

Futurewatch

Jennifer Coote
New Zealand Futures Trust
New Zealand

WORLD AFFAIRS/ PEACE /WAR

The World "at Risk"

In *Theory, Culture and Society*, Vol 19/4, 02, three eminent social scientists reflect on the impacts of September 11, 01. German sociologist **U. Beck** sees it as a major manifestation of the "world risk society". The acceleration of modernisation has produced a gulf between the world of our accustomed quantifiable risk and those non-quantifiable risks we are creating in many types of technologies, beyond the capabilities of a single nation state. There are three interconnected aspects: ecological, global financial and global terror networks.

Global solutions must be found through global co-operation, using new global institutions and regulations. Terrorist networks aggravate active mistrust, fostering systemic risk which contradicts the logic of individually-based economic calculation on costs of risks. Defining terrorism is reserved to the politically powerful, not international courts, and is oversimplified.

Six lessons: Humanity's common fear provides a resource for forging new bonds; a new phase of globalisation. Terrorism as resistance to globalisation only accelerates it. The state is back, to provide security since without a public sphere, democracy and civil society there can be no legitimacy, no security, and limited economies. Thirdly, more cosmopolitan politics with emphasis on human dignity, cultural identity and otherness will be the key to Western security. Fourthly, no nation is security-sufficient alone: in order to pursue national interests states need to denationalise and transnationalise. An increase in sovereignty arises from a decrease in autonomy. Fifthly, US and other open societies are faced by others unable to keep order or hostile

to their ethos. Maintaining security may lead them a democratic authoritarianism, with open markets but domestic rigidity and a heightened fear of foreigners. Finally, 21st century survival depends on civilising the world risk society. This could be based on development of the cosmopolitan state, where the conditions for multiple national and religious identities coexist under constitutional tolerance.

UK/Polish academic **Z. Bauman** regards the event as a symbolic end to the millennia of space with defended frontiers. Global space now has a frontierland character, where agility and cunning count for more than armouries. Alliances, adversaries and boundaries are transient. Resistance to firmly institutionalised structures, universal rules and long-term, mutually binding commitments stands between the present and any replacement with a global, politically serviced and controlled order. Reconnaissance battles predominate, not for territory but to obtain information about enemy capabilities. Lawlessness self-perpetuates.

US urban studies academic **S. Sassen** finds research and experience demonstrate the imperative to look at the larger issues of globalisation for the formulation of international governance institutions. Two "hotspots" are examined: the debt trap which contributes to accelerated illegal trafficking in people, and immigration, caught in new contradictions. The current competitive pressures on poor countries are depleting national budgets on education, health and stimulating emigration, trafficking and dependence on overseas remittances. Full cancellation of debt will not necessarily put these countries on to a sustainable development path. The massive global market transformations are impacting even on middle income countries, as recent crises show. Rich countries

will eventually suffer from the effects of the debt trap, in indirect ways, e.g., increased crime and diseases.

The global south needs a lender of first resort who can help the poorest countries with development finances in their own currencies on reasonable terms. Immigration requires a radical reassessment by both sending and receiving countries, to acknowledge that migration flows are inevitable in an interconnected world.

G. Hodgson observes that the spectre of Hitler's fascism haunts Europe. The far right wing victories form a major threat to social democracy. The demagogues of the right, mixing fake populism with crude xenophobia, play on fears of immigrants, making more genteel forms of racism respectable, thus tempting politicians to flirt with them. Political failure to handle the fierce resentments set off by immigrations enables the new populism to portray government and all politicians as part of a conspiracy to rob people of cherished ways of life. Democratic politicians must have the courage to affirm democratic governance, fairness and equality. *New Statesman*, 10 June, 02, pp 29-31.

