



Earth Manifesto



PRESS RELEASE

Revolutionary Earth Manifesto Mysteriously Materializes - A Potential Game Changer

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In these epic times of trouble and contagious coronavirus pandemic, public attention is riveted on the urgent and the immediate. This is good and necessary, but we shouldn't lose sight of important big picture perspectives.

A foresight-honoring Earth Manifesto has been launched into the public arena that contains wide-ranging understandings designed to spark positive change in the world. All of the more than 100 essays in these writings can be found online, as well as in one of the handsome Twelve Books of the Earth Manifesto that are available from print-on-demand publisher Lulu Press. This compendium of ideas and insights has been set forth by Dr. Tiffany B. Twain, an admirer of Mark Twain who fancies herself to be his philosophic soul mate in many matters.

Tiffany Twain passionately articulates an extraordinary worldview in these writings, and she believes these ideas and proposed plans for improving our country and the world could help transform our societies into healthier, fairer, saner, happier and more peaceable ones. A core idea in this manifesto is that it would be a providential good plan for humanity to begin to demonstrate much greater respect for Mother Earth by making courageous commitments to effective means of protecting the environmental commons and safeguarding biological diversity, and better conserving resources crucial to humanity's flourishing and survival. Excellent ways are also proposed for us to begin to ensure the longer-term sustainability of vitally valuable services provided by healthy natural ecosystems. To these ends, a *Bill of Rights for Future Generations* has been set forth to help guide our activities and make sure they can be sustained for a longer period of time. Our actions today should not rashly ignore the anticipated needs of people in the future. *Intelligent Precautionary Principles* have also been enunciated to help focus our national priorities and give us clearer guidance to a more propitious future than current trends portend.

The most urgently important of the perspectives in this manifesto are political, and are included in *See Clearly: Sanity in Insane Times - Book Twelve of the Earth Manifesto*. This compendium of understandings spells out how epic scams have been foisted on the American people, and exposes the bizarre nature of this con job in deliberative detail. This involves such things as "the biggest financial fraud in world history", and *The Con Goes On: A Triumphant Coup by Crooked Conniving Crony Capitalists*. These swindles seriously undermine democratic fairness, and betray the well-being of people in the future. This set of schemes has featured public borrowings of more than \$27 trillion since 1980 to finance tax cuts that mainly benefit wealthy people, among other often misguided purposes. This indebtedness has an adverse impact that causes broadly detrimental and extreme inequalities. Compounding these scams are many schemes that allow giant corporations -- which are organizational tools that help generate wealth and concentrate it in the hands of the few -- to socialize many costs by externalizing them onto taxpayers and countless numbers of individuals who suffer harms as a result.

See Clearly also contains a powerful perspective in "My Country, Right or Wrong"?. This essay is about true patriotism, and both Mark Twain's and my own incisive understandings about loyalty and honorably patriotic ways of being. We should embrace the values central to what Abe Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature."

Another of the most important collections of ideas in this manifesto is contained in *Common Sense Revival - Book One of the Earth Manifesto*. These perspectives are a distillation of forceful ideas that emulate the plain truths expressed by Thomas Paine in his influential 1776 pamphlet *Common Sense*. They represent comprehensive and

overarching worldviews that feature an entire constellation of recommendations and supporting ideas for more salubrious policies and priorities that would help ensure a better future.

These understandings have been evolving for many years, but assumed greater urgency in light of the intense political turmoil that resulted from the 2016 elections and the chaotic reign of Donald Trump. It is crucial to recognize how seriously the political establishment in the U.S. has betrayed the American people in the past few decades by allowing institutional bribery and *Dark Money* to facilitate a long train of despotic abuses in national policies related to taxation, political representation, personal liberties and greater fairness in governance. These issues were the main ones our Founders regarded as being most important when they admirably declared independence from Great Britain 245 years ago, boldly launching our great American experiment in democratic representative governance.

This manifesto contains farsighted blueprints on how to improve our societies for all by taking our country back from today's opportunistic profit-prepossessed establishment and the power-abusing political right wing. It is appropriate for the vast majority of Americans to feel righteous indignation at the current state of the status quo, and it is our right, indeed our duty, as our Founders asserted in the Declaration of Independence, to throw off despotic rule and take courageous steps to provide new guarantees for the general welfare of the people, and to safeguard our current and future freedoms and security. This is how we will be able to create truer liberty, fairness and justice for all.

