

SURVIVAL PAPER

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The Way It Is

By Jim Jones

Truly, bad things do happen to good people. Fortunately good people also happen to bad things. That is what true survival is all about. That is the source of hope for the future.

Those who fail to face reality have no chance of changing it and no chance to survive it. The reality of history is that all of us have ancestors who practiced genocide and slavery and all of us had ancestors that were victims of genocide and slavery. The reality of history is that when land and life sustaining resources are at stake wars are the way they are acquired and kept. The reality is that who we are, where we are and what we have is the result of a long series of conflicts, displacements and struggles combined with a variety of plagues, climate changes and other phenomenon. We are all descendants of survivors who did terrible things and endured terrible things. Within this great struggle for physical survival is the uniquely human struggle to hold on to civilization and individual freedom. We have dark ages and ages of enlightenment. We have victories of the barbarians and of the liberators. So we stand with neither guilt nor pride. We are only defined by what we do now. To survive not merely as organisms, but as free human beings in the face of challenges that grow greater with every year that passes.

The 21st century will challenge the very existence of human life, civilization and individual liberty as never before. No war, plague or natural disaster in history has come close to being as extensive and catastrophic as the combination of threats that are developing on a worldwide scale today. A variety of increasingly severe manmade and natural disasters that will combine within the matrix of economic, social and political degeneration to create challenges to human survival and freedom for many generations to come. Nothing that exists now will be immune from change or destruction.

History and archeology tells us that when humans move into an area they exterminate or drive away weaker occupants, kill off all the animals and use up all the land, food and fuel and then move on or at least disperse until the land recovers. In cases such as islands, where humans were unable to move on, they turned on each other to fight over the remaining resources. They fought until there was nothing left and then the few survivors died-out or lingered on in the ruins of the civilization their ancestors built. Americans have a false sense of security and morality. Those who came here over the past several

hundred years displaced the native population and began filling the unused space and devouring the untapped resources. That space is about full and those resources are draining. We are nearing the point where we lack the resources to sustain the existing population at the level it is accustomed to. We see this in the balance of trade, the declining dollar, the unemployment and the increased taxes for declining services. America was the last open land and untapped resources on earth. We are now like those long-ago lost island civilizations. We have no place to go. There is just not enough water, food, fuel, land or anything else to go around. There is simply no way that this planet can sustain a population growing at the current rate with a constantly improving standard of living. The very poor are dying of starvation and diseases now. They are invading adjoining lands and killing each other over access to land, water and food. In other cases they are swarming across borders into more affluent nations in order to survive. The wealthier nations are existing on debt and lies. The wars that claim to be political, religious or ideological conflicts are all really about survival. These small wars will multiply and spread into every nation and even into the very streets of America. It is a tragic paradox that because we have avoided large-scale wars and improved health care, we have hastened the creation of the ideal conditions for disaster. Population density has established the prime conditions for epidemics, famines, shortages, pollution, conflict and oppression on a worldwide scale. There is no likelihood that humans will voluntarily lower the population, reduce their aspirations for a better life or share the resources they have. Historically humans tend to use war and genocide often cloaked in religious or political justifications to assure that their children prosper at the expense of others. In the past, free and prosperous societies became more and more oppressive and desperate as the land and resources declined. The people often fled to better places or died as the society crumbled. But there is no place to go. The first dominos have already fallen.

- Natural disaster will take much greater tolls on the populations and property because of the climate changes and population densities.
- Epidemics will take millions of lives and disrupt society and the economy.
- While the population of people increases, the need for people to do work will decrease as smart machines and robots take away million of jobs.
- Governments at all levels will seek to survive by increasing taxes on a population that is less and less able to pay them. The infrastructure and services will continue to decline. High crime rates and civil unrest will spread from the poorer nations and communities to all nations and everyone's streets.
- Massive migrations from poorer to richer nations will create border and street wars over the remaining jobs and life resources.
- Governments will try to maintain order by passing more laws, taking away more rights and confiscating more property.
- Some politicians and religious leaders will try to exploit the situation and increase their power by advocating hatred, violence and obedience to their orders. Unfortunately a lot of people will follow them and make things even worse.

- Local and international disputes over water access, fuel, land, food, jobs and other survival needs will become more and more common and less and less peaceful.
- Criminal organizations and the black market will grow in power and acceptability.
- People will work harder and harder for less and less because there *is* less and less to go around.
- The combination of these natural and man-made disasters will result in a worldwide economic collapse that in-turn will lead to further shortages, epidemics and battles.
- How many wars will result and what kind of wars they will be is difficult to predict, but there are no peaceful solutions to many of these situations.

At some point between now and the year 2100 a lot of conflict and chaos is going to occur. It is not anyone's fault and it is irrelevant if it were. It is the way it is, the progression of history, nature in action, God's will. While we have an obligation to try to do the "right things"; to prevent disaster, to oppose hate, violence, crime and oppression, we have an even higher obligation to survive. Not just to survive as biological entities, but as civilized and free human beings in a world that will become increasingly hostile to healthy, self-reliant and free people.

While the nature and forms of these changes is difficult to predict, two things are certain. The first is that staying alive and free will not be assured for anyone on this planet. The second is that for those who do survive, nothing will be the same. Social orders, political systems, religious dogmas, power balances, economic foundations, even the natural environment and geography will be shifted, changed or completely replaced. So there is no question about there being a "new world order" The world order has always changed and will do so again. Those who ignore the obvious signs of change or just hang on to the old ways in a defensive posture will become irrelevant curiosities or simply disappear. The real survival strategy is to adapt worthy values and ideas to the changing natural, social and economic environment. **If we are not ready to happen to the world the world will happen to us.** Vigilance, preparedness, flexibility, determination, responsibility and courage will be the absolute requirements of these centuries' survivors and thrives. We can survive and emerge a freer and greater people or we can let reaction and fear drive us to poverty and subservience. To paraphrase General Patton "we are not about holding on to anything, let the enemies of life and freedom worry about that". We should be new ground with better ideas. Survival is not an end; it is a foundation upon which to build greater self-reliance and independence for the future.

"There is nothing new about prophecies to the effect that the end of the world is near -- What is new is that it is now likely to come true ---- With the world population now doubling every forty-one years, we soon shall reach the biological limit to growth, at which time we shall have to start fighting each other in dead earnest for a share of the world's fixed pie of resources."

A quotation from the book "Collapse" by Professor Jared Diamond

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