

Finally Growing Up to Humanity's Adulthood!

Overview

The [Introduction](#) article (which you should read before this article) focused on why we need to make major changes now including by listing a dozen debilitating problems for which we currently have no adequate solutions. This Overview presents a new view of the overall progress of the West that will also serve as a roadmap for the maturation of the humanity. The Introduction identified 3 main human-nature mechanisms we will focus on. In this Overview, we will develop several aspects of the most crucial auto-self mechanism, certainty illusions, and its problem-solving incarnation, worldviews.

A New Way to Understand Fundamental Progress for the West and Humanity

“Human society evolves. Change in technology, language, morality, and society is incremental, inexorable, gradual, and spontaneous. It follows a narrative, going from one stage to the next, and it largely happens by trial and error—a version of natural selection. Much of the human world is the result of human action but not of human design: it emerges from the interactions of millions, not from the plans of a few.” That quote is from the back cover of a 2015 book, *The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge*, by Matt Ridley. While it is true that most changes emanate from diverse sources distributed throughout society, the West’s mega-transformations have been top down. We will examine in detail the underlying mechanism that blocks but can also empower such revolutionary changes.

In his 2018 international bestseller *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Yuval Harari wrote, “History proceeds from one junction to the next, choosing for some mysterious reason to follow first this path, then another. Around AD 1500, history made its most momentous choice, changing not only the fate of humankind, but arguably the fate of all life on earth. We call it the Scientific Revolution. It began in Western Europe... Why did the Scientific Revolution begin... at the midpoint of the second millennium AD rather than two centuries before or three centuries later? We don’t know. Scholars have proposed dozens of theories, but none of them is particularly convincing.”

A 2023 book, *A Theory of Everyone: The New Science of Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We’re Going*, by Michael Muthukrishna, states “If we do not know who we are and how we got here, we cannot choose where to go next.” It appears that Dr. Muthukrishna is attacking the same mysteries that I am. However, we actually are solving different core problems with distinct approaches, as you will see later in this article.

We obviously need a new approach to understanding and finally getting control of revolutionary societal changes. What is the foundational, underlying mechanism that causes us to go for long periods at one culture-wide problem-solving maturity level and then transform to a higher or lower problem-solving level that also lasts a long time?

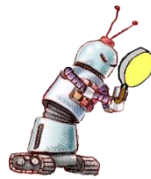
This article goes beyond the indication in *The Evolution of Everything* that human progress works like biological evolution by introducing a new mind-level progress type, *supraevolution*. This Overview finally provides Harari’s missing “convincing theory” not just for why and when the science revolution occurred, but for understanding discontinuous progress and setbacks in general. You will learn how to overcome the assertion in *A Theory of Everyone* that we cannot “choose where to go next” as a society.

Solving these and other current mysteries sets the stage for overcoming many of the currently unsolvable problems identified in the Introduction article. Twelve topic-specific [articles](#) use the foundation established in the Introduction and this Overview to solve targeted problems, each of which will be highly welcomed by large groups of people. These will become the driving forces of a revolutionary ascent for humanity – launched in the West as the Science Revolution was, if we play our cards well!

Certainty Illusions Have Overwhelming Impacts in Many Ways

A helpful way to illustrate certainty illusions is to use the robot we employ to stand for the auto-self, adding a magnifying glass, as presented in the Introduction article and shown again in the following image.

Certainty Illusion



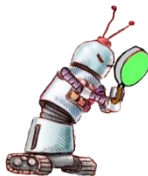
The stealth mental lens
through which we
view the world

Learning to recognize, understand, and manage the many ways that certainty illusions impact human aspirations, capabilities, successes, and well-being creates the major breakthroughs you will encounter in these articles. This is the new frontier we must cross in the next phase of revolutionary progress of the West, and even more significantly, the maturation of the human species, as many observers, including Yuval Harari as shown above, declare occurred with the Science Revolution.

To our great disadvantage, previous investigators have not even remotely penetrated the depths to which certain illusions control our lives. Certainty illusions are stubbornly elusive in that we cannot look into our mind to directly see their contents. Even more devastating, **our powerful certainty illusions are overwhelmingly deceptive because they cause us to experience mirages – profound internal realities that are untethered to any external realities.**

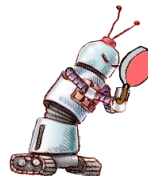
The following images illustrate the nature of certainty illusions. Sometimes they correspond with external realities, which provides a solid foundation for us to deal with the external world.

Aligned Certainty Illusion



When our internal lens
corresponds with
external realities

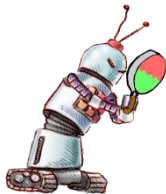
Non-Aligned Certainty Illusion



Certainty delusions
When our internal lens
opposes external realities

However, our certainty illusions also fool us in multiple ways. First, most people don't recognize that they have these untethered elusive and illusive beliefs. Second, even when people do recognize their existence, they cannot observe the construction process or see the eventual content. A third and probably the most devastating issue is that **people do not understand certainty illusions as constructed mental beliefs but rather they intrinsically and profoundly experience them as the way the external world really is.** We have now reached the point in human development where the certainty-illusion mental oddity creates unacceptable negative consequences in our individual, professional, and societal lives. Three decades of investigating and theory-building have led to these articles that are designed to overcome that chronic problem, among other human-nature quirks.

Certainty Illusions Are Untethered with External Realities



We struggle to recognize
when our beliefs align with
external realities, or not

Omni-Potent Incarnations of Certainty Illusions

The automatic mode of the human mind, or the auto-self, has four components: auto behaviors, auto-contexts, auto-skills, and auto-expertise. 2Selves Theory labels them with “auto-” prefixes to emphasize that they are all part of the auto-self. The auto-self type that we are focused on here is the auto-context because that is the mental mechanism that is creating the greatest havoc and the one that provides the most spectacular opportunities if we can learn to manage it. When discussing the overall auto-self mechanisms with coaches I train, I typically use “auto-contexts.” However, since that human-nature mechanism is at the center of what we are explaining and managing in these articles, I will normally refer to them here as “certainty illusions” because I have found that most people wanting to escape our current turmoil relate better to that way of visualizing this massively confusing mental mechanism.

We can identify several types of incarnations of certainty illusions that have enormous impacts on our realities and therefore our actions. They invisibly operate in the background to control our self-image, prejudices, affinities, values, paradigms, and our belief systems including highly sensitive ones in politics and religion. Certainty illusions are also the mental mechanism responsible for the “box” in the colloquial metaphor “thinking outside the box.”

