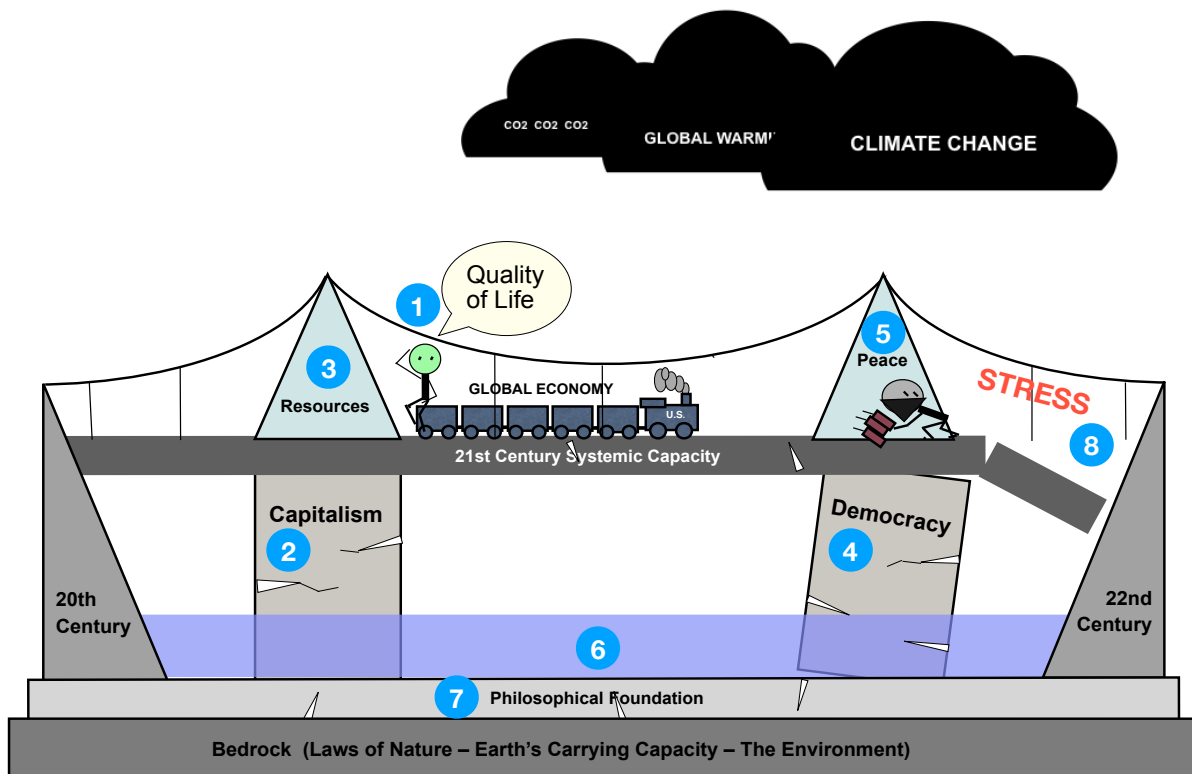


Holigent

# Proposal in Q & A for Los Angeles to Heal Itself and Save the World

A. Nicholas Frank



Building a Better Bridge to Our Future

## Notes up front

### About Holigent

The word *Holigent* is coined from *holistic and emergent*; stands for a concept of human societal reconstruction compliant with nature's building and sustainability code in pursuit of social, economic and environmental justice, quality and systemic sustainability. Holigent is capitalized as a reminder of its registered trademark status to protect its integrity in the service of the common good.

### About the flaws in this writing

This book is a self-published, unpolished draft written in "Hunglish" (Hungarian-English ;-). Correcting grammatical errors are low on my list of priorities in our world of catastrophic climate change, rising fascism, and extinction of much of the natural world. The window of opportunity to save the habitability of our planet is closing faster than we could comfortably contemplate. There is no time for the back and forth with editors, proofreaders and book designers.

Please consider the unpolished content and the unfinished exterior as my protest against the unsustainable business as usual human affairs. I hope it will also serve as gentle instructive demonstration urging you to search and find ways to make the world a better place for all.

