

Lester Brown's New Book: "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization"

The website of the Post Carbon Institute's "Relocalization Network" for January 17, 2008 featured a "News Posting" which is a press release for a new book by Lester Brown titled "Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization".

(Note: the Earth Policy Institute is making *Plan B 3.0* available for downloading free of charge from its website (see <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm> .

Here are some quotes from the press release, and from the introduction:

"It is decision time," says Brown. "Like earlier civilizations that got into environmental trouble, we have to make a choice"

"We can all make lifestyle changes, but unless we restructure the economy and do it quickly we will almost certainly fail."

"*Plan B 3.0* is a comprehensive plan for reversing the trends that are fast undermining our future. Its four overriding goals are to stabilize climate, stabilize population, eradicate poverty, and restore the earth's damaged ecosystems," says Brown. "Failure to reach any one of these goals will likely mean failure to reach the others as well."

"Even as the accumulating backlog of unresolved problems is leading to a breakdown of governments in weaker states, new stresses are emerging. Among these are rising oil prices as the world approaches peak oil, rising food prices as an ever larger share of the U.S. grain harvest is converted into fuel for cars, and the spreading fallout from climate change."

"Plan B is shaped by what is needed to save civilization, not by what may currently be considered politically feasible. Plan B does not fit within a particular discipline, sector, or set of assumptions. Implementing Plan B means undertaking several actions simultaneously, including eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, and restoring the earth's natural systems. It also involves cutting carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent by 2020, largely through a mobilization to raise energy efficiency and harness renewable sources of energy. Not only is the scale of this save-our-civilization plan ambitious, so is the speed with which it must be implemented. We must move at wartime speed, restructuring the world energy economy at a pace reminiscent of the restructuring of the U.S. industrial economy in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The shift from producing cars to planes, tanks, and guns was accomplished within a matter of months."

"Saving civilization is not a spectator sport," says Brown. "We have reached a point in the deteriorating relationship between us and the earth's natural systems where we all have to become political activists. Every day counts. We all have a stake in civilization's survival."

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