The certainty illusion type that we will focus on to enable us to understand the process of the maturation of the human species is worldviews. We will use “worldview” here as the form of certainty illusion that frames the deep-seated internal view we have about the world around us, especially with regard to solving problems.

The Empowering/Disempowering Dominance of Worldviews

Reality-framing worldviews exist at various levels and for specific domains. For example, science – then physics, biology, anthropology, chemistry – then organic and inorganic chemistry can all be

considered problem-solving domains that have their own embedded worldviews that frame realities about those disciplines. During the inculturation process for any scientific domain, the worldview that establishes the basic ground rules for that discipline gets imperceptibly constructed into people participating in that activity. These empowering worldviews create the foundation of what constitutes viable investigations from students up to the greatest experts. In *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Kuhn referred to this mechanism as *paradigms* and work within those paradigms as *normal science*.

For this set of articles, we will focus on three top-level, or overarching, domains for societies: namely, the *spiritual*, *physical*, and *mental* domains, and on how the successive phases of worldviews for these domains provide a new way of understanding human progress and regress. Even more importantly, we can use our new understanding of this worldview-progression mechanism to plot a way to a wonderful new destiny for many aspects of our lives including for our businesses, for democracies, for personal responsibilities, and in a bigger picture, for humanity.

Worldviews Determine Fundamental Realities and Capabilities

This is a topic that has been understood by very few investigators and has not previously been developed adequately.

This Overview will lead you through a series of worldview-focused maps as a means of helping you acquire this new way to understand and leverage fundamental progress. Although this analysis will be West-centric to make the development specific, you will see as you move through the various phases that its conclusions are universal because they deal with human nature in a new and in crucial ways more empowering way.

These worldview-progression maps are crucial to understanding fundamental progress and then to providing the path to transform our current descent to mediocrity into an unprecedented level of benefits. To acquire an empowering understanding of revolutionary progress, you will need to pay close attention to this expanding set of fundamental-progress diagrams, so I will ease you into this worldview-progression map series by starting with just three periods and four human-nature characteristics we will examine over those periods.

West's Historical Worldview-Progression Map Through the Dark Age

Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog
# of Worldviews	1	2	1

Prior to about 300 BCE¹, all three top-level domains were viewed through the lens of a single worldview – supernatural polytheism. Then, the Greek Philosophy Revolution occurred that added a second, secular, worldview for understanding the physical and mental domains. These very resourceful ancient Greeks did not make a hard distinction between the physical world and mental world but

¹ Scholars normally use BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era), which are equivalent to BC and AD

looked for naturalistic solutions to the world about them instead of relying on supernatural-causation explanations.

In the fourth century CE, a worldview regression occurred. The secular worldview spawned by the ancient Greeks and carried forward for six centuries through the first three centuries of the Roman Empire, was snuffed out. To greatly simplify the process, it started with Roman Emperor Constantine who converted to Christianity and took decisive steps to regularize Christian doctrine. Then, in 381, Emperor Theodosius I issued an edict making the Trinitarian version of Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. That event, coupled with Emperor Constantine having previously moved the capital of the Roman Empire to Byzantium (then renamed Constantinople and more recently Istanbul), created a power vacuum in Rome into which the previously backbench bishop of Rome rose to be the pope of Western Christendom. **It wasn't Christianity itself that caused the collapse of systematic thinking with regard to the physical and mental domains, but rather the relentless drive to eliminate coexistence with secular thinking.** That Christo-centric policy emasculated problem solving for a millennium due to enforcing a single, spiritual-domain worldview at the tragic expense of precluding physical-domain and mental-domain worldviews.

That elimination of the secular worldview returned the West to the primitive single worldview state with Roman Christianity replacing polytheism. In this view of Western development, the regression back to a single worldview was the underlying cause of more than a millennium of subjugation, poverty, poor health, and short life spans. The synergy between the divine rights of monarchs bestowed by the Papacy and monarchs' protection of the Papacy dominated the West for about 11 centuries in the period identified in the diagram as our Dark Age (sometimes rendered Dark Ages).

The Worldview Transformations that Launched the Modern West

Because we have lacked a robust theory of involuntary activities that includes certainty illusions, the role of worldviews in human progress has been neglected. As the following diagram illustrates, the rise of the Modern West was primarily due to the creation of a physical-domain revolution that added a solid science worldview and a helpful but ultimately anemic mental-domain advance in the form of the Enlightenment worldview (represented in the diagram by the plus sign after the 2 worldviews).

West's Historical Worldview-Progression Map to ≈1970

Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	Modern West
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400	1770-1970
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy	Christian/many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog	Enlightenment
# of Worldviews	1	2	1	2+

Physical-Domain Revolution

You might have noticed that there is a nearly four-century gap consumed by the Physical-Domain Revolution. The visible, often painful, battles between Christianity and science for how to understand and manage the physical world is well documented. However, we can also productively look at this long era as the *worldview-wars* age because we can now understand the underlying decisive battle was between the Christian worldview and the science and Enlightenment worldviews for understanding and managing the physical domain and mental domain respectively.

This series of worldview-progression maps is not equivalent to a graph; the column widths do not represent the lengths of the periods. Several major events occurred during the mental revolution that spawned the Modern West. The Renaissance recovered the works from the Greek philosophy revolution. The Reformation broke up monolithic Western Christianity, which had kept the West trapped within a single supernaturalistic worldview for over a millennium. The science revolution from Copernicus, through such luminaries as Galileo, Kepler, and Newton, directly constructed a science methodology and indirectly constructed a science worldview.

Contemporary with the physical-domain revolution, the Enlightenment occurred, which created mechanisms to address several idiosyncrasies of human nature. The Enlightenment did not construct a root-cause mental-domain worldview that we desperately need to make the next ascent for the West, and indeed for humanity. Instead, it provided some mechanisms, such as checks and balances for our democratic systems, which were sufficient for a couple of centuries to help power the mental-domain aspects of our prosperity and well-being.

Why does the above diagram show the Modern West ending in 1970? Actually, we are currently still in the Modern West era, but this map is meant to show the end of the heyday of the Modern West.

Slouching Toward Defeat After a Stupendous Victory





What could possibly have happened about a half century ago to start us down a path from the glory days of the Modern West toward mediocrity as indicated in the following illustration?