### About Repetitions

Evolution holds that the highest survival skills are learned by repetitions. To build a peacefully sustainable world on our endangered planet requires a skill yet to be learned. Skills such as riding your bike cannot be learned from books alone. To reconstruct our damaged world to make it peaceful and sustainable requires new skills we need to learn and practice — skills best learned through repetition. You will find this repetitive practice repeatedly in this writing ☺

## Q & A Starts here

Q. There are traditional ways for submitting proposals, so why this Q & A format?

A. Traditional ways or business as usual is ushering our civilization to the brink of collapse, I am looking for ways to get off that track.

Q. How would you define “business as usual” that is so harmful?

A. Sum it all up I call it globally conflicted, extractive techno-industrial, capitalist-consumerists, military-industrial complex. Regardless of politics, to some extent, nearly every nation is practicing it. This is unsustainable. Sir David Attenborough summed it up at the 2018 U.N. Climate Conference: *“If we don’t take action the collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon.”*

A. It is my way to step outside the box and follow the spirit of Albert Einstein who said, *“A problem cannot be solved by the same mindset that created it.”*

Q. What would you do with a new mindset?

A. I would also follow the spirit of Socrates and examine life, because *“The unexamined life is not worth living.”*

Q. Life is what it is; why does it need to be examined?

A. I could write a 500-page book to answer that question. Relax, I'll answer it in a few sentence. The basic reason is that every moment in the universe is different than the moment before. That is because time and evolution is unstoppable. The evolution of inanimate matter in the cosmos from the simple to the complex took about 13 billion years.

Our planet was a product of that cosmic evolution; on Earth, inorganic matter evolved to organic from which simple life emerged; followed by the evolution of life from the simple to the complex during the latest 3.5 billion years.

Humans developed free will that had the capacity to examine life, but instead humans chose to follow their primitive impulse and business as usual. And I must mention STRESS that is a primitive legacy from the evolutionary jungle. All that is leading us to collapse and extinction, sooner that we could comfortably contemplate.

Q. Where are all the brilliant men and women, credentialed by higher educational institutions, to come up with solutions to build universal quality of life, global peace, and systemic sustainability so that humanity could survive and thrive on our one and only habitable planet in the known universe?

A. They locked themselves into the box or ivory tower, if you like. They failed to build a better bridge to our future and flunked the test of saving humanity.

Q. So, why Q & A is your preferred format to offer a proposal?

A. It is probing, it helps to keep alive the spirit of Socrates and Einstein. It is to examine life with a new mind in the moments of the present in which we live as time speeds from past to future.

Q. Why does Los Angeles need healing?

A. Los Angeles has homeless encampments on the streets all over the city, while many billionaires are living in mansions on the hilltops. The city is gridlocked in traffic. And the rising cost of living is forcing some people out of the city. At the same time, high-earning professionals with young families are also leaving the city because of rising stress, fear, and embarrassment having to explain to their children why people sleep in filth on the sidewalk.

Q. Why does the world need saving?

A. It is evident to thoughtful people that Earth's finite life-support capacity will soon be exhausted by the near-infinite demand of eight billion reproductive and wasteful humans. Jarred Diamond's book *Collapse* tells the story of why ancient civilizations are not here anymore. The common reason for their collapse was the exhaustion of resources.

Q. Why does creating a peaceful and sustainable world seem nearly impossible?

A. Because it is complicated.

Q. How complicated?

A. Not nearly as complicated as making a small flat machine that you can whip out of your pocket and use to talk to somebody thousands of miles away.

Q. Then why can't we solve the problems of conflict, war, and unsustainability around the world? Especially when these problems may result in dangerous collisions between the super powers and lead to nuclear "Armageddon"?

A. The answer in one word is STRESS.

Q. Sounds like a sickness. What is stress, really?

A. It is psycho-biological preparation for response to challenge.

Q. How do we get rid of it?

A. You can't get rid of it. There is no pill for it, and it cannot be surgically removed because it is deeply embedded in our neuroendocrine system.

Q. When and how did we contract the inconvenient "disease" of stress?

A. Millions of years ago in the evolutionary jungle.

Q. Why?

A. Because in the critter-eat-critter jungle, we had to make split-second decisions to fight or flee to stay alive. There was no time for thinking.

