

## WORLD 1

# A View from the New Earth Colony 2040



CLIMATE CHANGE	FUNDING	TECHNOLOGY	GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
SLOW FAST	CONSTRAINED PLENTIFUL	LAGGING LEADING	DISRUPTIVE PERMISSIVE

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It's been 7 years since I moved my family to the New Earth Colony on Earth's moon. Leaving was difficult, yet something I knew we had to do. Being offered the opportunity to be part of the first wave of settlers on the New Earth Colony Program was the chance of a lifetime. After more than 20 years managing public programs and conducting research in vector borne disease, I was honored to be selected to join the science team and lead the pollinator program for the New Earth Colony. Being a pioneer is in my blood, and for the sake of research we went. Although my work here has been fulfilling, in the evenings as I look back at the blue planet that was once my home, I find myself reflecting on all of the changes that have happened since I left.

Regrettably, rapid climate change has led to the decline in land mass on a global level. From space, the United States now looks like an oval with rising sea levels all but eliminating Florida, the mid-Atlantic, and new England states. Earthquakes and rising sea levels have caused the California coast to recede and the western edge of north America is now mountainous cliffs overlooking the ocean.

Starting in the late 2020's, those with the economic means to do so migrated to the center of the continent, settling in and around the Great Lakes where they benefit from a still ample supply of fresh water.

Conditions in the interior vary depending on location. Affluent communities have established border walls and security gates to try and keep their populations controlled. In these affluent communities, privileged residents enjoy a resort-like lifestyle: top quality schools, abundant services, etc. As many of these high-end communities are located in and around the Great Lakes and other inland lakes, local governments have put a premium on public health including mental health programs and programs that address mosquito borne disease and nuisance, as well as providing significant funding to control the toxic algae blooms that have become endemic due to climate change.

Outside of these gated and security enforced communities, conditions are much more challenging. Despite being in proximity to affluence, residents in the bordering towns and neighborhoods might be living in a different country. In many of these communities, crime is rampant, and unemployment and untreated mental illness has increased the prevalence of homelessness and addiction.

Further out from the interior, many of those without means are



living in climate refugee camps on the perimeter. There continues to be a growing economic disparity. Conditions in the climate refugee camps are deplorable with limitations on clean drinking water and basic hygiene. These conditions have contributed to an increase in the spread of disease such as typhus as well as common and new infectious viruses. Additionally, many mosquito-borne viruses (not seen in the U.S. since the early 1900's) including dengue fever, yellow fever, and malaria, as well as a novel variant of the zika virus have established themselves in the U.S.

Promising developments in technology are driving a positive shift in agriculture. After the dust storms of the 2030s decimated most of the land and soil-based agriculture in the agrarian states, agriculture shifted to hydroponic container farming. Today massive container farms have been established in the plains and western states. These container farms utilize hydroponic technology supported by solar installations that provide power and collect water from the air. These new technologies have revitalized agriculture in parts of the west that now have arid desert climate conditions. The farms utilize robotic technology reducing the need for human labor to harvest and manage the crops. Food is transported from the farms by electric caravans. Crop production has increased and plant-based diets are the norm for most of the population. Meat has to be bartered for on the black market based primarily in TX. Meat that is available is of uncertain origin and there is a growing concern (a conspiracy theory perhaps) that in the outpost communities, humans are being bred as livestock for human consumption.

Population in the U.S. has declined by 30% (compared to the 2020 census data), due to death from climate crises, disease, and a rapid fall in birth rates. Technological improvements have helped to mitigate the decline of available labor, but industries who have lagged behind in innovation and technology continue to struggle to secure labor for more manual (blue-collar) jobs. Competition for this labor is fierce and costly.

The strain on the welfare/aid support systems caused by climate change and the unchecked influence of media misinformation and disinformation triggered an increase in ideological divisiveness, civil unrest, and a partial collapse of the union. Many of the exterior states have seceded from the union leaving an interior United States with the seat of power for the federal government now located in South Bend, Indiana. There are 25-30 states in the union with the remaining areas established as independent country/states. The partial collapse of the union and challenging conditions has brought about a reversal in the 2020's trend toward globalization. The United States has adopted a very clear independent and isolationist position.