West's Historical Worldview-Progression Map to Present

Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	Physical-Domain Revolution	Modern West	Mediocrity
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400		1770-1970	1970→?
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy		Christian/many	many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog		Science	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog		Enlightenment	manipulations
# of Worldviews	1	2	1		2+	2

The following list of four industrial revolutions from the World Economic Forum gives us a strong clue about what is causing our descent.

Four Industrial Revolutions According to the World Economic Forum

Revolution	Year	Information
	1 1784	Steam, water, mechanical production equipment
	2 1870	Division of labour, electricity, mass production
	3 1969	Electronics, IT, automated production
	4 ?	Cyber-physical systems



All four industrial revolutions provided great technological advantages that led to huge advances in productivity and then widespread gains in standards of living. However, something additional occurred with the third industrial revolution. This event ushered in the digital age, which led to the creation of two types of technological disturbances that ended up overwhelming our current ability to manage their human ramifications.

The first digital-technology side-effect that is currently wreaking havoc on the West is the accelerating rates of change of new technologies and products, which creates escalating disruptions in the business environment for which most leaders are currently ill equipped to make the repeated culture changes necessary to thrive in this chaotic situation.

The second side effect of digital technologies that is creating devastating problems in the West is the emergence of unmediated digital communications channels. This has made it all too easy for opportunistic entrepreneurs and devious con artists to construct counterproductive and often highly dysfunctional certainty illusions and certainty delusions into wide populations. I will have much more to say about these issues in problem-specific articles.

We Have Been Chronically Fooling Ourselves

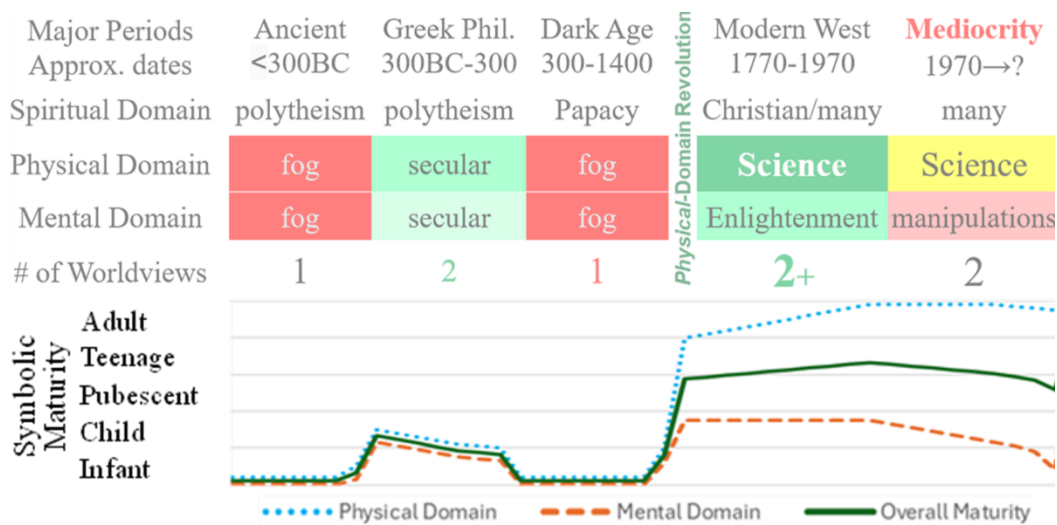
With our great education systems, it is easy to believe that we are sophisticated, adult-level problem solvers. After all, didn't we send men to the moon and return them safely, build personal computers that allow us to do so many complex tasks quickly, create cell phones that enable us to take digital pictures and have video conferences with people far away, and create powerful medicines that cure many diseases and prolong our lifespans? I have a Ph.D. from a renowned university and have designed computers, been awarded patents, and published many technical papers. You have probably solved many complex problems yourself. We are justly proud of the breadth and depth of problems we can solve.

However, I have been repeatedly disappointed when I have encountered seemingly easy problems that I and those about me cannot solve adequately. I once took over a failing business, articulated a new viable direction, and got everybody to buy in. Then I was highly disappointed when nothing changed. There was a deep knowing-doing gap. I sometimes procrastinate when I need to get things done, get in spats with my wife that I want to avoid, and fail to achieve lasting results when I attempt to make behavior changes in myself. I also repeatedly anguish when I see large numbers of people believing things that are contrary to easily verifiable facts. I don't think you will have to dig very deep to recognize such failures to solve problems in your life – just start with the 12 currently unmanageable problems listed in the Introduction article, and then look around you for other examples.

Why are we deeply baffled when we attempt to assess how good we are at solving problems? This confusion occurs because we fail to make a hard distinction between problems in two fundamentally different domains. The next addition to our growing worldview-progression map illustrates why we have this confusion.

I often skip over charts or tables that look too complicated. This series of worldview-progression maps now provides unprecedented visibility to fundamental human progress, so I want help you stay with me. Accordingly, please note that the lightened top part of this graph is just a repeat of the last illustration. Just focus your attention on the symbolic-maturity part at the bottom; that should help you understand stages of human progress by comparing them to stages of personal growth.

Revelation: We Are Not the Adult Problem Solvers We Pretend We Are



Physical-Domain Problem-Solving Symbolic Maturity

In the above diagram, the dotted blue line represents our level of problem-solving maturity for the physical domain. This is the area of focus within our education systems, it is the one that consumes most of our explicit attention, and it is where we are justly proud at how extremely effective we are. The slight recent downturn in this line is due to some growing anti-science political manipulations, including with respect to human-caused climate change and the efficacy of vaccines. These days, rampant manipulations are undermining the effectiveness of the science worldview in many citizens, in addition to destroying the beliefs that provide the foundation of our governing systems.

Mental-Domain Problem-Solving Symbolic Maturity

The dashed brown line represents our level of problem-solving maturity for the mental domain. This line tracked quite closely with the dotted line until the physical-domain revolution. A success-determinative activity occurred during this era when natural philosophy segued to science, which directly produced theories and indirectly produced a worldview for conquering the physical world. However, although the Enlightenment made important improvements over what the ancient Greeks had achieved for the mental domain, it remained in the realm of philosophy. As you saw in the Introduction article, the abilities mismatch between how we solve problems in the physical and mental domains has now passed the tipping point where it is causing enormously destructive problems for us.

The next phase of the West's progress is to directly transform beyond the legacy of the Enlightenment philosophers to create a new theory and a new worldview that operates at the root-cause level for the mental domain as science does for the physical domain.

