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See Appendix AGE – Aging Out

“Take full account of what excellencies which you possess, and in gratitude remember how you would hanker after them, if you had them not.”

– Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome, Stoic (b. 121 A.D., d. 180 A.D.)

Something Sublime: ...this way comes... To have true passion for something is to see something sublime. A child, or young person, who has a passion for music, literature, art, history, acting, mechanics, architecture, math, science, filmmaking, writing, programming, sports (if you have talent, and that’s a whole other discussion), sees in the whole of it *something sublime*, even if they cannot themselves reach or touch it in any practical or enduring sense. The sublime is part of the human answer to the Existential Void and this is why it never gets old or goes away, we just invent different words to describe the same phenomenon – perfectionist, virtuoso, inventor, prophet, pioneer, savant, sage, visionary, genius, prodigy, master, polymath.

Conversely, imagine if you woke up one morning and suddenly found you were a house cat. I love my cats, but I would not willingly trade places with them. Being a cat would be like being an infant again, but worse, because you would never be anything but an infant. Thus, ‘Take full account of what excellencies you possess and ...remember how you would hanker after them if you had them not.’ *Id.* The Dunning-Kruger effect, however, suggests Aurelius is wrong...

➤ **Bubbling to the Top:** People who have a sense of the sublime about a subject or object experience Diminishing Returns Phenomenon differently – as to that particular subject or object – than the rest of us. This would be a very interesting area for cognitive study and I am sure it has been studied in regards to professionals, especially highly-paid innovators and athletes, and graduate students.

- ✓ “According to the Law of Diminishing Returns (also known as Diminishing Returns Phenomenon), the value or enjoyment we get from something starts to decrease after a certain point. Let’s say we go to an amusement park and ride our favorite roller coaster five times in one day. The first time is exhilarating. The second and third times are also exciting. But after the fourth or fifth ride, we start to feel sick and bored – we’ve had enough. The law of diminishing returns also applies to performance. Although it’s important to study for an exam or practice for a game, there is a limit to how much time and energy we can invest and still expect to see an improvement. If we practice too much we’ll start to feel burned out and may even start performing poorly.” – AlleyDog.com (psychology student website), “Law Of Diminishing Returns” (unattributed, undated), retrieved June 26, 2019.

This is why, for example, when a baseball player is ‘slumping’ (diminishing performance) they get a ‘day off’ from being a starter and sit in the dugout the entire game unless they are needed to pinch hit, pinch run, or to replace an injured player on the field; they play 162 games in 6 months, plus travelling to a new city every few days, plus charitable events, media appearances, working out in the weight room, and whatever else they do.

- ✓ Can sports be sublime if you don’t have talent for it? I suppose, but then you end up being a baseball historian or stats wonk, instead of playing professionally. But then which is really sublime to you, the sport (‘the game’), or the history, or the stats? It is difficult to separate talent from the sublime, and that is why television broadcast sports are such a part of modern civilization.

- ✓ I liked baseball as a kid and we played every day at recess and backyard ball at home, but I was (obviously) never *that fascinated* by it (not to mention lack of physical talent); if I played baseball three days every week, I'd be soon tired of it (I think I even got tired of it as a kid, somewhat), but I work on GGDM almost every day now or several times a week when I had a fulltime job. Like baseball players, my recovery time, response to Diminishing Returns Phenomenon is different in relation to GGDM; my mind and GGDM are inseparable, I think of things or think about it even when doing other tasks or watching Pirate's baseball.
 - See additional discussion, *The Flipped Side*, 1 Colleges, p. 468, *infra*.

“That film’s feverish commitment to every detail of the universe it created was admirable. From the names and powers it bestowed on its machines and creatures to the thought it put into what urban life and popular culture would look like in a world besieged by kaiju attacks, there was no doubt that it meant something to the people who made it. It was the work of true believers with childlike enthusiasm for the absurd. Del Toro even believed in the themes of personal redemption and collective effort that were baked into the details of the jäger’s mechanics. He got high on his own supply, and not only was that forgivable, it was exactly what a filmmaker was supposed to do in that kind of circumstance.”

– Matt Zoller Seitz, discussing the original Pacific Rim movie, in the review of Pacific Rim: Uprising, rogerebert.com, March 23, 2018

Perfect Proficiencies: When the Culture Power is activated for the purpose of Perfecting Proficiencies, the position may automatically and immediately place two new Proficiencies of their choice on any unoccupied Monads in the Public Space that is adjacent to any other piece (cf. Cultural Aspect Pieces must be placed adjacent to *any Friendly or Naturalized Colony*).¹ The resource cost of Proficiencies is based on the total population of the position at the time the Power is activated, including Conquered, Converted and Naturalized **alien colonies**, population on colony ships, and colonies of all political status (see Colony Politics, *et seq.* 2 Order, p. 538, *infra*). Each new Proficiency costs 1 RP per 100 population factors. A position may indicate to the Concierge that only one new Proficiency is desired, but the cost of the Culture Power activation is the same, regardless of whether one or two Proficiencies are received.

- ✓ Activation of the Culture Power to Perfect Proficiencies is not location specific and cannot fail due to inactive Constructural Elements.

Note that due to relative activation costs, the placement of new Proficiencies will occur before activation of the Census or Taxation Power in the normal Power Activations processing sequence (see Clockwork Universe, 3 The Streams of Time, p. 90, *supra*). Lower cost activations are processed first. The cost of proficiencies is consummate with the size of the position; a position with 1000 total population would be a fairly large position in GGDM (perhaps 5 or 6 large industrialized colonies, and a dozen smaller colonies), for whom the cost of 10 RPs per Proficiency should still be nominal, considering their industrial output.

Like Aspects, if two Proficiencies per activation prove insufficient for game play, the Concierge could find in-game ways to increase the number of Proficiencies placed per Culture Power activation. For example, maybe one extra Proficiency might be allowed if all Government Titles are currently undisrupted and all Colleges are Endowed; or maybe one more if one additional Act is

added to the cost of the Culture Power Activation. But in both cases – Aspects and Proficiencies – *great care should be exercised* in altering the rules set forth here, try it with the rules first!

- **Proficient Pieces:** Proficiencies are similar to Aspects except that they have numbers on them, rather than letters, and the numbers, ranging from 1 to 20, reflect the Proficiencies listed below. Proficiencies never ‘age’ like Aspects and can remain in the Public Spaces indefinitely; they do not have light or dark sides. However, as noted in The Sidereal Stage sections, the cycling of pieces in the Public Spaces is important, and as such, positions probably don’t want Proficiency Pieces to remain for a long time. Proficiency Pieces may be removed by the ‘actualization’ of Fuzzy Groups and some may be lost by Census Power activation.
 - ✓ Dr. Li Wanliang of China who first warned of the coronavirus was arrested with seven other ‘whistleblowers’ for spreading rumors. He died of the virus in February 2020, amid an outpouring of frustration at the government. China has the *medical proficiency* to recognize a potential pandemic, something that is very important to a country so huge, but *political expediency* trumps truth – there is no inoculation against political expediency on either side of this wobbly sphere. This is the danger to any proficiency in GGDM terms or in the real world, e.g., engineers who warned of bridge or pedestrian walkway collapse who were ignored or the 1960 Nedelin Catastrophe.
- **And the Cradle Will Rock:** Each time the *Census Power* is activated there is a 30% chance that each Proficiency will be eliminated from the Public Space due to turnover of generations.
 - ✓ Each time a Government Title becomes *disrupted or changes*, there is a 20% chance that each Proficiency on the Public Space will be eliminated.
 - ✓ Proficiencies *that are no longer adjacent to another piece* on the Public Space **are also lost** (i.e. ripple effect, thus the placement of Proficiency Pieces is important). Research, Census, activation of Fuzzy Groups, removal of stars and planets from the Public Space, and the order in which Power Activations are processed can lead to Proficiencies losses, destroying Fuzzy Groups and destabilizing governments.²

Positions should take care in the placement of Proficiencies on the Public Space, for example, the removal of a Research Group or a star at which the position has only a ship, from the Public Space could cause the loss of Proficiencies left isolated on the Public Space. Care should also be taken in the spacing of events, though the losses may be small, activation of the Census Power in conjunction with a Writ, during a time when a Government Title becomes disrupted or changes – can leave many open Monads on the Public Space!