In the more affluent communities, funding for public

health programs continues. But there is an ever-increasing competition for funds to address issues caused by inner city homelessness and pockets of feral communities. In those crowded conditions, infectious diseases have become more and more prevalent...and the research and medical communities are struggling to keep up with variants and mutations that make viruses resistant to treatments. Mosquito programs are still important but are competing for funding. Alternative methods of mosquito control – first developed in the first two decades of the century - have proven effective only in small, controlled applications. But these approaches have become a recognized best practice for controlling mosquitoes in smaller, affluent, contained communities.

Businesses operating in the Union are challenged to establish trade negotiations with the outpost communities. Some of these communities have a much different power structure and economy than what we had been used to. Mosquito borne diseases are prevalent in these outpost communities creating both opportunity and significant challenge to providers of solutions. Public health officials and NGOs that are working to support public health in the outpost communities are challenged by instability, civil unrest, and dangerous and violent conditions.

While life in what we once knew of as the United States is certainly a mixed bag of both affluence and despair, I am heartened by the way in which European, Asian, and even Central and South American countries have built alliances and established dynamic and powerful unions. These alliances and unions have been successful in adopting and implementing policy and actions to mitigate the impact of climate change and have contributed to the development of strong and healthy economies. Although no country has gone unscathed in the climate crisis, countries outside of the U.S. have certainly fared better. In fact, where the U.S. was once viewed as the world's aid provider, today it is the NGOs outside of the U.S. that are often called upon to provide humanitarian aid to address the issues in North America's outpost communities.

I am growing tired after a long 16 hour shift in the biodome. After some initial struggles, it seems that our pollinator colonies are finally beginning to take hold and our food crops are beginning to thrive. As it was on Earth, life at the New Earth Colony is not without its challenges. Just when it feels like we've made the breakthrough that will make the moon more livable, safe, and comfortable, we received word today that some of the colony residents are displaying symptoms that seem to be a combination of dengue fever and Lyme disease. We fear that some stowaway *Aedes aegypti* and ticks may have survived the zero gravity and vacuum of the travel to the Colony. Tomorrow the team will be meeting to establish a protocol for control.

## WORLD 2

# Time Travelers Guide to Navigating the World in 2040



CLIMATE CHANGE	FUNDING	TECHNOLOGY	GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
SLOW FAST	CONSTRAINED PLENTIFUL	LAGGING LEADING	DISRUPTIVE PERMISSIVE

It is 2040 and here is what you need to know as you begin your travels. The United States of America as you have known it no longer exists - but worry not, this is not the end of days. In fact, this is the beginning to a better and more wonderful world. The United States now consists of Canada, Mexico, and the former US. This new country is called The United States of North America (USNA). This freedom has spread across many other regions of the globe as well. The former European Union (EU) has grown to include nations of the Ukraine and all around the Black Sea, Israel, and countries of North Africa to further spread democracy in the region. A new Asian Union (AU) has evolved which consists of Australia, Japan, countries near Singapore through to India and Pakistan. This growth of democracy means new, universal laws which better protect human rights and promote travel and growth throughout the globe. This means, go! Travel and know you are safe and protected in all of these areas!


There are still some challenges as China has grown significantly with Russia on her coattails as the free countries failed to stand up to her in the early 2000's. China's influence in central Africa has grown significantly and they still control most of the manufacturing and production of goods, especially the production of technology (which is developed in the Free Unions but manufactured in China).

**THE GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE** has changed drastically, mostly for the good but with significant challenges still to tackle.

The world economy is driven by the universally accepted currency called the Free Dollar (FD), (formerly known as the US dollar [USD]) that is no longer paper and coin currency but is all kept on your finger (formerly known as cryptocurrency on your phone in the 2020's). Raw materials are farmed from all parts of the world, with China controlling the rarest and most sought after needed materials (found in China and the areas they control in central Africa). This has kept China in control of production of goods, but the USNA, EU, and AU are starting to change the scenario.

The freedoms provided by the USNA, EU, and AU have allowed for more world-wide freedom and travel throughout the world that was never dreamed of back in 2020. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robotics control most of the world's tasks previously worked by humans. This great leap in AI has led to many advantages, a few of which are: 1) travel is cleaner and faster (¼ the time compared





to 2020); 2) experimental pods of humans are living on the moon; 3) exploration and inhabiting of other planets in 2050 is a real possibility. Enjoy and go see this world and the next!

