

MOTIVATION FOR WRITING “WATERSHED COMMUNITIES”-2011

Our civilization is in decline. Its ultimate and inevitable breakdown will impact large urban centers first and worst because that's where large populations have least access to the support of Nature. That's the gradualist scenario. Reaching an ecological tipping-point is another matter. Meanwhile, the capitalist competitive narrative promises endless resource wars with increasing likelihood of nuclear confrontation guaranteeing that “We'll all go together when we go.”

I have seen the American way of life as doomed for decades now. In the 70s the thought kept occurring to me that there must be a better way. Socialism had by then come to be seen as neither a preferable nor viable alternative to capitalism. But without the threat of Marxist socialism, capitalism would continue to sink to its lowest common denominator of exploitation and excess until the fossil fuels ran out or we choked to death on their effluvia. I came to regard the evolution of the near-universal contemporary attitudes and common practices regarding money and land as the prime determiners of our self-destructive trajectory. In December, 2010 I finished and copyrighted “Watershed Communities” a proposal designed to retain those elements of our technology-based society that are necessary for our survival (since there are so many of us that fundamentalist Luddism is not a realistic answer) and the retention of the high end of our culture while remediating our depredations of Nature and defanging capitalism's growth-or-die imperative.

In the fall of 2010 I hooked up with the Santa Fe Time Bank, a local work-hour bartering group, and found a market there for giving music lessons and a way for getting computer help without impoverishment. Through this connection I've have found a woman who's going to help me add a page featuring Watershed Communities to my website. Santa Fe is a center for people involved in a variety of non-capitalist, non-governmentalist, localist initiatives. This is a movement that's gaining worldwide steam, and I hope I can make a contribution to it.