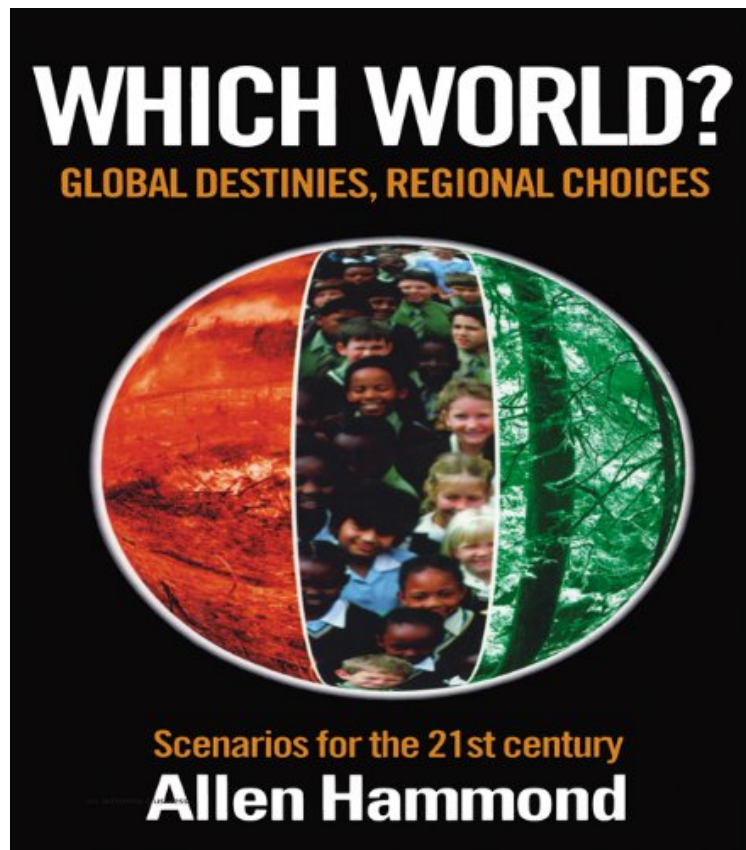


Which World: Global Destinies, Regional Choices - Scenarios for the 21st Century

Allen Hammond

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Allen Hammond : Which World: Global Destinies, Regional Choices - Scenarios for the 21st Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Which World: Global Destinies, Regional Choices - Scenarios for the 21st Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In 2015, "Market World" gives way to the "Fortress World" scenario. By Chad M. The best minds from the 2050 Project saw three scenarios for the near future: Market World, Fortress World, and Transformed World. In 2015, it appears that civilization is shifting from Market World to Fortress World. The author believes there are many benefits to expanded free markets and trade, but if ecological and social problems were left unattended, these problems would eventually cause regional collapses, failed states, and mass migrations. In contrast, the Transformed World scenario can get started if optimistic citizens' groups and popular movements can direct government in the right ways. This book has many similarities with Mathew Burrows' "The Future, Declassified" and Stephen Emmott's "Ten Billion". It also references "The Camp of the Saints" by the French author Jean Raspail, which mirrors the mass migration on today's EU borders. Overpopulation trends are well described in this book. There is a sort of futility to those people having large families in poor countries, and wherever the birth rate is already above the replacement of 2.1 children per family. Sociologically, the traditional status and free

labor provided by many children inevitably causes a vicious cycle. That is, with each generation there is less farm land, requiring even more intensive labor to achieve the same yields as before. With the Earth's arable land at full utilization, and new farm land being gained nearly always at the cost of the precious rain forests, there are few choices left. Diminishing farm land per person is a major threat, but one that is "out of sight, out of mind": "One way to gauge potential scarcity is to assess a country's stock of fertile land per capita. When the stock falls below 0.07 hectare (about 0.17 acre) per person - the amount estimated to be needed to raise one person's food for a nonmeat diet, without modern methods of intensive cultivation, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides - warning signs are indicated By the year 2025, however, 918 million to 3 billion people will be living in land-scarce countries" (p. 98-99, and 107). There is no good political answer for dividing food resources once the acreage is below 0.17 acre per person; this is a matter of inflexible physical law, chemistry and biology. The problem can only be solved in advance, through foresight and government planning, and by never crossing the lower limit of the Earth's carrying capacity. Published in 1998, this book is unusually prescient. Allen Hammond, a Harvard graduate, writes that the 21st century "may also see human tragedy on a scale that could make the Holocaust seem modest" (p. 12). There is a tragic tendency of famines and genocides to gallop along in tandem. Hammond lays out the dire overpopulation risk and what it will take to stabilize population in the next decade or two. The challenge is that "we must know more about where the world appears to be headed and what choices we need to make" (p. 12). Which world will be ours? Market World, Fortress World, or Transformed World: this is the choice of today's citizens.

?Today, humanity faces a fundamentally different challenge ? that of managing a planet and a global human civilization in ways that will sustain both indefinitely. What makes this task less than easy are the pace and complexity of change. Over the next half century, human society will undergo a profound demographic transformation, experience fundamental shifts in the global balance of economic and political power, and cope with nearly continuous technological change. These transformations are inevitable ? the forces that compel them are already in place ? but their outcomes are far from fixed?This book is about the future, but not in the sense of making predictions. Rather it suggests how to think about the future. Because human destiny is not predetermined, this book explores not just one but several possible worlds, each embodying a very different vision of the future. Implicit in these contrasting visions is a choice: which world do we prefer; which world do we want to pass on to our children and grandchildren??"From chapter 1

About the Author Allen Hammond is a senior scientist and director of strategic analysis at the World Resources Institute, a non-partisan policy research center based in Washington, DC. He received his PhD in applied mathematics from Harvard University, and he has published nine books and many scientific articles, as well as numerous articles and columns in newspapers and popular magazines.