

The banishment of the common good as  
“common evil”:  
towards a much-needed *Geopolitics of Hope*

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# The current state of affairs

## • Rupture of system

- We live in times that will go down in history
- We either advance towards a better society or we make our situation worse

## • Kakistocracy

- Ignorance of those in power
- Wealth as a political aspiration
- The abuse of power

## • "Common evil"


- We are empowering a common evil: lack of common sense in our community
- The prevalence of "idiots"

## *Crisis of civilization*

- *The mechanisms and measures proposed by the system to solve the crisis no longer creatively reconstruct, but rather reproduce issues in an increasingly destructive way.*



*Crisis and War were before exceptions: now they work in the system's favour*

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- Environmental catastrophe brought about by the *money* – *nature* contradiction
  - Situation of permanent war
  - Economy of uncertainty and inequality

# Evil present in our day-to-day

- Insensitivity towards the suffering of others
- Inability to comprehend others
- Rejection of those who are different and that which is different
- The turning-away of morals

# Moral blindness

- Evil and moral blindness lie hidden in the triviality and banality of our daily lives
- The actions of human beings have gone beyond moral assessments and obligations
- Dehumanization advances silently but robustly, the rupture of the link between individuals and society.

# The realm of the ephemeral

- Our society is made up of individuals who are indifferent to what is happening all around them
- A society focused on pleasure and in which consumption is key
- The new meaning of non-meaning and not knowing how to act in society
- Society is fundamentally in a state of decay

# Global inequality

- 211 thousand millionaires own 13% of the world's wealth
- The 85 richest people in the world increased their wealth by half a million dollars per minute in 2013.
- “Of all the most harmful tendencies for a healthy economy, the most seductive and - in my opinion - poisonous is to focus on matters of distribution” (Robert Lucas PNE).



# Analyses from above

- “The rich run a global system that allows them to accumulate capital and pay the lowest possible price for labour. The freedom that results applies only to them. The many simply have to work harder, in conditions that grow ever more insecure, to enrich the few. Democratic politics, which purports to enrich the many, is actually in the pocket of those bankers, media barons and other moguls who run and own everything”. Charles Moore, Englishman and official biographer of Margaret Thatcher.

# Some ideas from our time

- A core idea from finance: the best way to rob a bank is to open another
- Speculators, governments, banks and pension funds rush to buy 63 million hectares of land in Africa, Asia and Latin America in order to control the food market
- “If you allow this process of migration to continue, millions of people will be pushed out of their homes, lost and hungry”: ONG Grain.

# Ethics and business

- The Norwegian government has invested the 636 270 million Euros it makes from oil in ethically-responsible companies. It does not support any companies that produce nuclear weapons, tobacco or that have been accused of breaching human rights. On its black list are Boeing, Airbus, WalMart and Philip Morris.

# Climate Change

- Scientists have named our era “The Anthropocene” the era of human control.
- Humanity has become the main cause of climate change worldwide.
- Humanity has changed the Earth’s climate, the chemical composition of the oceans, the habitats of millions of species on earth and in the sea, our air quality, and water cycles.

# The epidemic of epidemics

- On average a new illness is reported every 18 months and a new species of bacteria every week. Their increase is linked to travelling, global warming, and the inadequate administration of antibiotics
- Infectious diseases spread more quickly and are formed more rapidly than at any other time in history.

# The epidemic of epidemics

- In the past 10 years, 40 previously unknown diseases have been discovered
- 1100 epidemics between 2002 and 2007, a worldwide record (WHO)
- Bacterial resistance to common antibiotics has increased by 50% in different parts of the world (WHO)