Sociologist **P. L. van den Berghe** examines multicultural democracy (MD), *Nations and Nationalism*, Vol 8/4, 02, one of five democratic varieties: liberal, where civil and political rights are vested in individuals; consociational, where some distinct collective identity is incorporated constitutionally and catered for e.g., Canada; ethnic democracy, where one or more collective groups clearly predominate politically and exclude others, eg Israel; "herrenvolk", where one group is exclusively privileged, eg apartheid S. Africa. MD de-couples the nation from the state, recognising that there is no homogeneity, but that assimilation is not in question. Nor is political institutionalisation of ethnicity, which is expensive. MD has no specific model at present, although given the pressures on rich democratic nations from the poor, populous countries, it could grow. India's experience reveals a vast cacophony of groups claiming state recognition, and active, collective campaigns for special rights. The endemic communal disturbances suggest that recognition of special rights for one

group, generates cleavages with rewards for divisive organising. MD needs to be recognised as a self-defeating instrument for reducing invidious group differences. States can accommodate local differences, e.g., of language or in education, without official prescriptions. The contradiction between pragmatic, interest-based immigration policies and MD liberalism needs to be acknowledged. A minimalist MD enables a modern, liberal, democratic state to give all citizens equal rights, to celebrate their diversity as they choose within bounds of internationally accepted standards of morality and justice.

De-nationalising Citizenship, **L. Bosniak**, in *Citizenship Today: Global Perspectives and Practices*, Eds T. A. Aleinikoff, D. Klusmeyer, Carnegie Endowment for World Peace, 01, explores developing internationally oriented, pluralist affiliations.

For international society to take responsibility to protect human rights, in spite of state dereliction, guidelines are provided from the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty in the significant report, *The Responsibility to Protect*, 01, www.iciss-ciise.gc.ca, also summarised **G. Evans, M. Sahnoun**, *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec, 02.

J. Corrales analyses the politics of Argentina's meltdown, *World Policy Journal*, Fall, 02, emphasising the dangers for politically weak democracies of the stringent new "toughen as you sink" policy of IMF which resulted in massive recession with intense social consequences. US and IMF policy analysts need to revise their understanding of the susceptibility of weak democracies in emerging markets.

A Deficit of Peace

Researchers **V.M. Hudson, A. D. Boer**, *International Security*, Vol 26/4, 02, find strong but overlooked connections between international security and an exaggerated gender inequality. This extends from violence against females within a society to cover longer term regional insecurity. Exaggerations occur when the usual sex ratio is skewed by deliberate infant sex selection, either through traditional female

infanticide or modern technological sex selections. Surplus, bachelor males result, traditionally called in China, "bare branches." Those in the age group 15-35 are also most prone to violence in a society. In twenty years time they will number 30 million in each of India and China, an unprecedented development. Bare branches are commonest in the lower socioeconomic levels, most of them unemployed or very prone to criminal groups, with strong disposition to violence to overcome their other competitive limitations, especially in the marriage market. Historically, China has experienced periods of social disruption, even rebellion, when the bare branch phenomenon occurred, and governments found it prudent to find distractions such as foreign ventures as well as increasing internal security. China could develop stronger authoritarian government and/or enlarged armies or larger public works, while India could experience major communal disorder. The status and ratio of women in a given society may be crucial in determining the kind of government to which it can aspire.

Understanding Civil War, special issue of the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Feb, 02 highlights relatively neglected economic aspects, in nine studies conducted for the World Bank, covering causes and problems in reaching and maintaining settlements. Opportunity for rebellion and lack of opportunity to reach a settlement are significant.

Keeping the Peace; Lasting Solutions to Ethnic Conflicts, D. L. Byman, John Hopkins Univ Press, 02. A sophisticated RAND study of five key strategies which can be applied as, and when appropriate, to end violent, often ethnically based, conflicts.

Washington Quarterly, Summer, 02, section, Failed States, provides two general articles and four specific studies from Pakistan, Colombia, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone. Some are "weak" states, not failures, but their weakness can provide opportunities for terrorists. Civil war usually characterises state failure, with border collapse and loss of any officially provided security for citizens. A few opportunists grow rich. Displacement and migration of populations

result, with substate actors taking over on a regional basis. Major indicators of state failure are: declining levels of GDP and extremely wide income levels. Fundamentally, failure arises from lack of leadership. It is cheaper and more effective to strengthen a weak state than reconstruct a failed one, using good governance, reinforcement of responsible leadership, fiscal prudence, land tenure reform, and innovations to stimulate employment and foster sustainable development.

