

Macrohistory, a tool to face complexity

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contents



- situation
 - convergence and integration
 - acceleration
- tool to face it
 - macrohistory: the Time Machine





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1. situation

references:

C. DARWIN
P. TEILHARD DE CHARDIN
E. MORIN
M. CASTELLS
R. REICH
I. WALLERSTEIN...





When China's and India's GDPs Would Exceed Today's Rich Countries

]

global convergences

- expanding global economy
- accelerating pace of scientific change and dispersion technologies
- emerging powers; slow democratization and better governance
- global aging phenomenon
- expanding educated middle class
- increased pressures on international institutions for global regulation



Country	Approximate Year of Convergence
China	2005
India	2020
UK	2005
Germany	2010
Japan	2015
France	2025
US	2040

Source: Goldman Sachs, *Global Economics Paper No. 1*



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[technology convergence]




- force-multiplying convergence of the technologies: information, biological, materials, nanotechnologies, etc.
- growing two-way flow of high-tech brain power between developing and Western countries
- increasing size of educated workforce in some developing countries
- dual-use of new technologies
 - for freedom and for control
 - for commercial and for military

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G solutions perspectives

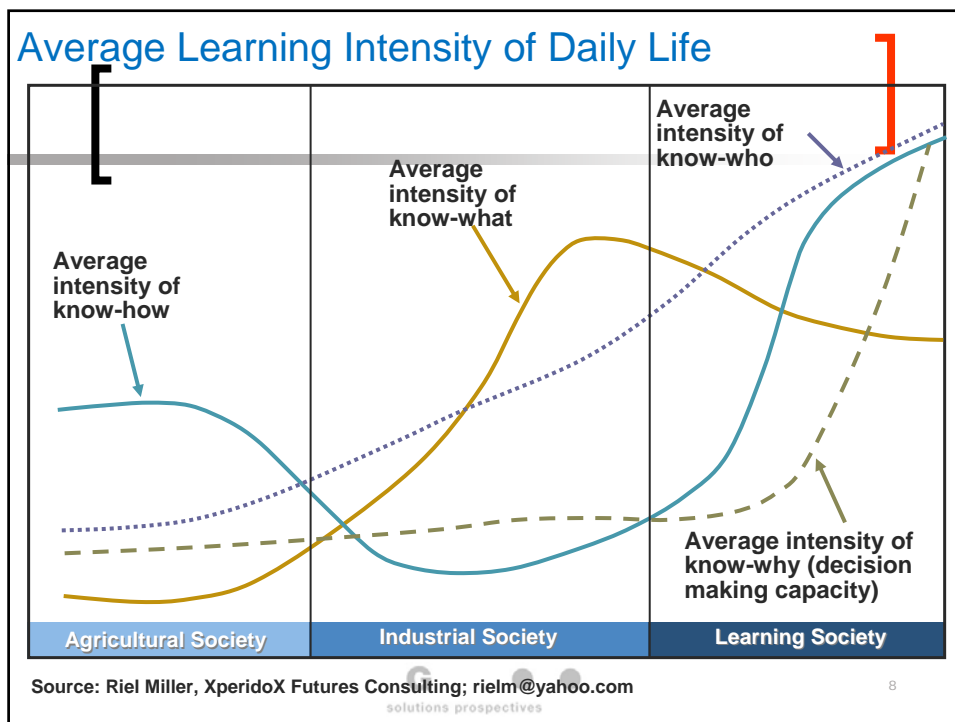
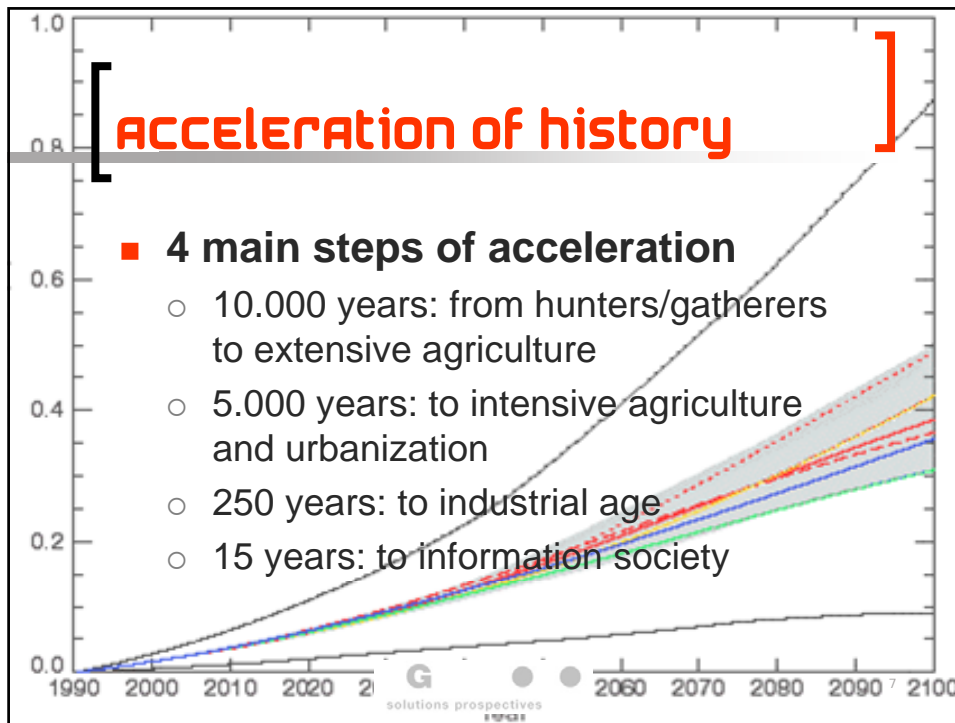
[toward a converging society?]



