<sup>7</sup>.”

Becky: “Wonderful job of focusing on the spiritual needs of the faithful! The open question is how far might Trump go, in exchange for support from powerful Christian leaders, in suppressing other expressions of religion despite constitutional prohibitions of doing that?”

Travis: “Combining the manipulative segments of politics and religion is a sure formula for disaster. Rob, can you identify any examples where that combination has created a desirable society?”

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.forbes.com/2009/02/20/putin-solzhenitsyn-kirill-russia-opinions-contributors\\_orthodox\\_church.html](https://www.forbes.com/2009/02/20/putin-solzhenitsyn-kirill-russia-opinions-contributors_orthodox_church.html)

Rob: “Nope! But I favor a Christian nation under MAGA leadership.”

Travis: “Great, a combination of a theocracy and an oligarchy, just like in the West’s Dark Age.”

Becky: “Science will obviously continue as a powerful mechanism in the West, but the worldview that supports it will be diminished in the Autocracy Age path because climate and vaccine deniers are getting into Trump’s administration, and besides the direct harm they will cause, that will have the effect of undermining the worldview that provides the foundation for the power of science.”

Travis: “The Mental Domain line shows a massive difference. Both options administer the coup de grace to the Enlightenment legacy. In the Autocracy Age column, there is no need to perpetuate our Enlightenment heritage because manipulation prevails, and its governing safeguards will be ignored whenever possible. Like in the Mental-Prison Age (aka, Dark Age), people will have emasculating worldviews constructed into their auto-self, and most will not even notice what happened to them, just like Trump has done to so many voters today. For the 2Selves Age alternative, the empirical chewing-gum-and-baling-wire fixes of the Enlightenment will be replaced with 2Selves Theory and 2Selves Worldview, which will provide a discontinuously more-powerful understanding and management of the mysterious aspects of human nature than has ever existed.”

Rob: “We’re on a roll. The ‘# of Worldviews’ line is an easy one. It will remain 2 in the left column and make a revolutionary ascent by adding a third, mental-domain, worldview in the right column. After all, that is the main purpose, or maybe the driving force, of the 2Selves Revolution. I suppose Barry included a smaller two and a strong negative sign in the left column to indicate the already noted interference with science and the obliteration of the Enlightenment legacy without replacing it.”

Barry: “The right column in the Symbolic Maturity line is the Holy Grail that we have been striving for. We in the West, and then the whole advanced world, will finally mature to the adult problem-solving and existence level. The Autocracy Age column does not show us retreating to the infant level because we will still be very effective problem solvers for the physical domain, but those who get disempowering worldviews constructed will think like young children on many topics.”

Becky: “The Autocracy Age alternative in the Mega-Transformation line shows a retreat not to another mega-descent because the US will still have 2 overarching worldviews, but it will no longer have any viable claim to world leadership. If we do not escape that path, we could only hope that other countries of the West will avoid this tragic descent and provide a foundation for our eventual mega-ascent to 2Selves Age. The right column shows that we will make a revolutionary advance of the same magnitude as the one that created the Modern West, which will create equally wonderful new benefits.”

Travis: “I don’t know much about the Big History project, but Barry seems convinced that the 2Selves Revolution will constitute Big History Threshold 9, which will take us to what we might experience as a new, long, empowering Big History Era 9. The E8 font sizes indicate our deteriorating thinking-human capabilities for people in the West, and by extension for humanity.”

Rob: “To me, the Types of Humans line is another way of looking at the Symbolic Maturity line. I like the concept of suprahumans, and I can’t wait for my sons and I to become that amazing type of human!”

Travis: “We need to resist the temptation to hate those who voted for Trump and put us on a path of losing our democracy because many of them have been duped; they have unknowingly had certainty

delusions constructed within their auto-self. Therefore, instead of hating them, we need to forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Rob: “I think you have taken that from the Bible, why would you do that?”

Travis: “Because there are good points in some metaphables, and it fits our situation.”

Becky: “I agree we should not blame the victims of the mass manipulations but strive to change the world despite the huge number of manipulated people who have become mentally impotent on many important topics, especially voting.”

Travis: “Some businesspeople who invested heavily in Trump's election, in addition to the obvious oil executives, will benefit greatly. ‘It will be a billionaires’ ball,’<sup>8</sup> said Robert Reich, who served as secretary of labor during the Clinton administration. I suppose most of them consider Trump a useful idiot who is good at conning voters and who will support their deregulation agenda. Before they started down this path, they might have looked back at how the industrialists and prominent politicians who supported Hitler thought they could control him.”

Becky: “Yep, power craving, narcissistic demagogues are not easily controlled.”

Barry: “Some wealthy and powerful Trump supporters will benefit greatly in the emerging oligarchy, but others will suffer like most of the unfortunate Americans who voted for the Trumpian mirage.”

Becky: “Trump has promised strong deregulation. Unregulated capitalism is a disaster just like hard socialism. The former produces sudden crashes, as in 2008; the later produces slow strangulation because it fails to tap the passion to self-actualize. Also some of the regulations Trump promises to jettison will wreak havoc on the environment and public health.”

Travis: “It took a major war and a tragic 15 million deaths to finally stop Hitler and begin the process of reconstructing the Nazi certainty delusions he had constructed in German citizens. We need to leverage the insights we are developing here to launch the 2Selfs Revolution that will be a traumatic but non-war process to overcome our current demagoguery and launch us into a way of being that is greater than has ever existed.”

Barry: “We can only launch a mental revolution when widespread discomfort becomes so great that citizens feel compelled to take strong actions, and recent events have now caused us to reach that very dark point. That provides us the opportunity we need to spawn the 2Selfs Revolution because it is always darkest before the spawn!”

Becky: “Trump has thoroughly emasculated the once-honorable Grand Old Party and taken it down an immorality rabbit hole with him. My widespread family is traumatized by Trump’s reelection and watching who he is selecting for his cabinet. Some around him, including his VP, have previously noted how dysfunctional he is and even accused him of being ‘America’s Hitler’ and called him a ‘moral disaster,’ ‘total fraud,’ and ‘reprehensible.’ Now they have caved in and joined his dystopian crusade. What happened to my wonderful party of strong national defense, American exceptionalism, and solid values?”