Q. That was a long time ago. Why can't we change and stop reacting that way?

A. Because the fast reflexive response without thinking is embedded in the primitive part of our brain. It was our survival mechanism during our early evolution and now we are stuck with this legacy from the evolutionary jungle. Fear and aggression are the primitive tools we still use attempting to solve complex socio-economic-political problems that often result in conflict and lead to war.

Q. So, what's the solution?

A. Use the same part of our brain that gave us the smart phone.

Q. How would that work?

A. Remember, stress turns on aggression and turns off rational thought processes. Remember also that the neuroendocrine stress mechanism in the body cannot be surgically removed. The only rational option is to secure quality of life so the stress response is not triggered, but remains dormant in the individual's brain and body.

Q. Do you suggest securing quality of life for eight billion people on the planet?

A. Yes!

Q. Isn't that an impossible proposition?

A. No. It's less complicated than building a smart phone if you use the right tools.

Q. What will it take?

A. Learning to examine life with a new mindset, engineering, acquisition, construction, and money.

Q. Is this your heroic one-man project?

A. My job is to plant the seed of the idea. This project will need an army of dedicated participants.

Q. Would you list the divisions of that potential army of dedicated participants?

A. a) The first division will be young people; this is about their future, after all. They will create the visibility through **instructive demonstrations** in public places.

b) The people of California; this is their project to heal the planet and save the world by donating to the building of a demonstration Holigent Village.



c) The mayor of Los Angeles; we propose this city to be the pioneer and host for the Transformative Societal Reconstruction Experiment — home of the first nature-compliant Holigent Village.

d) The governor of California will follow a tradition of the state to continue being in the forefront of innovation.

e) Politicians, U.S. Congress in particular, to establish a **Department of Homeland Reconstruction** making funds available for building truly sustainable, nature-compliant Holigent Villages across America and beyond.

f) Billionaires; there's a surprisingly large number of them in California and over 3,000 around the world. They may choose to donate in an effort to heal Earth and save the world.

Q. Where would we start?

A. Build an experimental demonstration Holigent Village.

Q. What is Holigent?

A. The word "Holigent" is a merging of the terms "holistic" and "emergent." It is a concept that follows nature's building and sustainability knowhow.

Q. What is a Holigent Village?

A. It is a decentralized, self-organized, self-reliant, all green pedestrian community with hybrid socioeconomic arrangements, built in compliance with nature's sustainability code that secures quality of life for all its residents.

Q. Where would the money come from?

A. The source could be public and private. We encourage billionaires to contribute about \$12 million to get started.

Q. Why would they do that?

A. To consider it an investment in life and wealth preservation. Or because they realize that saving Earth is cheaper and easier than escaping to Mars, a dead rock in cold and empty space. Or for the sake of their legacy, donate to building a Holigent Village that will carry their name.

Q. Let's assume \$12 million is donated to Holigent.Org. What would happen next?

A. We go house hunting and buy about 10 homes for Holigent.Org in the Jefferson corridor along the Expo light rail line near the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Q. What do you do with the homes?

A. Upon closing on each of the houses, Holigent.Org takes possession and after any necessary renovations, we invite about

40 people to live, learn, and work in the homes, forming the seed of a Holigent Village.

Q. What will they be learning?

A. Among other things, they too will learn to follow Albert Einstein's advise and develop a new mindset, because "*a problem cannot be solved with the same mindset that created it.*"

Q. What would they be doing with their new mindset?

A. Learning to follow the advice of Socrates and reexamine life, because "*the unexamined life is not worth living.*" Students will also learn to build solar energy generators; grow food in vertical farming; and manage waste through repurposing and recycling.

Q. What's next?

A. Holigent.Org will engage in ambitious fundraising from private and public sources.

Q. What will Holigent.Org do with the money?

A. Enlarge the Holigent Village to demonstrate a new hybrid socioeconomic organizing system in which the pillars of our bridge to the future, *capitalism* and *democracy*, are retrofitted in the interest of building a future of social, economic, and environmental justice; quality of life; and systemic sustainability.

Q. What's wrong with capitalism, why does it need to be "retrofitted"?

A. In capitalism the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Thomas Piketty explained it with a formula  $r > g$  (return on capital is greater than growth). Think of it as the DNA of capital that drives wealth from the 99% to the 1%. History has shown that, from time to time, the resulting inequality brings out the pitchforks, the guillotines, and the Bolsheviks; in other words, it leads to bloody upheavals and war.

