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THE TOP 10 TRENDS OF THE 21st CENTURY

THE ENERGY REVOLUTION

Of all the changes of the new millennium, none will be greater than the unleashing of new sources of energy to drive engines of commercial power and the machinery of everyday life. The effects upon the structures of mankind will be as revolutionary as those resulting from the discovery of fire and the invention of the wheel.

A new Global Age is being born on the ashes of the dying Industrial Age and the fossil fuels that powered it....

NEW MILLENNIUM FAMILY

Shifting work- and lifestyles have begun to change the profile of the family. As new family characteristics become apparent, they will upset the guardians of social structures and confuse the members of a society in transition.

The new freestyle 21st century family will be viewed in the broadest of its dictionary definitions...

WWWMD-1

Though there will be many changes in the new millennium, an end to war will not be one of them. World wars will, literally, go global, as the ravages of battle observe no boundaries and the forces of destruction take no prisoners. The 21st century will see at least one major World War of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WWWMD-1) pitting mighty superpowers against determined cadres of new millennium warriors.

Disguised as dogma and doctrine, organized campaigns by one group of people to kill another group of people for political ends and economic means will continue...

THE NEW MILLENNIUM RELIGION

A new major religion, on a scale to rival any of the great world religions from Islam to Christianity, is beginning to take shape even before the new millennium turns. Like those religions before it, the yet unnamed new millennium religion will configure the minds of individuals, form new institutions, and help direct the course of history.

The signs of the new religion can be seen in society's quest for what is now being loosely called "spirituality." ...

WHOLE HEALTH PLANNING

To survive and thrive in the next millennium will require looking beyond the traditional public and private sectors for health care and financial security.

In the new competitive global economy it will become increasingly clear that future healthcare services will never return to pre-HMO levels of quality...

RENAISSANCE 2000

As the possibilities of the future become clearer and society begins to understand the implications of the trends that lie ahead, people will be buffeted between paralyzing fear and exhilarating hope.

But as the new century unfolds, the realization will come that even the worst fears can be surmounted and the heights of exhilaration were set too low...

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

The Global Age educational system, like so many new millennium structures, will incorporate the best of the old and the best of the new, to create a hardier hybrid. In tomorrow's computer-powered education system the only pages that will carry over from the Industrial Age's guidebook will be the chapter on "one teacher, many students."

Unlike in the days of brick-and-mortar schoolhouses, when students assembled in a centralized location...

THE NEW POLITICS

Disgusted with a two party system that denies real choice, despairing of the blatant arrangement that puts bought-and-paid-for politicians in office, and newly emboldened by the Internet's promise to return power to the people, a citizen revolt will bring about a political revolution.

Previously discounted as simple voter apathy, the ongoing string of record low voter turnouts that accelerated in the 1990s will reach levels of absurdity over the next 10 years...

COLD WAR II

The powers of globalization – with its open markets, permeable borders, and multinational military forces and political cabals – will not unify the people of the world under a single banner, ideology, or commonality of purpose. As the new millennium develops, a new "ism" will rise to challenge the open market theology that has dominated since the fall of Soviet Communism.

This new "ism" is yet unnamed, but its familiar theme has been the anthem of many movements throughout history...

THE HOME

In the latter half of the 20th century, as people worked long days and commuted far distances to their jobs, home became the place you hung your hat while recharging for the next work day and recuperating at the end of the work week. But in the new millennium, home will take on a new significance, not only as general headquarters for the new millennium family, but as a place where the spirit can reside.

Advances across the spectrum of technology will play a crucial role in the design of the new millennium home...

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