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/17/us/politics/trump-presidency-billionaires.html>

Travis: “I agree. I used to have policy disagreements with the Republican Party. Now I am terrified as I watch so many surrender their values and honor to become Trumpian cultists. That happened when Hitler took over Germany, and the German people and the rest of the West suffered the horrendous consequences. Too many otherwise good people are succumbing to having their values deconstructed. I suspect most of them just want to join the bandwagon and don’t realize what is happening to them.”

Becky: “We have examined the end of the Triumphant West and the demise of American exceptionalism. An article after the 2024 US presidential election, Donald Trump Ends Decades of American Dominance<sup>9</sup>, states that among other setbacks of American greatness is Trump’s isolationism plan and his desire to replace experts in government with cronies. It ends with, ‘A very reasonable question for voters who now reject that [the American Century] framework is: What’s next?’”

Travis: “We have two distinct versions of what’s next: a dystopian and a utopian destiny. Will we settle for a world of seduction traps including the insidious proxymorons, or will we take heroic actions to create a world of fundamental solutions to human-nature mysteries that have the potential to produce a new American and West century, and more?”

Becky: “Happily for America, happily for the rest of the West, for the first time in human history Barry has now penetrated mysterious aspects of human nature to the level that we can clearly see the two paths, and that provides the opportunity to take the 2Selfs Age path!”

## **A New Fork State of Mind**

Barry: “We must learn to transform certainty illusions methodically or we will continue to descend. To be cute about it, we need to establish systematic processes to create a ‘new fork state of mind’.”

Rob: “Clever use of the Billy Joel song tittle, Barry.”

Becky: “We have inescapably hit a fork in the road for the US and the West. However, it is not just what we know but what we internalize and feel compelled to propagate. Our predecessors did the best they could to manage the foibles of human nature. Now can and must do discontinuously better.”

Barry: “The American Revolution was a consequence of the greater Enlightenment revolution and a key contributor to creating the Modern West. Now, a New American Revolution would be a consequence of the greater 2Selfs Revolution and a key contributor to creating 2Selfs Age.”

Becky: “Here is a quote from one of our Founding Fathers, James Madison, who was a key contributor the US Constitution, the primary author of Bill of Rights, and the fourth president of the US.<sup>10</sup> ‘Happily for America, happily, we trust, for the whole human race, they pursued a new and more noble course. They accomplished a revolution which has no parallel in the annals of human society... They formed the design of a great Confederacy, which it is incumbent on their successors to improve and perpetuate.’ Now we must create another gargantuan revolution that has no parallel in the annals of human society, because right now sadly for America, sadly, I fear for the whole West, Donald Trump is pursuing a very ignoble course. Now it is incumbent on us as their successors to improve and perpetuate the governing structure they bequeathed us by constructing a discontinuously different form of managing the auto-self of voters that empowers them to overcome the flagrant manipulations that

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2024/12/06/trump-ends-american-century-00192236>

<sup>10</sup> Federalist No. 14, November 20, 1787



are the curse of our times. We need to elevate the supraevolutionary level of voters to accomplish nobly and happily the next phase of American, and Western, greatness!”

Travis: “Trump is both the most ominous result and now the greatest destructive, aggressive contributor to the demolition of the grand American experiment in representative governments created by our Founding Fathers. He is playing hardball while Democrats and the few remaining honorable Republicans are playing softball. The correspondence media is whining and putting on wise talking heads, while Trump is constructing certainty delusions. Trump will ignore the Constitution while those interested in freedom will keep tragically following it all the way to its destruction. The Supreme Court is so stacked with Trump lackies that they already created a meta-constitution element that states he is essentially immune from important aspects of violating the Constitution, a dreadful step in the creation of an autocracy.”

Becky: “We need to create a new fork state of mind. That is, we need to construct 2Selfs Worldview into voters to preserve self-governance. The US Constitution is the best product of the Enlightenment our founders could create, but it is failing us, along with the way we construct meta-constitutions, because the times have changed enormously.”

Travis: “Trump 2.0 will not be Trump 1.0 redux. I fear he will be January 1933 Hitler redux.”

Rob: “You guys keep spewing crap about Trump being another Hitler. You don’t know what you are talking about.”

Travis: “Do you realize that his VP pick previously called Trump America’s Hitler before joining his dystopian crusade looking for personal advantage?”

Becky: “Rob, before you criticize our observations on this topic, you need to abandon Trump’s policy of making nefarious assertions based on gross ignorance. Do you have any idea what Travis refers to about Hitler in January 1933 and other analogies to Hitler?”

Rob: “Oops! No, I don’t. But I still think you guys are just fear mongering.”

Barry: “On November 9, 1923, Hitler, aided by a force of thugs, fomented an attempted coup, his infamous Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. It failed, and Hitler was convicted and went to prison.”

Becky: “Being held accountable is a well-deserved fate that Trump escaped due to repeated stalling by a rookie judge he appointed in Florida and some puzzling and dangerous meta-constitution additions made by the conservative Supreme Court, three members of which he appointed.”

Travis: “The rest of the situation might now sound familiar. In 1932 Hitler gained the support of a group of industrialists. Hitler’s party won many seats in the Reichstag, and then he maneuvered to be appointed chancellor. Then, at the beginning of 1933, Hitler moved quickly to take over total control and establish himself as dictator.”

Becky: “I am terrified that unless we get the fundamental solutions to the underlying problems we have been discussing out into the world, Trump will end up following Hitler’s footsteps and establish himself as a dictator. We need to pay attention to Hitler’s destruction of democracy, so we don’t repeat it.”

Barry: “To end up on the right side of the Which Destiny alternatives in the above diagram, we must stop surrendering to unfair fights. To do that, we need to create a new fork state of mind. That is, we need to learn to reconstruct the state of mind, or certainty illusions, of citizens on a systematic basis.”

### **It’s the Certainty Illusion, Stupid!**

Barry: “While the abilities mismatch is the systemic cause of the inevitable implosion of the Modern West, the main mental mechanism that stands in our way of creating a desirable future is the previously impenetrable oddity of human nature – our certainty illusions.”