Q. How will Holigent retrofit capitalism?

A. All grants, donations, and income generated by the Holigent Village will belong to the commons and will help provide significantly reduced housing rates and improve quality of life.

Q. What's wrong with democracy?

A. Built-in opposition makes democracy corruptible. That is contrary to the natural rule of organic collaboration of the parts that make resilient systems.

The higher the socioeconomic stress in a democracy, the greater the probability of drifting toward fascism...and ultimately war.

Q. Why does fascism likely lead to war?

A. Because fascist leaders make grand promises such as "Deutschland Über Alles" in the 1930s Germany or "Make America Great Again." When they can't deliver, they deflect anger

by telling the angry crowd to beat up on minorities. When that doesn't deliver the promise, the fascist leader has no choice but to give the angry population a big fight they want — make war.

Q. How would you retrofit democracy?

A. Each Holigent Village community exists as a nonprofit organization — a decentralized cell of society. Members of the board of directors are elected from the community, and they collectively look out for the best interests of the community, securing quality of life for every resident.

Q. What's next?

A. We introduce the idea and invite the mayor of Los Angeles to be a partner in the project of building Holigent Villages.

Q. Why would the mayor opt in?

A. Each Holigent Village would own the housing units purchased with grants, donations, and income generated by the commons. Holigent Villages would offer housing with significantly reduced rent. This may provide affordable housing to some homeless people. Those who can't afford even the low rent would be offered housing in exchange for cleaning and maintenance work. The less capable will be taken in and provided mentoring by residents performing their social service obligation that is part of their contract — earning community credit that reduces their housing cost. All along, stress and the

burdens of life are reduced while quality of life is elevated for all residents of a Holigent Village.

Q. What's next?

A. Introduce the Holigent Proposal to the governor of California.

Q. Why would the governor be interested?

A. California's culture and history are all about pioneering and innovation. It would be a good fit for the state to be at the forefront of this Innovative Societal Reconstruction Experiment to build a future of universal quality of life, global peace, and systemic sustainability.

Q. Next?

A. We will continue our tireless public and private fundraising efforts to take Holigent Transformative Societal Reconstruction to every corner of the world.

Q. Why is that necessary?

A. For about the same reason an apple mustn't have even a small rotten spot. If it has, soon the whole apple will be rotten.

Q. This sounds like an expensive proposition. Where will that kind of money come from?

A. Remember, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the U.S. spent treasure and blood to win World War II and save Europe from fascism. We will remind politicians that in this 21<sup>st</sup> century the U.S. urgently needs to spend treasure, but no blood, to save democracy from drifting to fascism and save the world from wars and a probable nuclear “Armageddon.”

Q. And just how do you plan to do that?

A. We will send politicians emails explaining all of this.

Q. What if they delete the emails without reading them?

A. Then we will organize road trips from Los Angeles and other major U.S. cities across America, converging in Washington, D.C.

Q. Will you protest when you get there?

A. Protest alone doesn’t work, because building a peaceful and sustainable future is beyond the skillsets of politicians and institutions. We will participate in **instructive demonstrations**, explaining in detail what to do and how to do it.

Q. What do politicians need to do?

A. Members of Congress need to establish a U.S. **Department of Homeland Reconstruction** to secure funds for building Holigent Villages across America. Then we’ll proceed to take the program to Europe and around the world.

Q. Will Holigent societal reconstruction programs become bottomless pits for grants and donations?

A. At some point in time, Holigent Transformative Societal Reconstruction for building a future of social, economic, and environmental justice; quality of life; and sustainability will achieve a critical mass. From thereon the internally generated capital of the Holigent communities will assure continued expansion of the program, even to the dark and hopeless corners of the world.

Q. Why would people want to live in Holigent Villages?

A. For about the same reason large numbers of people take high risks migrating to Europe and to America — hoping to improve their quality of life.