Overall Problem-Solving Symbolic Maturity

The solid green line shows what will be surprising to most people as the West’s overall problem-solving maturity, which is represented as the average of the physical and mental domains. This line shows that we are slouching from an overall teenage maturity level, where we fantasize we know more than we do, to an even more confused state where we are sinking into grave dysfunction particularly in our political world.

The next map reduces the graph at the bottom of the previous diagram to a single line representing the symbolic level of overall problem-solving maturity the West has reached, and it adds a line representing the nature of the mega-transformations of the West.

I have previously narrated the two mega-ascents and the mega-descent in the following diagram. We are not in a new mega-descent as ushered in the Dark Age because we will continue operating at an extremely high level in the physical domain. However, due to increasing ineptitude in the mental domain, we are descending toward mediocrity to the point where our posterity is likely to have a less attractive lifestyle in many ways than we had including a worse standard of living, which reverses what happened during the heyday of the Modern West.

Where We Stand Now with Mega-Transformations

Major Periods Approx. dates	Ancient <300BC	Greek Phil. 300BC-300	Dark Age 300-1400	Physical-Domain Revolution	Modern West 1770-1970	Mediocrity 1970→?
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy		Christian/many	many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog		Science	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog		Enlightenment	manipulations
# of Worldviews	1	2	1		2+	2-
Symbolic Maturity	Infant	Child	Infant		Teenager	Pubescent
Mega-Transformations		↑ Mega-Ascent	↓ Mega-Descent		↑ Mega-Ascent	↓ Descending

Paradigms Lost: The Path Not Taken

One of my favorite all-time books is *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* by Thomas Kuhn written about six decades ago. He talks about the distinction between what he called normal science and revolutionary science. To relate that to a metaphor we discussed previously, normal science would be thinking inside the box whereas revolutionary science would be thinking outside the box. More accurately, it means reconstructing the box that controls our realities for the domain we are addressing. Just relating one metaphoric insight to another metaphor does not help much. However, Kuhn goes beyond metaphoric access by describing the phenomenon of paradigms. This advance is still not adequate because he doesn’t relate paradigms to worldviews, business cultures, or beliefs in general, and he doesn’t discuss the mental mechanisms involved.

Paradigms-lost refers to the fact that the potential usefulness of Thomas Kuhn’s great insights into paradigms have been lost in crucial ways. To revive the key points of Kuhn’s insights from their near-death experience, we need to generalize his paradigms concept.

Paradigm Shifts – Worldview Reconstructions:

In addition to generalizing Kuhn's paradigms as worldview incarnations of certainty illusions, we need to learn to manage them. Kuhn's insights in *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* were primarily descriptive and we urgently need a prescriptive extension. That is, in addition to broadening the scope, identifying additional ways in which this enigmatic mechanism impacts us, and placing it in the auto-self, we must add techniques for effectively managing paradigms. Our technology-driven social environments now require that!

Kuhn already pointed us in the right direction with his distinction between normal science and revolutionary science. We generalize that to normal problem-solving and revolutionary problem-solving. Normal problem-solving entails using the thinking-self to solve problems within an existing worldview (Kuhn's paradigm). Revolutionary problem-solving is a fundamentally different process that requires *reconstructing* an auto-self-based worldview (Kuhn's paradigm shift) that frames what the thinking-self can do. That process is extremely difficult to initiate because **worldviews don't appear to us as socially constructed – we experience them intensely as the way the world really is, which normally forces us to tenaciously resist challenging them, much less attempting to reconstruct them.** Again, Kuhn shows us the way by pointing us toward looking for *anomalies* in the results predicted from theories or from assertions and fundamental assumptions.

Anomalies

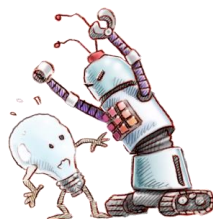
Kuhn taught us that scientists should stay alert for anomalies, or more usefully the *accumulation of anomalies*, as the sign that a scientific theory has hit the end of its effectiveness. Anomalies are assertions, theories, or assumptions that verifiably do not correspond with known or knowable facts. The initial process to transform ineffective, counterproductive, or even dysfunctional certainty illusions, and one that everyone must learn to embrace, is to muster the courage to look for and accept anomalies regarding their certainties. In our case, we need to start looking for outcomes that deviate or differ from an assertion or belief or an expected result from a theory. We will have many opportunities to examine looking for anomalies associated with our certainty illusions as we work our way through the articles in this series.

The worldview reconstruction process is extremely difficult to accomplish because the thinking-self cannot directly make changes to the auto-self, so that usually requires employing the counteracting principle, which I identified in the Introduction as one of the three paramount aspects of human nature.

Counteracting Principle

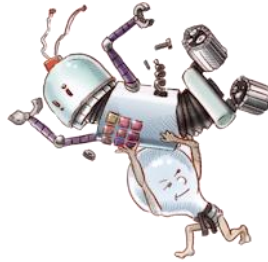
The auto-self does not respond to instructions from the thinking-self. Furthermore, whenever the thinking-self tries to compete with the auto-self, the auto-self normally prevails because feelings routinely overpower intentions, creating an *unfair fight* due to the comfort imperative, which is another of the three paramount aspects of human nature.

The Unfair Fight



The best way to overcome unfair fights between the thinking-self and the auto-self is to apply the counteracting principle. This transformation process uses the thinking-self to produce feelings that counteract the feelings of the auto-self. With this method, we fight-fire-with-fire using counteracting feelings instead of pitting hopeful intentions against tenacious feelings.

Counteracting the Superior Force of the Auto-Self



The above image is meant to draw an analogy with the martial arts where a weaker combatant can overpower a stronger opponent by using the opponents' strength against them.

Snatching Victory from the Jaws of Defeat

We have hit the end of effectiveness of the Modern West. To recapture the glory days of the first two centuries of the Modern West and then greatly exceed those overall productive times, **we need to launch a *mental-domain revolution!***

The Mental-Domain Revolution

Paradigms need a paradigm shift. We need a mental revolution so we can better understand and leverage Kuhn's science revolutions.

As science emerged, the belief that supernatural forces control the physical world succumbed to the reality that natural, understandable forces control the physical world. That changed how we understand and manage the physical world including alchemy giving way to chemistry, and astrology transforming to astronomy.

Now, **with the emergence of 2Selves Theory, the Enlightenment will give way to systematic processes to understand and manage the mental world, and the science worldview will give way to *2Selves Worldview* as the foundation for understanding crucial aspects of human nature.** This will be a reenactment of what happened when religion gave way to science with respect to the physical world.

