

# Pace of Change vs Societal Adjustment

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The thesis: Probably the most significant source for our many challenges in modern western societies is that the pace of overall change – especially technological and economic change – has greatly outrun society's ability to control and successfully incorporate these profound changes so as to assure a stable and sustainable future. As the effects of many of these changes and their associated needs are global in scale, the inability of modern societies to deal with these effects is attributable in large part to the absence of the degree of social/governmental cooperation needed across communities, states and nations.

Examples of rapid change associated, major challenges that have no adequate basis for resolution at the global level: 1) Climate change; 2) Pandemics; 3) Nuclear conflict; 4) Over population; 5) Pollution; 6) Species extinction; 7) Unequal standard of living and gross economic inequality; 8) Unequal access to natural resources; 9) Unequal economic exchange system; 10) Unregulated genetic engineering; 11) Inadequate cyber security; 12) Uneven access to free speech and free press for all media/internet sources; 13) Failure to stop rumor, disinformation, and fake/contrived news/conspiracy; 14) Unhealthy diet and food; 15) Unequal health care; 16) No universal education standard, opportunity, and support; 17) Inadequate promotion and use of critical thinking; 18) Failure to require conflict resolution/adjudication at all societal levels; 19) Lack of respect for diversity within a commitment to universal human rights; 20) No migration/refugee treaty; 21) No universal justice under the law; 22) No universal lifetime requirement to contribute to the common good with a resulting living income; 23) Threatened access to work in light of computerization, robotics and artificial intelligence; 24) No universal political equality; 25) No universal recognition/reward for creativity, industry, and contribution.

This is a long list of important challenges that civilization is currently not meeting. Not addressing these needs poses a real risk to the long term survival of the human species in the civilized condition. Modern humans need to realize that civilization is an experiment at the end of a 250,000 year history. Civilization for most humans is a matter of just the last 500 to 2000 years, and modern western/developed civilization with its rapidly escalating pace of change is only about 200 years old!! Civilization itself has not yet passed the basic test of survivability; and modern “developed” civilization is in its audacious infancy in this regard. Civilized humans need to release the hubris that currently accompanies our modern “developed” societies and respect the tenuous state of their condition. If modern humans want to assure their survival under the umbrella of “developed” civilization, moving rapidly toward a greatly enhanced United Nations to address the above list of challenges is probably the only realistic solution. This, in the Ignorant, Nationalist Era of Trump!