- emerging refusal of the increasing pressure on the environment and resources
- demand for a greater attention to universal human rights, democratic processes and sustainable development
- demand for transparency and accountability in the governance systems
- sensitivity to diversity, multiculturalism, recognition of minorities; revised values

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G solutions perspectives



2. tools

- understanding the dynamics of change
- perceiving their long-run impacts
- → **macrohistory** : analysis of the phenomena capable to comprehensively influence the history of a society





[what is the future about?]

- about **Evolution**
 - a five thousand years History
 - an ongoing increasing of integration
 - a speeding-up of events, S&T and change

- ➔ how to move within such a world?

lessons
complexity
uncertainty
legibility

- about **Humanity**
 - a search for happiness
 - a desire of progress
 - an inevitable responsibility

- ➔ how to get a more desirable future?

life quality
HDI - S&T
sustainable development
building



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[the foresight process]



- *deep understanding*, a phase of diagnostic ensuring, through systems and dynamics approach, a deep comprehension of past and present evolutions;



- *imagining*, a phase to explore possible futures and to elaborate desirable futures, based on a problematisation process;



- *proposing*, a phase of presentation and discussion of the results in order to facilitate appropriation, recommendations and orientations.

solutions perspectives

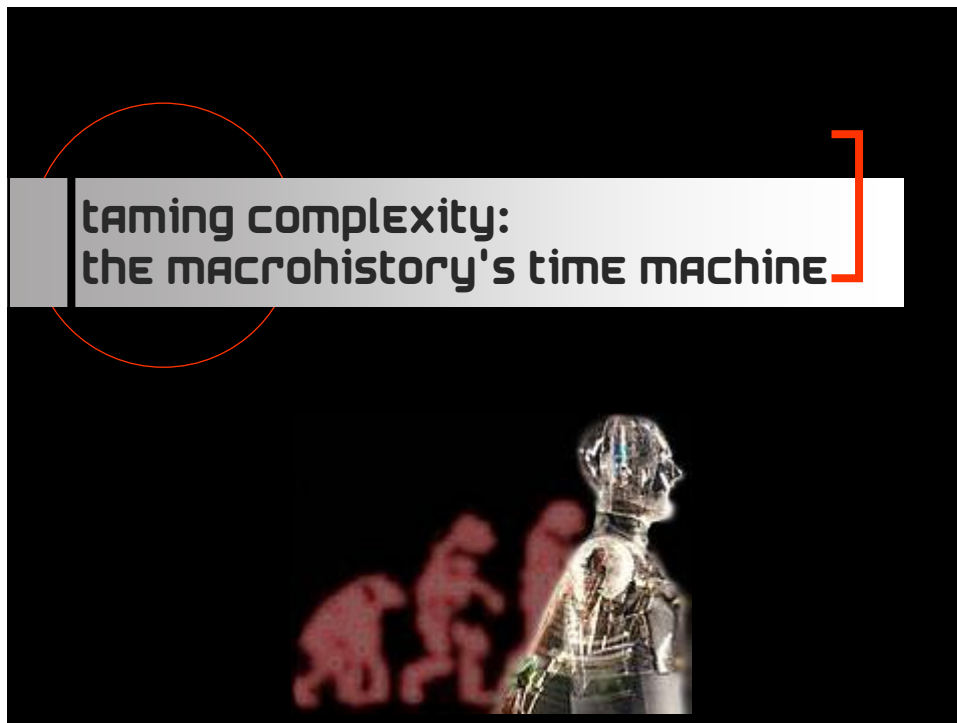
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[The 5 pillars of futures studies]