A revolving focus has created many entertaining and enlightening essays in these writings. One of the best is *Huckleberry Finn, the Forty-Niners Gold Rush, and Sensational Related Reflections*. Check it out, and contemplate the riff on hydraulic mining and legal precedent in the United States. Mark Twain loved to spin greatly exaggerated yarns, and Tiffany Twain uses her own rich imagination to tell some tall tales of her own. Some years ago she took particular pride in *Tall Tales, Provocative Parables, Luminous Clarity, and Evocative Truths: A Modern Log from the Sea of Cortez*. The great philosophic writer John Steinbeck would have approved! There are also cogent perspectives in *Tyrants and Damsels and Associated Incisive Insights*. And crucial foreign policy understandings are contained in *Reflections on War -- and Peace!*

There is a wonky side to Tiffany Twain's introspections into existence, as epitomized by her creation of a 45-parameter *Sustainability Index*. This Index was developed to provide a clear snapshot evaluation of the status of the sustainability of human activities. This Index measures progress or regress with regard to hopes for humanity to live in sustainable ways on our home planet. It began flashing an ominously cautionary red warning signal in May 2013 when measurements of the concentration of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere exceeded 400 ppm for the first time in human history, as recorded by sensors at the remote Mauna Loa Observatory high atop a towering volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii. This milestone tipped the Status Evaluation rating of the Index to a more dangerous level. Only 8 years later, on April 3, 2021, this measure exceeded 420 ppm, a level not experienced in more than seven million years. See the Sustainability Index online for valuable and highly relevant perspective, commentary and existential considerations that it contains.

The many essays in the Earth Manifesto contain philosophic explorations, incisive insights, penetrating political and economic analyses, creative proposals, feminine perspectives, poetic appreciations, and a fair share of deep introspections and ruminations. Most of these ideas are at least tangentially oriented toward a good marriage of humanism and awareness of human responsibility, and of smart long-term understandings with a clear focus on the ecological importance for us to act as better stewards of Earth's ecosystems and wildlife and habitats.

Perilous times require Big Ideas, higher purposes, broader perspectives, and more responsible leadership and honest action. The essays in this manifesto grapple with the most important issues that face our nation and the world today. The visionary views they convey serve to creatively combine economics and politics with common sense, progressive thinking, philosophy, psychology and spiritual illumination to propose auspicious ways forward.

In light of the economic, social, political, financial and ecological challenges that confront us today, many Earth Manifesto essays explore Big Picture perspectives of these dilemmas. One of these pieces is a clarion call for smarter planning in *Climate Change Considerations, Carrying Capacity, and Ecological Overshoot*. Provocatively

creative explorations of big issues and entertaining ideas are also made in *Revelations of a Modern Prophet* -- and in *Transcendental Musings: A Bugle Horn Sounds for Solidarity of Purpose*.

Ultimate mysteries permeate existence, so it is appropriate that this manifesto has mysteriously materialized in our midst, springing forth as if fully formed, as Athena, the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, is said to have done from the forehead of Zeus. In actuality, these writings have been evolving continuously since before 9/11/2001 and they have incorporated unfolding events and new perspectives and developments as they transpire.

The eminently respect worthy Dalai Lama said at the Vancouver Peace Summit in 2009, "The world will be saved by the western woman." Many well-qualified women have answered this call to action in American politics, but too many of them were crushed by the diabolically cunning and corruptly well-financed Republican political machine in recent elections. Bravo for so many women having won their 2018 midterm election contests. Let's give females much better chances in all future elections! Women should have fairer opportunities in our political system, and all our leaders must see and understand issues in more forward-looking, sensible and fair-minded ways. It is not acceptable that less than 27% of our representatives in Congress are women. A strong correlation exists between this fact and gender discrimination, which is built into our political system and corporate-dominated economic system, and in media coverage and cultural biases and religious conservatism.