K. Kumar examines religious fundamentalism in India and beyond, *Parameters*, Autumn, 02. Fundamentalism is widely nurtured by the turbulence created by intertwined burgeoning populations, ethnic conflict and environmental degradation. There is a dual commitment to remaking this world in the service of the divine and to neutralising the threatening "other", for self preservation. To this end fundamentalists are selective of their own tradition and of that part of modernity which they oppose. In India this can mean acceptance of a secular state, but the preservation of Muslims from secularist (and other religious) forces. Hindu nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism have fed off each other since the Partition but Hindus were galvanised by the trauma of ethnic cleansing by Sikh extremists in the Punjab, 1980-84. The new Hindu Nationalist identity is under construction today mostly in the north and central states, where religion is the face of the revival, but cultural identity is fundamental, responding to the turbulent economic and social change there. Endemic future conflicts will challenge the capability of states to protect their citizens. India must maintain its secular political character to balance and mediate relationships between the many communities.

Writer A. Roy argues that as hostility between India and Pakistan is cranked up, so hostility within India to Muslims grows. Hindu extremists are calling for civil war. Fear of the Other is fuelling a creeping fascism groomed by the democratic institutions which have tolerated the erosion of civil liberties and the daily injustices. Self-manufactured hatred is leading to self-destruction. *New Statesman*, 10 June, 02, pp 24-25.

From Western Worlds

The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Superpower Can't Go It Alone, **J. P. Nye**, OUP, 01. A major US political analyst considers that the US is both more and less powerful than many one-dimensional analysts suggest. It should cherish its advantage in multilateral diplomacy to set the international agenda. There are limits to its capacity to act on its own eg in intelligence gathering, policing international financial flows, strengthening weak states. Research indicates that the majority of Americans are committed to international co-operation and that the fervent moral and unilateral crusade is driven by the 20% primary Republican vote. Terrorists cannot destroy American power unless it rots from within.

The Emerging Democratic Majority, **J. B. Judis, R. Teixeira**, Scribner, 02, use demographic trends and voting patterns to predict this change. Over the past three decades US has become a post-industrial society: multi-ethnic, religiously diverse and densely urban.

America's Muslims: The New Generation, **A. G. Hasan**, Continuum, 01, is an American Muslim woman's personal and researched perspective on how her generation of Muslims, of whatever cultural origin, are adapting their faith to American society, creating a New World Islam.

Europe's drive to enlarge its boundaries, of EU and NATO, is analysed by **C. Gati**, *Public Interest*, Summer, 02 and *The Economist*, 26 Oct, 02, pp 25-27. NATO enlargement with admission of Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Baltics is problematic in that the transition from one-party dictatorships and planned economies is progressing, but it is uncertain that the changes will lead to western-style democracies and free markets. Public opinion is confused and disappointed with outcomes in present lives and future prospects, with deep divisions between rural and urban, high unemployment, declining welfare benefits and widespread corruption. The Past shames and shadows politically, parties are fragmented, polarised. Instability and the penetration of Russian Mafia challenge NATO to leverage the shape of political and economic development in these countries. Cash infusions from EU

membership can promote healthy economies in Central European countries and hope to counter the past.

New challenges to Australian foreign policy are examined in the *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, Vol 56/2, 02. Globalisation will require a change in policy style, especially in trade policy. Asylum seekers pose problems which will mean a more proactive, multilateral response to people movement. **H. White** examines defence policy, where Australia stands out from trends elsewhere, including NZ, to redesign forces for lower level contingencies and assume that in major conflicts they will operate as junior members. There are sound arguments for a continuation of the distinctive Australian stance.