Loss of Aspects from aging each turn and actualization of Fuzzy Groups, loss of Proficiencies from activation of the Census Power, Government Title disruption effects, and other causes, along with various effects caused by ongoing exploration and caused by entropy effects and the actions of other players (really the same thing), are the mechanics that insure healthy turnover on the Public Space.

- ✓ The title of this section is the title of a 1980 song by Van Halen, “And the Cradle Will Rock” which is probably not related to the 1937 musical, *Cradle Will Rock*, which was the subject of a 1999 historical docudrama of the same name. The question with this song and many other Van Halen songs is, was he celebrating and promoting a type of juvenile delinquency that is not good for our society in the long term – which

is certainly what their fans (i.e. juveniles) and critics assumed in the 1970s and 1980s – or was Van Halen simply writing and singing about an ongoing observable phenomenon – an Aspect – of their times?

“What I find so striking today is not that people dismiss expertise, but that they do so with such frequency, on so many issues, and with such anger,” [Tom] Nichols laments. ‘It may be that attacks on expertise are more obvious due to the ubiquity of the Internet, the undisciplined nature of conversation on social media, or the demands of the twenty-four-hour news cycle. But there is a self-righteousness and fury to this new rejection of expertise that suggest, at least to me, that this isn’t just mistrust or questioning or the pursuit of alternatives: it is narcissism, coupled to a disdain for expertise as some sort of exercise in self-actualization.’”

– Tom Nichols (U.S. Naval War College) as quoted in the Washington Times, July 24, 2017 ³

Proficiencies: Proficiencies represent the systems, organizations, ways, techniques, traditions by which society handles the day-to-day, person to person problems and needs of civilization. For example, keeping order, distributing food and resources, caring for the young, education, assistance, etc. are developed proficiencies. The group of proficiencies is large and interrelated, and in this game is grouped into twenty areas of proficiency, as follows:

Communication Proficiency	Nationhood Proficiency
Customs Proficiency	Police Proficiency
Education Proficiency	Powers Proficiency
Engineering Proficiency	Resources Proficiency
Equity Proficiency	Regeneration Proficiency
Expression Proficiency	Rhetoric Proficiency
Finance Proficiency	Security Proficiency
Integrity Proficiency	Spirit Proficiency
Intelligentsia Proficiency	Urbanization Proficiency
Medical Proficiency	Will Proficiency

Proficiencies are both the bodily functions and life skills of civilization. Many functions of civilization, such as obtaining and processing resources and waste elimination are analogous to bodily functions. Alternatively, think of these as the ‘life skills’ of civilization, while the number of ‘life skills’ we must master to get along in our culture is large – while it takes at least 12 to 15 years – the actual list of ‘tasks’ you must regularly and reliably perform on a daily basis to live in our world – getting and preparing food, feeding yourself, sleeping, communicating, obtaining money – is fairly limited, finite, even if complex and challenging. Development of marketable skills, intelligence, education, and mature ambition takes another ten years.

- ✓ There is *no prohibition* on Aspects having names identical or similar to Proficiencies; they are different functions with Aspects representing a heightened consciousness.

The proficiencies used in this game reflect modernity; other current societies and historical periods may be ‘missing’ some or many of these proficiencies, or more likely, just have a different view of the matter. Like Constructural Elements, the pie could have been sliced many ways, I

chose twenty Proficiencies for the game (and four Constructural Elements); there could have been more or less, or different groupings. Participants may invent new, modify existing, add or subtract Proficiencies to fit their three-eyed alien sophonts. Proficiencies are only objective in the sense that results matter – does the group get done what needs to be done, does the group have the material and resources it needs to carry on? To meet forward expectations?

- ✓ Cultural Proficiencies were probably inspired by discussion of bureaucratic agency proficiency ratings in Dr. Slesinger’s Law & Economics class in 1997.

“...whereas in all other arts that is most excellent which is farthest removed from the understanding and mental capacity of the untrained, in oratory the very cardinal sin is to depart from the language of everyday life, and the usage approved by the sense of the community”

– Marcus Tullius Cicero, *Of Oratory* (55 B.C.), Bk. 1 (trans. E. W. Sutton and H. Rackham) from Patricia Bizzell and Bruce Herzberg, *The Rhetorical Tradition* (1990), p. 201

Communication Proficiency: The systems for transmission, preservation, and transfer of knowledge, directives, culture and news. This is more than just sending orders.

One of the proudest achievements of developing nations is the development of national cinema in their native language as a cultural affirmation – in the same way that in much of the world, translation of the Bible into the local language was an affirmation of unique cultural and linguistic identity (e.g., the Bible was translated into Afrikaans in the early 20th Century). This is so important that the leader-in-waiting of North Korea, Kim Jong-il, in 1978 kidnapped a South Korean film director and leading lady (Shin Sang-ok and Choi Eun-hee) in a bizarre attempt to found a North Korean national cinema, while in 2001 Sudan’s military junta destroyed the country’s budding national cinema – a military sociopolitical scorched Earth against their own nation – because they couldn’t fully control its progenitor, octogenarian Gadalla Gubara – if we cannot control it then we must destroy it!

- ✓ “It was too good to be true, though. In retrospect, the coup was the beginning of the end. In 1989 an army lieutenant named Omar Al Bashir ousted Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi, a relative of Gubara. Many of Sudan’s creative class left the country, but Gubara had too much invested. He kept working on films, even as he found himself under political pressure. The government assigned him a producer to work with – a cousin of Bashir. It went predictably badly. (The rights to Gubara’s 1998 film *Barakat el Cheikh* are now owned by the cousin.) The political climate disintegrated, with fighting and famine, the resumption of the civil war, and the rise of the Islamic parties. [His film studio was seized by the government] ... When he fought the order, they put him in jail. His studio was turned into an army barracks. His children led a campaign for his release, but when he came out he was a broken man. It wasn’t just the blindness – it was the powerlessness. He had spent his whole life making film, building the studio, and now it had been taken from him. ... It was Sara, his youngest daughter, who got him out of jail and eventually won the studio back, or part of it.” – Nadja Kornith, “The Omega Man – Gadalla Gubara and the half-life of Sudanese cinema,” Bidoun (bidoun.org), Issue 20, Spring 2010.

When Americans and to some larger but lesser extent, Westerners, watch films about dystopian futures, we do so with a detached, dismissive, incredulous air of fiction, improbability, it will never happen in my lifetime. In dystopian films featuring authoritarian and fascist governments, censorship is (dear as the issue is to the heart of cinema) first in line of evidence of evils afoot in such films. But here it is in black and white – Sudan in the 1990s, the government first tried to intimidate and co-op the only film studio – the sole representative of Sudanese national cinema – into government political messaging and then finally shut it down and turned the studio into an army barracks when it became too troublesome. Nothing could be more symbolic of oppressive military rule than turning the country’s only film studio into an army barracks, the message had been writ large for all to see.

“True civilization consists precisely of conventions, rituals, and modes of oblique communication whereby the chaos within and the void without may be expressed and contained within the harmonious consensus of shared social objectivity, thus maintaining our bubble of crafted reality, the necessary illusion.”

– Norman Spinrad, The Void Captain’s Tale (1982)

Customs Proficiency: The non-statutory rules of social behavior, etiquette, mores, protocols, and taboos, thought policing.

- ✓ “[Count] Hoyos did not look any closer, but rushed to the station and took a special train to Vienna. He hurried to the Emperor’s Adjutant General, Count Paar, and requested him to break the shocking news to the Emperor. *The stifling protocol that characterized every movement in the Hofburg swung ponderously into action.* Paar remonstrated that only the Empress could break such catastrophic news to the Emperor. Baron Nopcsa, Controller of the Empress’ Household, was summoned. He, in turn, sent for Countess Ida Ferenczy, Empress Elisabeth’s favorite Hungarian lady-in-waiting, to determine how Her Majesty should be informed.

[Empress] Elisabeth was at her Greek lesson and was impatient at the interruption. White to the lips, Ferenczy announced that Baron Nopcsa had urgent news. Elisabeth replied that he must wait and come back later. The countess insisted that he must be received immediately, finally being forced to add that there was grave news about the Crown Prince.... The countess entered the room again to find Elisabeth distraught and weeping uncontrollably. The Emperor appeared outside her apartments and was forced to wait there with Nopcsa, who was controlling himself only with great effort. The Empress broke the news to her husband in private; he left the room a broken man.” – from Wikipedia article, “Mayerling Incident,” captured January 17, 2020.