We are at a crucial crossroads in global politics, and the American people would be wise to demand a repair of relations with the international community that were harmed by Donald Trump and members of his rogue administration. Some of the numerous reasons for this stance are discussed below, and this awareness could help us overturn the retrogressive plans of conservatives in Congress.

The insightful billionaire entrepreneur Nick Hanauer made it crystal clear that "middle-out economics" would be a much more secure and positive course of action than deceitful trickle-down policies, as expressed in his provocative TED talk and article, *The Pitchforks Are Coming ... For Us Plutocrats*. He states: "You show me a highly unequal society, and I will show you a police state. Or an uprising. There are no counterexamples. None. It's not if, it's when."

Donald Trump gave powerful voice to millions of Americans who feel well-justified anger and frustration at lost jobs and the outrageous extent to which our economic and political systems are rigged against working people in favor of the overly privileged few. The American people should thank liberals like Senator Bernie Sanders for their much more honorable form of populism in voicing support for farsightedness and democratically fair representation. Kudos to the passionate concern such folks have expressed for the true well-being of workers and those in the middle class. Outspoken progressives like Elizabeth Warren are to be commended for championing greater fairness toward the disenfranchised and the downtrodden, and for proposals to take action to reduce rash extremes in inequality being foisted on people through wrongheaded national priorities. Trump Republicans are much narrower and more selfish than these more honorable representatives, and they wield excessive influence by dishonorably appealing primarily to beleaguered white workers and rich people. Trump has acted like one of the worst demagogues in history by stoking people's fears, exploiting racial prejudices, scapegoating immigrants, and taking demeaning and rude advantage of sexist attitudes -- and doing all of this to greedily gain ego satisfaction and greater celebrity and personal profit and domineering power.

Wake up, my fellow Americans! A serious mistake has been made in allowing Republicans to exert power by demagogic means, scaring people and exploiting their feelings of frustration and resentment, for Trump has acted like a tyrannical despot, engaged in doubling down on public debt swindles and causing economic disruptions by promoting protectionism and import tariffs in international trade. One problem with this is basic: "reciprocity". Trade tariffs are an economic gambit that stifles competition and favors crony supporters, and chooses winners and losers, at big costs to consumers, and contrary to fairly shared prosperity. Trade wars and less competition turn out to be bad for all countries, considered in whole. This has decidedly NOT helped "Make America Great Again".

Republicans crow about the economic effects of their 2017 tax cut scam, despite the folly of it being financed by borrowing \$2 trillion over the 10-year period to follow. All taxpayers in every future year will be obligated to pay for this profligacy. These recklessly regressive debt-financed tax cuts are mainly benefitting rich people and

corporate entities, and causing inequality to worsen in our society. This is crazy, given that increases in inequality and associated injustices are among the biggest risks to most people's well-being in the USA and around the world. Surely it is a poor plan for politicians to continue trying to maximize opportunities for irresponsibly accelerating the conversion of planetary assets to cash. The folly of this is being revealed in disastrous fiscal policies and poor preparedness, along with anti-regulation fervor, failures to invest in affordable healthcare, unconstitutional executive orders, abuses of power, conspiratorial misconduct and heightened geopolitical risks.

The 2016 national elections were a watershed moment in our country's history, for the competing ideologies of Republican politicians and Democratic politicians have probably never offered a more drastic contrast. The prescriptions proposed by progressives and conservatives are radically different, as seen in the official 2016 Democratic Party platform that was probably the most progressive ever, and in the Republican Party platform, which may never have been more reactionary. In addition, Republicans demonstrated extreme intransigence in the U.S. Senate by refusing to consider Merrick Garland, President Obama's well-qualified nominee to replace Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia after he suddenly died in February 2016. This led to the radical inequity of a replacement justice being forced on the American people in April 2017 who is further right than almost every conservative ever on the high court, including current Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito. This Trump appointee, Neil Gorsuch, is maybe as far right as Clarence Thomas, and even further right than Antonin Scalia was himself. The appointment of Neil Gorsuch, and then of the controversial Brett Kavanaugh and the religious fundamentalist Amy Coney Barrett, is proving to be a negative development for the American people.