As we use and diffuse 2Selves Theory, that will automatically construct 2Selves Worldview. That process will then become the linchpin of what should emerge as the mental-domain revolution.

The following diagram illustrates the fundamental fork in the road we now face by adding a new column representing the enormously encouraging destiny we now have the opportunity to create.

Adding Our Possible New Destiny to Worldview Progression Map

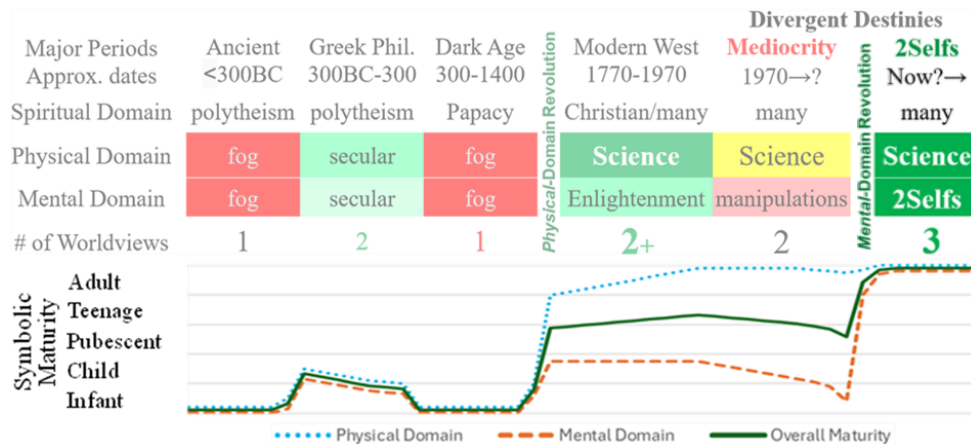
				Divergent Destinies		
Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	Modern West	Mediocrity	2Selves
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400	1770-1970	1970→?	Now?→
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy	Christian/many	many	many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog	Science	Science	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog	Enlightenment	manipulations	2Selves
# of Worldviews	1	2	1	2+	2	3

The mega-ascent we now have within our grasp is to launch a mental-domain revolution that will have the same enormous impact as the physical-domain revolution had on the West and then the rest of the advanced world. We can do that **by adding, for the first time in human history, a third overarching worldview, the 2Selves Worldview, to finally empower us to manage the mental world as effectively as we have now long done for managing the physical world.**

What the Ascent to Humanity’s Adulthood Will Look Like

The following diagram shows what the symbolic maturity graph will look like once we launch the mental-domain revolution, and enter *2Selves Age*. At this momentous point in the development of the West and indeed of humanity, we will elevate our problem-solving maturity for the mental world to the same high level as we have for the physical world, and **we will finally reach an overall adult maturity level.**

Finally Growing Up to Humanity’s Adulthood!



As we did with the previous progression of success factors, the next diagram reduces the symbolic maturity level to a single line and adds the mega-transformation line.

The mega-transformations in this diagram show dramatic, overarching exceptions to Matt Ridley’s *Evolution of Everything* observations about incremental progress. The diagram also preemptively answers the analogous question of what could cause the next mental revolution? We cannot go through this revolution blindly because **mental revolutions are a fundamental part of this mental-domain revolution.**

A Third Mega-Ascent for the West

	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	Physical-Domain Revolution	Modern West	Distinct Destinies	2Selves Age
Major Periods Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400		1770-1970	Mediocrity 1970→?	Now?→
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy		Christian/many	many	many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog		Science	Science	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog		Enlightenment	manipulations	2Selves
# of Worldviews	1	2	1		2+	2-	3
Symbolic Maturity	Infant	Child	Infant		Teenager	Pubescent	Adult!
Mega-Transformations		↑ Mega-Ascent	↓ Mega-Descent		↑ Mega-Ascent	↓ Descending	↑ Mega-Ascent

This diagram also answers Muthukrishna’s *Theory of Everyone* conundrum by showing how we got here and where we have the possibility to explicitly take ourselves. Top-level worldviews propagated throughout a society create these revolutionary changes. The Greek Philosophy Revolution and the European Science Revolution were centralized activities that *indirectly* constructed new worldviews. To recount Harari, “Around AD 1500, history made its most momentous choice, changing...the fate of humankind, but arguably the fate of all life on earth. We call it the Scientific Revolution. It began in Western Europe.” To repurpose Harari, around now, history will make its second momentous choice, changing... the fate of humankind. We will call it the *2Selves Revolution*. It will begin in the West, if we quickly take decisive actions, which are now possible. The 2Selves Revolution we now must create will construct a new worldview *directly* because it is a worldview that includes understanding and managing worldviews. This set of articles provides the roadmap for this new worldview construction.

Similar Human-Nature Barriers to Visualizing Mega-Ascents

A good way to help you understand that realistic possibilities can exist even though they may seem unattainable to you now is to compare the developments that these articles claim are now possible once we conquer automatic human activities (the mental-domain revolution) to what we now know actually happened during the physical-domain revolution (plus the Enlightenment). The following table highlights some critical comparisons for these two revolutionary ascents.

The left column in the Blindness to Possible New Advances row identifies benefits that we all know actually occurred that would have seemed impossible to our Dark Age predecessors. The right column shows some equivalent benefits that many current people despair are impossible to achieve. However, as with the left column, that is not an indication of what is possible but rather a revelation of how worldviews operate within us.

Let’s now look at the second line, Why Blindness? Trapped in a Debilitating Belief. What was the paralyzing belief that kept our Dark Age ancestors trapped in their highly constrained world? It was the ubiquitous worldview that capricious supernatural forces control the physical world. That fundamental assumption appeared obvious to them, and challenging that belief seemed blasphemous to most citizens. When people experience reality that way, it becomes impossible to see order in physical nature and learn to solve problems to create a much better life.

Intrinsic Inability to Envision Revolutionary Ascents

Dark-Age Blindness to Physical-Domain Possibilities

Blindness to Possible New Advances
Benefit from automobiles, airplanes, TV's, cell phones, video chats, personal computers, air conditioning, electricity, antibiotics, vaccines...

Why Blindness? Trapped in a Debilitating Belief [Worldview]
Supernatural forces control the physical world

Foundation of Revolutionary Ascent
Physical-domain (aka, science) revolution
indirectly created new empowering worldview

Breakthrough that Overcame Human-Nature Oddities
Indirectly manage some human-nature oddities
The European Enlightenment and its legacy

Modern-West (current) Myopia to Mental-Domain Possibilities

Overcome democracy implosions, company failures, career derailments, drug addictions, prisoner recidivism, reality manipulations...

