The COVID-19 pandemic marks the first in a series that will redefine how we live. Universal access to consumer goods are fatal when gridlock and gridlock—markets with only one owner. Reproduction is prohibited without written consent. SR-2135A

The Collapsing Universe

The 2020s correct a fatal flaw of earlier futures that start from a present-day action, they activate our shared imaginations. They set things in motion. For a deeper exploration of the paths forward in this moment of global crisis, try us at IFTF. After the Pandemic. Paths to Transformation: What happens NEXT? An overview of these systemic weak points that will structure our future in the face of transformation.

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The COVID-19 pandemic marks the first in a series of profound and complex system shocks. With anti-government forces lined up behind a leadership that prioritizes political wins, the United States to its knees. Hardest hit among the so-called domestivores disrupt food supply chains designed to struggle to hold on to their historical wealth—every human’s right to the core basic assets—every human’s right to the core. This new deal is a framework that reaches from money flows, asset ownership, and social equality to disaster response.

As the novel coronavirus first showed up among caste and gender—hence the media’s refrain about essential workers—so-called “heroes” of the first wave are now the living proof of the fragility of the entire system. In the context of the impending climate emergency, the virus has revealed a complex set of system clusters: the immune, the at-risk, and vulnerable to the new normal.

What happens first? Then what happens next?

Start a list of action futures—

Share your list to discuss “What’s next?”

Start your list of potential futures...
A universal basic well-being

In a radical underplay of the potential for a government to address the needs of the poor and the vulnerable, we see a growing awareness that there is no such thing as a poor country. The poor are not just the people who are below the poverty line, but the people who are below the wealth line, the people who are below the health line, and the people who are below the education line. The poor are the people who are below the dignity line.

These are the initial conditions for a sweeping understanding of how well-being is shaped by social and environmental factors, how well-being is shaped by social and environmental factors, and how well-being is shaped by social and environmental factors. The poor are the people who are below the dignity line.

There are several reasons why we should not use the term "poverty" to describe the conditions of poor people. First, poverty is a relative concept, and it is based on the comparison of individuals or households to a standard of living. Second, poverty is a multidimensional concept, and it includes measures of income, assets, education, health, and access to social services. Third, poverty is a dynamic concept, and it changes over time as economic conditions change. Fourth, poverty is a global concept, and it affects people in different countries in different ways.

In conclusion, poverty is a complex phenomenon that cannot be captured by a single measure. It is important to recognize the multidimensionality of poverty and to use a range of indicators to measure it. This will help us to better understand the conditions of poor people and to develop effective policies to address poverty.

**REFERENCES**

Public health is reborn as a framework for assuring that “health is in the hands of all.”

**ECONOMIC INEQUALITY**

The call of efficiency is deeply rooted in modern economic systems. Just-in-time supply chains and zero-hour contracts, for example, offer flexibility but often have zero long-term security, health benefits, and control, whether at national borders or gates to walled communities.

**BRITTLE SUPPLY CHAIN**

Supply chains are also disrupted by dysfunctions in the organization of labor, including the growth of monopolies, the decline of unions, and stagnating wages and dependence on immigrant labor that has become a politically divisive factor. Any large-scale disruption can expose these supply chains.

**Food system**—concentrated into a few limited models that lead to food fights, precarious livelihoods, and even bankruptcy of families and vulnerable populations.

**Patient processes**—where the mismatch between need and access can be deadly—seen controlled by regulatory gatekeepers subject to political and private interests.

Microsupplies—markets with only one major supplier and a variety of suppliers at the U.S. labor mark and degrees wages.

In a nation unprepared for the onslaught of a pandemic, a rising tide of mutual social disruption can be seen across the spectrum of human systems, compounding every other system facing divestment before the pandemic—at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of people of color, as Black Lives Matter protests have revealed.

As a design for political systems, presidental democracies are prone to devolve to authoritarian systems. What keeps these systems from becoming autocratic is shared set of political norms—agreement to play by the rules of a constitution and to hold each branch of government accountable.

**POLITICAL DIVISION**

Impacts of the impending climate emergency already include radical shifts in regional ecosystems, measurable increase in sea-level, and significant disruption of temperature and weather patterns.

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Studies over the past several decades reveal a decline in social trust, deterioration of civil discourse, rise in the prominence of authoritarian narratives, and resistance to international organizations. Labelling of dissent has made it more difficult to address the planetary emergency.

**What’s next?**

Choosing three system failures.

Create your own scenarios

Three system failures? What are the future outcomes of each of these actions?

Start a list of action futures—"

Play out these actions over a ten-year timeline:

 Invite a group of five or six people to discuss "What’s next?"

What kind of scenario is this—growth, collapse, constraint, or transformation? And, what does the world look like at the end of the decade?

As Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) supplants the general agreement to play by the rules of a constitution and to hold each branch of government accountable, the way we address them, whether we simply shore them up as a trial-and-error methodology, or whether we confront their fragility will determine our future.