The 5 to 4 majority of conservatives on the Supreme Court before Antonin Scalia died were responsible for the 2011 *Citizens United* ruling that overturned decades of precedent and a century of practice involving limits on the influence of Big Money in politics. That Supreme Court also eviscerated the commendably fair Voting Rights Act of 1965. These actions and others were targeted to undermine the prospects of legislation aimed at protecting the rights of workers, consumers and citizens -- as well as the health of the environment -- in favor of maximizing corporate profits and prerogatives. "Conservatives" on the Supreme Court have generally favored employers over employees, polluters over people, property owners over less affluent citizens, creditors over debtors, and corporations over individuals. I strongly believe that *We the People* need to gain greater advantages in this struggle over whether government will be able to serve as a countervailing force to concentrated economic power, and we need a much less partisan, more independent judiciary to accomplish this.

Supreme Court Justices should honestly honor the oath of office to which they have sworn, "that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich." Soon after being sworn in, Neil Gorsuch jumped into the job to apply his creativity in rationalizing strict constructionist interpretations of the Constitution in ways inimical to proper guidance of a reasonably sane society. Brett Kavanaugh's controversial confirmation, and then Amy Coney Barrett's, add two more conservatives to the high court, making it even more political and partisan, and less fair.

History will judge far right ideologies harshly, just as it has judged Nazi fascism in the light of infamy. The lens of consequential ethics makes it clear that championing policies that exacerbate inequalities and social injustices is wrongheaded, and that antagonism to rights and well-being of women, immigrants, asylum seekers and people in racial minorities is morally misguided. History will reveal that excessive exploitation of natural resources is dangerously myopic, and that staunch opposition to precautionary action on climate change is deeply damaging to hopes for future safety, prosperity and well-being. History will also prove that policies that ignore intelligently farsighted adaptive measures that would mitigate the ecologically destabilizing impacts of unregulated greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere are foolish because they will subject billions of people in the future to calamitous hardships and increasing numbers of climate-exacerbated natural disasters.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly called climate change a "threat multiplier" that will require far-reaching humanitarian or military intervention because it will lead to more severe storms that threaten cities and military bases, and will cause rising sea levels that will imperil coastal habitation and infrastructure. Early in 2016, the Pentagon ordered its officials to start incorporating probable climate change impacts into every major consideration. In a hard-to-believe contrast, Republican leaders have tried to prevent even the mention of climate change in order to facilitate the maximizing of profits, and Trump told staff in the EPA similar stupid things. This

refusal to discuss the significant risks of anthropogenic alterations of the global climate and natural ecosystems is one of the most ridicule-deserving head-in-the-sand denials ever, despite the certainty that precautionary action is well advised to mitigate calamitous climate disruptions. This is especially ironic in Florida, because honestly responsible actions are needed in this low-lying state, considering that it is one of the most vulnerable places to catastrophic impacts of more powerful hurricanes and rising sea levels.

My philosophic great-grandfather on my mother's side was the estimable writer and humorist Mark Twain, who played an active role in opposing American aggression abroad when he was Vice President of the Anti-Imperialist League. He had become disillusioned about the real motives of the U.S. in the Philippine-American War from 1899 to 1902, and he bemoaned war as "a wanton waste of projectiles", according to insightful correspondent John Nichols. But, notably, Mark Twain's "deepest disgust was reserved for politicians who played on uncertainty and fear to promote the interests of what would come to be called the military-industrial complex."

Trump exploited people's insecurities and anger at the establishment to gain power, and he did this in more egregiously selfish ways than almost any demagogue in history -- even surpassing the red-baiting Senator Joseph McCarthy. Mark Twain would be horrified, if he were still alive, to see how wantonly humankind is wasting the resources of the world on weapons and standing armies and violent conflicts and the global "war on terror" -- and on benefits and largess illicitly given to the wealthy. More than a century after Mark Twain died, and long after a frenzy of fascism caused the most horrific spasm of war in human history, reactionary right-wing movements pushing anti-immigrant agendas are again roiling politics in nations around the globe.