Internal certainties inherently correspond with external realities

Mental-domain (aka, 2Selfs) revolution
directly creates new empowering worldview

Directly manage most human-nature oddities
2Selfs Theory and Worldview only current way

The right column shows the equivalent belief that keeps us trapped in a deteriorating society – the deep belief that our internal certainties inherently correspond with external realities. That fundamental assumption appears as totally obvious to us, and challenging that belief seems blasphemous to most citizens. However, if we step back and look at it realistically, we know that sometimes that's not true. For example, we know that the ubiquitous deep beliefs by our ancestors that supernatural forces control the physical world and that the earth is the physical center of the universe are not true. We also know that the 2020 US presidential election was not stolen from Donald Trump, although millions of Americans were made to believe that's true. Many people will experience the assertion that some of our certainties, even our deep beliefs, may not be true as blasphemous. When people experience reality that way, it becomes impossible to see order in human nature and learn to solve problems to create a much better life.

The next item, Foundation of Revolutionary Ascent, identifies a mechanism that many people will find surprising. We all know of the science revolution, but we focus on science processes, science theories, and scientific achievements. Those advances were all visible, so why did it take so long for other societies to copy them? It's worth noting from the worldview-progression maps that it took nearly four centuries for this revolution to complete. The reason is, unbeknownst to the people fighting that long battle, there was an invisible worldview war taking place that eventually resulted in the naturalistic science worldview replacing the supernaturalistic religious worldview regarding how the physical world operates. That process took place indirectly because nobody at the time had any idea about the nature or even the existence of hidden internal certainty illusions, as discouragingly is true for most people today.

The worldview reconstruction that we now need to create must necessarily happen directly because worldviews are an integral part of the transformation that is about to occur.

The final item, Breakthrough that Overcame Human-Nature Oddities, shows that the . Enlightenment had insights into human nature and provided guidelines to indirectly manage some of its idiosyncrasies. We now must go from making helpful but grossly inadequate attempts to work around human-nature oddities to having a solid root-cause theory and a new explicit worldview that empower us to directly manage these quirks. Fortunately, 2Selfs Theory and 2Selfs Worldview now provide those capabilities, and currently those are the only mechanisms that do that.

Embracing Some Taboos

We have some topics in society that we normally avoid talking about in polite company. Paramount among these are religion and politics because when we disagree, that often stirs up deep emotions and causes interpersonal conflict. As I have interacted with friends and colleagues over the years, many people who I respect and care a lot about have advised me to avoid those topics when I write about my theory of human nature. However, dealing with why these issues automatically stir up negative feelings that cause people to avoid addressing them is part of the transformation we need to make to an overall adult level of problem solving and existence in general.

From Religions Controlling People to People Controlling Religions

I will make a strong assertion here. **If we don't collectively learn to understand and manage certainty illusions, we have no hope of achieving overall adult problem-solving prowess.** The taboos associated with discussing religion and politics are examples of our inability to conquer the certainty-illusion aspects of human nature. Said slightly differently, **if you don't understand how religious and political beliefs operate, you don't understand the human mind.** If we don't jointly understand the human mind, we will stay trapped on the mediocrity path in the above worldview-progression maps. Therefore, as part of transforming to a much better type of life than has ever existed, I must and will address these sensitive topics in some specific articles.

Except for just two dysfunctional certainty delusions, the article on religion does not discuss the viability of the supernatural aspects of religions. Instead, it focuses on the construction of religious certainty illusions and how to make that process provide more-consistent individual and societal benefits.

Conquering certainty illusions is the main breakthrough that will provide a discontinuously better life for us. However, I want to avoid alienating or repelling readers who may fear that understanding this aspect of human nature might attack or undermine their religious beliefs, so I explicitly state that I am not arguing that certainty illusions are all there is to religion. Rather, I am asserting that this stealth mental mechanism impacts us powerfully in the other domains addressed in these articles and many more, so **we do ourselves a grave disservice if we do not understand and manage the effects that this certainty-illusion aspect of human nature has on religious and political benefits – and harms!**

Democracies Committing Suicide

Certainty illusions impact us in many areas of our lives, and that includes political beliefs. We cannot have a desirable future if we continue to act as if we are impetuous adolescents. I devote an article on politics, [Save Democracies](#), not to discussing progressive versus conservative policy positions but to exposing dysfunctional political manipulations. Dramatically, constructing anti-science political beliefs is not policy; it is trying to drive society back to the pathetic Dark Age of our downtrodden distant ancestors for some type of parochial gain.

The current compulsive process of promulgating simplistic solutions throughout the West is not new. It always happens in times of widespread discomfort. The problem we face now is that the discomfort is systemic, which is going to drive us off a cliff. Even more disastrous, **some nefarious perpetrators are relentlessly constructing anti-democratic beliefs into massive numbers of citizens, and that**

will have a long-term negative effect on the patriotic certainty-illusion glue that holds democratic governments together. We must counteract that process at the auto-self level!

One diabolical process underway, especially in a powerful movement in the US, uses both simplistic solutions and the construction of certainty delusions in a way that emasculates the viability of the voting process. This ruse creates massive dysfunction by accusing opponents of committing transgressions to obfuscate the fact that the accuser is the one actually doing the misdeeds. We don't yet have a viable means to counteract that infernal deception, so the politics article creates a way to name and shame it to help citizens avoid becoming impotent voters.

The goal of the article on politics and governing is to lay out a path to put representative governments on a secure footing by stopping their decline in the West and putting them on a path of long-term viability.

The article, *Expose Consecrated-Documents Abuses*, addresses the meta-document creation process of sanctified documents and how to manage that activity more beneficially. It specifically focuses on the Bible and the US Constitution.

Big-Picture Significance of Our Pending Mental Revolutionary

This section outlines the enormous significance of where we currently stand in the maturation process of the West and humankind in general. The first subsection identifies a new form of evolution unique to humans that provides a different way to view revolutionary progress or regress. The second subsection proposes that the mega-ascent we now have the ability to launch will have the same magnitude of effects on the West and then many other areas of the world as did the science revolution. With that perspective, it appears that the Big History community might consider this mega-ascent to be their *Threshold 9*.

