

29 September 2003

<http://phe.rockefeller.edu/next1000/>

Comment from Chauncey Starr per the Next 1000 Years (stimulated by reading "Live Like America")

1. Diversity should be the keyword for the distant future. This means activities, opportunities, entertainments, recreations, production of goods and services, etc. Thus everyone would have a choice of lifestyle, with physical and social security assured (e.g. this is what I have tried to give my grandchildren during their educational period -- after that?).
2. Wealth is not measured solely in economic terms (i.e., take care not to stress economics and physical goods too much). Recognizing the default level of a healthy physical existence being supplied by a future social structure, a society's real wealth is the psychic income to each person from a package of creative activities whose mix offer a variety of pleasures (e.g., a musician has an opportunity to compose, make music with others, etc.), being part of a mutually supporting group of friends with overlapping interest, etc. A rich society is one that offers this freedom of choice through a diversity of opportunities. You should redefine wealth.
3. Do not omit the interference of the pragmatic persistence of rigid barriers from a variety of fundamentalist dogmas -- religious, social discriminatory (e.g., pro-segregation, environmental, etc.). A thousand years seems like a long time, but Judeo-Christianity has persisted for longer than that. The seeds of the Inquisition have sprouted. Can we eradicate these weeds? An international program to diminish these abrasive sources of social conflict has not been proposed. Should it be?