# Antibiotics

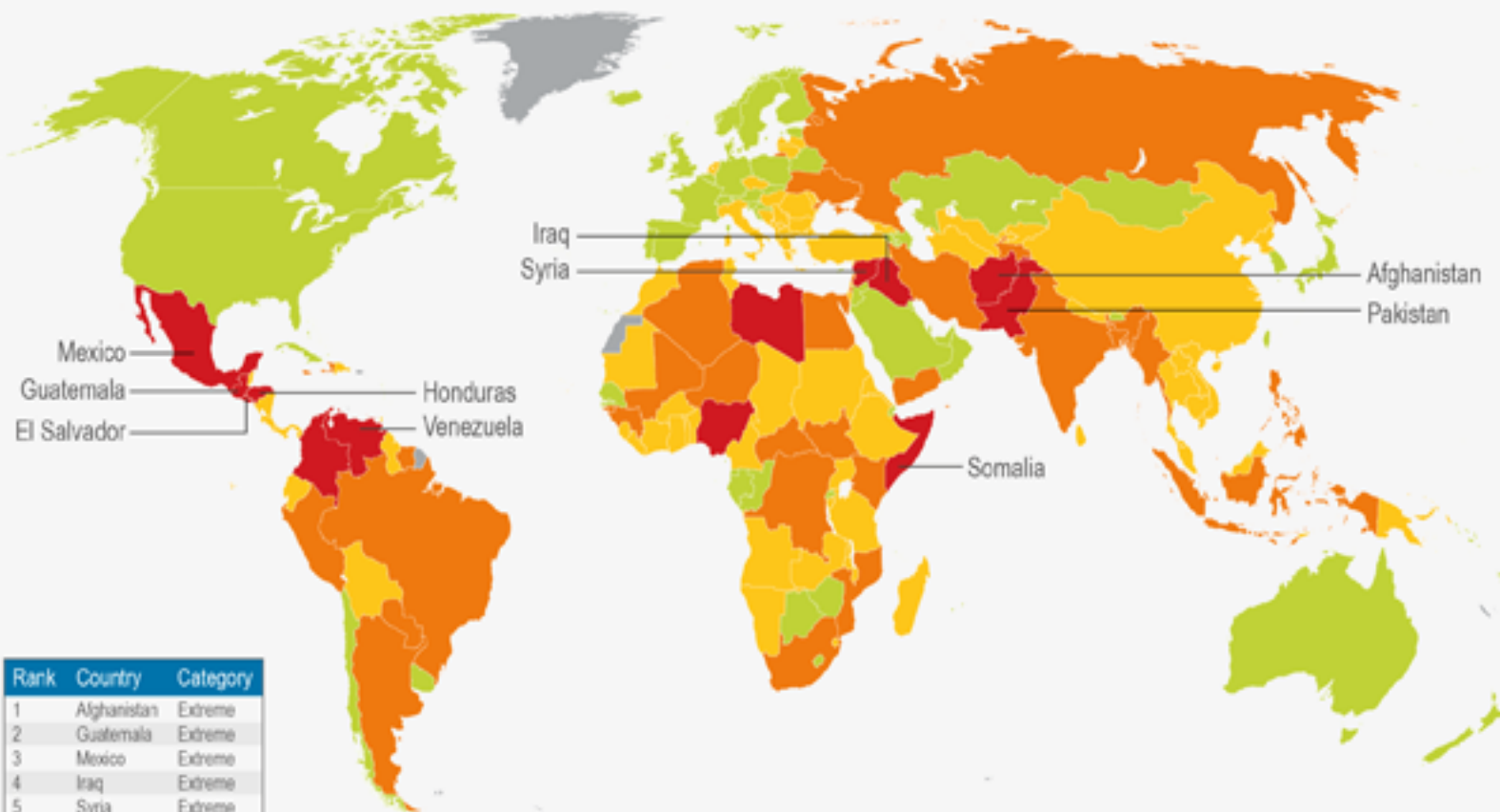
- 50% of the antibiotics prescribed as a matter of course are unnecessary and unsuitable, according to the US Center for Disease Control
- Superbugs could cause more deaths than cancer by 2050. This is due to abuse of antibiotics, which has made these organisms more resistant and difficult to neutralize.

# The global village and drugs

- “The war against drugs is inflicting more damage than the drugs themselves”, George Soros in Davos.



# Criminality Index 2016



Rank	Country	Category
1	Afghanistan	Extreme
2	Guatemala	Extreme
3	Mexico	Extreme
4	Iraq	Extreme
5	Syria	Extreme
6	Honduras	Extreme
7	Venezuela	Extreme
8	El Salvador	Extreme
9	Somalia	Extreme
10	Pakistan	Extreme



# Permanent War

- The ways wars are waged has changed. Wars are no longer fought, **situations of war** are created as a way of life for the system. It is not the means, but rather the aim.
- THE ALLIES AND ENEMIES CHANGE, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS WAR.