Rob: “Dr. B, you have already taught us a lot about this weird mental mechanism. What else can we say about it?”

Barry: “The bizarre certainty-illusion property of human nature has kept citizens trapped in the adolescent phase of humanity throughout modern societies, beginning with the Science Revolution and the Enlightenment. Even more devastating, certainty illusions have kept humankind in a mental prison – a pretend world on many important topics – since humans emerged from the fog of evolutionary development.”

Travis: “Westerns societies, along with most of the world, suffer from chronic pretending, but we cannot fanaticize our way into a viable future! We must learn to deal consistently with actual realities.”

Becky: “I agree that when it comes to the biggest obstacle to reversing our tragic descent and replacing it with a magnificent mega-ascent to a new unprecedented way of living as supra-humans, it’s the certainty illusion, stupid. We have exhausted our childhood existence and must now become adults!”

Barry: “Let’s each provide a dramatic example of a deeply felt in-here reality that is now widely recognized as not existing out-there. I will use the 1543 revelation by Nicolaus Copernicus that the earth is not the center of the universe. Others had speculated, but Copernicus laid out compelling evidence. He delayed publishing his book until he was on his deathbed to avoid expected persecution by the Church. However, another barrier emerged to accepting his revelation because most people believed the earth was the center of the universe since it certainly appeared that way, and they had an embedded certainty illusion that compelled them to believe that assertion. Evidence, or anomalies, that contradicted that belief created cognitive dissonance, which caused most to initially reject it.”

Becky: “I took a course in the history of science in college, and I learned something astounding. For a very long time, people in the West universally believed the Bible-based assertion that the universe, earth, and life all emerged suddenly, at what biblical scholars pegged at about 6K years ago. Then, from the end of the 1700s through the first half of the 1800s, geologist gradually established the reality that the earth was extremely old. Holy horrors, that rude intrusion on people’s beliefs went much further than undermining our special physical place in the universe that Copernicus sprung on the West. It attacked the special place we humans occupy based on creation stories at the beginning of the Bible. Those special-creation stories are so potent that my parents still believe them. When I was growing up, our church stopped teaching about Adam and Eve, I suppose to avoid undermining the viability of religion since we were all being taught about science in school. My preachers never explicitly argued against the Adam and Eve story, they just ignored it.”

Barry: “As a testament to how certainty delusions live on long after they have been exposed, I recently attended a wedding where I was flabbergasted when the officiating clergyman kept referring to Adam

and Eve as an example for the young newlyweds. I have no idea why he didn't pick some uplifting New Testament stories instead of relying repeatedly on an ancient myth that cannot possibly be true. Continuing to propagate that certainty delusion is not innocuous – it undermines the worldview that provides the foundation for the supremacy of science for understanding physical-world realities.”

Travis: “It does even more damage because that pretending teaches citizens, from their early youth, to ignore blatant anomalies, and that handicap stays with many people later, including as voters.”

Rob: “From the intense discussions we had on religion, I accept the many anomalies with respect to special creation. However, I still struggle to release that belief, so I suppose that is an example of how hard it is to reconstruct certainty illusions. Now I will add my example that doesn't have to do with the physical world or with science. I also saw an overwhelming number of anomalies in our previous discussions that established the Bible cannot possibly be inerrant, but I can't seem to overcome my belief that it is. I am really catching on to how difficult it is to change our deeply embedded beliefs buried in our certainty illusions that are part of the auto-self. How can something seem so profoundly real to me when I now recognize it is not? This process is quite disorienting; I feel like it is causing me to experience an agonizing form of reality vertigo. I also realize that we aren't going to solve most of the currently intractable problems unless we can conquer this certainty-illusion mental oddity. No wonder people have previously failed to get past this massive barrier to becoming suprahumans.”

Barry: “The struggles you are experiencing to accept that a couple of your beliefs cannot possibly be true are poignant examples of cognitive dissonance. Those beliefs were automatically and imperceptibly constructed within you in your youth through the usual process of repetitions with feelings attached. If you stay focused on the overwhelming number of anomalies we examined that demonstrated those two in-here beliefs cannot possibly correspond to out-there realities, you should find that those errant certainty illusions will start to fade away.”

Becky: “Don't worry about a slippery slope here. As you remember from our previous group discussions on religion, these are the only deep religious beliefs you have, or had, that are verifiably certainty delusions.”

Travis: “Rob, you can also leverage the cognitive dissonance you are experiencing to gain new insight into how the distinct constructed and correspondence forms of ‘truth’ operate and why the constructed form normally trumps the correspondence form – until we become supra-humans!”

Barry: “Previous hurdles required confronting and reconstructing specific obsolete beliefs, as above. **Our enormous challenge now is to confront our certainty about our certainties because most people currently believe that their in-here beliefs *inherently* correspond to out-there realities.**”

Travis: “Because we have an intense phobia about challenging our beliefs, that has inevitably caused many people to live in a world of chronic pretending. Powerful forces in societies must become more responsible about the certainties they construct.”

Rob: “I suppose that is why we continue to have an illusion of having reached the adulthood of the human species.”

Becky: “It's actually much worse than that because with the advent of digital communications technologies, certainty delusions are now getting constructed to a highly dysfunctional level. We have no hope of achieving a desirable future if we keep blindly allowing this nefarious process to continue!”

## Pick Your Poison

Barry: “We have been talking for a long time about the fork in the road that is coming. I have to admit, it happened more dramatically and suddenly than I expected. The Triumphant West started ending about a half century ago. Now the Modern West is dead. With an unavoidable massive transformation ahead of us, discomfort will relentlessly escalate. After the 2024 US presidential election, we are on a likely path toward an autocracy in the US with the checks and balances from the Enlightenment now it tatters, which is already causing great agony for those who see the problem.”

Travis: “Over time, many people who voted for Trump will start to regret what they have unleashed, as voters in Germany tragically did when they elevated Hitler after his failed coup.”

Becky: “Fortunately, we have the alternative path that we have been discussing. However, that path will also create discomfort, and because it will be so widespread on such a massive scale, the discomfort produced during the 2Selfs Revolution will be considerable.”

Barry: “I will now share a new table that I created listing some of the characteristics of the two distinct destinies we now face.”