Q. How would a Holigent Community improve quality of life for its residents?

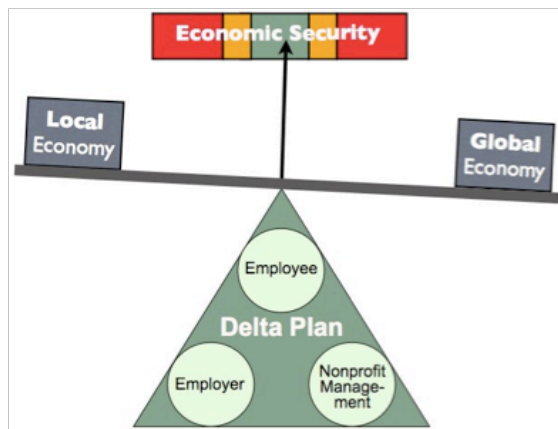
A. Living in a Holigent Community begins with signing on. It is no ordinary lease or rental agreement, but a unique contract called the Holigent Delta Plan to become a member of the community.

Q. What is the Holigent Delta Plan?

A. It is a three-way agreement between employers operating in the Holigent community, residents, and the managing nonprofit organization.



The Holigent economy has a hybrid engine that can be powered by money and/or by moneyless social service input of the residents. The ratio of the power input driving the economy is variable, depending on the general conditions of the economy.



### The Delta Plan

The Holigent Delta Plan is a three-way agreement between participating employers, their participating employee-residents of the "Village" and a nonprofit developer/management organization. Economic security is achieved through the Delta Plan by maintaining balance between local and global economies. The Holigent arrangement helps generate and retain local value and wealth, providing a "firewall" to protect participating communities against the unpredictability of the national and global economies even during recessionary times. With these three-way agreements the nonprofit management organization is able to underwrite business continuity, job and housing security, and quality of life for all occupants of a Holigent community. Three general scenarios are highlighted below to illustrate the key aspects of the hybrid economic arrangement.

#### Plan A Normal Conditions

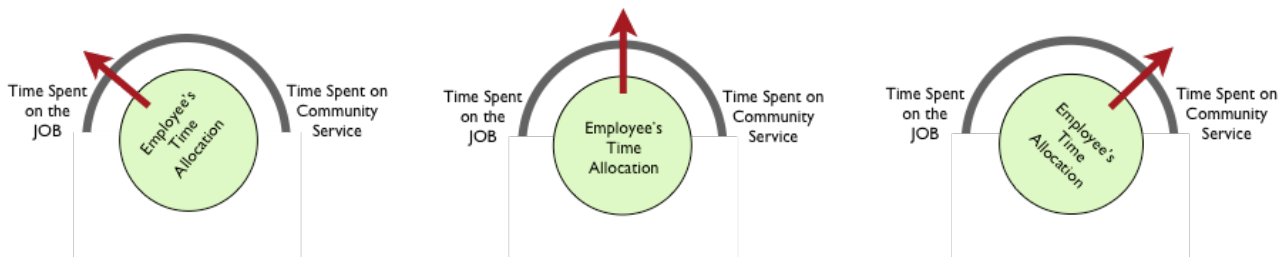
Under normal conditions an employee-resident's time allocations are balanced between employment and community service according to their basic agreement. All residents participate in community service for which they earn Community Credit used to pay a portion of their housing cost.

#### Plan B Variable Conditions

During moderate economic hard times, affected employees' commitments would be varied according to a negotiated scale. In accord with those agreements, affected companies would reduce some or all employees' work-hours. Affected employees would work more hours in community service and pay a larger portion of their housing cost with earned Community Credit. This option provides the opportunity for employers and employees to calibrate their variable agreements securing their quality of life.

#### Plan C Dormant Conditions

During severe economic downturns, an affected company would go into a dormant state rather than shut down. Its employees would go on unpaid furlough rather than be laid off and would be recalled when work became available. Increased community service allows furloughed employee-residents to retain their housing and pay most or all their housing cost with earned Community Credit. Participating employers, in order to avoid permanent shutdown, must be debt-free, insured, subsidized, or otherwise able to reorganize or freeze obligations to be covered for the dormant period. This plan would preserve a company's physical, business, and workforce assets as well as its employees' jobs, housing and essential quality of life.



Living in a Holigent community secures at least five essentials of life that will improve and secure quality of life.

1) Food. Residents will grow much of their food in vertical farming.