**FUNDING** and the world's economy has and continues to be plentiful, leading to a growing and successful middle class.

Technology continues to grow, but the democratic countries are still lagging behind China and others. The semi-conductor industry, personal communication devices, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and others may have originated in free, democratic societies, but their greed for profits that drove them to seek cheap labor and unregulated manufacturing (some correctly labeled it as slave labor) in the 1990's and 2000's continues as China still has control over this industry. Technology continues to amaze but is controlled and dominated by China and its allies. China controls the raw materials, production, and distribution leaving the Free World at their mercy. Virtual reality continues to dominate travel and communication. AI, Nano techs, and Robotics dominate the world in manufacturing and problem solving. AI has made computers self-aware and now solve problems on their own. This has led to the median age to increase to 102 years. The middle class has grown at an unprecedented pace that exceeds 4-fold the growth of the 1950's due to leveling of taxes. Energy to power the daily lives of humans is accessible to 95% of the human population. Energy is cleaner, readily available, and more cost effective with less of an environmental impact than our ancestors generated. The negative impact of technological advances is that humans are less happy and more depressed as they are less engaged, have most of their daily needs met, and rely on AI.

**GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY** has surpassed the dreams that any could imagine, including Hollywood, with the median age now at 102 years old, but is controlled by China with its hold on raw materials, production and distribution.

Sustainability has become mainstream, but the climate still continues to change presenting new challenges, such as sea level changes, emerging agriculture areas, new plant and insect species. These changes - cooler, warmer, drier, wetter - continue to challenge public and environmental health specialists as different areas experience different change. Some new initiatives and technologies are emerging to not only curb our carbon footprint but reduce it. Stronger protections are in place throughout earth that are resulting in formerly protected plants and animal species which are now thriving. The earth continues to change rapidly.

**THE CLIMATE CHANGE** that world leaders first started to tackle in the early 2000's has continued to change and rapidly accelerate.

This new climate has resulted in some positive and negative changes, but mostly positive. Agriculture has grown to be viable in former northern habitats which are helping in feeding a growing world population. Sea level variations have resulted in new ports, better seawalls, new and emerging plants in freshwater areas, and coral reefs. We are better prepared to respond to disasters and excessive weather events. Advanced devices have emerged to better combat diseases and provide for cleaner life necessities which have led to the longer life expectancy of humans. Pharmaceutical advances with nanotechnology provide humans a life with few disease hardships, such as cancer, the common cold, and other ailments are all but a thing of the past.

What does this mean for you? It means, put away that old virtual reality and get out and see this great planet and all the people. Better travel, better standard of living, more universal laws protecting human rights, AI, and technology have provided us with opportunities our ancestors dare never dreamed. Make plans and go explore. Explore our ancestral earth and if you are able, plan a trip to the moon. Our future is brighter than it has ever been! Go and enjoy!

## WORLD 3

# A Future for All



CLIMATE CHANGE	FUNDING	TECHNOLOGY	GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
<div>SLOW</div> <div>FAST</div>	<div>CONSTRAINED</div> <div>PLENTIFUL</div>	<div>LAGGING</div> <div>LEADING</div>	<div>DISRUPTIVE</div> <div>PERMISSIVE</div>

It was the efforts of the youngest and bravest in the 2020's that was the catalyst for a marinade of spending initiatives and policies to preserve the future of the environment and its citizens. It became a brave new world at a blinding pace to reverse the course of climate change. Many governments were sued for inaction and willful negligence of the climate crisis. It was expensive, both in cost and materials, but change had to happen. Governments then shifted the blame to corporations, disrupting industries globally. A new form of conscious capitalism forced industries to adapt or collapse under the weight of these new regulations and fines. From the ashes, certain enterprising companies found opportunity amongst the chaos.

On earth, automated ice-making submarines were adding ice to the Earth's albedo, which made the Earth's climate cooler, producing more ice as a result. To combat deforestation, biomes were rehabilitated by collecting and dumping biomass (composting) on the barren lands. Coral reefs were replanted, rebuilt, relocated, and monitored by an automated filtration and irrigation system – delivering nutrition and aeration when needed. Communities and innovators collaborated to fish waste out of the oceans using

all sorts of systems they came up with. USING recycled materials became a huge draw as recycling processes created a much needed and sustainable resource stream for companies to tap. These are just a few examples of how humanity went about working with the environment to bring it back to its natural progression.