Trump manipulatively milked an insidious strain of ideology and emotional fervor to grab power. He combined absurd promises to build a "beautiful wall" along the entire U.S./Mexico border, to be paid for by Mexico, with stoked hostility against immigrants and Muslims, and added in disingenuous ruses that exploit unbridled ethnic nationalism, climate crisis denials and staunch support for increased domestic production of fossil fuels. Politics in France, Germany, Poland, Hungary and other European nations are also embattled by similar right-wing anti-immigrant political parties that are antagonistic to agreements designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. It is irresponsible to deny and ignore the gathering risks of climate change and rising sea levels, and to thus act as poor stewards of Creation. It is wrong to sacrifice future well-being on the illusion-addled altar of privatized profits and socialized costs, and irresponsible debt financing, and deplorable political expediencies, right-wing social engineering and extremely short-term-oriented materialistic priorities.

Trump's anti-regulation executive actions and stubborn support for fossil fuel industries undermined protections of the environmental commons that is a foundation of future well-being. So did his heedless pushing of huge new tax breaks for rich people. Trump proved to be one of the most disrespected leaders in the world for his refusal to agree with leaders in every other country on Earth to make efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the incalculably costly impacts of resulting disruptions in the global climate.

Trump evoked a dark dystopian vision of the supposedly pathetic state of the U.S. military during his campaign in 2016, and declared that the plight of African Americans was the "worst ever ever ever". Worse than decades of slavery? He pretended that international trade agreements have been an unmitigated disaster, even though reasonably fair international trade throughout history has had broadly beneficial effects overall. He hyped up the dangers of threats posed by "radical Islamic terrorists", and downplayed the dangers of terrorist acts by domestic white supremacists. Additionally, he used "Make America Great Again" sloganeering to set up a "social trap" in which he claimed to be the best and only possible savior, even though his proposals, plans, actions and self-serving agenda proved to be social, economic, environmental, geostrategic and national security disasters.

Barack Obama once said that the American people need to be told the truth, and he was right. Bigger and more comprehensive versions of the truth need to be told. In bizarre contrast to this vital exigency, con man Trump "tells it like it isn't", and does so with an air of certitude so comically brazen that millions of gullible people seem to think he actually is telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. In reality, his proclamations weave simplistic half-truths, misinformation, deep deceptions, many consequential lies and emotionally manipulative insinuations together, which motivated many people during his campaign to think he might just be a good leader -- despite his long history of unscrupulous business dealings, bankruptcies, tax fraud, scheming economic elitism and

dangerously demagogic, devious, narcissistic and reactive character. These nefarious qualities and his antagonism to immigrants and refugees have made the majority of people in nations around the world woe the ascendance of this egomaniacal dictator-wannabe to the most powerful position on the planet.

Trump took this pathetic course of gaining attention, notoriety and power by fanning the flames of white nationalism, racial bigotry, xenophobia, male chauvinism and religious discrimination in pursuit of his ambitions for power. His blatantly unhinged and unethical tactics make it clear that his abuses of power in the presidency increasingly infringed on the Constitution, violated rules of law, threatened peaceful coexistence, reduced democratic fairness, torpedoed environmental sanity, tore apart social cohesion and violated the moral good.

Donald Trump is a demagogic power-abuser whose stances, character and reactive temperament made him dangerous to democracy while he remained in office, and too risky for the American people to allow him to ever again grab power. His efforts to deport millions of hard-working immigrants and slash legal immigration make him a double threat, because immigrants actually contribute greatly to many American industries, including agriculture, restaurant services, construction and numerous categories of generally low-paid jobs. Another red flag should be seen in fascist-plot-like efforts he made to significantly increase the power of the military and police and deportation forces. Likewise, there were huge risks in Trump's readiness to crush opposition by using police and military forces to put down domestic protests and use intimidating lawsuits to suppress criticism, deter dissidents and silence those who engage in the freedom of expression to oppose divisive, undemocratic, sexist, racist, discriminatory and retrogressive actions. Trump rashly slashed funding for State Department diplomacy, and additionally represented irresponsible positions on issues like his opposition to reforms that would limit the system-rigging influence of Big Money in politics. He generally took a sycophantish stance to satisfy the NRA in opposing any sensible regulations on sales of guns and assault weapons.