# Morals and culture

- Consumer culture
- Minimization of cultural identities and ethics
- Drug culture
  - Model for improvement
- Control and power over aspirations, dreams, ways of thinking and how we treat each other
- It is not enough to simply obey, you must adore the system. GH

# Education and Science

- According to the Global Innovation Index 2012, the ten global leaders in the field of innovation are Switzerland, Sweden, Singapore, Finland, England, Holland, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland and the US.
- Chile is the leader in Latin America at number 39 on the list, followed by (59), Colombia (65), Uruguay (67), Argentina (70), Peru (75), Guyana (77), Paraguay (84), Panama (87), El Salvador (93), Ecuador (98), Guatemala (99), Nicaragua (105), Honduras (111), Bolivia (114) and Venezuela (118).

# Education and Science

- The group of countries that are currently “learning” includes China, India, Vietnam and Ghana, whilst Chile is in a grey area closeby. The group of countries with “low performance” includes Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela.
- Statistics from the US Patent and Trademark Office show that South Korea registered 13,200 patents last year, whilst Brazil registered only 250, Mexico 120 and Argentina 50.

# The Revolution of “More”

- The 21st century has more of everything: more people, who are more urban, healthier and more educated. There are also more products on the market, more political parties, more arms and more medicines, There is more crime and more religions. By 2050, the world's population will be four times greater than it was 100 years before. Since 2006, 28 low income countries have moved to the list of those with medium income.

# The revolution of Mobility

- According to the UN, 214 million people live outside of their countries of origin, 37% more than 20 years ago. Ethnic, religious and professional diasporas are changing the distribution of power amongst peoples and within societies. People, technology, products, money, ideas and organizations are more mobile and as a result they are more difficult to control.

# The Revolution of Mentality

- The world's population constantly consumes and moves about, has access to more resources and information, and has experienced a huge cognitive and emotional transformation. There is an increased consensus throughout the world on the importance of individual freedom and gender equality, as well as less tolerance towards authoritarianism. Lack of satisfaction with political systems and government institutions is also seen worldwide.