There was a protracted and hotly contested battle in Allegheny County over property taxes and assessments. The battle was legal, political and played out in the local evening news, and resulted in multiple reassessments and rollbacks to previous assessments. On a local news station’s website, I watched a video in shock and bemusement as a local reporter – in violation of longstanding custom – with a news camera and microphone, accosted the long-serving Honorable Stanton R. Wettick as he was leaving his chambers, and tried to ask him a question about his recent ruling on the legal matter. I smiled when Judge Wettick gave the perfect answer: He said simply, “Read my opinion,” and walked away, leaving the reporter standing looking foolish.

For another example, see the article, “The Weaponization of Awkwardness” by Megan Garber, published in *The Atlantic* on December 15, 2017, relating social conditioning and social custom – to avoid the awkward conversation or awkward silence, to avoid making a scene, to sexual harassment and sexual assault of women in the workplace, and even casual consensual sex.

- ✓ “When Harvey Weinstein told Ambra Battilana Gutierrez, ‘Honey, don’t have a fight with me in the hallway,’ he was attempting to turn centuries’ worth of cultural conditioning – gendered conditioning – against her. He was weaponizing the mandate against scene-making, against disruption, against unruliness. He was grossly blatant about it; often, though, the pitfalls of awkwardness, as a negative imperative, reveal themselves more subtly.” *Id.*
- ✓ “*No one knew what to say.* It’s one of the simplest and most widespread mechanisms that helps open secrets to stay secret for so long: the impulse to avoid making scenes, to avoid making things weird. Women bear the brunt of these forces; men, of course, experience them, too. ... Awkwardness became a cyclical force, weaponized not through malice, but through the convenient delusions of benign neglect.” *Id.*, emphasis in original.

Awkwardness is generally considered juvenile and comic, it is often the main feature of ‘puppy love’ movie scenes.

“But hasn’t this increased investment in higher education brought at least equivalent, if not greater, returns? While the returns on investment in education are difficult to assess, most people would assume that the answer to that question must be yes. But there are ways of looking at the matter that suggest that this investment has not brought greater marginal returns. With increasing time spent in education and greater specialization, the learning that occurs yields decreased general benefits for greater costs.

The greatest quantities of learning are accomplished in infancy; learning that occurs earlier in life tends to be more generalized. Later, specialized learning is dependent upon this earlier, generalized knowledge, so that the benefits of generalized learning include all derivative specialized knowledge. Axiomatically, therefore, generalized learning is of overall greater value than specialized.”

– Joseph Tainter, *The Collapse of Complex Societies* (1988), pp. 103-104

Education Proficiency: The process and systems by which new generations are educated, indoctrinated and accredited.

- ✓ “A developmental task is a task which is learned at a specific point and which makes achievement of succeeding tasks possible. When the timing is right, the ability to learn a particular task will be possible.” – Robert James Havighurst, *Human Development and Education* (1952).

Every step, every section read, of GGDM is a developmental task, so it was for me as the designer as well.

What does it say of a culture when – by virtue of wanting to know, eagerly learning, and trying to understand – one becomes alienated from the general masses of humanity? This was my youth.

- ✓ “Cinema in local languages was regarded as the best way to reach the mostly illiterate population. ... He produced educational films about the tsetse fly, about black magic. The key words were education, enlightenment, and progress, and the medium was part of the message. Gubara always maintained that nothing was more important than cinema. It was more important than building bridges and hospitals, even, because it could teach people to be self-sufficient, to take care of themselves.” – Nadja Kornith in “The Omega Man – Gadalla Gubara and the half-life of Sudanese cinema,” Bidoun (bidoun.org), Issue 20, Spring 2010.
- ✓ “When we arrived at the village, people gathered to greet Gubara. They all remembered cinema vans. One man said he didn’t miss them, now that everyone has television. Gubara, who had lain down on a daybed under a tree, laughed. Another man, more of a cinephile, said that ‘TV is a small place, where people are alone. Cinema was a big place where everybody came together.’” *Id.*

The slow global spread of literacy over the last five centuries has had a profound effect on the course of human civilization (see excerpt The Print Revolution, Writs, *infra*). Mandatory literacy is the bedrock of Western technical and industrial civilization. Soviet and Western military trainers sent to other countries, have often encountered issues with illiteracy, sometimes willful (e.g., Soviet advisors and trainers in Egypt), among the local troops. Failure or decline of largescale literacy would lead to the collapse of Western civilization. The effects cannot be overstated. Imagine going to the grocery store now and not being able to read? GGDM must assume general and widespread literacy among the populations of the Major Races in the game.

I met a man once, in his late 50s, who was illiterate. I was 15 years old at the time, and a bit taken aback, because I had never met an illiterate adult before. It’s not that I had never heard of illiteracy, it’s just that I had not encountered it before – because of public schooling. My maternal grandmother finished 8th grade, my mother was the first in the family to graduate high school and start college; I was the first in the family to graduate from college. Because of my profession, education level, and where and the time in which I live, I probably have not encountered anyone else who was actually illiterate (other than *functional illiteracy* from being an immigrant). I did know a Gunnery Sergeant in the Marine Corps who had difficulty reading, he visibly struggled to work out the words as he was reading a note that had been delivered from headquarters, he may well have been dyslexic instead of having low literacy.

“The ideal engineer is a composite ... He is not a scientist, he is not a mathematician, he is not a sociologist or a writer; but he may use the knowledge and techniques of any or all of these disciplines in solving engineering problems.”

– Nathan W. Dougherty, American civil engineer

Engineering Proficiency: The application of technology to the construction of the things of a society.

- ✓ “At least the king did not deceive himself as to the identity of the victor at Maestricht. He realized that the success had been made possible by an engineering officer, Sebastian le Prestre de Vauban, who knew more about the related sciences of siege-craft and fortification than any other man on the Continent.... Maurice and Gustavus had

broken the ice of tradition, but Vauban organized the first engineering corps of uniformed soldiers whose operations were combined with those of other arms.... His capture of Maestricht, a fortress dominating vital inland waterways, served France better at the time than if he had won a victory in the field. A few months later he took Trier after another brief siege, thus gaining control of the river Moselle for the supply of Turenne's forces in Germany. The following year Vauban directed the one defense in which he ever took part, the successful resistance of Oudenarde." – Lynn Montross, *War Through the Ages* (3rd Ed., 1960), pp. 338-339.

- Maurice of Nassau (the "Maurice" mentioned above) was Turenne's uncle; Vauban and Turenne were famous Marshals of France under Louis XIV.

"It's a little hard not to be an elitist when you're making millions of dollars a year." – Walter Cronkite

Equity Proficiency: The sense of fairness and impartiality in a society and the systems and authority for enforcing such as well as ownership of civilization and enforcement of ownership rights and *responsibilities*.

'Equity' in English refers to both the quality of fairness and impartiality and ownership interest, to wit, Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *equity*: **1a:** justice according to natural law or right, **2a:** the money value of a property or of an interest in a property in excess of claims or liens against it, **3a:** a system of law originating in the English chancery and comprising a settled and formal body of legal and procedural rules and doctrines that supplement, aid, or override common and statute law and are designed to protect rights and enforce duties fixed by substantive law.

This duality is essential to understanding the Equity Proficiency in GGDM (and of English Common Law), the one word covers a lot of ground with two distantly related ideas attached, a complex dance. We all have equity in civilization; inequity is usually cited as the world's top socio-economic political problem. Although one aspect of equity is fairness and impartiality, it is not the same as equality, as pointed out by The Education Trust.

- ✓ "There is a common misconception that equity and equality mean the same thing – and that they can be used interchangeably, especially when talking about education. But the truth is they do not – and cannot. Yes, the two words are similar, but the difference between them is crucial. So please, don't talk about equality when you really mean equity. What's the difference? Should per student funding at every school be exactly the same? That's a question of equality. But should students who come from less get more in order to ensure that they can catch up? That's a question of equity." – Blair Mann, "Equity and Equality Are Not Equal," The Education Trust, March 12, 2014.

In this definition, equality is the same resources for everyone, whereas equity is the same results for everyone. Equity and equality are not the same also because equality does not imply ownership rights, but rather, other sorts of rights. Shall we dance?

Do you think you should be wealthy or at least well-off because you are a medical doctor? On what basis can anyone claim a greater right to the material wealth, real estate and services of our

civilization? We seem to have gotten things backwards. Yet this is true of famous athletes, performers, celebrities, artists, writers, producers and directors, and high-end professionals such as engineers, lawyers, accountants, designers, architects, professors, researchers, finance, entrepreneurs, publishers, promoters, and business people.