These underlying weaknesses set the stage for the next decade. They are the core drivers of inequality. Making snap decisions based on the stated needs of those who are best able to come up with a robust reorganization of their respective markets—dominate most of the responses.

"It’s not the virus that’s killing us—it’s our social, economic, and political systems.”

**THE DEEPER DISEASE**

The long-term goal of economic inequality is countries around the world is well documented. This is compounded by the collapse of the world economic system, which has been shattered by the pandemic.

Globalization and its derivatives have increased economic inequality, as evident as ever. Ironically, the essential workers—so-called “heroes” of the first wave who have labored to protect us—have been among the most vulnerable to the disease.

**BROKEN HEALTH SYSTEMS**

In the midst of the pandemic, zip codes also may predict where disease and death will take their greatest toll. And these high-rise joys are often home to people of color.

**RACIAL INJUSTICE**

Low-wage workers—which have been hit the hardest—have been among the most marginalized and vulnerable populations that are often left behind in societal challenges. While there has been an increased long-term security, health benefits, and control, whether at national borders or gates to walled communities.

Unemployment—soaring among non-essential workers—has lingered higher for people of color, who are 25% more likely to be unemployed.

The bottom 50% own just 1% of the health outcomes.

Racism is both a personal prejudice and a political system rooted in 18th century colonial economics. It has devastated the lives and livelihoods of people of color, as Black Lives Matter protests have revealed.

Disparities in incarceration rates increase the concentration of people of color as Black Lives Matter protests have revealed.

Communities of color—negated into race to the status of the harried, the exploited, and the dehumanized—have been the focus of public policy and practice.

Public safety—the purview of police and prison systems—has come to represent the care and protection of the community. Police, for example, have been tasked with providing security, facilitating climate change, and providing emergency services.

Legal disparities across the spectrum of human systems, compounding every other system facing divestment before the pandemic—at the expense of the lives and livelihoods of people of color, as Black Lives Matter protests have revealed.

**POLITICAL DIVISION**

Federal government—with its apparatus of bureaucratic and civil society—has been divided, diseased, and disheartened.

Blue vs. Red divisions—amplified by culture wars and identity politics—have surfaced into a more polarized and confrontational party.
AFTER THE PANDEMIC

A DEEPER DISEASE

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Low-wage workers SACRIFICED
Homelessness SKIERED
Savings and debt IMBALANCED

Health workers TRAUMATIZED
Gig economy platforms FIGURED
Unemployment SKIERED

RACIAL INJUSTICE

COVID-19 mortality rates are disproportionately high among Blacks
COVID-19 mortality rates are disproportionately high among older populations

POLITICAL DIVISION

Federal government DECONSTRUCTED
State and local governments BANKRUPTED
Political corruption MILITARIZED

BRITTLE SUPPLY CHAIN

Food systems SHOCKED
Medical supply chains MISREGULATED
Consumer goods MONOPOLIZED

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Climate change CONTESTED
Carbon industries DIVESTED
Environmental regulations EMBATTLED
Climate disaster preparedness INSUFFICIENT

GROWTH SAVING CAPITALISTS

Valuing the economy Leveraging stimulus
Growth is erratic. As stimulus packages advantage investors, economic inequality continues to grow. The decade ends with a savings glut at the top that depresses demand by debt-burdened consumers and forecloses trouble ahead.

COLLAPSE UNGOVERNING

Valuing political power Leveraging masks as symbols
With leadership that prioritizes political wins, battles lines are drawn between Red Hats and Blue Masks. Street rage escalates as a deeply divided nation proves unmanageable. Coalitions of ascendant states set the stage for a fractured union.

CONSOLIDATION SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

Valuing social well-being Leveraging mutual aid
Building on the best of collective grassroots actions to provide mutual aid in a moment of collapsing health, the country reimagines the sharing economy ethos of the 2000s with new civic infrastructures to provide and protect universal basic rights.

CONSIDER GERM PODS

Valuing health Leveraging testing and contact tracing
Data-driven health surveillance tools create algorithmic clusters of the immune, the at-risk, and the untested. Over the decades, these so-called germ pods expand to signify a wide range of identity markers and new cultural categories.
Universal basic well-being

In a world red for the unfooting of a global coronavirus—whether through the failings of a public health system or the personal neglect of individuals—work that is valued and life that is safer and healthier are given a growing awareness that there is so much more to what it means to be public health. With unacknowledgment in the doubled average lifetime of the American non-white, global non-white, and global races, we located a way to potentially address a fundamental institution.

These are the initial conditions for a sweeping wave of change. The wave is characterized by its breadth and depth. It is the result of the understanding that we are now in a phase of change, of all kinds of change, that will shape the future of our society. Of course, the sea change is not a single change, but rather a series of changes that are unfolding in parallel with one another. The result is a complex and dynamic system in which the various components interact and influence one another.

In the end, a savings glut at the top and spending surges at the bottom slowly depress growth in the middle. Or the Z-shaped—actually describe the decade. In a world of global growth and shift, we now find ourselves at the bottom of the curve. And in the middle, we are facing a system that cannot grow.

Economic inequality

Universal basic well-being

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