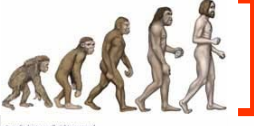
- **Macrohistory** - the study of grand patterns of change, including evolution;
- **Anticipation and Mapping** - foresight and insight through methods such as futures scans, emerging issues analysis, age cohort analysis, the futures triangle;
- **Multiple Epistemologies** - decolonizing received futures, and exploring alternative ways of knowing the world, through methods such as causal layered analysis and integral analysis that focus on deepening our understanding of the future;
- **Creating Alternatives** - the exploration and creation of new futures (social and political design) using methods such as scenarios and nuts and bolts;
- **Transformation** - going beyond strategy to create desired futures through methods such as visioning, backcasting and action learning experiments.

solutions perspectives

[from S. INAYATULLAH]



[the basics]

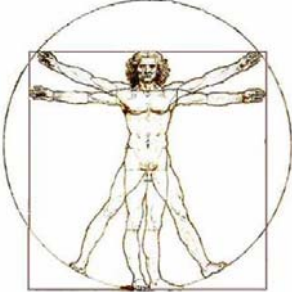


- from monkey to sapiens: **inheritance and novelty**
 - genetic program
 - adaptation, reproduction
 - memes?
 - high level of socialization
 - "social animal" Plato, trained for complexity
 - uniqueness
 - new capabilities (voice, bipedy, memory)
 - consciousness (spirituality, "I")
 - awareness (discovery, curiosity)

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solutions perspectives

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[human-being-ness]



learning
discovery
invention
mobility

curiosity

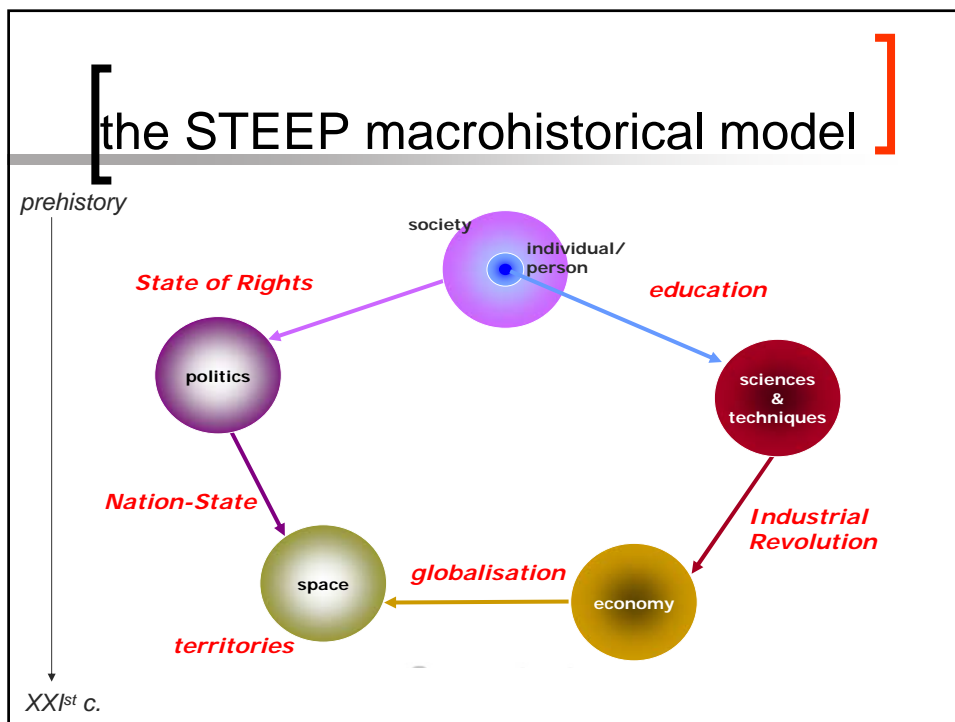
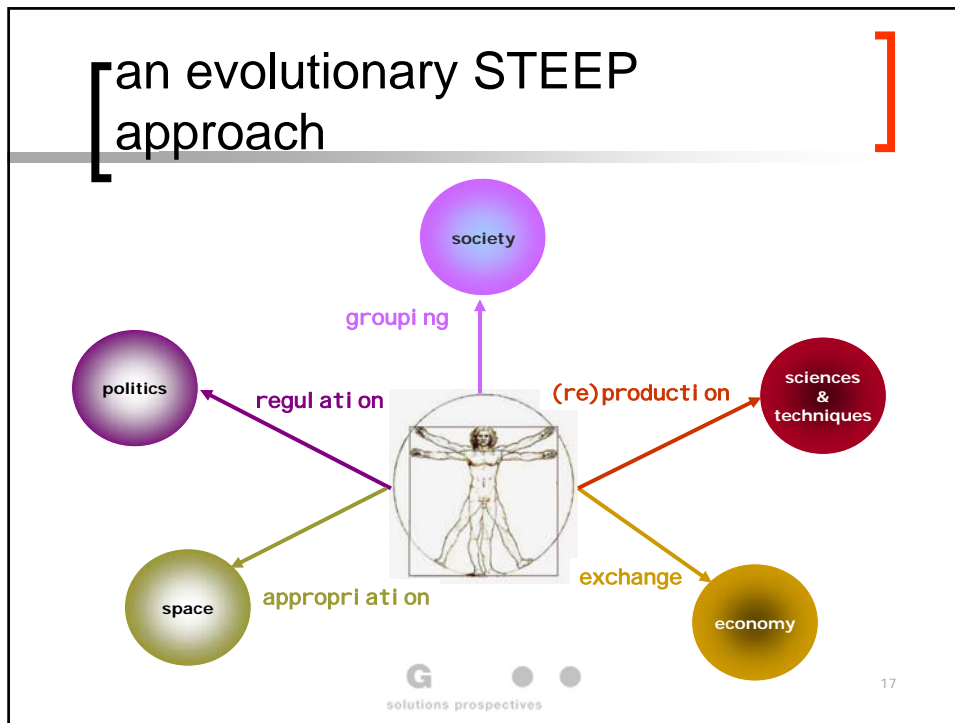
self-organization