The one factor that ties all of this together is the idea that elitism is rewarded richly, the rationale that everyone should be able to earn whatever they are worth in the marketplace, that not everyone can be a doctor, engineer, big business executive, publisher, successful writer, etc.; that the love of knowledge, love of art, love of the profession, love of people, our civilization, your legacy, is not a sufficiently constant motivator to draw the ‘right’ people into professions or endeavors in which they will excel. This is true, but sad. Then you die. All are equal in death, death is both equity and equality.

“Glasnost is a tortoise crawling towards Freedom of Speech”

– Alexei Simonov, President of the Glasnost Defense Foundation

Expression Proficiency: The collective means and classifications for expression of ideas and emotions (in human civilizations at least), and the sense of such, music, creativity, poetry, the outlet, the social safety valve.

- ✓ “According to Professor Nicholas Conard of Tübingen University, this suggests that the playing of music was common as far back as 40,000 years ago when modern humans spread across Europe. ‘It’s becoming increasingly clear that music was part of day-to-day life,’ he said. ‘Music was used in many kinds of social contexts: possibly religious, possibly recreational – much like we use music today in many kinds of settings.’ The researchers also suggest that not only was music widespread much earlier than previously thought, but so was humanity’s creative spirit. ‘The modern humans that came into our area already had a whole range of symbolic artifacts, figurative art, depictions of mythological creatures, many kinds of personal ornaments and also a well-developed musical tradition,’ Professor Conard explained.

The team argues that the *emergence* of art and culture so early might explain why early modern humans survived and Neanderthals, with whom they co-existed at the time, became extinct. ‘Music could have contributed to the maintenance of larger social networks, and thereby perhaps have helped facilitate the demographic and territorial expansion of modern humans relative to a culturally more conservative and demographically more isolated Neanderthal populations,’ they wrote.” – Pallab Ghosh, “‘Oldest musical instrument’ found,” BBC News, June 25, 2009 (emphasis added).

Appreciate what the invention of the electric guitar represents. The generation that was immersed in “guitar rock,” “heavy metal,” “hard rock” didn’t see the big picture, and for the generations after, whose music is not electric-guitar centric, the electric guitar is an old instrument already mastered by a bunch of old guys. The world had never had an instrument like the electric guitar, capable of expression in new ways with modern emotion, it was the perfect musical instrument for the late 20th Century in the West, mastered in less than a generation by the greatest players, and combined with modern speakers and other electronic instruments, put the raw emotional power of an orchestra in the hands of a small band. It was an individual instrument like no other that had come before, perhaps once in a millennial event.⁴ Just add lyrics.⁵

- ✓ See also Meeri Kim, “Newborn babies in study recognized music played to them while in the womb,” Washington Post, November 2, 2013, and Jenn Savege, “Babies recognize music heard in the womb,” Mother Nature News, November 4, 2013.

“One of the funny things about the stock market is that every time one person buys, another sells, and both think they are astute.” – William Feather

Finance Proficiency: The systems by which largescale economic power flows, is transferred, and directed. The systems of stored value, capitalization, ownership equity, managerial control of finances.

- ✓ “Despite his founding role, however, Gubara was always something of an outsider within the almost exclusively Francophone federation. He viewed France’s role in supporting, educating, and bankrolling nearly his entire cohort of African filmmakers with deep suspicion. But filmmakers in Anglophone African countries had no support from hardly any films in those countries, period. Eighty percent of African cinema is in French. ... Ironically, perhaps, he applied for funding from the French government. ‘Any producer who loves his work and understands the game will figure out a way to finance his films,’ he explained to me. ‘From my experience the human being is very strong. If you want to achieve something, you can do it. Provided you’re patient.’ The French agreed to provide the 35mm raw stock. The Iranian ambassador offered to have it processed and printed in Tehran. The rest came from Gubara’s savings, plus money from friends and family.” – Nadja Kornith (quoting Gadalla Gubara), “The Omega Man – Gadalla Gubara and the half-life of Sudanese cinema,” Bidoun (bidoun.org), Issue 20, Spring 2010.

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.”

– Theodore Roosevelt, “Sedition, Free Press, and Personal Rule” (1918)

Integrity Proficiency: The sanctity of the system, the measure of honesty and true purpose, lack of corruption. Integrity is also part of the boundary control of civilization, e.g., making sure the police, politicians are separated from the criminals.

- ✓ “They can be more concerned about their election, or their legacies. And I would argue to many of them: your legacy is more important than the next election.” – Charlie Dent, as quoted by Kate Sullivan, “House GOP members are ‘absolutely disgusted and exhausted’ by Trump’s behavior, former GOP congressman says,” CNN, November 29, 2019.

Law Professor Marjorie Cohn (Professor Emeritus, Thomas Jefferson School of Law) published an article in the HuffPost on November 27, 2017, titled, “The Duty to Disobey a Nuclear Launch Order.” The title of the article alone is enough to determine the intent of the article and the intended audience or effect of the article – despite the Congressional War Powers argument tacked on the end.

- ✓ 18 U.S. Code § 2387 states, “Whoever, with the intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of the military or naval forces of the United States ... (1) advises, counsels, urges, or in any manner causes or attempts to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States ... Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both...”

In most parts of the world, Professor Cohn’s article would be called seditious, in many parts of the world, it would not be published. But enshrined in the Constitution of the United States and embedded variously in the laws of most nations of the world (and honored to a greater or lesser extent on whim and circumstance) is the concession that the press is *either* an agency of the government, *or* must be free to speak, even in a seditious manner. This is a choice that each society makes and lives by. Thus where Freedom of the Press, and of Speech, are enshrined in positive law and custom and honored, they shield against governments and officials using threats of sedition to silence anti-government opinions and investigations seeking to expose corruption, influence peddling, fraud and incompetence. When they are not, we know the results already (see also George Orwell, “Freedom in the Park” quote, p. 395, *ut infra*).

- ✓ “The country is rich in oil and diamonds but hobbled by corruption, with grinding poverty, widespread illiteracy and a high infant mortality rate. ... Ms. dos Santos, estimated to be worth over \$2 billion, claims she is a self-made woman who never benefited from state funds. But a different picture has emerged under media scrutiny in recent years: She took a cut of Angola’s wealth, often through decrees signed by her father. She acquired stakes in the country’s diamond exports, its dominant mobile phone company, two of its banks and its biggest cement maker, and partnered with the state oil giant to buy into Portugal’s largest petroleum company.” – Michael Forsythe, Kyra Gurney, Scilla Alecci and Ben Hallman, “How U.S. Firms Helped Africa’s Richest Woman Exploit Her Country’s Wealth,” New York Times, January 19, 2020.

“In 1968 the Viet Cong captured the South Vietnamese city of Hue. After murdering over 5000 of the city’s intelligentsia, the Viet Cong fought US Army and Marine forces for weeks in one of the costliest battles (for US forces) of the Vietnam War.”

– Franklin D. Miles, [Asymmetric Warfare: A Historical Perspective](#) (1999), U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania (available free online)

Intelligentsia Proficiency: The academia and intellectual of society as a class, the intellectuals of each class, and the media systems that give them influence.⁶

- ✓ Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *intelligentsia*: intellectuals who form an artistic, social, or political vanguard or elite. Intelligentsia is a term most associated with socialist, communist, Marxist thought, but is intended here to represent more generally, the collective intellectual and deep thinking of civilization.