### Which Destiny for US and West?

<b>Autocracies [Mental-Enslavement] Age</b>	<b>2Selfs [Mental-Empowerment] Age</b>
<b>Protracted/snowballing lost-greatness agony</b>	<b>Periodic transformation discomfort</b>
2Selfs Revolution ignored/thwarted	2Selfs Revolution accomplished/celebrated
Resurrection of Triumphant West not possible	Supra-Triumphant West established
Abilities mismatch unnoticed: failures continue	Abilities mismatch eliminated: new successes
Mental-domain exploited/manipulated	Mental-domain conquered
Proxymoron-use dupes voters	Proxymoron-use shames perpetrators
Democracy experiment plunging toward annihilation	Self-governance transformed to stable reality
Trump makes good on promise to destroy free press	Free press remains beacon of democracies
Stuck with 2 worldviews: spiritual/physical domains	Adds 3rd peak worldview: mental domain
We remain diminished adolescent thinking-humans	We finally become adult supra-humans
American exceptionalism abandoned	American exceptionalism reasserted
Certainties/beliefs sacrosanct, can't be challenged	Certainties are challengeable constructions
Make climate crisis worse, dreadful global citizens	Take lead in overcoming climate crisis
Groveling to avoid punishment/retribution	Responsible freedoms without manipulations
Lost competitive advantage for West	Regained competitive advantage for West
State-sponsored/exploited religion, like in Russia?	Self-managed more-beneficial religions
STEM + propaganda education	STEM + transformation education
Stuck in deteriorating Big History Threshold 8	Produced Big History Threshold 9
Our 12 intractable problems remain unsolvable	Our 12 intractable problems conquered
Constructed “truths” trump correspondence truths	Correspondence truths prevail
In-here beliefs assumed to ensure out-there realities	In-here and out-there realities distinguished
Chewing-gum-and-baling-wire, snake-oil, live on	Mental-world managed at root-cause level
Terrifying imperial US presidencies?	Gratifying constitutional US presidencies!
US Constitution continues losing usefulness	New US (and other West) Constitutions?
The Three Paramount Human-Nature Factors	
Comfort imperative exploited – simplistic solutions	Comfort imperative overcome
Certainty illusions exploited – delusions constructed	Certainty illusions noticed/managed
Counteracting principle ignored – progress prevented	Counteracting principle leveraged

Travis: “That is a spectacular view of our vastly divergent possible destinies! Pick your poison – protracted and snowballing agony on one path and periodic transformation discomfort on the other. Uncomfortable times are inevitably ahead no matter which path we take. However, our two possible destinies are vastly different! Some of the items are generic to the West and others are specific to the US. I don’t recommend that we spend time analyzing these because most are evident but still worth identifying to create painful and hopeful perspectives.”

Rob: “I don’t agree with some of the issues you raise on the left column. What I want is most of the amazing advances in the right column with Trump as our president.”

Becky: “Rob, do you know of any examples of dictators allowing personal freedoms for average citizens?”

Rob: “I don’t remember much from my high school history classes, but I get the point from your question. However, I don’t expect Trump to become a dictator.”

Travis: “Dream on, Rob. The left column is what you bought when you purchased Trump’s snake oil of simplistic solutions, proxymorons, Big Lies, certainty-delusion constructions, and retreat from American leadership on the world stage! Trump will provide some benefits for specific groups that supported him, including special-privilege-seeking whites, men, and straights, along with Christians, antiabortionists, wealthy people, and billionaires. You, and I suspect most of your buddies, are in all but the last two categories. However, you and many others who voted for Trump, plus the rest of us who are victims, get the whole left column and forego the many amazing benefits in the 2Self Age column if we fail to launch the 2Selfs Revolution before it is too late. This is an either/or, not a pick and choose situation!”

Becky: “Rob, it’s not like a cafeteria where you can select the items you desire from either column. It is more like buying a once-in-a-lifetime vacation package to Paris, only you get duped and miss the wonders you desire because you end up Paris, Texas instead of Paris, France.”

Rob: “Ouch!”

Travis: “Yes, you fell for Trump’s dramatic proxymorons, and now we will all suffer as we watch him, and his loyal acolytes, do their best to transform what he pretended was a deep state into a dysfunctional manipulative state as they work to gut safeguards to create a stifling autocracy. Apropos our recent discussions, I just saw an interesting article, ‘Several Trump personnel picks have backgrounds in snake oil sales’<sup>11</sup>.”

Rob: “Despite what you are all telling me, I continue to hold out hope that Trump will deliver on his promise to make America great again.”

Barry: “We need to become clear-eyed here. There is no way to over-state the enormous consequences of our current fork in the road. **We have entered an epic, destiny-determining battle for the mind**, and the two paths identify the nature of future widespread freedoms, dignity, prosperity and well-being of citizens of the US and likely of the whole West, depending on which warring faction wins!”

Becky: “Fortunately, we now have 2Selfs Theory that provides us the right path in the above table to fight for.”

Travis: “The amazingly powerful chart above reinforces many aspects of making the transformation to 2Selfs Age, but that will induce revolutionary-change discomfort, plus other discomforts Trump and his minions will make trying to head off our systematic management of human nature. Where can we find counteracting forces to keep us on track?”

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/several-trump-personnel-picks-backgrounds-snake-oil-sales-rcna182630>

Barry: “Trump has inadvertently provided, and will uncontrollably continue to provide, a counteracting force that will drive many people to do their part to launch the 2Selves Revolution. Whenever anyone waivers at taking actions to become a supra-human, they should spend a few minutes focusing on the left column of the above table and experiencing the future we are plunging toward that will negatively impact themselves and those they care about. That should create sufficient ‘push’ counteracting discomfort to keep them going, and the elation of anticipating the amazing benefits of 2Selves Age will produce ‘pull’ pleasure to drive passionate effort.”

Becky: “It is both terrifying and exhilarating that we are living in what may be the most consequential short period in the history of the human race. The physical-domain revolution had and continues to have enormous positive consequences for the West and then the rest of the world, but it took four centuries of tough struggles to reach a decisive victory. The mental-domain revolution that we now must launch will have an equivalent level of positive impacts on citizens of the West, but we must accomplish that in a few short years because we are now in a power dive.”

