HUMILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND RESILIENCE

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Humility, Flexibility, and Resilience

- The Peak Oil story seems clear
- Real resource and climate-caused constraints will be very important
- But what confidence can we have in our expectations on how this will play out?



We're always being surprised

- After 1969 US peak oil, rise of OPEC power
- After 1979 Impact of new production from Alaska, North Sea, Mexico
- After 1989 Fall of USSR and communism, glut of oil
- After 1999 terrorism, finance crises, rise of oil and commodity prices
- After 2009 ?????



The crisis is not just energy

- · Peak oil is important, but so are
 - -Weather, diseases, other resource issues
 - -A fragile and interconnected world
 - -Unbalanced wealth and power
 - -High debt levels and strained financial system
 - -Political deadlock here and abroad



Can the responses emerge?

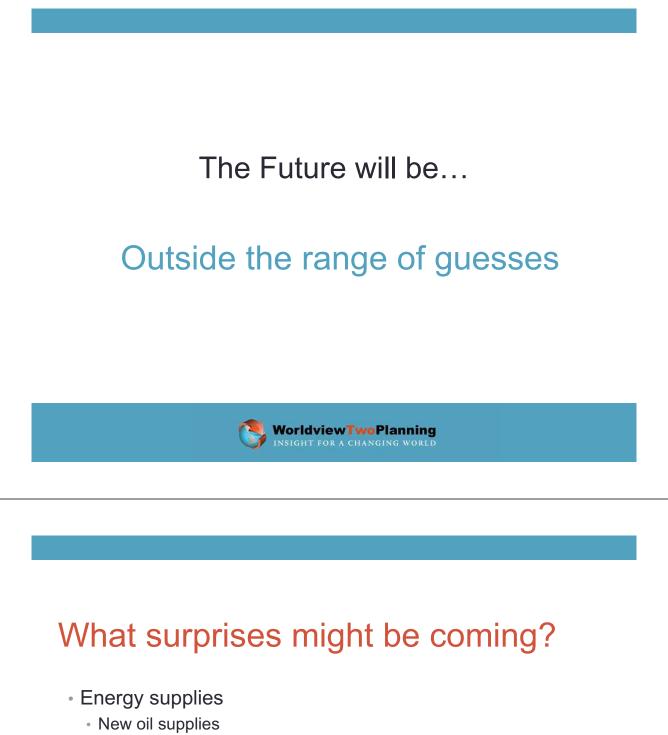
- · Climate people assume there will be enough energy
- · Peak oil people assume there will be enough electricity
- Alt energy people assume society, finance and agriculture will continue to work
- · Collapse people assume we can't work it out



Society isn't a mutual suicide pact

- There are a lot of bright people working on these problems
- The incentives to find workable responses are very high
- The Powers That Be really don't want to lose what control they have
- Don't assume the "responses" will directly address energy problems





- Natural gas
- Nuclear
- Artificial photosynthesis
- · Coal and electricity might crash first



What surprises? - 2

- Energy efficiency and usage changes
 - Reduced demand with technology, rules, standards
 - Relocalization
 - Rationing
 - Electric transport
 - · New transport expectations (less shipping and travel)



What surprises? - 3

- Political and Social structures
 - Transition towns and localization
 - New ethical expectations on community cooperation
 - Political restructuring
 - · Authoritarian rules and controls
 - International cooperation
 - New rules for trade and finance



What surprises? - 4

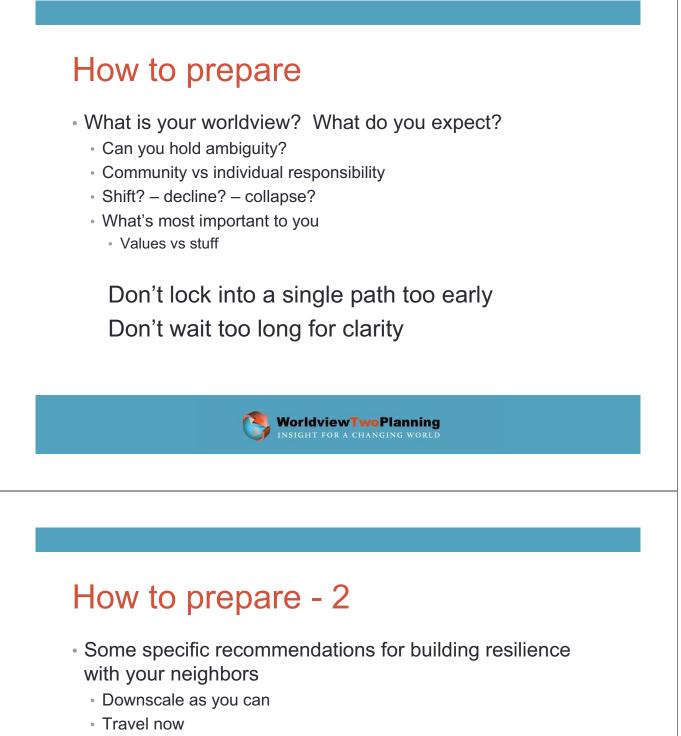
- Financial systems
 - New kinds of markets
 - "The Grand Reset" of debt and currencies
 - More or less inequality



What surprises? - 5

- Other events (related or not)
 - Weather disasters
 - Food crises
 - · Global epidemics human or agricultural
 - War or terrorism
 - Domestic insurrection
 - Social/religious "awakening"





- Look at your skills
- · Collaborate and build community
- · Own productive (or efficient) things, not paper
- Diversify and de-risk your investments





There's an urgent need to do reasonable things

Thank you. Richard Vodra

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