A New Type of Human Evolution: *Supraevolution*

For a century and a half, we have known from Darwin about the theory of biological evolution through natural selection. Biological evolution works the same for all forms of life including humans, other animals, plants, and microorganisms. In humans, it operates very slowly. Therefore, if we want to understand human society's mega-ascents and mega-descents over the last couple of millennia, we have to look elsewhere.

We make frequent incremental or continuous progress through acquiring new knowledge and applying it to problems we want to solve, which you now understand is a thinking-self activity operating within an existing worldview. We also can create periodic, infrequent discontinuous changes in our fundamental ability to solve problems of high interest to us by constructing or reconstructing the worldviews that control our abilities to think about and to solve the problems that stand in the way of our desired successes. **New worldviews establish a different mental foundation that can create a discontinuously greater opportunity to build new forms of theories and improvement processes to solve problems of crucial interest to us.** As a result, we can become discontinuously better at solving previously mysterious and unsolvable problems.

When we become discontinuously and persistently different at solving problems, we have experienced a type of evolution. We could refer to this as “human evolution through worldview transformation and propagation,” but I prefer to refer to this process in a simpler way as “supraevolution.”²

Until now, humans have experienced periodic, indirectly created supraevolutionary events. That happens through traumatic worldview transformations. It happened indirectly through worldview constructions – particularly for subsidiary worldview within a top-level society-wide worldview as occurred for the economic model (open markets) and governing model (representative governments) of the West as a result of the Enlightenment. It also happens indirectly in science as Thomas Kuhn documented with his revolutionary science and paradigm shifts. You already saw how that works at the top level in the above worldview-progression maps.

For the first time in human history, we now have the means to directly create a society-wide supraevolutionary ascent that will change the course of not only the West but of humanity. The previous worldview-progression map labeled A Third Mega-Ascent for the West shows how we now have the mental-domain revolution within our grasp. That stupendous event, that we label the 2Selves Revolution, will take us to a new grand and glorious 2Selves Age where citizens have more control to live better lives than was ever before possible – just like happened in the aftermath of the Science Revolution and the Enlightenment.

Big History Threshold 9?

In 2005, David Christian, a history professor at Macquarie University in Australia, introduced the concept of Big History in his book, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*. Christian is widely credited with creating the Big History movement, which identifies major events of the universe starting with the Big Bang. In 2011, Bill Gates watched Christian’s Great Courses program, and then together they launched the Big History Project where Gates funds putting Big History programs into schools.³ The Big History community currently recognizes just eight Thresholds.⁴

The International Big History Association annual conference in 2023 accepted my presentation⁵ with the title, *Conquering Automatic Human Activities to Construct Threshold 9*, so they are at least willing to entertain the possible super-importance of creating a supraevolutionary event by conquering involuntary activities.

You will be able to learn more about Big History Threshold 9 in the Create Revolutionary-Change Capabilities article. For here, just note that the mental-domain revolution that we must now launch to have the type of future that most people desire is such a big deal that it can be considered just the 9th Big History Threshold in the history of the universe.

Next you will see a worldview-progression map that shows how Big History Threshold 9 fits into our scheme of fundamental supraevolutionary progress.

² “Supra” is a prefix meaning “above,” “over,” “beyond the limits of, outside of.” Therefore, *supraevolution* refers to an evolution layer, unique to humans, above our biological evolution.

³ <https://www.gatesnotes.com/Bill-Gates-Big-History>

⁴ <http://www.bighistoryproject.com/>

⁵ <https://youtu.be/nP1CeXkIJAY>

Adding Big History Thresholds (T7-T9) to the Worldview-Progression Map

				Distinct Destinies		
Major Periods	Ancient	Greek Phil.	Dark Age	Modern West	Mediocrity	2Selfs Age
Approx. dates	<300BC	300BC-300	300-1400	1770-1970	1970→?	Now?→
Spiritual Domain	polytheism	polytheism	Papacy	Christian/many	many	many
Physical Domain	fog	secular	fog	Science	Science	Science
Mental Domain	fog	secular	fog	Enlightenment	manipulations	2Selfs
# of Worldviews	1	2	1	2+	2-	3
Symbolic Maturity	Infant	Child	Infant	Teenager	Pubescent	Adult!
Mega-Transformations		Mega-Ascent	Mega-Descent	Mega-Ascent	Descending	Mega-Ascent
Big History Eras	←T7	Era 7	T8	Era 8	T9	Era 9

Has Somebody Already Solved the Problems I Address Here?

With this addition of Big History thresholds and eras to the worldview progression map, we have now reached the end of our expansion of that map in this article that provides a graphic overview of human supraevolutionary transformations.

The issues discussed in these articles are so crucial to our future successes and well-being that others have addressed them, and perhaps someone else has already identified and found a way to break through the formidable barriers identified in the Introduction article to create empowering solutions. Many have tried, and I recently encountered a book that claims to have accomplished that perennially elusive task.

In July 2024, I attended an interesting Big History webinar on cultural and technological evolution presented by Dr. John C. Little. In that lecture, Dr. Little discussed the issue of cultural evolvability and suggested we read an October 2023 book, *A Theory of Everyone: The New Science of Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going*, by Dr. Michael Muthukrishna.

Is it possible that Dr. Muthukrishna has created a different general theory that penetrates the eight debilitating barriers identified in the Introduction article to solve the same obscure aspects of human nature that are creating such devastating negative impacts on our successes and well-being?

Where We Agree:

I bought the book, and it initially seemed that there might be overlap with the breakthrough concepts about human nature described herein because it says, some “forces that shape our thinking, our economics, and our society have become invisible to us... If we do not know who we are and how we got here, we cannot choose where to go next. If we cannot perceive the forces that shape us, we are impotent to shape those forces.” It also says, “for the first time in a long time the lives of our children will be less abundant, lower in opportunity, and just more difficult than our own,” which is consistent with what I argued in the Introduction article and showed in the worldview-progression maps above – if we fail to launch the 2Selfs Revolution!.

The *Theory of Everyone* book also claims it will present “a unified theory of human affairs.” The author also states he worked across multiple disciplines, including psychology, economics, anthropology, and elsewhere, “tying them together into a tapestry that reveals who we are, how we got here and where we’re going.” That multi-disciplinary approach is consistent with what I have claimed

we need to do to solve our currently inscrutable problems [Barrier #1 to discovering enigmatic aspects of human nature, from the Introduction article]. As I do, Muthukrishna employs the ancient parable of the wise men and the elephant to illustrate that most people attacking the problem he addresses are only seeing parts of the whole, whereas he is focused on revealing the nature of the whole elephant.