Two views of intelligentsia from Wikipedia article, “Intellectuals,” captured October 17, 2018:

- ✓ “Addressing their role as a social class, Jean-Paul Sartre said that intellectuals are the moral conscience of their age; that their moral and ethical responsibilities are to observe the sociopolitical moment, and to freely speak to their society, in accordance with their consciences.” *Id.*
- ✓ “In Marxist philosophy, the social class function of the intellectuals (the intelligentsia) is to be the source of progressive ideas for the transformation of society; to provide advice and counsel to the political leaders; to interpret the country’s politics to the mass of the population (urban workers and peasants); and, as required, to provide leaders from within their own ranks. The Italian Communist theoretician Antonio Gramsci (1891–1937) developed Karl Marx’s conception of the intelligentsia to include political leadership in the public sphere. That, because ‘all knowledge is existentially-based,’ the intellectuals, who create and preserve knowledge, are ‘spokesmen for different social groups, and articulate particular social interests.’ That intellectuals occur in each social class and throughout the right wing, the centre, and the left wing of the political spectrum. That, as a social class, the ‘intellectuals view themselves as autonomous from the ruling class’ of their society. That, in the course of class struggle meant to achieve political power, every social class requires a native intelligentsia who shape the ideology (worldview) particular to the social class from which they originated.” *Id.*

The massacre at Hué during the North Vietnamese occupation in early 1968 is believed or has been considered to have targeted faculty, staff, and students at Hué University as ‘reactionary elements’ with the intent of destroying the intelligentsia of South Vietnam who opposed the communist. Orders and documents, severe procedures and eye-witness accounts decisively place the Massacre at Hué as a preplanned pogrom to do as much damage as possible to Hué in a short period of time. Thus, when a side in an armed conflict considers it an existential, sociocultural conflict, they may deliberately target the opposing intelligentsia. The South Vietnamese engaged in reprisal killings afterward, and artillery, air-strikes and fighting destroyed or damaged 80% of the city.

Eli: *You know what’s the good thing about no soap?, you can smell a hijacker from a mile away.*

[The hijackers come out of hiding]

Hijack Leader: *I am impressed!, this man can smell us from thirty feet away, now what’s that say about our hygiene! – The Book of Eli (2010)*

Medical Proficiency: The health care systems, including the technology, tradition, and required empathy, alongside social customs such as levels of hygiene, hair, clothing, foods, exercise.

- ✓ “It is clear that we cannot distinguish the sane from the insane in psychiatric hospitals.” – David L. Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places,” *Science*, Vol. 179 (Jan. 1973), pp. 250-258.

Rosenhan’s pseudo-patient experiments forever exposed the psychiatric health industry. The industry remains to this day, standing there, hoping that people will forget Rosenhan, stop sending new pseudo-patients, and not notice that psychiatry’s pants have remained down around their

ankles for the last 45 years. It has been repeated much recently that once credibility is lost, it is almost impossible to retrieve, and this goes in law, politics, for professionals or amateurs, and in mental health care. While some procedures were changed as a result of Rosenhan, psychiatry as a whole has made dubious progress in their chosen field. I highly recommend reading the Rosenhan article, which I found available on the internet for free (Wayback Machine),⁷ and Richard J. Castillo's companion to the DSM IV, Culture & Mental Illness (1997).

Note that mental health is included under the medical proficiency solely because of two factors:

- 1) That medicine was secularized by the Pope in the 14th century, and
- 2) Mental health became a field of medical study and treatment in the late Victorian Era (Sigmund Freud was a medical doctor).

Without either of these developments, which placed mental states of humanity within the epistemological realm of medicine in modernity, mental states might well have been included under the Rhetoric or Spirit (or some other) Proficiency or it might have required a separate proficiency perhaps called Life, Humanity, or Human Conditions. Aliens may not share our current worldview.

- ✓ If I had been born a century earlier, I would have been a blip in the infant mortality rate. I nearly was anyway, but mid-20th Century doctors figured out what was wrong and knew how to fix it. I have the scar. Although this work is unlikely to be of any importance, the reduction of the infant mortality rates worldwide (one of the most important goals of medicine and nutrition) – it stands to reason – had an incalculable, autocatalytic (or virtuous cycle) effect on human global civilization and is one of the contributing causes of the dizzying sense of acceleration of culture, history, development and technology in the last centuries.

“A nation is a society united by a delusion about its ancestry and by a common hatred of its neighbours”

– Dean William Ralph Inge, The End of an Age: and other essays (1948), p. 127

Nationhood Proficiency: Nationalism, the sense of the homogeneous group, a people, not just the state, the unified sense of the sovereign and ethnicity.

- ✓ “In the late 20th century, many social scientists argued that there were two types of nations, the civic nation of which France was the principal example and the ethnic nation exemplified by the German peoples. The German tradition was conceptualized as originating with early 19th-century philosophers, like Johann Gottlieb Fichte, and referred to people sharing a common language, religion, culture, history, and ethnic origins, that differentiate them from people of other nations. On the other hand, the civic nation was traced to the French Revolution and ideas deriving from 18th-century French philosophers. It was understood as being centered in a willingness to ‘live together,’ this producing a nation that results from an act of affirmation. ...

Present day analysis tend to be based in sociohistorical studies about the building of national identity sentiments, trying to identify the individual and collective mechanisms, either conscient or non-conscient, intended or unintended. According to some

of these studies, it seems that the State often plays a significant role, and communications, particularly of economic content, also have a high significance.” – from Wikipedia article, “Nation,” captured November 1, 2018.

Nationhood in GGDM’s interstellar setting is a peculiar thing for participants to explore. It is most like an oceanic nation consisting of widely separated, small islands. It should not be considered to be like a current nation on Earth. But on a certain level, based on human experience, we can assume that all cultures have similar or identical professions, parts, ideas, etc., that there will be identifiable cultural similarities between any two cultures, just as there are differences.

- ✓ Do you imagine that Japan or India doesn’t have professional movie critics? If there is something called art in a society, there are critics. And if a society has technology for making movies, and a concept of art, there are movie critics. But the audience of a critic is limited to those who speak the language of the movie. It is unlikely that the Sentinelese have movie critics, but I am sure they have at least a critic of something.
- ✓ See further Spheres in Six Degrees, 3 Commerce, p. 1220, *infra*.

What I think gets lost in the recounting of WWII is the amazing speed with which the Nazi dream came to a terrible end. It didn’t last a generation; nay, just 5½ years after the invasion of Poland, Germany was in shambles and completely occupied. The allies already had a blue print: The defeat of Napoleon in 1813. The addition of technology, modern arms, existential crisis and national will remade the world into a new norm.⁸

- ✓ “There could be no question on August 6, 1945 that a similar turning point had been reached. For the explosion at Hiroshima gave every indication of being powerful enough to batter down the walls of nationalism – the feudalism of the nineteenth century. Frontiers and fortified belts had already been made anachronisms by twentieth-century bombing planes, and the other barriers could not long stand up against atomic energy. Any doubts on that score were dispelled by announcements that the effectiveness of the new weapon was matched by its economy.” – Lynn Montross, War Through the Ages, (2nd Ed. (1946)), p. 951.
 - See EN 9, pp. 402-403, *ut infra*, for full quote.

“This is a good precedent; not because I want to extol the virtues of hanging people to death. Those of us trying to live our lives with rationality and belief in human rights and liberty know that hangings by the state are not a solution. However, we also know that for the moment, this is the punishment for the crime of murder and it would have set a very disastrous precedent if the man had not been punished for his crime.”

– Saima Baig, nation.com.pk, Karachi, Pakistan, February 29, 2016

Police Proficiency: The monopolistic force that keeps order and physically enforces the criminal laws and public policy.

- ✓ Ms. Baig perfectly summarizes the quandary of policing and punishment.

More pointedly, Max Weber’s “monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force” or “monopoly on violence.” A state is any “...community that successfully claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory.” This is the line of struggle, between public perception and tolerance and the police officer’s authority to apply physical violence and give orders to citizens. The ubiquitous presence of video and social media has upset the *status quo* with regard to police actions.

Under what circumstances is the use of force by individuals in our society legitimate? The list is short; self-defense and defense of others in extreme circumstances and, Constitutionally, citizen’s arrest, in *very limited* circumstances. Both of these are merely admissions that the police cannot be everywhere all the time (while ignorance is ubiquitous), and that, given the choice, an exception will be made to prevent serious injury or death.

A significant percentage of the prison population in any country are actual criminals who have committed acts that would be crimes in any country, they are murders, thieves, rapists, kidnapers in all variations, and smugglers and dealers in contraband. When certain regimes are criticized by the media for imprisoning people for their political or religious views, it seems that all prisoners in that country must be political prisoners whose rights are being violated. It took the spurious, *sua sponte* emptying of prisons by the leader of Iraq to remind the world that even in countries with political and religious prisoners, broken judicial and law enforcement systems, a significant part of the prison population are still actual criminals in any place and time.

- ✓ “A thing I would like to know – it is a thing we hear very little about – is what changes are made in the administrative personnel when there has been a change of government. Does a police officer who has a vague notion that ‘Socialism’ means something against the law carry on just the same when the government itself is Socialist? When a Labour government takes over, I wonder what happens to Scotland Yard Special Branch? To Military Intelligence? We are not told, but such symptoms as there are do not suggest that any very extensive shuffling is going on.” – George Orwell, “Freedom of the Park,” Tribune (London, UK), December 7, 1945.