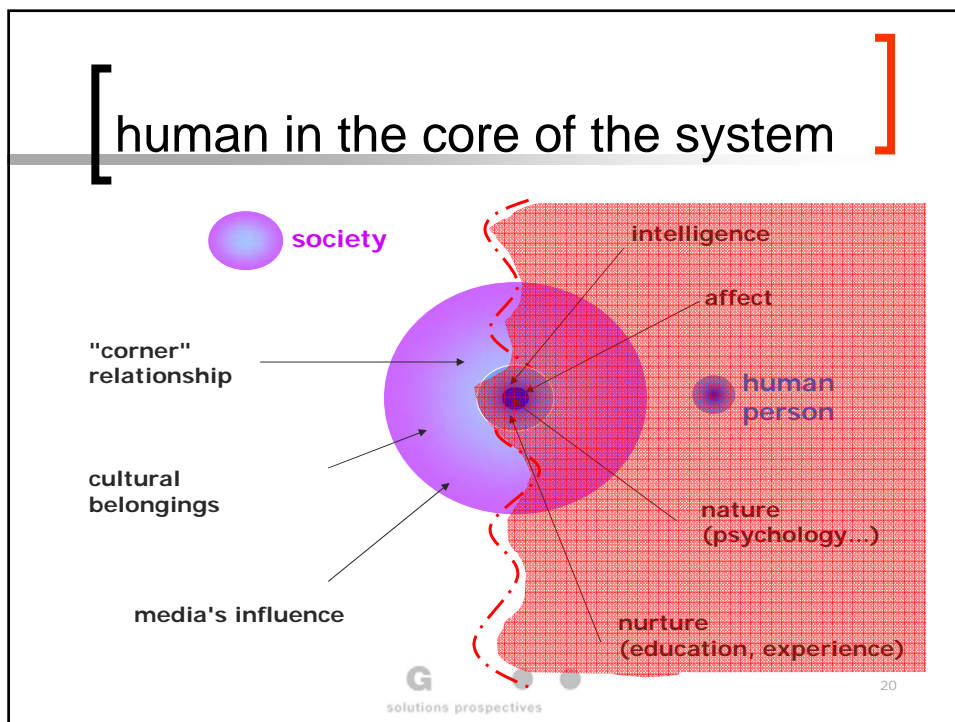
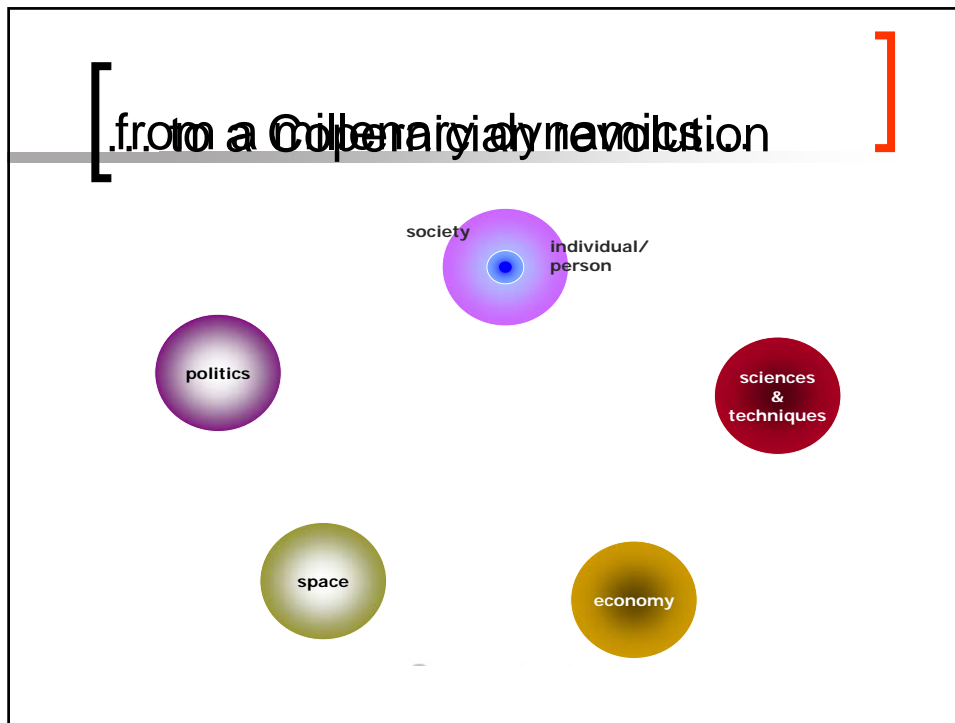
society/grouping
rules/politics