P. Cozens, Director, NZ Strategic Studies Centre, calls for an Oceania Oceans Policy, to provide more effective oversight of the extensive Exclusive Economic Zones of the small Pacific Island states. Its strategic influence would extend to metropolitan powers, Australia, France, NZ. Three major instruments are needed: policies to comprehend and protect the environment; processes to manage the oceans and related industries; and "security" improvement. *Institute of Policy Studies Newsletter*, Nov, 02, pp 16-18.

Keeping Secure

Rand Review, Summer, 02, samples their research on the domestic war against terrorism. Better policies towards global health is crucial, airport security requires a complete restructuring under federal control, veterinary science needs to emphasise the exotic origins and treatment of animal diseases. Areas for further research include what makes communities resilient in face of terror?

On the Edge of the Earth: the Future of American Space Power, **S. Lambakis**, Univ. Kentucky Press 01, a more expensive but comprehensive resource on this controversial US issue. He advocates the reality of US exploiting space fully, including command of space defence, but with a freedom-based space vision for all interests to function in space freely.

War and Power in the 21st Century: The State, Military Conflict and the International

System, **P. Hirst**, Cambridge UP, 01. A strong critique of the hype over the RMA (Revolution in Military Affairs), which will take thirty years to mature and in which China may also participate. The "clash of civilisations" is unlikely but non-state forces will conflict against advanced countries and elites in the developing world. Three Phases described, with the middle phase complicated by the effects of climate change.

ECONOMICS/BUSINESS

R. S. Goldfarb, **T. C. Leonard** take a forward cast on economics at the millennium, *Society*, Nov/Dec, 02. Much modern economics is model building, simplified mathematical representations of complicated situations. Continuing debate arises over the balance between evolving theory and evidence, especially when different models can explain relationships in data. Economic axioms are likely to be replaced with uncertainties incorporating psychology, sociology and history as nearby disciplines supply new applications and ideas. Far more experimentation with simulation models is likely, aided by advancing computer software.

An expert on comparative economic systems, **F. L. Pryor**, is pessimistic about the *Future of US Capitalism*, Cambridge U.P., 02, over the next decades. Demographic changes will affect growth, with greater vulnerability to external shocks, wider income differentials which concentrate wealth and aggravate poverty-traps, also economic and political uncertainties with increasing globalisation.

The Economist Survey, The Unfinished Recession, 28 Sept, 02, examines a number of theories on business cycles, concluding that there is no single cause to these. The present situation reflects Hayek's theory, where cheap credit and inflated profit expectations cause "malinvestment". It will take much longer to eliminate such excess than to tame inflation. Monetary and fiscal policies can moderate but never eliminate the cycles. Since increasing globalisation may accentuate the cyclic swings, monetary policies need redesigning to account for these.

Building Capitalism: The Transformation of the Former Soviet Bloc, **A. Aslund**, Cambridge

UP, 02. This study of 21 countries analyses the different paths pursued. Three predominate: radical reform, with democratic and dynamic market economies; gradual reform, with semi-democratic and semi-privatised rent-seeking societies; and nonreforming dictatorships. While poverty has increased in poor countries, the overall social situation has improved.

Entrepreneurial, Innovative, Intelligent

Recent research, **H. H. Frederick**, *NZ Journal of Applied Business Research*, Vol 1/1, 02, shows that individual entrepreneurs play a more dominant role in NZ's economy than in many other countries. The rate of female entrepreneurship is the world's highest. Maori are just as enterprising as European New Zealanders, but they do not conform to the ideal type, valuing collective entrepreneurial effort to meet their community aspirations over materialistic, individual effort.

Business innovation to stimulate rural development is explored in a detailed study, **C. Gibson**, *Australian Geographical Studies*, Nov, 02, of the Northern coast of NSW, where a unique cultural mix of ex-urban professionals, unemployed, youth subcultures, backpacker tourists and retirees support thriving, popular music cultures. Despite linkages to the major metropolitan centres, this industry is transient and insecure, exposing the complexities of a cultural industry as a base for reinvigorating rural economies.