Rhetorical Question: Are people who commit crimes animals before they go to prison or does sending them to prison make them into animals, as Tom Zarek in Battlestar Galactica claimed in “Bastille Day”? Or is this a false dichotomy? Is there a more central question to the entire issue of crime and punishment?

- ✓ Fascinating reading in the sociopolitical evolution and history of modern policing and organized crime are the intertwined stories of Jack Sheppard, Jonathan Wild, and Joseph Blake in early 18th Century London; Wild is the archetypal modern kingpin.

“If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn, but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.” – Deuteronomy 21:17 (ESV)

Powers Proficiency: The way in which powers of society are distributed, balanced, controlled, and transferred, understanding of the nature of political, economic, military and social power.

Succession in monarchy and nobility by primogeniture (in any of its forms and variations) is one of the worst and most disastrous ideas in history.⁹

- ✓ “Primogeniture and ultimogeniture, preference in inheritance that is given by law, custom, or usage to the eldest son and his issue (primogeniture) or to the youngest son (ultimogeniture, or junior right). In exceptional cases, primogeniture may prescribe such preferential inheritance to the line of the eldest daughter. The motivation for such a practice has usually been to keep the estate of the deceased, or some part of it, whole and intact....

The practices are most commonly used by agricultural peoples, especially those *with increasing populations but limited amounts of land*. In such cases it is often important to prevent the partitioning of land into parcels that are too small to support farming. In some cases, the designation of a sole heir has generated territorial expansion by forcing the unwilling sons to fend for themselves, a situation that has obtained at various times among Europeans and the Maori and other Polynesian peoples. In Europe, laws forbidding the partitioning of land and decreeing its devolution upon the youngest or eldest son served as a means of preserving not only the size of the property so affected but also the power and prestige of the aristocracy, which traditionally rested on land ownership. Thus, the practices sometimes governed succession to power and office rather than to tangible possessions.” – Encyclopædia Britannica Online article, “Primogeniture and ultimogeniture,” September 30, 2018 (emphasis added).

Yes, there are some arguments in favor of having immediate hereditary succession, but history over 4,000 years does not support the idea. Primogeniture was sold on a false dichotomy, either succession is determined by primogeniture or there will be civil war for the throne. But even in cases where there was secure succession by primogeniture, there was frequently war for the throne. To let the people decide was dismissed as ludicrous until the monarch or pretenders decided that they needed the people’s support to prevail, at which time they cynically appealed to the people and courted their favor. And this is where modern democracies must take care that the results of democratic governments are superior to those of monarchy and primogeniture systems. When and where they are not, or where the idea is not engrained in the population that democracy is better in the long term, governments become dictatorships, autocracies, and other forms of perversion.

“Although Ramesses III had saved Egypt from conquest, the war was so expensive it drained the Royal Treasury and the tomb builders at the village of Set Maat (modern Deir el-Medina) could not be paid. This led to the first labor strike in recorded history where the workers walked off the job and refused to return until they were fully compensated.”

– Joshua J. Mark, “Sea Peoples,” Ancient History Encyclopedia, September 2, 2009

Resources Proficiency: The ability to produce a continuing supply of new resources, store and distribute resources to those who need them, and to find new resources.

- ✓ “Well, the trigger is always that complexity increases to solve problems. Now, before the development of agriculture, people largely solved their problems by moving. They moved about the landscape in search of the resources that they needed, and they usually had a fairly well-established seasonal round where they would go to different resources in different seasons and obtain what they needed to live.... At some point toward the end of the last Ice Age, it appears that human populations were increasing and the option to move around the landscape was being lost. In other words, the landscape was becoming populated with more and more people and so people shifted to reliance more and more on agriculture. And reliance on agriculture seems to be one of the triggers that generates further increase in complexity.” – Joseph Tainter, podcast interview (transcript) on PeakProsperity.com, by Adam Taggart, June 25, 2017.
- ✓ “There are two aspects to the issue that you’ve raised. One is that sustainability requires that people have the ability and the inclination to think broadly in terms of time and space. In other words, to think broadly in a geographical sense about the world around them and the world as a whole, and the state of the world as a whole. And also, to think broadly in time in terms of the near and distant future and what resources will be available to our children and our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. One of the major problems in sustainability and in this whole question of resources and collapse *is that we did not evolve as a species to have this ability to think broadly in time and space*. Instead, our ancestors who lived as hunter-gatherers never confronted any challenges that required them to think beyond their locality and the near term. And so, our species never evolved an inclination to think broadly in time and space.” *Id.* (emphasis added).
- ✓ “The second problem ... is that technological optimists argue that we don’t really [need] to worry about resources, that all we need are free markets and the price mechanism. That as long as there are free markets that whenever resources start to become scarce, the market signals that it’s time to innovate, that there will be rewards to innovation. And so the assumption is that as a resource becomes scarce, people develop – put effort into developing a new resource or finding more efficient ways of using the existing resource or developing new technologies and so forth. This is a hard argument to counter because up until this point, the technological – excuse me – the technological optimists have been correct. We have maintained the most complex society humanity has ever known, and we have maintained it up to this point.... I have argued that technological innovation and other kinds of innovation evolve like any other aspect of complexity. The investments in research and development grow increasingly complex and reach diminishing returns.” *Id.*

The identity, origin, motive, leadership of the Sea Peoples – subject of the feature quote above – remains a mystery. They were defeated at the Battle of Nile Delta by Ramesses III in 1175 B.C. and vanished. But not before contributing significantly to the Late Bronze Age collapse in the Near East and the Palatial Culture collapse in Mycenaean Greece. They were almost the ‘historical accident’ that would destroy Egypt, and were the ‘historical accident’ that destroyed many less powerful cultures, turning their goods and population into loot to be carried off for momentary wealth, and their coastal palaces and cities to rubble. There is a story waiting to be written

by a good epic historical fiction writer, it could rival Dune. Their main contribution to history seems to be a demonstration of the full extent of naval power, though they failed in land warfare against the Egyptians.

“Once you’re a parent, you’re the ghost of your children’s future.”

– Cooper, *Interstellar* (2014)

Regeneration Proficiency: The social systems and units for insuring the propagation of the species; the future of the species (aka ‘Next Generation’ Proficiency). This should not be confused with ‘what comes naturally’ – the activation of the Census Power – but...

- ✓ “I have no patience with those who say that sexual excitement is shameful and that venereal stimuli have their origin not in nature, but in sin. Nothing is so far from the truth. As if marriage, whose function cannot be fulfilled without these incitements, did not rise above blame. In other living creatures, where do these incitements come from? From nature or from sin? From nature, of course. It must be borne in mind that in the appetites of the body there is very little difference between man and other living creatures. Finally, we defile by our imagination what of its own nature is fair and holy. If we were willing to evaluate things not according to the opinion of the crowd, but according to nature itself, how is it less repulsive to eat, chew, digest, evacuate, and sleep after the fashion of dumb animals, than to enjoy lawful and permitted carnal relations?” – Desiderius Erasmus, “In Praise of Marriage” (1519).

“There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind.” – Napoleon Bonaparte

Rhetoric Proficiency: “Rhetoric is the art of ruling the minds of men.” – Plato. The traditions and systems by which debate can occur, the public space, consensus, ruling the minds of men; the power of the spoken word over the minds of civilization.

- ✓ “Developing technologies have changed the State of the Union, beginning with its broadcast on radio in 1923 and later on television in 1947.... These technologies shifted the president’s focus from the legislature in front of him to the voting public beyond them. Heightened publicity stoked partisanship, a development emphasized in 1966 with the advent of the opposition ‘response.’ Often delivered in the form of a rebuttal, the out-party’s response allows a partisan critique of the president’s assessment of what is ‘necessary and expedient’ for the Union. Although the response could foster productive argument, in practice neither speaker nor respondent actually engages the other. The opposition speaker writes the response before the president’s speech has been delivered. The opposition party does not so much respond to the president as imagine what rejoinder the waiting audience wants to hear. While the president’s address is directed to the public over Congress’ heads, the opposition response is directed to the public over the president’s head.” – Connor M. Ewing and Charles Zug, “What happened to the State of the Union address? Originally, it helped the president and Congress deliberate.” Washington Post, January 30, 2018.