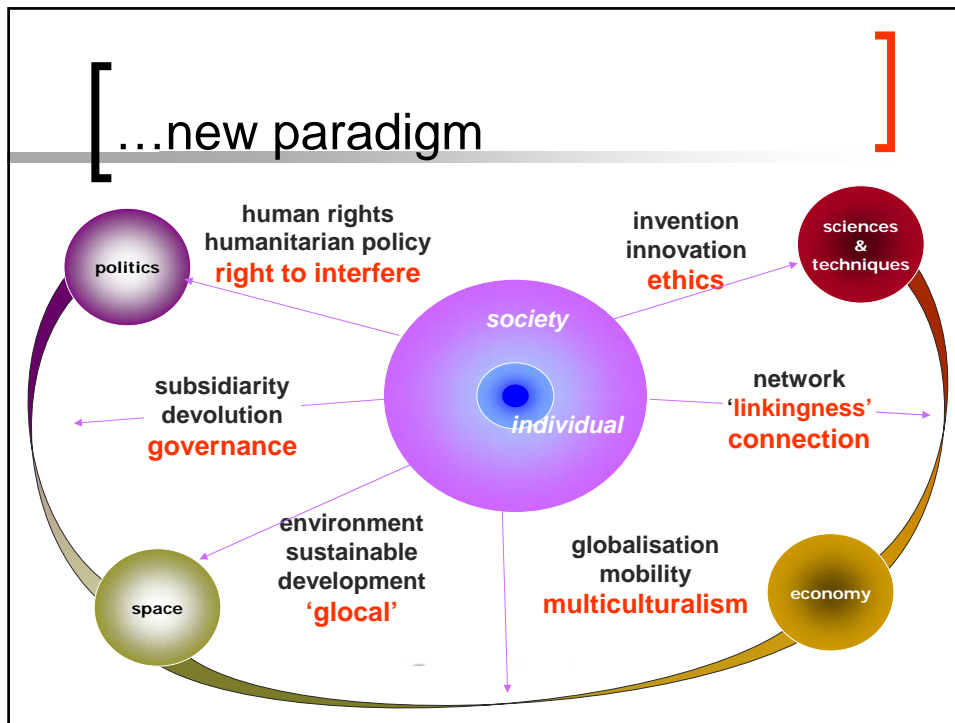
material improvement

from survival to life
adaptation
standard of living
consumption

solutions perspectives



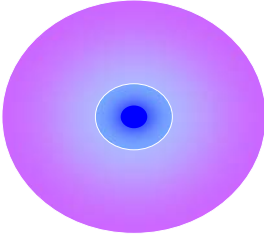




[the human capital]

revolution of intelligence

- **understand information**
knowledge society, information economy
- **understand the Other**
network & project collective intelligence
- **understand oneself**
bearings, identity, ethics, father/mother-hood



human development

- **access:** to comforts, knowledge, personal flowering
- **progress:** redeployment, long life learning