Running parallel to this, colonizing space – which was once a curiosity – had become a necessity. The globe had started to hit a predictable roadblock: resources ran low. Humanity's gentle exploration of space became more focused to ensure everyone reaps the benefits of the coming robotics revolution. The development of a space colony was not only for "Space Front Property" connoisseurs anymore, but became an outpost for those pioneers of asteroid mining, the source of the precious metals required to fuel our robotic technologies.

Individuals leaned into local start-ups and sustainability initiatives. Now, gone are the days of single use plastics. Focus is now on reusing and recycling, which is driven by local grassroots collectivism leveraging new technological advancements in robotics, AI, and machine learning. This led to a reimaging of daily life. Several technological advances are readily available for those



who are paying attention, offering their customers new solutions that align with environmentally friendly and sustainable options that are convenient, affordable, and allowing humanity to kick-up their feet while the machines take over the daily grind.

The US has started its long trek of healing to strengthen the bonds within itself. By doing this, they were able to do what it does best: capitalize on the incoming innovation boom. This created a more efficient and cleaner environment, and less work was needed from the populous. This resulted in a reduced workweek of 24-32 hours, legally now considered a “full work week.” A Universal Basic Income (UBI) is established, as well as Universal Healthcare, making sure every citizen’s basic needs are met – even housing is being solved by 3D printing for those who solely rely on UBI. With the UBI in place, other government services and departments can consolidate, or even be eliminated (don’t need SNAP, food stamps, or similar benefits – UBI and Universal Healthcare consolidates and streamlines these).

For education, costs were reduced to more affordable levels, reducing the paywall that plagued American Academia. From this, a

more dynamic skills-based learning environment for careers came to replace the antiquated model of old. Local companies invest in community colleges to keep their workforce current. Inevitably taxes have gone up, and globally governments are closing in on those who wish to hide and evade taxes - even the moon isn’t safe. Focus is on sustainability and health of the ENTIRE population, not just those who can afford it.

Communities were eager to invest and support industries who chose to implement sustainability initiatives and goals. The government even created an Ethics Support Department to help with the updated tax code on businesses, offering lower taxes as incentives when a range of sustainability, environmental and labor initiatives are met, and punishing those who do not adapt to the new standards. Examples of these are hiring local workforce, carbon emissions standards, waste-reduction, upcycling, quality of life initiatives for workforce, and community investment.

As humanity pushes on, they take with them the lessons of the past and move forward together to build a future for all, both now and forever. For now, the future is bright and full of hope.



## WORLD 4 ABBA



CLIMATE CHANGE	FUNDING	TECHNOLOGY	GEOPOLITICAL ENVIRONMENT
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Hello, we are Team 4, also popularly known as our handle @BobaFettThaTrapGod, and we are communicating to you from the year 2042 through a quaint primitive technology called a “Thought Experiment” in your time. We have been tasked with providing you a snapshot of our time, but there are immediate obstacles to effectively transmitting this data due to your outdated brain settings. With the **magical exponential progress of technology**, we are significantly more enlightened than the people of your time, who were only just on the cusp of unleashing the benefits of nootropics and other brain-enhancing supplements. Keeping this in mind we will proceed, but know that we can hear your scoffs from your 2022 armchair at the perceived indignities and stupidity we gratefully embrace in 2042’s everyday life, and your objections are as worthless to us as GameStop stock. A quick example of the world-altering benefits our advances have produced: Your average American now has over 400 streaming channels to choose from, with over 90 different commonly used devices to interact with them on, providing unprecedented comfort and entertainment even the wealthiest Royal Families of yore were not afforded. The core knowledge that we have that you lack is that it’s all about perspective, historical and personal, and the ability to comfortably shift between whichever perspective it is that makes you feel better.

And so we begin, through a glass darkly:

The year is 2042 where ABBA The Dancing Queen is the global order. In the US, **politics have been purely abstracted and commodified**, and irrelevant to any conceivable contemporary ideal of “producing change.” Imagine Pro-Wrestling stuffed inside a briefcase in a season finale of The West Wing and you’re basically there. Academic theorists will call this politics’ “postmodern period” but none of them will provide a satisfactorily consistent definition of whatever that means. This only reinforces the general public’s disgust with academia and public institutions in general, while also perfectly exemplifying the very undefinable definition of the postmodern phenomenon. The most successful politicians of the day are those that can most accurately express and embody the public’s frustrations with the political climate, while also being a blank avatar that voters can project their own individual characteristics on. Elections are media spectacles far more interactive than any sporting event or network television singing competition the country has ever seen. Yet, after any election, it is soon realized that any political promises offered were mere commercials for a luxury future you can’t afford, especially on the meager salary of an Amazon Pest Control Scientific Specialist Supervisor Team Leader. All hope is not lost though,



because in a remarkable feat of social engineering, as soon as the disappointments in the previous election are realized, there is a new and even more exciting (and grimly important!) sequel election to engage with.