“No’ is a complete sentence.” – Anne Lamott

Security Proficiency: The systems and organizations that define, hold and enforce the internal boundaries within the system and the boundary between the system and the external universe.

The Security Proficiency can include in part, the police forces and the military, but is also capable of representing other sorts of boundaries, such as ethnic, class and social mobility boundaries. It also can represent the separation of powers within a system, and is thus related to the Powers Proficiency. It is therefore a neutral term in that sense, basically it is the traffic cop within the system for good or ill.

- ✓ “Social Entropy Theory (Bailey, 1990, 1994) views the social system as an entity that seeks to maintain internal entropy at some optimal level below maximum entropy. The role of the boundary is crucial in this task. The societal boundary must be able to open in the proper manner and at the proper time to ensure that adequate inputs of energy and information can be attained from the environment, that refuse or harmful material can be properly extruded from the system, and that needed exports of matter-energy and information can be moved across the boundary. Conversely the boundary must be able to close in the proper manner and at the proper time in order to ensure that the system remains secure from threats outside in the environment (prohibits harmful inputs), and also guards against the loss of valuable internal resources (prohibits harmful outflows). Thus, the functions of boundary maintenance are fourfold: to open in a manner that (1) ensures needed inputs and (2) ensures needed outputs, and to close in a manner that (3) prohibits harmful inputs and (4) prohibits loss of valuable matter-energy or information through harmful outputs.” – Kenneth D. Bailey, “Boundary Maintenance in Living Systems Theory and Social Entropy Theory,” *Systems Research and Behavioral Science*, Vol. 25, Is. 5, pp. 587-597, January 7, 2009.¹⁰

“We also wanted to find out what happened in terms of law, if people came to an impasse. Like sport is ritual war in a very valuable way of redirecting aggression in society. We thought wouldn’t it be great, instead of people going to war, they’d fight it out in Thunderdome. Fight to the death. It had the pageantry of, say, the Law Courts, and the pageantry of church, in a way, because of the kind of religion, a strong enough belief to be a religion, it had to have pageantry to have any meaning. It was a little bit like a circus, and a little bit like a game show – it was all those things combined. Because they’re all, in a way, the same sort of things.”

– George Miller as quoted by Anne Billson, “George Miller Talks about Mad Max, Heroes & Tina Turner: The 1985 Interview,” previously unpublished interview published on Multiglom: The Anne Billson Blog, May 12, 2015

Spirit Proficiency: Those symbols and systems that represent spirit of the civilization (not to be confused with individual spirituality), pageantry, ritual; the systems for public recognition of individual merit and celebration of important historical dates.

- ✓ “I am Aylia, I am spirit now. Good spirit.” – Clan of the Cave Bear (1986).

Use of “spirit” for a proficiency in GGDM primarily refers to *élan* in keeping with the extremely practical sense of the Proficiencies. It is not, however, simply ‘cheerleading.’ Spirit should not be confused with “spiritual,” which refers to the incorporeal, mystical, supernatural experience, but it is also practical to recognize the reality of a continuity of mysticism and desire for mystical experiences in humanity, thus, Spirit in GGDM likely will include some mysticism.

- ✓ “We all know that there is a farce to the pageantry, that the magnification of this temporary lens is skewed.” – Doreen St. Félix, “The Farce, and the Grandeur, of Black History Month Under Trump,” *The New Yorker*, February 2, 2018.

Pageantry is always a farce to someone; military parades are a farce to the pacifist, victory parades are a farce to the bitter losers, 18th century Puritan ministers complained of the secularization of Thanksgiving, that the pending evening feast was a distraction to the flock during the delivery of the Thanksgiving sermon. The thought of my high school graduation ceremony (which I did not attend) seemed a farce to me at 17. The farce of pageantry is the source of much literary satire, and snarky or ironic seasonal television commercials.¹¹

- ✓ “In 1921, U.S. President Warren G. Harding received her at the White House to present her with the 1 gram of radium collected in the United States. Before the meeting, recognising her growing fame abroad, and embarrassed by the fact that she had no French official distinctions to wear in public, the French government offered her a Legion of Honour award, but she refused.” – from Wikipedia article, “Marie Curie,” captured October 31, 2018.¹²

Posthumously, she was entombed with her husband at the Panthéon in Paris in 1995, the first female to be placed there on her own merits, followed in 2015 by two heroines of the Resistance.

“A geohistorical look at the concept of spatial justice would take up back to the Greek polis and the Aristotelian idea that being urban is the essence of being political; it would take us through the rise of liberal democracy and the Age of Revolution, and eventually center attention on the urban crises of the 1960s, with its most symptomatic and symbolic moments taking place here in Nanterre.”

– Edward Soja, “The City and Spatial Justice,” *JSSJ*, January 2009

Urbanization Proficiency: Civilization flows outward from the cities, resources flow inward from the rural areas, the systems of urban infrastructure, the sense of the city, urban agglomeration.

- ✓ “Thinking about space has changed significantly in recent years, from emphasizing flat cartographic notions of space as container or stage of human activity or merely the physical dimensions of fixed form, to an active force shaping human life. A new emphasis on specifically urban spatial causality has emerged to explore the generative effects of urban agglomerations not just on everyday behavior but on such processes as technological innovation, artistic creativity, economic development, social change as well as environmental degradation, social polarization, widening income gaps, international politics, and, more specifically, the production of justice and injustice.” – Edward Soja, “The City and Spatial Justice,” *JSSJ*, January 2009.

- See also Stellar Synekism discussion, 1 Commerce, p. 1183, *infra*.

“U.S. material and battlefield supremacy are not irrelevant to the outcome of American wars, but the outcomes in Vietnam and Somalia suggest that trying to understand war outcomes by focusing on the balance of material factors alone is deficient. The above examples argue that political will is the central variable. The aim of this book is to generate a more thorough understanding of the American national will in war.”

– Jeffery J. Kubiak, War Narratives and the American National Will in War (2014), p. 2

Will Proficiency: The authority and legitimacy for the authority to enforce and pursue public and foreign policy, political and cultural will, ‘national will.’

Discussion of ‘national will’ as *a thing onto itself* seems to have peaked in WWII and faded after Vietnam. It is often, at least in democratic countries, nearly indistinguishable from political will, since the vagaries of political winds dictate the course the country will take in domestic and foreign matters. In other countries, especially of authoritarian ideological types, national will has been equated with romantic nationalism and national mysticism.

- ✓ Oddly, there is almost no discussion of ‘national will’ in relation to NASA or any space program. All of the discussions devolve to national security, presence in space, job creation in small high tech businesses, etc. One could certainly argue that the early space race (on both sides) was driven by *national will* during the Cold War.

Perhaps the fading of ‘national will’ as a concept has some to do with the fading of nationalism as a concept, a realization of the dangers of WWII and the Cold War to humanity’s future.

- ✓ The public policy of the legal enforcement of the last will of the deceased – which has had form in every human civilization from the beginning – is not for the benefit of the deceased, but for the benefit of the living, of order and domestic tranquility of society (and it makes good literature and culturally wills meaning into death) in a peaceful succession of ownership, of generations. Some place too much importance on the wrong side of the issue.

At the bottom of it remains will, which is a thing of the living; what will we will to our children?

“Zathras good at doings, not understandings”

“Zathras used to being beast of burden for others. It is a sad life. Probably will be a sad death. But at least there is symmetry.”

– Babylon 5, “War Without End” (1996) ¹³

Endnotes.

¹ Commentary: The placement requirements for Cultural Aspect Pieces requires colonization so as to place Friendly Colonies on the Public Space, and if engaged in conquest, a ‘reward’ for progressive Naturalization of aliens. The size of the colonies is irrelevant for this purpose. A position that consists mostly of Converted Colonies (see Colony

Politics, *et seq.*, 2 Order, p. 538, *infra*) will have difficulty in the Public Space and probably will also be fragile in Galactic Space.

- ✓ The ‘sit-n’-spin’ positions (see 2 Taxation & Census, p. 309, *supra*) will probably be fairly stable in this regard if all colonization places in their home system are utilized.

² Commentary & Citation: For those familiar with the tabletop tile game Hive (2000), this is sort of a ‘one Hive’ rule on the Public Space, the pieces of a civilization’s consciousness should form an approximate cluster around the central government and Friendly/Naturalized colonies, pieces more than a couple of spaces from the colonies are ‘out on a limb’ and may be lost. On the other hand, a position cannot grow if it never goes out on a limb.