The top priority of Republicans is to cut taxes on the wealthy. This value is preposterously misguided in light of crucially more important priorities like making our communities healthier and our societies safer, fairer and more sustainable -- and of ensuring a more propitious legacy to all people in the future. This is a distorted value that can only remain entrenched because of the institutional corruption that our political system and the Supreme Court have allowed to moneyed interests. If we want to "take back our country", the place to start is to guarantee fairer representation to people in every state, and prevent ideological crusaders for low taxes on the rich from having deciding influence on our national decision-making, budgetary priorities and law-making. One consequence of Republican propaganda and priorities is that the rich are getting much richer in the USA while American children have the highest level of poverty of almost any major country on Earth, and young people have excessively opprobrious levels of student debt. And revolutionary unrest simmers across the land.

Ideas like these are contained in this manifesto, along with an astonishingly comprehensive array of philosophic perspectives, penetrating psychological insights, farsighted points of view, enlightened recommendations, spiritual revelations, humorous asides and entertaining tall tales -- and even many outstanding recipes for healthy and tasty meals. Check all this out at www.EarthManifesto.com!

General Observations

It has been 245 years since the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. In many key aspects, the years from 2001 to 2021 have been an economic and political fiasco for the USA. It is now a good time, as we struggle to recover from the worldwide pandemic calamity and the January 6 insurrection, for us to consider how to ensure that our nation really helps foster and preserve social well-being, truer security, and expanded voting rights, individual freedoms, civil liberties and human rights. At the same time, it is crucially important that we make committed efforts to achieve a greater modicum of community well-being, more fairly shared prosperity, social justice, good governance, intelligent planning, fiscal responsibility and ecological sanity.

The well-being of most species of life on Earth is being threatened by conservative ideologies, unbridled corporatism, excessive greed, wasteful consumerism, economic desperation and the overharvesting of natural resources. The Living Planet Report 2018 revealed that the average population sizes of some 10,000 species of

mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish declined by a shocking 60% in the 48 years between 1970 and 2018. This stunning news should shake us all into alert awareness, and motivate us to support farsighted action.

It would be eminently wise for us to respect the healthy condition of Earth's ecosystems and adopt an every-day-is-Earth-Day attitude. Policies and behaviors are needed that are more considerate of the general good and broadly-shared prosperity in the long run. Unfortunately, "Change you can believe in" is being subverted by the powerful influence of entrenched interest groups and the overriding impulse of domineering conservatives. It is becoming increasingly clear that our healthcare system, economic institutions and trade agreements should be restructured to eliminate perverse incentives and misguided policies, which have been put into place to give an immorally large proportion of the benefits of the economy to the few, to the detriment of the many. Our system of democratic governance itself should be re-invigorated to purge it of the dysfunctional aspects that give overweening power to influence peddling politicians and big corporations, lobbyists and the wealthy.

Regulations that are merely bureaucratic should be reduced, but fair-minded rules and regulations that protect people from pollution and health risks should be strengthened. Smart new incentives and disincentives should be implemented that will serve to foster the greatest good for the greatest number of people over the longest period of time. The basic criteria for determining what contributes to the public good and the best interests of society should be an honest assessment of what is consequentially most fair, wholesome and sustainable.

One compelling line of thought that underlies the ideas in many of these writings is that the human race is ill advisedly "fleecing the future" with our short-term oriented and unsustainable activities. Powerful interest groups are converting natural resources to cash as quickly as they are able, despite the fact that common sense tells us we should be honestly treating our home planet like a thriving and lasting concern, rather than as a business in liquidation. We are collectively acting as if we are unaware, or in denial, or lacking in the most basic tenets of conscience and morality. Must we not tread on the Planet more gently? Must we not treat other people more fairly? Wouldn't it be wisest for us to strive with more sustained commitment to finding ways to protect people's civil liberties? Shouldn't we be demanding that our businesses and governmental institutions give fairer consideration to the common good and the well-being of people today AND in future generations?

The Earth Manifesto commemorates the wonders and beauty of our home planet. It strives to advance a bold revolution against the subtle madness that characterizes the world in its compulsive busyness, laissez-faire exploitive capitalism, wasteful consumerism, excessive risk-taking, bubble economic policies, cost externalizing, harsh inequities, reactionary religious fundamentalism, wrongheaded goals, stoked fears, excessive population growth, and policies that provoke terrorism and encourage aggressive militarism and repression in reaction.