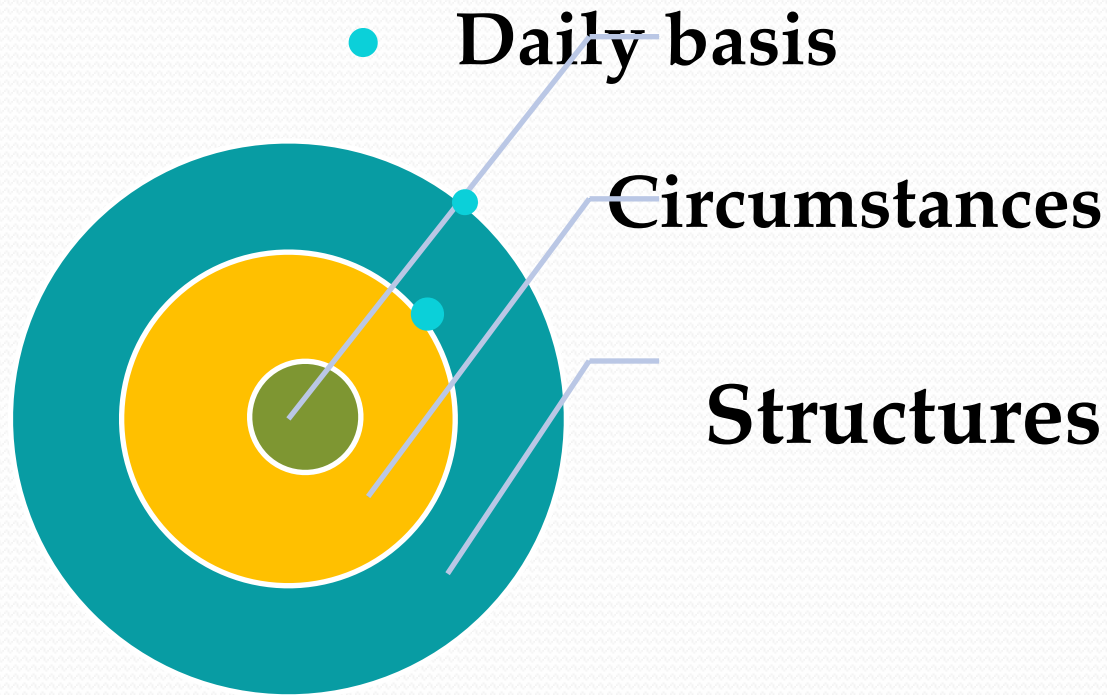
*TOWARDS A  
GEOPOLITICS OF  
HOPE*

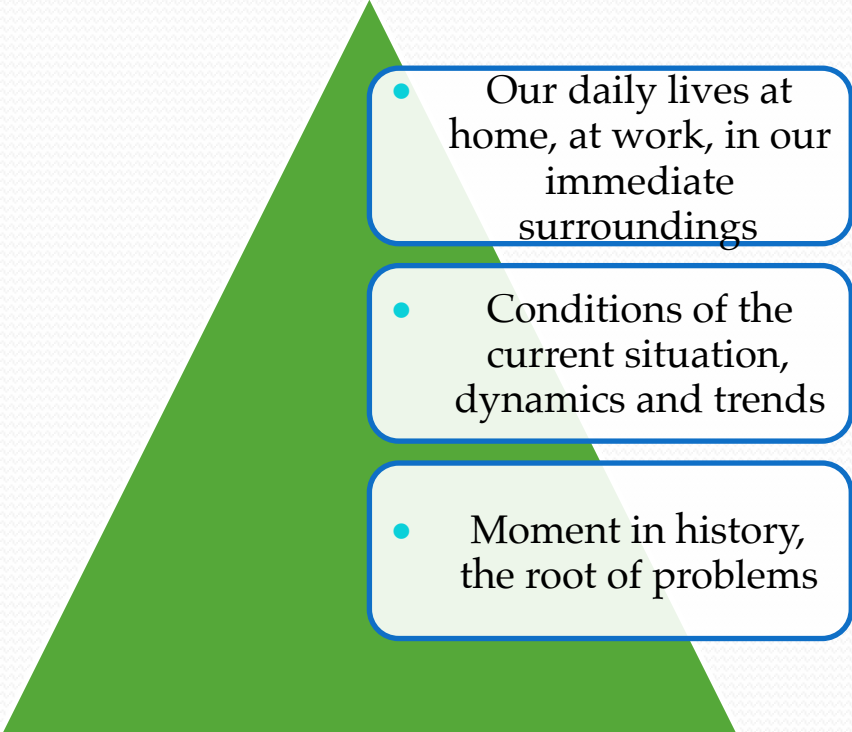
# *Peoples and Communities in Praxis*

1. Resistance and organization in light of megaprojects
2. Communities are learning to lobby against public policies so as to have an impact on the government agenda
3. Towards recognition of rights regarding development and the environment. *Caring for our Mother Earth.*
4. Confirmation of community and territorial identity, reminding us of the past and reshaping the idea of a common future: *Common Home (Laudato SI)*

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- A reassessment of the relationship between people and nature: living well, mother earth, democracy on earth, harmony in all things.
  - Countless social and civil initiatives for caring for the environment to combat littering, waste and the destruction of nature.

# *Understanding the context and impact of our actions in 3 dimensions*






- Our daily lives at home, at work, in our immediate surroundings

- Conditions of the current situation, dynamics and trends


- Moment in history, the root of problems

*Where should we direct our  
daily activities and collective  
actions?*

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- *Spectrum of complete liberation: from all of the areas in which we operate, done with a mission to change*


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- Moving away from this time of despair and of enormous complexity has led us to view culture as a privileged channel from which to build alternative paths.
  - A moral consideration that allows us to define the foundations for society that we wish.



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- The idea of a common future, a common home.
  - The construction of moral benchmarks
  - From Peace - Safety to **Peace – Justice**
  - From competition to cooperation and sharing
  - From today to a common future ...

# 5 AREAS TO BUILD HOPE


- **1. EPISTEMOLOGY OF HOPE**
- **Specifically carrying out an Analysis of Reality using the prophetic method**
- **Building utopias and shared dreams**

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- **2. PRAXIS OF HOPE**
  - **Specifically, the Resistance and Organization of the community and shared projects**



- **3. THE ETHICS OF HOPE**

- **Specifically, the ethics of care. Of myself, of others, of our common home.**

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- **4. SPIRITUALITY OF HOPE.**
  - **Specifically, by practising judgement, contemplating the crucified population and experiencing its resurrection.**



- **5. THE GEOPOLITICS OF HOPE**

- **Specifically in work on the earth.**

**Worldwide practice from schools or the parish.**



**Encourage.....**

**THANK YOU**

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