2) Shelter. The community purchase all housing unit with grants, donations, and money generated by the community. Owing no mortgage, the community is able to enter into hybrid agreements to provide housing ranging from much reduced rate to free.

3) Employment. Residents may be employed by commercial firms or engaged in community service by the Village, or any mix between the two employments.

4) Belonging. A resident will never be alone and insecure. The Holigent community is like a large and caring family.

5) Security. In the Holigent Hybrid arrangement no one ever becomes unemployed, homeless, hungry or lonely.

Q. Does Holigent wants to house, feed and cuddle humanity to raise their quality of life and diminish stress levels so that peaceful sustainability around the world can become a possibility?

A. People will arrange all that for themselves guided by the Holigent building and sustainability code.

Q. How will that work in places like Russia and China?

A. The Russian leader is slowly learning that attacking Ukraine to prevent it joining NATO produced the opposite results. NATO is enlarging and fortifying its military. Many of its best and brightest left Russia; its diminishing resources are consumed by the war; and international sanctions are further punishing life in Russia.

The Holigent nonpolitical hybrid solution to elevate quality of life and create social stability may become a hopeful and irresistible alternative.

Q. How would Holigent convince China of that irresistible alternative?

A. Fortunately, China is a smart kooky. It may figure out its reality before too late and understand that picking a fight with America is not a good idea. That would bite the hand that pulled China out of poverty and continues to be an important trading relationship. Such war, with high probability would turn nuclear that would very quickly result in MAD — Mutually Assured Destruction in which no one wins and everybody dies.

So once again the Holigent nonpolitical hybrid solution to elevate quality of life and create social stability may become a hopeful and irresistible alternative.

Q. How long will it take for the world to transition to peaceful sustainability?

A. It may take generations. However, if at least one billionaire (out of over 3,000 in the world) and Congress buy into the idea of Holigent Transformative Societal Reconstruction, the global transition from war making to peace building can be accomplished in a decade or two.

Q. Before we close our Q & A session I want to revisit the question of do we really have to undertake societal transformation and why?

A. The short answer is yes we have to do it to avoid the collapse of civilization.

Q. What are the probabilities of collapse?

A. It is a certainty and sooner than we could comfortably contemplate.

Q. How can you justify that severe statement?

A. Remember, in the spirit of Socrates and Einstein we are reexamining life with a new mindset.

Q. Would you refresh my memory?

A. Humanity has not yet graduated from the evolutionary jungle; we are still guided by primitive impulses of the *fight or flight stress response*. It is a certainty that our dominant civilization that is — *globally conflicted extractive techno-industrial capitalist-consumerist military-industrial complex* — is

rapidly depleting our planets life-support capacity; That is a major source of rising global stress. Democracy predictably ends in a high stress world.

Q. Why would democracy end predictably?

A. Hi stress activates our primitive stress response it turns on aggression and turns off rational thought process. People become helpless and hopeless, they cannot reason, will believe lies and will follow a charismatic leader who gives them hope with big promises. A fascist leader then take control of government by vote or by force. When they cannot deliver the big promise, the fascist leader have no choice but to give the angry population a big fight they want — make war.

Q. Why should all of this start in Los Angeles, California?

A. It is not simple, but a doable prescription to heal and save the world. The people and culture of Los Angeles and the state of California are capable and have a history of innovation in movie making, space technology, digital technology, and more.

You can learn more about all this by reading the book

**Dear Billionaire:**

**We can save the world now or never**

Available free on [www.holigent.org](http://www.holigent.org) or in print from Amazon.com

Quality of life, peace, and sustainability are  
what the world needs now!

With that, Holigent Societal Transformation will reduce global stress to a safe level. Then our world can achieve:

**universal quality of life, global peace, and systemic sustainability.**

Let's work diligently on the Holigent Project so that Humanity would survive and thrive on this one and only habitable planet in the known universe:

**Our warm, wet, and green  
Magical Planet Earth**



# WHY

during the 1930s  
did feverishly high  
global  
socioeconomic  
STRESS  
led to  
**fascism** and  
**World War II?**

**Dear Billionaire,**  
**We can prevent history repeating itself**

Here is how:  
[www.holigent.org](http://www.holigent.org)