Where We Disagree:

“We desperately need a science of culture.” As I have argued repeatedly, we need a worldview based on the mental domain not on the physical domain to solve our cultural rigor mortis problems [Barriers #4, #5, #7]. A major reason we have not solved this problem is because the solutions lie outside the domain of effectiveness of science, which is primarily the physical world. We need to create an equivalent type of process and worldview that addresses the mental world, which 2Selves Theory and 2Selves Worldview now provide.

“Once you see the links between energy, innovation, cooperation, and evolution, you cannot unsee them [if that is the embedded worldview you have for addressing your theory of everyone]. These are the underlying laws of life that apply to bacteria and businesses, cells and societies.” The author is extremely ambitious in taking on a theory of all life including human social systems spanning the physical and mental domains, plus aspects of the physical-domain (science) theory of energy. For me, conquering the idiosyncrasies of human mental life that are blocking our future progress is a big enough challenge.

He speaks about our collective “brain” and about building a “science” of us. Yes, science works very effectively at addressing the physical brain but inadequately for solving the major non-physical mental issues that are currently blocking the next phase in the maturation of humanity [Barrier #4].

He said it is most accurate to describe “both the human and social sciences as ‘young’ sciences.” Again, I argue that it is not that they are “young sciences;” it is that the science worldview and science processes are not the right approach. Being trapped in that worldview is a major factor that has blocked progress on solving these problems [again, Barrier #4 plus Barrier #7].

The author speaks of the “laws” of life, and he lists four: energy, innovation, cooperation, and evolution. We need to be more modest here. Remember, many of us learned about Newton’s *laws* of physics even before we entered university. We now understand that those weren’t laws at all but were powerful and highly useful theories because Einstein created his theories of relativity that supplanted Newton’s for objects moving at high velocity. Also, his *theory of everyone*, which he patterns after the illusive *theory of everything* in physics, seems to be stretching what they have accomplished beyond practicality since even combining general relativity with quantum mechanics does not provide us with a physics theory of everything because they still fail to account for dark matter and dark energy. Likewise, I think his theory of everyone fails to account for crucial aspects of human nature, including certainty illusions, their potent worldviews incarnations, and the comfort imperative [Barriers #6, #7, #8]. 2Selves Theory provides a standard model of the mind that includes all of these human-nature mechanisms and many more.

Where Our Approaches Differ Fundamentally:

I do not claim to have discovered any *laws* of human nature. Rather, I have created a pragmatic *theory* and shown a way to directly create a new *worldview* that addresses highly elusive and illusive aspects

of automatic human activities. These in turn provide the possibility of solving many types of troublesome problems, including the 12 addressed in these articles.

Muthukrishna, in common with others in the social sciences and even philosophers, seems to believe that we must use the enormously potent science methodology to solve human-nature problems. Science is eminently qualified and extremely effective for solving problems in the physical domain. However, it is chronically inadequate for the solving mental-domain problems I address in this set of articles. **We need a theory and worldview focused on mental-world issues not on physical-world issues to solve our suite of escalating problems.**

Another area where we fundamentally diverge is that he centers his investigations on energy, and he spans the physical and mental domains with his “laws.” I focus my investigations on automatic human activities, which includes auto-behaviors (behavior habits and succumbing to the comfort imperative), auto-contexts (certainty illusions), auto-skills (e.g., evocative communications), and auto-expertise (intuition). This article focused on how worldview incarnations of certainty illusions impact our ability to make revolutionary progress.

A Theory of Everyone was an easy read and quite interesting. However, except for our mutual ambition to solve a massive human problem, my work and his work have little in common.

Explicitly Constructing Next Phase of the Maturation of Humanity

I end this Overview by repeating my list of 12 uncontrolled activities that are creating debilitating failures. Each problem area includes a very brief description of the advances we can now make once we conquer automatic human activities.

You have now acquired a knowledge foundation that empowers you to solve, or contribute to solving, mysteriously troublesome problems that you likely thought were unsolvable.

From the Introduction article, you saw a list of 12 currently intractable problems, which I repeated below, some of which will be of keen interest to you. You also learned about fundamental barriers that have stood in the way of previous solutions. You then gained access to a new way to solve these previously mysterious problems using 2Selves Theory, which is currently the only theory that models the elusive and illusive aspects of human nature that we must now understand and manage.

From this Overview article, you learned about how worldviews, which are a specific type of certainty illusions, determine fundamental process or regress. You also saw the path to overcome our West-wide descent from greatness into mediocrity by repeatedly using 2Selves Theory successfully until 2Selves Worldview forms. That will create the 2Selves Revolution that will conquer the mental world as effectively as the Science Revolution conquered the physical world. “We have it in our power to begin the world over again” – Thomas Paine in his pamphlet, *Common Sense*.

Taking Charge of Our Destiny

Uncontrolled activities creating failures	How mastering involuntary activities provides a new path to solve currently intractable problems
1. Democracy crisis	Conquer involuntary activities to replace the outdated Enlightenment legacy Elevate democracies from a now-faltering experiment to a stable reality
2. Leadership inadequacies	Solve a long-term enigma: make leadership as effective as management Reconstruct cultures (e.g., strategies) rapidly using methodical processes Eliminate falling victim to seduction traps in the form of simplistic solutions Ascend from empirical theories to root-cause mind-centered theories
3. Correspondence press	Empower free press to become more effective at overcoming assaults on it Show how the press can name and shame assaults on it and other domains
4. Consecrated documents	Understand and manage much better meta-constitutions and metabolites
5. Religion opportunities	Achieve societal benefits by managing stealth mental processes of religions
6. Drug addictions	Create recreational-drug phobias in school children to prevent addictions
7. Prisoner recidivism	Transform <u>bad behavior</u> habits and reconstruct dysfunctional attitudes
8. Shared values	Directly construct values-beliefs into auto-self-based certainty illusions
9. Revolutionary changes	Improve prosperity and well-being by managing worldview “lenses” Produce Big History Threshold 9 through mental-domain revolution Apply the <i>counteracting principle</i> to reconstruct errant certainty illusions
10. Social “sciences”	Replace physical-domain science foundation with mental-domain foundation
11. Education expansion	Expand beyond STEM (and STEAM) to meet future success needs Add several forms of auto-self transforming to current thinking-self learning
12. Competitive advantage	Develop a future form of competitive advantage over autocracies

The next path for you is to select the [article](#) that addresses the topic of most interest to you, and read it!
The article that addresses our most pressing needs is [Save Dying Democracies](#).

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