Barry: “Now that we have shown the way, **humanity will inevitably make the supraevolutionary ascent to 2Selves Age, but if we fail now, it will likely happen and in a different part of the world.**”

Travis: “What a breathtaking moment to realize the that our generation will make the unavoidable choice between radically divergent futures.”

Becky: “Business leaders better wake up and get passionately involved in determining which path we take in this fork in the road before it is too late. They are in a position to make an enormous difference, and the wrong choice will come back to devour many of them. Business leaders are also voters and citizens, so many will read your politics article, and the wise ones will then want to read your leadership article and take actions because they will realize how much involuntary activities affect their business directly and indirectly.”

Barry: “Enough for now about the stark choice we face. Let’s move on to how we make the 2Selves Age become a reality by launching the 2Selves Revolution.”

## **Establishing the Supra-Triumphant West**

Barry: “The Triumphant West has died! We cannot resurrect it because its time has passed. We can now see that the Modern West was inevitably going to self-destruct due to the abilities-mismatch unleashed between the root-cause physical-domain Science Revolution and the empirical mental-domain Enlightenment. **The nature of the fundamental limitations we inherited from the Enlightenment to understand the mental domain has also prevented us from recognizing our current limitations.** Our task now is not to attempt to resuscitate the Modern West, but to exceed anything the West has ever achieved, and that even now many will struggle to accept is possible.”

Becky: “We need to create the now-possible Supra-Triumphant West.”

Rob: “What do you mean by ‘supra-triumphant West’?”

Travis: “I get it! ‘Supra’ is used to represent conquering the supraevolution process and becoming supra-humans. That is what the 2Selves Revolution will bring us.”

Becky: “I am trembling with excitement because, just in the nick of time, we now have the keys to unlock a mental revolution that will not just rescue us from our plunge into autocracy and mediocrity, but will fortuitously transform us to a new stable form of self-governance. This mega-ascent can and must also occur for other domains including those we have been discussing these many months.”

Travis: “If Kamala Harris had won the 2024 US presential election, we would have had four stable years to launch the 2Selves Revolution. However, we would have had work to do to convince the public that we were on a path to a future self-governance disaster. Now people will experience in real-time the hazards we face. With the fortuitous advent of 2Selves Theory, we have now entered a race against time because I expect Trump and his grovelers to work feverishly to gut the already-deteriorating checks and balances that were created to keep our American self-governance experiment alive.”

Barry: “I visualize the centuries-long physical-domain revolution as the Worldview-Wars Age. The combatants could not have known it at the time, but the surface battles they fought were not the deciding factor of success. The determining factor was which hidden worldview was going to prevail to understand and manage the physical world: a supernaturalistic or naturalistic one?”

Travis: “I assume you see the upcoming battle as another worldview-wars era, but this time it has to play out very quickly because we are about to leap off a cliff from which there may be no short-term recovery from the injuries the US and other countries of the West will suffer.”

Barry: “Great observation, Travis. Without having the slightest clue about worldviews, Trump has been winning the worldview wars. He seems to have learned well from his early-life mentor, Roy Cohn who was the infamous Chief Counsel for disgraced Senator Joseph McCarthy and who was later disbarred for fraud, that endless repetitions with feelings attached creates beliefs. Most of Trump’s adversaries, including his political opponents and the majority of the correspondence press, remain stuck in the thinking-self mode. **Through his relentless use of proxymorons, Trump had been systematically deconstructing the worldviews that hold the US self-governing systems together**, including that elections are rigged if he doesn’t win, that anybody doing their job is part of a deep state, and that the Justice Department is rigged against him and his cohorts.”

Travis: “The master of proxymoron communications has been having his way for far too long. Let the battle for the mind now begin in earnest!”

Becky: “An article headline on Nov 27, 2024, stated, ‘MSNBC and CNN Ratings Slashed in Half Post-Election.’<sup>12</sup> When Barry writes up our conversations and makes that available to their political commentators, that not only could be a major force in our worldview wars, but it should greatly increase their viewership because it will show the only viable path forward to head off our self-governing collapse, and likely their demise as routinely happens with autocratic governments.”

Travis: “I understand the viewership drop off. When I try to watch TV news, the anchors and their guests seem to be flailing. They don’t know what hit them, so they have no clue how to plot our urgently needed recovery.”

Becky: “Yep, they currently have no way to understand that we have hit the end of the adolescence phase of Western society, and that the only path to hopeful future is transform ourselves to adulthood!”

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2024/11/27/msnbc-ratings-slashed-in-half-post-election/>

Barry: “We need to enlist the correspondence press, social-media influencers, sober politicians, perceptive business leaders, university researchers, educators including pre-college, and think-tanks that want to keep our self-governance alive. However, we will need to help them acquire capabilities to understand and manage strange aspects of human nature much better, including the comfort imperative, certainty illusions, and the counteracting principle in order to become effective combatants in our upcoming worldview wars. **The path to launching a successful 2Selves Revolution against expected oppression from the Trump government is to have passionate people from many domains working simultaneously.**”

Travis: “We are going to suffer many losses as Trump and his acolytes start replacing the professionals who run our governmental institutions with loyalist to him. He is going to say he’s getting rid of the deep state, where in fact he is the epitome of the deep state – another of his diabolical proxymorons that hapless voters keep falling for. Barry, what do you consider to be the minimum functioning institutions to have a foundation to bring us back from oblivion to enter 2Selves Age?”

Barry: “These social institutions may be sufficient to enable us to launch the 2Selves Revolution:

- A free press - one that transcends unfair fights with auto-self manipulators, repeatedly names and shames proxymoron use, and reports on progress toward creating the Supra-Triumphant West
- A military hierarchy that remains honorably committed to defending the Constitution and does not become subservient to Trump’s abuses of power
- Elements of the judiciary that remain independent and provide some adherence to the Constitution, including freedom of the press and freedom for and from religion.”

Becky: “Judging from Trump’s many transgressions after his loss in 2020, we should expect, and we must work to counteract, his attempts to preempt a free and fair 2028 US presential election.”