- ✓ I did not consciously emulate the Hive game, but rather, I believe these rules are a natural consequence of thinking about the structure of civilizations simulated by the game rules.

³ Citation: See full quote, The Campaign Against Expertise excerpt, Colleges, *supra*.

⁴ Citation & Commentary: “Guitar culture was pervasive, whether in movie houses (‘Karate Kid’ Ralph Macchio outdueling Steve Vai in the 1986 movie ‘Crossroads’; Michael J. Fox playing a blistering solo in ‘Back to the Future’ and co-starring with Joan Jett in 1987’s rock-band drama ‘Light of Day’) or on MTV and the older, concert films featuring the Who and Led Zeppelin on seemingly endless repeats. But there were already hints of the change to come, of the evolutions in music technology that would eventually compete with the guitar. In 1979, Tascam’s Portastudio 144 arrived on the market, allowing anybody with a microphone and a patch cord to record with multiple tracks. (Bruce Springsteen used a Portastudio for 1982’s ‘Nebraska.’) In 1981, Oberheim introduced the DMX drum machine, revolutionizing hip-hop. So instead of Hendrix or Santana, Linkin Park’s Brad Delson drew his inspiration from Run-DMC’s ‘Raising Hell,’ the crossover smash released in 1986. Delson, whose band recently landed atop the charts with an album notably light on guitar, doesn’t look at the leap from ax men to DJs as a bad thing. ... If there is a singular question in the guitar industry, it’s no different from what drives Apple. How do you get the product into a teenager’s hands? And once it’s there, how do you get them to fall in love with it?” – Geoff Edgers, “Why my guitar gently weeps. The slow, secret death of the six-string electric. And why you should care.” The Washington Post, June 22, 2017.

- ✓ According to other parts of the article, the makers of electric guitars are deeply in debt, e.g., Guitar Center is \$1.6 billion in debt, Fender and Gibson are also in debt and PRS Guitars cut staff; annual guitar sales revenue has dropped about 33% in recent years.
- ✓ Guitar Center has a series of videos of famous guitarists interviews at Guitar Center on their YouTube channel to promote playing guitar to the next generation, e.g., 50 yr. old James Hetfield from 2014.

⁵ Commentary: GGDM is something like Eric Clapton’s original “Layla” (1970), a normal song that turned into a famously long studio jam. “Layla” was Pattie Boyd, George Harrison’s wife, whom Clapton later married. Except that there is no Pattie Boyd here.

⁶ Commentary: I once read an “intellectual singles” ad from an educated young lady seeking an intellectual male, who commented, “the geekier the better.” No, I did not respond to the ad. It was probably fake filler anyway.

⁷ Citation: It is also available free and in English at <https://www.oulu.fi/sites/default/files/content/AOH%20Terveenä%20epäterveissä%20paikoissa.pdf>.

⁸ Commentary & Citation: The speed of the times is perhaps shown by the life of French police officer Pierre Bonny; in 1934 he was considered one of the top police investigators in France, despite allegations that he falsified evidence in a case 11 years earlier. By 1944, he had served three years in jail for corruption (1935-1938), founded and led the French arm of the Gestapo (the *Carlingue*) and was executed by firing squad in 1944. Hero to zero in ten years. Information from Wikipedia articles, “Pierre Bonny,” and “Carlingue,” captured November 1, 2018.

⁹ Citation: For a very good discussion of the historical origins of primogeniture, I recommend watching Ryan Reeves’ May 28, 2014 video “The Merovingians” on his YouTube Channel.

¹⁰ Citation & Commentary: Medieval Compartmentalization of Europe: “At least the Machine Age, which left so many debts to be paid by wars of the twentieth century, can point a moral for the Atomic Age. *For the basic causes of most of the strife since Waterloo may be traced to the artificial barriers raised by nationalism.* This is no new situation in history. *The same conditions, limited by means of communication, prevailed in the Middle Ages. Europe was divided into thousands of idea-tight little compartments – the fiefs ruled by ironclad lords from behind stone walls.* Traders and travelers had to pay tribute to these petty robber barons, who were not far enough advanced to have thought of tariffs, visas, cartels and customs duties. The state held only nominal authority, and the

serf had no more rights than the domestic animals which shared his miserable hut. *The consequence was stagnation tempered by chaos.*

Then came the invention of gunpowder, one of civilization's greatest blessings. Society at last had found a force powerful enough to destroy the compartments which were imprisoning progress, a force constructive enough to let light and warmth into a continent. Feudal stone walls were battered down by cannon balls, and the Renaissance ushered in a new era of nationalism suited to the communications of the age. There could be no question on August 6, 1945 that a similar turning point had been reached. For the explosion at Hiroshima gave every indication of being powerful enough to batter down the walls of nationalism – the feudalism of the nineteenth century. Frontiers and fortified belts had already been made anachronisms by twentieth-century bombing planes, and the other barriers could not long stand up against atomic energy. Any doubts on that score were dispelled by announcements that the effectiveness of the new weapon was matched by its economy. Although an enormous sum had been spent on the original research, future military costs would not be beyond the reach of small countries." – Lynn Montross, War Through the Ages, (2nd Ed. (1946)), p. 951 (emphasis added).

- ✓ Thus, the fief-estate and strict class system of the Middle Ages served as a boundary-control system for commerce, communication, ideas and movement.
- ✓ This text does not appear in the 3rd Edition published in 1960, whose end was extensively rewritten to cover the aftermath of WWII, the beginning of the Cold War and the Korean War. Assuming that Lynn Montross did not live in an intellectual vacuum, this text is valuable as an artifact of the early Atomic Age.
- ✓ The ensuing Cold War erased the optimistic idea that nationalism was finished (and thus the text was omitted from the 3rd Edition), but it is still a good commentary on historical boundary control. The erasure of post-war optimism is reflected in the last chapter added in the final 1960 Edition: "The sequel in Korea."
- ✓ It is sad that this text did not make the later edition because it contains very many interesting and colorable macro-historical ideas.
- ✓ Montross might now be called a globalist, liberal or urban intellectual elite. Despite the quick fading of post-WWII hopes for the world, in some sense, his vision has come true, beginning with the collapse of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact in 1989-1990 and the emergence of the internet. Globalism, multiculturalism, and multinationalism progressed to such a degree that it became a defining issue in the 2016 elections; the result in the U.S. and Europe have been framed by pundits as a nationalist backlash to globalization.

¹¹ Commentary: I believe that they should discontinue the halftime show at the Super Bowl. Whatever purpose it had has long been worn out, twisted, and deformed. Everything is now a controversy, everything is parsed for political statements, the simple entertainment value is gone; it is now farce, reduced to overdone art (gobbledygook), pretensions, and a nearly unrecognizable mish-mash of the performers' hits. In 2019, if not in previous years, there was controversy about the halftime show weeks *before* the Super Bowl – because it was being held in Atlanta, NFL players had knelt in protest during the National Anthem, and well ... because everyone wanted to make a statement by not showing (thanks to Channel 11, WXIA-TV Atlanta GA for the video news report) or saying something stupid, or accepting the invitation and then having to publically justify it. It is not just the pundits or the politicized climate of the country that made it so, the performers have contributed equally to the demise of the halftime show.

- ✓ The phenomenon of modern media, especially including social media, celebrity media, and politicized news networks and websites, has become like the stock market in the 1920s before the crash of Black Tuesday, 1929: Everyone is doing (in this case, saying) whatever they want because they can, but few realize that the collective effect of it is detrimental to our civilization and most have been slow to take it seriously. The social and internalized individual controls on behavior, thought, and speech (without need for government oversight, e.g., censorship) have slipped away along with respect for intelligence and education. A price will be paid before society adopts to the new technologies and finds, enforces new rules of behavior.

¹² Citation: This situation is repeated on several websites, including <https://history.aip.org/exhibits/curie/radinst1.htm> and Business Insider (<https://www.businessinsider.com/marie-curie-biography-2015-11>).

- ✓ Considering the things that had happened to her, the anti-Semitism aftermath of the Dreyfus Affair, her embarrassing rejection from the Academy, the scandalous articles published about her in the newspapers, she basically told the French government to 'shove it.' She was about science, not awards or politics.

¹³ Commentary: I don't care much for humanity nowadays, and humanity never cared much for my company either. I am just a fixture. Thus there is a balance to things, even if negative.