Technological Innovation and Economic Performance, Eds **B. Steil** et al, for (US) Council on Foreign Relations, Princeton, 02, synthesises research and critical analysis by macro and micro economists on the causes of technological innovation in relation to economic performance in US, Japan, Germany, France, UK and the Nordic states. Industries include ICT, semi-conductors, banking, securities trading, venture capital, electrical supply, agriculture, biotech and pharmaceutical biotech. Conclusions: market oriented modes of production provide more flexibility for sustainable success; technological progress is more than R&D, it needs an environment to capitalise on a variety of contributions. Management needs less focus on administration of structures, more on

the problems of creating and destroying them.

G. Haisman, *NZ Engineering News*, Sept 02, p5, considers that the Knowledge Economy is an overblown buzzword. Knowledge, by itself, does nothing; intelligence enables knowledge to become productive. Six levels of the Intelligent Economy response to any given knowledge are: incomprehension; misunderstanding; conceptual understanding; mastery; creative and critical mastery; genius. This challenges us to think as we proceed.

Primal Leadership: Realising the Power of Emotional Intelligence, **D. Goleman** et al, Harvard Business School Press, 02, applies research into the theory of Emotional Intelligence. Neurological research demonstrates how EQ inspires, arouses enthusiasm, and maintains commitment. Four aspects of EQ competencies are: self-awareness (accurate self-assessment, self-confidence); self-management (transparency, adaptability, initiative); social awareness (empathy, organisational awareness and service); relationship management (influence, change catalyst, team and conflict management).

Listings

Public Sector Leadership for the 21st Century, OECD, 01. Such leadership is critical to good public sector governance, but it also involves the challenge of cultural change. There is no one best model: six case studies are provided from UK, US, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Mexico. *Reflections on the World Summit on Sustainable Development: The Road from Doha to Cancun, Via Johannesburg*, **J. Kelsey**, Speech to Auckland Branch, NZ Institute of International Affairs, 2 Oct, 02. The comparatively open UN participatory process was subverted by corporate interests and powerful economic states to serve their agenda, strengthen the WTO model for global development, and sideline environmental concerns and the developmental interests of small nations.

EDUCATION

Citizen Schools for Radical Change

L. A. Gaudin, M. W. Apple examine the

Citizen Schools of Porto Alegre, Brazil, *Journal of Educational Policy*, Vol 17/2, 02. These are part of a decade-long state and city policy of a Workers Party administration to foster "thicker" democracy in contrast to "thin" forms which limit the participatory roles of citizens. Basic human needs such as water and sanitation, especially for the neglected slum-dwellers and the provision of schools in such areas, have been priorities. A participatory budgeting process has deliberately encouraged the poor in decision making about the allocation of municipal resources and government agencies are being re-educated to serve the population. In this urban transformation the citizens schools are deeply integrated. They are products of the theories of progressive academics, the public schools and the socio-democratic struggles of social movements. Foundations were laid with an extensive forum which mobilised school communities to formulate principles for the schools, broadly grouped under: management, curriculum, principles for living together and evaluation. The goal is education which is truly democratic in: management throughout the school, in access to the school, and of access to knowledge. A special concern was to ensure that devolution of power to local units was not nullified by undemocratically-derived, accountability processes, and a Congress of Education, democratically based on representatives of a number of stakeholders, oversees this. A major achievement of these schools is the high level of "inclusion", a reversal of high dropout rates. This is partly because the curriculum is based on the communities themselves, with study around complex themes, raising questions about the community and constructing new knowledge. Teachers have special courses to cope with their new roles, and improved salaries.

Sydney educational professor **A. Goncz** finds that studies from neuroscience, artificial intelligence, learning theory and knowledge management point to the vital interconnection of emotion and reasoning, as the chain of functions promoting learning and creativity involve the body. Learners and their environments are thus intimately connected. Preparing people for occupational practice means that students devel-

op generic/key competencies from exposure to a variety of contexts Apprentice-type situations indicate that learning and working can generate new, usually tacit knowledge. The mind is no longer "a container" it is "a holistic pattern detector." *NZ Educational Review*, March 6, 02, p 7.