Travis: “If the 2024 US presidential election was a tactical nuke explosion aimed at destroying self-governance in the US, we might consider Trump rigging or even dispensing with the 2028 presential election would be a strategic nuclear detonation. The 2Selves Revolution has the potential of enabling us to survive the tactical bomb, but not the strategic assault, so Barry must move quickly to get what we have been working on out into the world to provide what may be the only way to avoid that calamity.”

Becky: “Here is a terrifying possibility for you to contemplate. How about a rigged election producing a President or Shadow-President Musk? That would produce a plutocracy on steroids!”

Barry: “Yikes! It is part of human nature that even when viable solutions to difficult problems are presented and people agree with them, they won’t make the transformations needed due to the comfort imperative and certainty illusions blocking them. Becky, I’m sure you noticed that in business when trying to change business models or strategies to align with disruptions in the business environment, which most people automatically resist.”

Becky: “Yes, only when faced with imminent failure will businesspeople finally jump into action even though I work hard to engage them before catastrophes strike.”

Barry: “Despite growing awareness that the West is failing on many fronts, as highlighted in the dozen currently unsolvable problems we have discussed, the US and the rest of the West have remained at DEFCON 5 preparedness because no viable action plan existed. After the 2016 abilities-mismatch



time-bomb explosions in the political world, we started creating a DEFCON 4 plan, but we could not propagate it yet because the Modern West was not sufficiently ready to stave off its demise.”

Becky: “Now with the tactical political nuclear bomb of Nov. 2024, we must move the US and the whole West to DEFCON 3 action, and publishing our developments will provide the blueprint.”

Travis: “If we see Trump taking actions to preclude a trustworthy US presential election in 2028, such as holding a sham election as in Russia and Hungary, the whole West must switch to DEFCON 2 before the strategic nuclear bomb destroys our cherished way of life. If that happens, it will be too late to invoke DEFCON 1, plus we don’t have a viable process for that event.”

Rob: “You guys amuse me. All Trump is doing is taking us back to the good old days where us true Americans always prevailed, and we did not need to suffer with do-gooder DEI agendas.”

Travis: “Rob, you support most of what we have been working on because you yearn to become a supra-human. Fortunately, that is a failsafe plan for you as long as Trump does not preempt it by establishing himself as an autocrat, which you do not expect, and I assume do not want. The 2Selves Revolution is the process to get you there.”

Rob: “Yes, I support most of what the 2Selves Revolution will bring us, and I agree it does not seem to be a threat to what Trump promises to accomplish. I am truly excited about becoming a suprahuman! I think I am already moving along that path after my involvement in our many discussions.”

Becky: “A recent article from Germany<sup>13</sup>, where suffering through the tragic subversion of their democracy with the takeover by Nazism is still seared deeply into their national memory, made some poignant observations about the US situation, where we do not yet have such a painful collective memory. It stated that American voters knew Trump ‘was a convicted criminal, a nefarious liar, a miserable rabble-rouser and a vindictive demagogue, as well as an advocate for the rich and powerful. The land of the free has elected an enemy of freedom; a putschist who cheered the storming of the Capitol and kneels before despots’. It also said ‘America was to be a role model for the whole world, a beacon of democracy. Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, even attached a warning to the promise: If the experiment failed, it would be ‘a calamity for all mankind’.”

Barry: “We are indeed on the precipice of a calamity for the US, the West, and humankind, but we now have an alternative path if we launch the 2Selves Revolution quickly. Trump is the most visible vehicle of the demise of the Modern West, but it was already dying without him. There is no going back. We will either gloriously ascend to 2Selves Age or tragically descend to a dismissal autocratic future.”

Travis: “I just read the article Becky found, and it also says, ‘at the moment of disintegration, a real estate shark appears in the liberal heartland...He disguises himself as a false prophet – and wins,’ and ‘Because he finds democratic procedures inconvenient, he transforms the state into a partisan instrument and undermines checks and balances. He will also know how to satisfy his extraordinary thirst for revenge. Old ‘enemies’ are to be harassed by the law enforcement agencies’.”

Becky: “One final ominous quote from that article: ‘the Enlightenment seems to be fading for good,’ which is a point Barry has repeatedly made.”

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<sup>13</sup> <https://worldcrunch.com/eyes-on-the-us/nationalism-democracy-germany-trump>

Travis: “We have a more recent example of destroying a democracy than Hitler’s, and this one should resonate better with many current citizens. Gábor Scheiring, a former member of the Hungarian parliament, authored an article<sup>14</sup>, I Watched Orbán Destroy Hungary’s Democracy. Here’s My Advice for the Trump Era. He stated, ‘pro-democracy activists have a window to act before lasting institutional damage occurs’ under Trump. We now have the tremendous advantage never before possible with the blueprint for the 2Selfs Revolution. The window is open. Seize the opportunity!”

Becky: “Remember Orbán is a hero and a role model for Trump. In that same article, Scheiring said, ‘Liberal-minded billionaires should not sit idly by as they did in Hungary, watching the right take over the media. The New Right is also significantly more embedded in social media than liberals are. Those of us who favor democracy cannot let the Elon Musks and Andrew Tates control the public discourse. Progressive influencers: Time to log in and post away – there’s a narrative battle to win.’ Now we have the mental-domain revolution narrative. Win with it!”

Travis: “The Modern West elevated the average citizen from subservient natural-humans to powerful thinking-humans. Now the abilities mismatch has caused many people to justifiably feel their current and future status is deteriorating, so they are succumbing to demagogues peddling snake oil. Fortunately, we have it within our grasp to elevate citizens of the West from struggling thinking-humans to discontinuously more-capable supra-humans!”

Barry: “As further evidence that the Modern West is collapsing, The German government fell on December 16, 2024, after the French government did the same on Dec 5. In 2016, England withdrew from the European Union without any viable plan. Italy now has a fascist government. Those are the four biggest economies in Europe.”

Travis: “I hate to see what comes next for those countries. Rob, if you are going to believe what Trump says, then please notice that he has suggested revoking the license of media that criticizes him, says he intends to prosecute his adversaries, and is putting lackies in key government agencies. All steps autocrats take. It’s time for you to man up and notice the promised and actual steps Trump is taking to become a dictator.”