General Douglas MacArthur once expressed the conviction, "I believe that the entire effort of modern society should be concentrated on the endeavor to outlaw war as a method of the solution of problems between nations". Shouldn't we give greater weight to these words, and reflect this consideration in our public decision-making and foreign policies? Shouldn't we strive to be more effective in marginalizing extremism, and dedicate ourselves to creating societies that are more mutually secure by making the world more just?

We need to look beyond the 'good old boys', and beyond the conflict between the ideologies of conservatives and liberals. We must look deeper than the cultural conflicts between stereotypically strong and discipline-oriented, authoritarian, domineering and paternalistic father-figure worldviews, on the one hand, and more cooperative parental instincts that are oriented around fairness and sensible protections and empathetic understanding, on the other hand. Where should we look? -- Directly to the important principles set forth by our Founders. Our true American values are those that have been cherished since the original 13 colonies declared independence from Great Britain. Colonial imperialism by the British had given our forbearers a powerful motive to establish a democracy that more fairly represented all citizens, so a new nation was brought forth upon this continent that was to be governed by a Constitution, Bill of Rights and rules of law that maintain idealistic and humanistic principles of Liberty, Justice and the promotion of the General Welfare. These great founding documents included powerful protections of free speech for all people, and freedom of worship and other guaranteed rights. They also reflected a valid distrust of despots who abuse power, so the Constitution included a robust system of checks and balances within the federal government, and between it and the States.

Many years have passed since the Constitution was ratified. In this eventful interregnum, a commendable number of progressive advances have been made to protect citizens from the worst characteristics of ruthless capitalism. Laws and regulations have been established, agencies created and reforms made to ensure vitally important protections of privacy, public health, safety of the food supply and pharmaceutical drugs, workers' rights, investor protections, civil rights, and the health of our enveloping environment. These progressive advances stand above the opposing influence of entrenched interests vested in the status quo. The purposes of these advances have been to remedy social ills associated with modern urbanized and globalized industrial civilization, and to mitigate the corrupting influence of rich people in our economic and political systems.

Many forces are working against these progressive advances, including unethical dirty tricks in elections, misleading information, deceptive disinformation, shrewdly manipulative micro-targeted propaganda on social media, the drumbeat of ideological brainwashing, legalized institutional bribery, and the emotional hijacking of millions of people who cling to inflexible beliefs. In particular, the insecurities and fears of the American people have been manipulated by "movement conservatives" and the subsequent rise of Trump, who exploited the grievances, fears, frustrations, prejudices, nationalistic impulses, and sheepish gullibility of many people in order to "own the libs" and advance a retrogressive and risky agenda in both domestic and foreign policies.

This manifesto is foremost about the Earth and our inextricable ecological interconnectedness with her biological communities and miraculously providential ecosystems. These words convey a true understanding of the interdependencies of our species with healthy natural habitats and the biological diversity of life on Earth. We are slowly coming to the realization that we simply must give our beautiful home planet much more respect, so as to help assure our own flourishing and survival.

There is an enormous amount of money to be made by ignoring these overarching understandings. A really huge amount. But this fact does not alter -- even one iota -- the transcendent truth that we must give more far-reaching protections to planet Earth's providential terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and to the health of the environmental commons upon which our human prosperity and survival depend.

Life on Earth is amazingly resilient, but also vulnerable to rapid changes. The lessons of history tell us that the remarkable diversity of life on Earth should be conserved and protected -- for our own sake, and for the sake of our descendants. We cannot indefinitely sustain wasteful, damaging and depletionary activities the way we have been doing so egregiously, and at an accelerating rate, since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

Such observations -- and many, many more far-ranging ideas -- are explored in this lengthy manifesto. Readers are urged to think for themselves about the ideas it contains, and to do their own part to contribute in some way to the improvement of conditions in the world. We can, indeed must, do better!! As Dr. Seuss' Lorax said, 'UNLESS someone like us cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not!'

For more information, contact Dr. Tiffany B. Twain at SaveTruffulaTrees@hotmail.com. Feedback is welcomed!

----- The End -----