Schools That Learn, **P. Senge**, Doubleday, 01. Earlier, Senge promoted five disciplines underlying the learning process: developing personal mastery, creating shared mental models, establishing a shared vision, engaging in team learning and thinking systematically. Now he explores how schools and teachers can develop their own capacity, with practical techniques as well as theory. They must take control of designing their change to a learning orientation.

The fourth International Conference on Technology Policy and Innovation, Curitiba, Brazil, 2000, focused on learning and knowledge networks. Eds **P. Conceicao**, **M. V. Heitor** select leading articles for *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, Sept, 02, with their own contribution examining the knowledge accumulation which drives a learning society. E.services, the role of social capital, national learning systems included.

Psychologist **E. H. Schein** discusses with **D. L. Coutu**, *Harvard Business Review*, March, 02, the anxiety of learning. Corporate experience and studies of war prisoners point to the importance of coercion in effecting learning change. Anxiety inhibits such change but there is also survival anxiety which can encourage change. Major cultural change is very slow, over twenty years.

IT use in Singapore schools dramatically impressed Japanese education experts, particularly for its capacity to nurture creativity and self-expression in students. In Japan, IT is a topic to be taught, while every-day problem solving is just being introduced into the curriculum. *Straits Times*, July 29, 02, p1. Internet use in Pacific Island distance learning is a mixed success, *Pacific Magazine*, Sept, 02, p20-21. Western Samoa is a leader, helped by the implementation of US programmes supporting US school and library technologies. The student-to-computer ratio is 1:8, teachers in-service workshops are available and local capacity to maintain the systems is developing. Marshall Islands and Palau are hampered in IT educational take-up by the

high cost of Internet connections.

NZ Government action and local Maori initiatives plus educational institutional innovations are focused on raising the participation rate of both Maori and Pacific Island students of all ages into successful tertiary education. By 2050 nearly fifty percent of younger NZers will come from these groups. Tertiary enrolment levels for both groups are up, though mostly for lower level qualifications, but retention rates are poorer. Lower family incomes are a handicap, older students need lots of remedial work. Success should not mean turning Maori into brown skinned pakeha. Maori friendly environments are essential to improving retention rates and eventual success. Such environments are based on Maori kaupapa, with academic, cultural and pastoral support. Resources include practical help with studies and access to equipment, strong mentoring using senior students, who also assist staff to develop better understanding. Some mentors are used in secondary schools to encourage Maori and Pacific Island students to understand and appreciate the sciences and engineering for possible careers. Expectations of academic excellence can also stimulate more tertiary staff from these groups. Three distinct Maori Universities (wananga) exist. There are visions for wananga to become providers of secondary education for Maori, since it is at this level that such students are conspicuously failing. *NZ Educational Review*, Oct 2,02, pp 9-11.

Listing

Becoming a Narrative Enquirer in a Multicultural Landscape, **J. Phillion**, *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, Vol 34/5, 02. Extended observation and interaction with a teacher and a multi-cultural, migrant class in Toronto, plus professional reflection, radically transformed this academic's personal and professional understanding of such education.

ENVIRONMENT

Problems and Some Solutions

Making Parks Work: Strategies for Preserving Tropical Nature, Eds **J. Terborgh**, **C.**

van Schaik, Island Press, 02. Parks in the Least Developed Countries are vital for the perpetuation of the richest lode of earth's biodiversity, but they are deteriorating in face of massive national poverty/debt. Case studies, enforcement mechanisms, scenarios for fifty years hence and more.

A. Artuso examines the issues of bio-prospecting, benefit sharing and capacity building. Innovative case studies from Taiwan to South Africa are examined to establish the components of successful strategies for sustainable development of biochemical resources. *World Development Journal*, Vol 30/8, 02.

Flammable Australia: The Fire Regimes and Biodiversity of a Continent, **R. A Bradstock** et al, Cambridge U.P, 02, provides an authoritative, but expensive overview of twenty years research for a new, deeper understanding of fire's role in Australian ecosystems. Practical implications discussed.