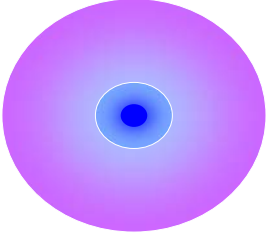
G solutions prospectives

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[ageing]

learning to leave together

- **usefulness of the most aged people**
- **dealing with financial & physical dependence**
- **the throes of « jeunisme »**
- **adaptation of amenities**
transportation & housing
dedicated activities



the lack of young people

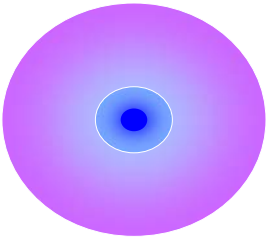
- **immigration** : importation of young foreign skilled labor force
- **inequalities** : pauperization, unusability
- **emigration** : *brain drain*, geotropisms

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[the time issue]

mobility

- **transportation**
automobile saturation,
inadequate public transport,
ecological concerns
- **displacements**
pendular, consumption
society, tourism as an
escape
- **transformation**
isochronize



densification of the present

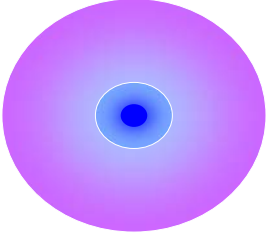
- **acceleration of rhythms** :
adaptation of the public services;
stress
- **densification of exchanges**
dematerialization, nomadic
devices (cell phones, laptop)
immediateness (baby, fedex...)

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[new governance]

emergence of the civil society

- **will to express oneself** whatever the topic
- **desire to be listened to:** fill the gap between decision-makers and citizens, gain a better knowledge of the real life
- **refusal of responsibilities** only those who are in charge are responsible

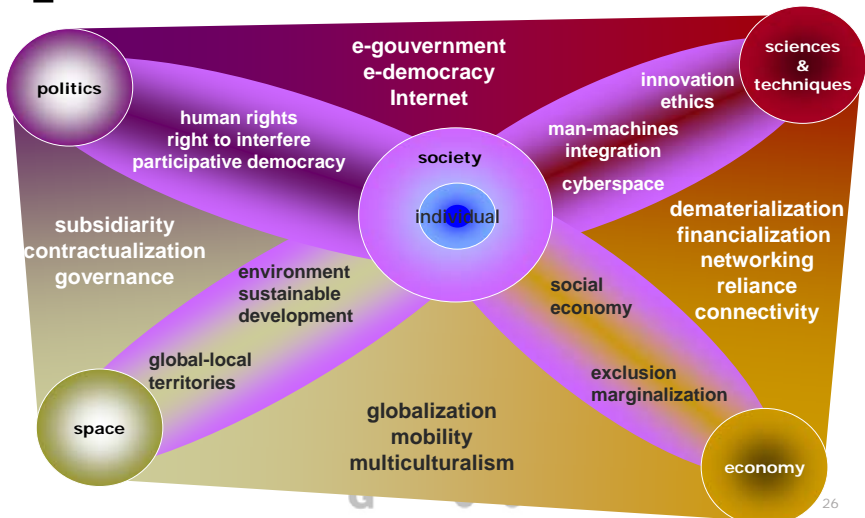


multi-level governance

- **partnership, cooperation** mutualisation of the risks, PPP
- **subsidiarity** devolution, decentralization

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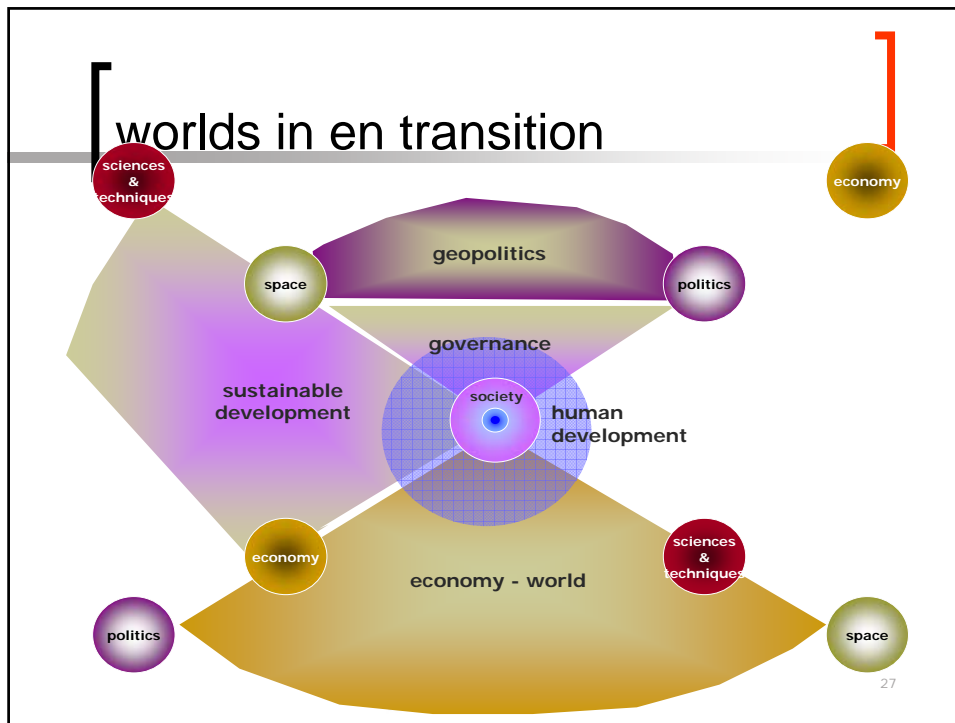
[an approach to complexity]