Rob: “I don’t see it that way. There is no question that my family, and most of the people I know will benefit greatly if we end up on the right side of the ‘Which Destiny for US and West’ table, but I still hope we can get there with Trump. Once the average person understands the options, they will work to become suprahumans.”

Travis: “Rob, you need to start paying attention to anomalies before Trump mentally sterilizes you by spewing disinformation that becomes embedded as certainty delusions and then you lose all ability to recognize his Big Lies. Trump is creating mental eunuchs to serve him as an all-powerful cult master.”

Becky: “You have the ability to think clearly and recognize anomalies, especially when we engage in active discussions. You see falsehoods in many topics we discussed including a couple of your previous religious beliefs. Your mental impotence seems to focus on Trump as an omniscient cult leader. You can do much better.”

Barry: “Rob, you have done well on so many topics, and you clearly see the enormous advantages of getting on the 2Selfs Age path in the ‘Which Destiny for US and West’ table, but you cannot become

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2024/11/23/trump-autocrat-elections-00191281>

the supra-human you desire to be if you keep succumbing to chronic pretending. Once our society ascends to 2Selves Age, you will be elated and will then see that getting there was the antithesis of what Trump offered you to alleviate your current angst.”

Rob: “Yes, I agree that the 2Selves Age path is the far better, and I still expect Trump to get us there.”

Travis: “Dream on! Trump cannot possibly be the cure for our many systemic problems – he is the epitome of our problem. He is the self-aggrandizing poster child advertising the end of the Modern West. He is such a compulsive huckster that he can’t stop trying to monetize his position by selling products on TV, along with other members of his family. That makes him an embarrassment on the world stage because he has become a highly visible caricature of a snake-oil salesperson.”

Barry: “Just when the Project 2025 people are savoring the possibility of creating a plutocracy that will greatly benefit Trump and the rest of them, we now have the opportunity to reverse our tragic misfortune by launching its antithesis – the 2Selves Revolution.”

Becky: “Barry, since most people are currently trapped in a mode of consuming small news bytes, how are you ever going to get them past information snippets to absorb how to escape our current political disaster?”

Travis: “I have read that Thomas Huxley was instrumental in gaining the ascendancy of Darwin’s theory of evolution because Darwin was a better theoretician than he was a promoter. Barry, I consider you to be the Darwin of supraevolution. Have you found your Thomas Huxley to help you gain the ascendancy of 2Selves Theory?”

Barry: “The times have changed since Darwin. I will need many Huxley-like influencers. I expect to find some for each domain we addressed. For the political domain, I will go to correspondence press people who are currently crying their eyes out over our situation, to political think tanks and NGOs, and to social media influencers who want to reverse our current self-governing demise. I will also approach prominent politicians who understand our self-governance experiment has played itself out and who could be in a position to create political platforms that rely on 2Selves Theory and 2Selves Worldview, instead of the now archaic Enlightenment, to overcome the human-nature dysfunctions that otherwise destroy democracies.”

Becky “We desperately need a large number of 2Selves Huxley’s in the governing domain to oppose the Trumpian hucksters who are destroying self-governance in the US.”

Travis: “It appears inevitable to me that we in the US and the West in general have now reached a major transformation point in the course of human events where we must make a declaration of independence from ubiquitous manipulations by launching the 2Selves Revolution. We must, and fortuitously with 2Selves Theory we now can, overcome proxymorons, Big Lies, simplistic solutions, snake-oil salespeople, and the relentless construction of counterproductive certainty illusions and disastrous certainty delusions that are causing descents in many aspects of our lives including driving us toward autocracies.

Barry: “Among the many types of help we will need is for the correspondence press and social media influencers to construct phobias for the many forms of seduction traps, especially the insidious proxymoron. These groups need to relentlessly expose these dysfunctions, which must be a certainty-illusion auto-self construction process, not a thinking-self information activity!”

Becky: “Beyond enlisting influencers to get the ball rolling in each domain, we will require methodical leaders to drive their profession through its 2Selfs Revolution. These leaders may well be viewed for generations as the founding parents of the transformation of their domain to 2Selfs Age capabilities.”

Barry: “2Selfs Theory, working within the 2Selfs Worldview, provides specific processes to make discontinuous improvements to each specific domain we discussed, including of course saving democracies. It also provides an empowering platform for scholars in each domain to elevate the excellent work they have already produced to reach previously unattainable levels of effectiveness.”

Becky: “Yes, as great as the innovations Barry has created are, we can expect other experts in various types of human activities to use his accomplishments as a platform to create still more advances.”

Travis: “People in my network are suffering such drastic agony that they spend much of their time worrying about a dismal future. If they are shown a path not only to halt our descent but to ascend to a greater future than they could previously imagine, I expect them to flock to learning about our now-possible supraevolutionary ascent. We will likely suffer terribly as we watch Trump place his sycophants in key positions to gut agencies that should put controls on his abuses of power. However, by taking repeated visible steps toward destroying our constitutional republic, Trump’s compulsive nefarious abuses will be a gift that keeps on giving when trying to recruit Huxley-type influencers to launch the 2Selfs Revolution and methodical leaders to establish our 2Selfs Age.”

Becky: “Copernicus worked on his theory that the earth is not the center of our solar system for many years and circulated his research among colleagues. When he published his compelling case, that inexorably led to the physical-domain revolution because of the enormous benefits it kept creating. Similarly, Barry has intensely investigated human-nature oddities for decades and communicated his growing theory among colleagues including us, and once he publishes what we have discussed, it will inevitably lead to the mental-domain revolution because of the enormous benefits it will create.”

Rob: “I agree, once I started paying attention to the many troublesome problems that even us plain folks fret about and that 2Selfs Theory can now solve, I feel certain Barry’s mental revolution will happen. I just hope it occurs in time for me and my family to become suprahumans.”