An economist at Melbourne's Medical School notes that the current serious drought highlights the wholesale change taking place in the national economic geography. Primary exports are largely dependent on unsustainable water practices. Long-term human well-being and health will depend on how rural communities cope with the cumulative effects, in turn affecting the whole national economy. *The Bulletin/Newsweek* (Sydney), Oct 8, 02, pp31-33.

Australia is innovating water storage in huge underground banks, using depleted aquifers which are pumped with surplus water in wet seasons. This aquifer recharge also cleanses the water, is highly cost effective, decentralised and environmentally safe. *Australasian Science*, Nov/Dec, 02, pp28-30.

Geomicrobiology is the study of the uncountable number of microorganisms which inhabit Earth's habitable and extreme environments. Their diversity, ecology, function, genomics are only just being outlined, and their environmental influence determined. *Science*, 10 May, 02, pp1071-1076.

Mercury is a persistent, naturally occurring metal which in its organic form, methylmercury, accumulates in the food chain and can damage developing children. **R. Lutter, E. Irwin** assess its impacts and recommended policy measures,

Environment, Nov, 02; **J. Motovali** gives a more concerned assessment, *E.magazine*, May/June, 02.

NZ will be fighting pest wars for the foreseeable future, as international trade and travel promotes the introduction of exotic pests to seriously threaten our native species and critical export industries. Public support for biosecurity measures is essential as is illustrated by active public concern over spraying to control the Painted Apple Moth around Auckland. Sound management, and best use of the funds invested must be assured. Ten reasons to avoid complacency over NZ biosecurity are discussed. *NZ Journal of Forestry*, Aug, 02, pp2-4.

Governance and Policies

Professor **M. E. Tucker** reports on the International Conferences of the Religions of the World and Ecology which she organised at Harvard University and the ongoing Forum on the same theme, website www.environment.harvard.edu/religion The world's religions need to reinvent our role as Universe citizens. Social and environmental issues can no longer be separated. Diverse perspectives are needed for formulation of lasting ethical frameworks. Interfaith dialogue, development of ecological rituals and practical programmes are in progress. *E.magazine*, Nov-Dec, 02, pp36-38.

Global Environmental Outlook 3: Past, Present, Future, UN Environmental Programme, Earthscan, 02, (www.unep.org) provides a wide ranging overview of trends on many issues affecting the environment, UN environmental summits, environmental threats to humanity, four extensive scenarios to guide policy priorities, and options for action. A collaborative effort from over 30 organisations.

The New Economy of Nature: The Quest to Make Conservation Profitable, **G. Daily, K. Ellison**, Island Press, 02. Reports on a wide range of initiatives illustrating that ecosystem services can become a profitable business for "green gold prospectors." A critical analysis.

In *The Environmentalist*, Vol 22, 02, pp 29-42, Berlin Science Centre Professor **U. E. Simonis** advocates and examines the case for a World Environmental and Development Organisation

within the UN system. Reform and efficiency gains within the present system are inadequate for the task of upgrading environmental and development policy on the international agenda. Negotiations could start soon to develop WEDO.

More on Climate Change

Abrupt Climate Change: Inevitable Surprises, National Research Council (US), National Academy Press, 02. Research has buttressed this new paradigm, but the wider scientific and policy-making community is almost unaware. Recommendations for research priorities and policies for action are presented.

Climate Change after Kyoto: A Blueprint for a Realistic Approach, **W.J. McKibbin, P.J. Wilcoxon** assess the limited prospects of the Kyoto Protocol, the flaws of the targets and timetables approach, the issue of costs and the need to bring nations such as US on board. Their approach offers an abatement of emissions, where possible at low cost, using reasonable and prudent measures to reduce the environmental risks. Some countries could start this approach immediately. *Brookings Review* Spring, also book of same title, Brookings, 02.