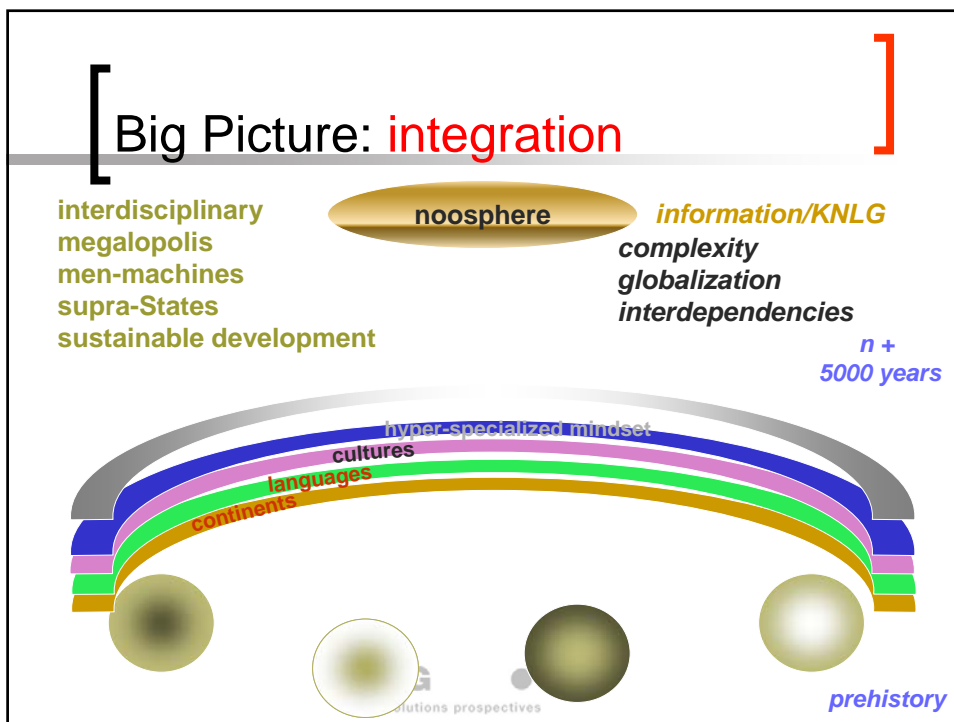
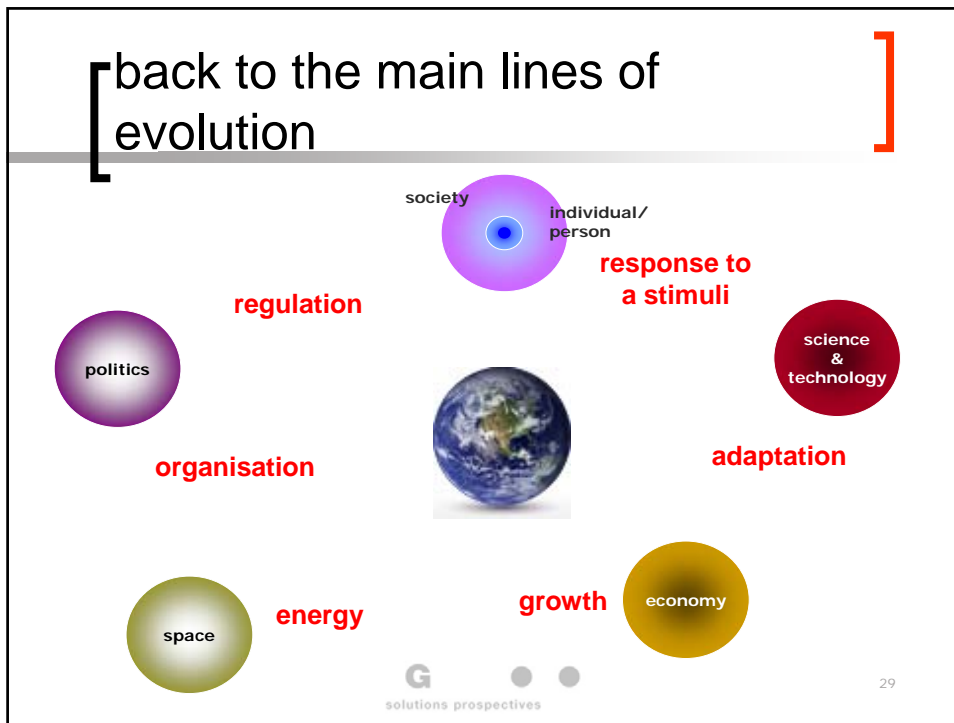
The diagram illustrates an approach to complexity centered on the **individual**. It is surrounded by several interconnected domains:

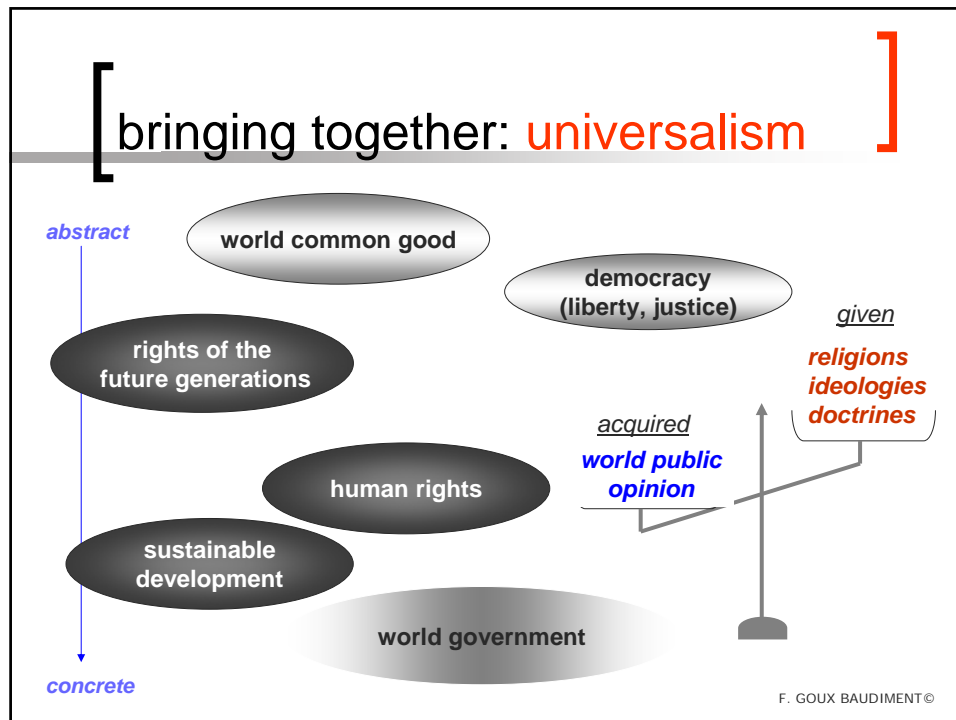
- politics:** human rights, right to interfere, participative democracy
- e-government / e-democracy / Internet:** innovation, ethics, man-machines integration, cyberspace
- sciences & techniques:** dematerialization, financialization, networking, reliance, connectivity
- economy:** social economy, exclusion, marginalization
- space:** subsidiarity, contractualization, governance, environment, sustainable development, global-local territories
- globalization:** mobility, multiculturalism

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A slide with a dark background. A white horizontal bar spans across the middle, containing the text "3. conclusion". A red circle is partially visible on the left side, overlapping the white bar. A red bracket on the right side of the slide spans from the top to the white bar.





[in spite of resistances...]

- although so slow, this movement is now perceptible at the scale of a generation. Hence some spontaneous resistances (xenophobia, 'sectorialism', identitarian withdrawal...).
- hence the need to look for what bring people together rather than to what oppose them; hence the emergence of "universalistic" (humanist) movements (Enlightenment, Renaissance...)
- this transformation opposes itself to the need of personal expression, demanding freedom and refusing to follow a common pattern.



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[our future is still ahead of us]



Uncertainty, complexity and convergence are the main megadrivers mapping the road to the Future.

Creating the world we want is a much more subtle but more powerful mode of operation than destroying the one we don't want.

intelligence

vision

humanism

policy design

reality principle

implementation