Becky: “On rare occasions, a conceptual breakthrough can unleash a major transformation of history. I am tempted to label Barry as the Copernicus of the mental world, but what he has accomplished is much more because 2Selfs Theory and 2Selfs Worldview do not just solve a problem in one mental-world domain as Copernicus did for astronomy, but they conquer many problems across multiple domains. Also, according to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy<sup>15</sup>, several people ‘were taken to be, or attempted to become’ the ‘Newton of the mind,’ but none came remotely close to creating a general theory of human nature, as Barry has accomplished. They were among the philosophers who created the European Enlightenment, which helped the West during the Modern West period, but as we have repeatedly noted, is now structurally obsolete.”

Travis: “It took many experts to lay the foundation for the physical-domain revolution, which provided the amazing benefits we enjoyed during the Modern West, or our Thinking-Self Age. As the man who

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<sup>15</sup> <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/newton-philosophy/>

discovered the mind, Barry laid the foundation for the mental-domain revolution that will provide amazing new benefits we will enjoy during our upcoming 2Selves Age.”

Barry: “To take an expansive view of the future of self-governance in the US, we can dream about the possibility of a new constitutional convention to produce a US Constitution for 2Selves Age.”

Travis: “Our political system is scarcely functioning now. We can barely pass annual budgets and agree to pay or sovereign debt. We could never produce a viable new US Constitution.”

Barry: “Of course not. Our current political situation is pathetic with greatly diminished thinking-humans serving as politicians and voters in the dying days of our Thinking-Self Age. However, once we create a super-majority of supra-humans, we could benefit greatly from creating a 2Selves Age Constitution. The Founding Fathers were only able to produce our current US Constitution because they were early children of the European Enlightenment revolution and lived in a time of momentous turmoil, which provided them with a rare opportunity to make transformational changes. Now, the Founding Parents of a new US 2Selves-Constitution would be early children of the 2Selves Revolution and would live in a time of momentous turmoil, which would provide them with a rare opportunity to make transformational changes. As a great irony, Trump may inadvertently aid our governing system reconstruction. If we survive his attempts to overthrow our constitutional republic, we shouldn’t restore our Enlightenment-produced Constitution but instead leverage a unique opportunity to produce a 2Selves Worldview governing structure.”

Travis: “Wow, a bold concept indeed, but perhaps another amazing benefit to strive for. The new constitution should preclude current dysfunctional elements, including radical gerrymandering, the electoral college, life appointments for increasingly politicized justices, and some disastrous meta-constitution elements, including the Citizens United addition that laid the foundation to create an oligarchy.”

Barry: “As further incentive for prominent politicians to work passionately to be among the Founding Parents of the 2Selves Age version of American self-governance, they should note that the Founding Fathers, with varying political platforms, produced the first five presidents of the Modern West version of American government.”

Becky: “Barry, the concepts you have developed are so revolutionary and desperately needed that I predict you will not get many of your articles out before mainline publishers come running to you to put your breakthroughs into a book. We need that book and for it to attract a huge audience as a major driving force to spur our 2Selves Revolution.”

Barry: “Thanks for your support of the breadth and importance of 2Selves Theory. I decided to retire early from a lucrative executive career three decades ago, when I still had dark hair, to pursue extending powerful insights I had developed into oddities of human nature that were blocking progress in business and other aspects of life. I thought it would take me a few years. As I look back, I doubt I would have had the courage to launch my grand project if I had realized how excruciatingly difficult it is to penetrate human nature to the level needed, which turned out to be way beyond the powerful insights I had at that time. After enduring enormous long-term personal and financial sacrifices, and a sometimes-lonely journey, I am now elated that I took the plunge and persevered. I have finally reached the necessary convergence of two necessary factors. I have now deeply penetrated and successfully modeled mysterious quirks of human nature, especially certainty illusions, and a huge

audience now exists that is desperately looking for a solution to the pending tragic end to the grand experiment of self-governance in the West plus suffering with other disastrous unsolvable problems.”

Travis: “Kudos to you, ‘supraman,’ for having the bravery and fortitude to see your grand vision to a formulation conclusion, and hopefully just in time to save the West from tragically descending into various forms of autocracies. Thanks also for showing the world how to finally solve the large set of other currently intractable problems we examined. You must immediately publish your Introduction and Overview of 2Selfs Theory and 2Selfs Worldview, and then the political breakthroughs we have been working on. Thanks for allowing me to interact with you, Becky, and even Rob over these many months, and to contribute somewhat to these breakthroughs to save the viability self-governance and light the way to a grand and glorious future for us in the US and for the whole West.”

Rob: “Thanks to the three of you for including me in your discussions even though my background is so different from yours. Although I still disagree with you vehemently in your political assessment and somewhat in your religious observations, I do relate strongly to many of the points made including seeing a new opening to conquer most of the currently unsolvable problems we addressed. Also, thanks for allowing me to continue expressing my support of Trump even though you disagree with me on that topic. I am passionately looking forward to becoming a suprahuman!”

Becky: “This has been a magnificent experience for me. I had the spectacular good fortune to acquire early insights into 2Selfs Theory and to now be well along the process of having 2Selfs Worldview constructed solidly into my auto-self, so I now see human activities more powerfully. I also had the opportunity to participate in developing some details of how we can now solve many previously intractable problems that led to the demise of the Triumphant West. I would be depressed and laying in the fetal position in a corner if I did not see the ways we discussed to ascend to the 2Selfs Age path instead of descending into the autocracy path we now face. Happily for America, happily, we trust, for the whole West, Barry’s breakthroughs now provide a way, and in their form the only viable way, to escape the otherwise inevitable descent of the West and to substitute a wonderful new way of life. Barry, you must move quickly and decisively to get the processes we discussed out into the world to make sure democracy was not just a moment for the West!”

Barry: “Thanks to each of you for your valuable contributions. Now I move to the next phase of my grand campaign to transform the US and the West into 2Selfs Age, where we will live amazingly better lives. However, we face a massive emergency now because we may drastically descend instead of dramatically ascend if we fail to get dedicated people to solve the many currently intractable problems to alleviate the widespread severe discomfort and overcome the current grave dysfunctions in our political systems in the West and now spectacularly in the US – a task that I now dedicate myself to accomplishing. We finally have the Western-destiny DEFCON 3 plan, the 2Selfs Revolution, ready. We must launch it now because we are in grave, imminent danger!”

See [article list](#) to continue your journey into 2Selfs Age.

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