The role of atmospheric aerosols (particulate matter) in haze and pollution is known but their role as a greenhouse factor, especially as black carbon which absorbs sunlight, is rising as a major contributor to global warming.. It is affecting Asian monsoon patterns and China's rainfall, *Science*, 27 Sept, 02, pp 2214-2215, and studies on Indonesian fires, *Nature*, 7 Nov, 02 pp 29-30.

Links between the ozone depletion and climate change have been confirmed by studies of the stratosphere (the upper levels of the atmosphere) which also explains why the extremities of Antarctica are warming while the Pole remains cool. *Scientific American* August, 02, pp18-19.

FUTURES THINKING

Globalised Society - Threats, Hopes

UNESCO Courier, Dec, 01, pp 6-9, extracts

from two earlier works on Racism and Culture, (1952, 1971) published UNESCO, by eminent anthropologist **C. Levi-Strauss**. An experience of a cumulative history is characteristic of grouped societies, who develop a capacity to "get along together", while static societies are isolated and vulnerable. A world civilisation essentially exhibits maximum possible diversities. Different cultures need to combine their respective stakes in the great game of history. Intolerant racism may be an ideological cover for antagonism based on the will to power and subjugation. Hopes of equality and fraternity among human kind must also recognise that distinct individual and group values need to retain that distinctness to survive. There needs to be adequate communication to stimulate but not so intense as to overwhelm.

Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress, **L. E. Harrison, S. P. Huntington**, Basic Books, 00, is notable for its optimistic assessments of culture in successful societies, especially when some cultures are more conducive to modernity. But can the unprogressive ones be refashioned?

Futures, Oct, 02, Whole Issue, Impaling the Future, Eds **R. Kapoor, J. Serra**, presents provocative explorations from the 2001 World Futures Studies Federation Conference, on implications of the Globalised Society. Four major threats to large sections of humanity could lead to violent or slow deaths: ecological, politico-economic, cultural and biotechnological. Many peoples would have no choices in globalisation. The future of our species may be at stake, in **B. van Steenbergens** exploration of biomedical developments. **L. Groff** offers a holistic, creative approach on management and resolution of violent conflict. **B. Tonn, E. Ogle** explore a future citizenship ethic of concern for the future, based on community rather than individualistic concerns, while **T. Stevenson**, also **S. Soderlund, T. Fuller** offer two explorations of cyber-based community futures and IT impacts on academic learning and meta-level consciousness.

The Capacity to Govern: A Report to the Club of Rome, eminent Israeli futurist and political scientist, **I. Dror**, Frank Cass, 01, provides a detailed examination of the current weakness of

governance faced with ongoing global transformations. Radical improvement in critical decision-making, reshaping the moral base and reshaping the architecture are explored in twelve detailed aspects.

Social Science and Futures

Sophisticated computer modelling and application of naturally occurring "power laws" on the exponential relationship between size and rank, are enabling more accurate interpretations of societies and their behaviour. **J. Rauch**, *Atlantic Monthly*, April, 02, explains how historic, present (including genocidal) and artificial societies can reveal consistencies in the patterns even allowing for differences. This also enables more accurate assessment of interventions, anticipations of trouble, small, workable policy changes that work as against large, ineffective ones. "If social scientists thought harder about the future, this would make them focus their research into the present and the past more fruitfully, with more attention to the key predictors of change, argue Eds **R. Cooper, R. Layard**, *What the Future Holds: Insights from Social Science*, MIT Press, 02. Various methodologies are assessed, plus the need for more interdisciplinary interaction.

Listings

The Ingenuity Gap, **T. Homer-Dixon**, Alfred Knopf, 00, a lively examination with sound scholarship on the growing gap between the societies where ingenuity, in technologies, innovations, institutions and social arrangements is limited and others are over-supplied. *Vital Signs 2002: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future*, Worldwatch Institute, W.W. Norton, 02, covers 56 significant indicators (one third new), in this essential resource.

Correspondence:

New Zealand Futures Trust, P.O. Box 12-008,
Wellington, New Zealand
g.coote@clear.net.nz