The commonly shared despair in the hopelessness of “the political process” is only made more poignant by continued, catastrophic climate change. Things are still changing and we have faced some terrifying and tragic disasters that are at times unpredictable. Our long frost-free seasons have affected our agriculture and ecosystem negatively. Our soil is not really thriving and that is all thanks to the gnarly heatwaves, down pours, and floods affecting the moisture of soil and causing erosion. So really, going outdoors in 2042 means that you are either sweating bullets or in need of a boat and umbrella. It’s fine though, Amazon reports it is improving and producing several products and supplies to fight the heat, float on those floods, and fight the bite from the vicious mosquitoes. Yes, the most deadly thing on earth is still flying around and they seem to be sucking at a faster rate. The states have seen a significant rise in mosquito borne diseases. Just recently, a new species of mosquito was discovered in Ohio and is the carrier of a disease said to be deadlier than Malaria and Dengue. With all of the extreme droughts, storms, and rising sea levels, we are also seeing a rapid emergence of blue-green algae. Amazon also reported that they are considering the placement of “solar powered fans” around fresh water to cool it down as a way to prevent this toxic growth.

Economically, we’re in the tail-end of the cryptocurrency era meltdown – an era that is like a bad Hollywood remake of the Free Banking Era of 1837 to 1863, where banks issued their own currencies with purely hypothetical backing (not exchangeable 1:1 with the dollar or any other currency but backing promised to be proportional to the bank’s holdings of gold or silver, or arbitrarily defined scarcity which no one had to verify). The difference between then and now is there isn’t a western expansion to fuel economic and industrial growth capable of absorbing the inflation caused by this democratization of the money printer. The best anyone could come up with was colonizing Mars as a solution, but capital funding in a new world startup proved to have an inadequate short-term ROI (especially when compared to the exciting investment opportunities presented by beachfront property in Ohio). If you survive the Great Highway Disasters of 2026-2029, you work for Amazon now. The current rising trend is employee compensation paid out in Amazon Bucks. And if you don’t like Amazon, you have the

freedom to receive Disney+ Coin instead (or even issue your own currency if you fancy yourself an entrepreneur). Most of society has been relieved of the burden of car ownership due to our brave new world’s advanced supply chain and automated logistics delivery systems. This is unimaginable to your retro brains but you have yet to live through the Great Highway Disasters, a time where outdated highway infrastructure collided with automated trucking and most Americans owning two or three personal vehicles, thanks to their cryptocurrency gains and the prevalence of equitable sub-prime car loans. Factor in the Arizona Fire-Tornado Outbreaks of 2027 and the most reasonable option is to relegate the transportation system to the shipping companies and their green automated delivery vehicles. The technology itself is flawless and safe, climate-friendly, and it’s only the “human element” that gums up the works of this most efficient system.

The Legal system will take a turn similar to its cousins Politics and Economics – the dissolving legitimacy of the institutions of Law continues with no signs of stopping – its functions contracted out to the most well-connected bidders. Everyone can now represent themselves in court thanks to a revolutionary app – and the jury is replaced with an algorithm to ensure there are no unfair biases. All the judges also happen to work for Amazon (your coworker family just keeps growing) but receive a salary so much greater than yours that they might as well live on another planet (note: there are very credible rumors online that they in fact do, actually) and after all, there can be no employee discount on Justice. What’s left of the institution of Law is militarily armed and dedicated to preserving all of this freedom and convenience.

Most of global society is still in survival mode but at least in the developed world we are more enlightened than the people of your time. Professionally, people are now as free as ever to choose to be whatever kind of coder the market requires, skipping the inefficiency of higher education and heading directly to “The Code Mines” learning (while working!) for Amazon Bucks and same-day delivery credits.

Unfortunately, as wonderful as all of this sounds, we still face challenges. Coming up in 2044 we are facing the most important election of all time, incumbent President Kid Rock faces a wave of popular challenge in rising star candidate @ SailorMoonThaTrapQueen and our very way of life may be on the ballot.