

Hubris syndrome – tendency for leaders to lose touch with reality and develop an excessive self-regard.

Why is it so hard to redefine peacefully the political borders of states?

Bill Fawcett's most important lesson of history? Focus on short-term solutions and gains, and disregard long-run consequences / Related: inability to foresee long-run consequences (drive a car looking backwards)

Nick Bostrom's futures: recurrent collapse / plateau / takeoff / extinction

Pendulum: we cycle vs me cycle? Personal responsibility vs personal freedom? Collaboration vs competition?

Joseph Tainter's kinds of collapse: Runaway train (disastrous course of action from which there is no incentive or ability to deviate, inertia dominates) / Dinosaur (hostility and resistance to change, no adaptation) / House of cards (society becomes extremely vulnerable to shocks)

Albert Hirschman's strategies to deal with institutional problems: exit / voice / loyalty

Ronald Wright's progress traps: growth feeds on more growth – when everyone else grows, not growing is declining

A MIX OF INERTIA, GREED AND FOOLISHNESS ENCOURAGED BY THE SHAPE OF THE SOCIAL PYRAMID. THE CONCENTRATION OF POWER AT THE TOP OF LARGE, SCALE SOCIETIES GIVES THE ELITE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE STATUS QUO

Ugo Bardi's Seneca effect

Landman 1x10

“– Good and bad don't factor into this, Rebecca.

– Our great-grandparents built a world that runs on this shit right here. Until it starts running on something else, we got to feed it, or the world stops.

– Hey. There is an alternative. You can throw your phone away and trade that Mercedes in for a bicycle or a horse and start hunting for your own food and living in a tent, but you'll be the only one and it won't make a damn bit of difference. Plus I hear the moral high ground gets real windy at night.”

<https://tvshowtranscripts.ourboard.org/viewtopic.php?f=2391&t=72637>

Mancur Olson's hypothesis (**institutional sclerosis**): accumulation of interest groups in a democratic society can lead to economic stagnation / political stability favours the creation of rent-seeking groups, who have a sclerotic effect on economic growth

The Olson hypothesis holds that political stability, in the long run, is likely to be economically dysfunctional, as it prone to hamper or retard economic performance through the rent-seeking activities of consolidated interest groups.

**The Lee hypothesis (Lee Kuan Yew, 1923-2015; president of Singapore, 1959-1990)** The Lee hypothesis holds that nondemocratic systems are better at bringing about economic development

Rise of the West: political decentralization (geopolitical instability) favours economic development?

Jack Hirshleifer's paradox of power. In power struggles, it is natural to expect that the strong will grow stronger (and the weak, weaker). The paradox of power is that poorer or smaller groups often end up improving their positions in relation to richer or larger ones. One explanation is that the group starting at a disadvantage has an incentive to make more effort (fight harder, invest more, take more risks, try new strategies) than the group enjoying an advantage. It is only when the conflict is sufficiently decisive that the richer or larger group gains relative to the poorer or smaller.

Paradoxical big threats to the 21st century world economy

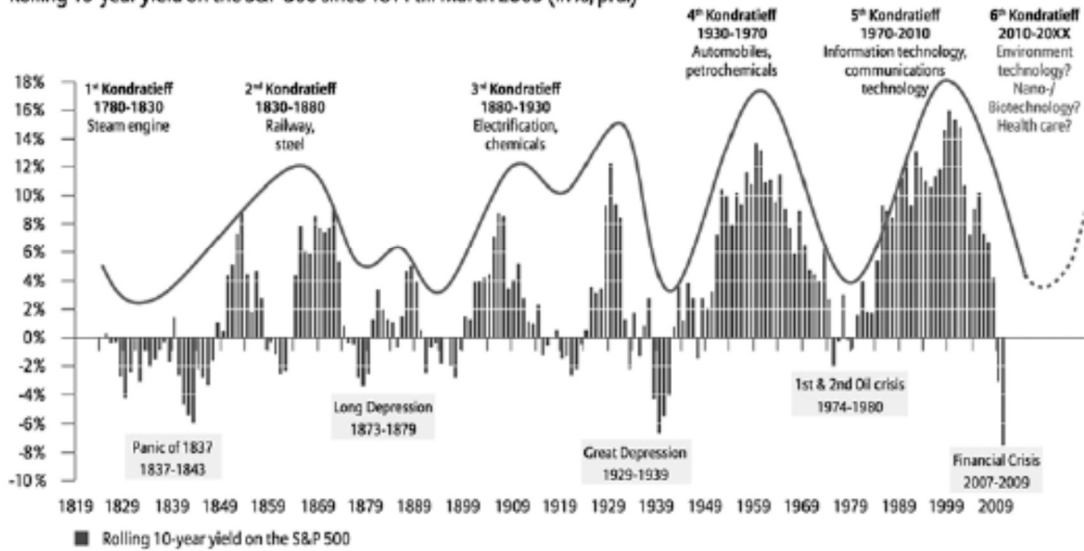
- Threat 1: the threat of scarcity. This threat is associated with a possible ecological catastrophe and how this will affect the future of life on Earth.
- Threat 2: the threat of abundance. This threat is created by automation and is defined in terms of how automation will affect the future of work.

Jeff Stibel's three phases of networks

"There are three phases to any successful network: first, the network grows and grows and grows exponentially; second, the network hits a breakpoint, where it overshoots itself and overgrows to a point where it must decline, either slightly or substantially; finally, the network hits equilibrium and grows only in the cerebral sense, in quality rather than in quantity."

“Internets, ant colonies, and brains all start small, grow steadily, and then explode into hypergrowth. In nature, all species multiply as much as resources allow.”

Figure 1: Kondratieff cycles – long waves of prosperity.  
Rolling 10-year yield on the S&P 500 since 1814 till March 2009 (in %, p. a.)



### Ian Bremmer's futures

