

# Domains of Value

DOMAIN	MEANING	VALUE	INVERSION OF VALUE
<b>Ultimate Sphere</b>	Locus of truth, goodness, and beauty; domain of highest vision and aspiration	<u>Ultimate value</u> : the deepest fulfillment, attainment of true aim of human existence	Spiritual materialism; instant enlightenment, commercially packaged spirituality. The new theology of wealth
<b>Symbolic and Cultural Sphere</b>	Symbolic systems that facilitate human participation in the other three spheres	<u>Aesthetic value</u> ; <u>instrumental value</u> , <u>symbolic value</u> : enables people to relate to the other three spheres, both inwardly and pragmatically.	Private bank control of money systems; corporate control of media. Celebrity culture; pop music; cults of movie and sports stars, etc.
<b>Social Sphere</b>	Systems arisen from human relationships and shared endeavors; projects to achieve common purposes	<u>Human social value</u> : provides for protection and human flourishing. Deeper fulfillment through community, pursuit of personal and collective aims.	People <u>objectified</u> as laborers, consumers, debtors, investors, partners, etc. Privatization of public goods; corporate domination of politics and policies
<b>Ecological Sphere, Natural Sphere</b>	The ground of all life and sentient existence on earth. Comprises two subsidiary systems: the geosphere and the biosphere.	<u>Fundamental value</u> : indispensable for life to persist and flourish: source of food, air, water, energy, raw materials for buildings, medicines, clothes, trade.	Nature <u>commodified</u> , reduced to “natural resources” for extraction and sale; desecration (= de-sacralization) of natural world. Brutalized treatment of animals.

# The Actualization of Value

## Towards a New Mode of Collective Being

### *I. Transforming Consciousness*

Respecting Natural Value: reverence for the earth (honoring nature, other species, restoring a sense of the sacredness of the cosmos)

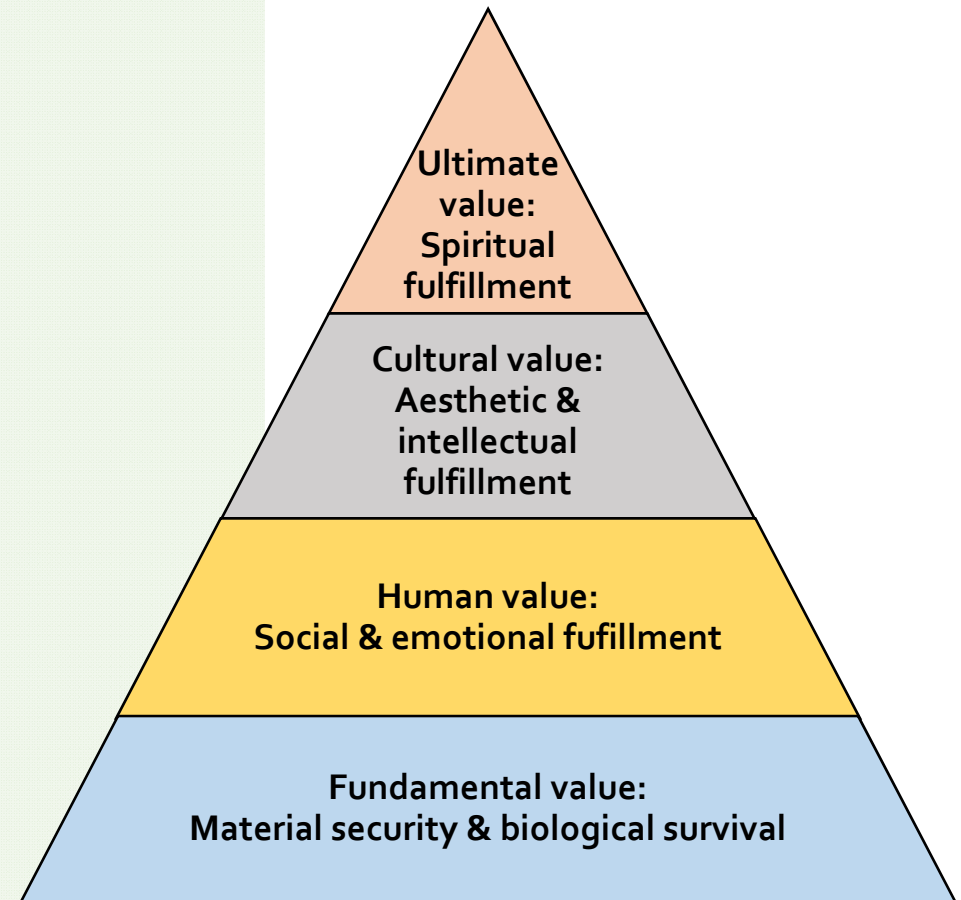
Restoring Human Value: affirmation of subjectivity, celebration of human unity and equality; new models of governance rooted in intersubjective solidarity

Rediscovering Aesthetic and Intellectual Value: more leisure, less work time, paid vacations

Seeking Ultimate Value: cultivating higher consciousness beyond greed and fear

### *II. Transforming the System*

1. Recognition of relatedness, interdependence, mutuality between humanity and nature, between individual human beings, between different societies and nations
2. Awakening a sense of global justice (ethics as a foundation)
3. Inspiring solidarity based on universal love and compassion (enlightened altruism)
4. Transition from an economy directed toward endless growth toward one governed by the principle of sufficiency; growth in quality of life, not in ever-expanding production and consumption



# The Inversion & Perversion of Value

## The Deep Meta-Program (Source Code) Behind the Inversion

A metaphysic of personal atomism; the ultimacy of the private self, objectification of others and of nature

The ethics: rational behavior means seeking to maximize one's own private self-interest; commodification of nature and other people; alienation and disposability

The application of the program: the quest for exponentially increasing returns on investment: "multiplying growth of transnational money-sequences at ever higher velocities and volumes with no life limits tolerated" \*

The consequences: the pursuit of infinite growth, colonization of all other domains of value; desolation of environment; social systems marked by domination and exploitation; a broken economic system

\*John McMurtry, "[Winning the War of the World](#)"

