Posibilidad Nicaragüense
Poverty, Gender, Education, Economics and Self Efficacy in Nicaragua.

- Obviously -

These Are

Really
Big Topics

Temas Realmente
Grande

Understanding what shapes Reality for impoverished female Nicaraguans allows for insight into important issues Worldwide. Only the Details vary place to place.
Alert!

Entering

Difficult
Controversial
Territory

Mea Culpa
Por Favor
Posibilidad Nicaragüense

Nicaraguan Possibility
(501©3 Charity)

Comprehensive Sponsorships for Female Secondary School and College Students in Nicaragua

Nicaraguan Education Collaboration
(501©3 Charities)

Asla Foundation
Director - Jessica Neff

Neighbors to Nicaragua
Director - Chuck Selvaggio

Posibilidad Nicaragüense
Director - Charlie Janney
A very brief but hopefully Informative and Suggestive Exploration
Poverty

(1) How *Prevalent* is Poverty?

(2) What is the *Degree* of Poverty?

(3) What *Causes* Poverty?
There are **Myths** about Poverty

To discover these **Myths** one must answer the following question
Our Question
aka
Quiz #1

What Characteristics are often ascribed to Poor People?

Quiz #2

Name Two Current Intellectual Taboos

But first a brief look at the Cycle of Poverty
Cycle of Poverty

The set of **Factors** or events by which **Poverty**, once it has started, is likely to continue unless there is outside intervention.

*After 3 Generations in Poverty, few family members survive who possess, and can transmit, the Intellectual, Social and Cultural Capital necessary to avoid or escape from poverty.*
Poor families have **Limited Resources** and there are many **Disadvantages** that collectively work in a **Circular Process** making it very difficult for anyone to **Break the Cycle**.

Areas where I’ve worked that are caught in the **Cycle of Poverty**

- **Ghetto Detroit**
- **Pine Ridge**
- **Lakota Reservation**
- **Nicaragua**
Quiz #1

Adjectives often used to describe Poor People

Not Smart, **Lazy**, Lacking Initiative, **Moochers**, Unlucky

What *Emotional States do Poor People often experience?*

Discouraged, Depressed, Frustrated, Hopeless
These same *Stereotypes* are also often applied to groups of people (Nations, Regions, Races, Religions)

“It’s just what happens in Africa”

“It’s just what happens in a Banana Republic”
Quiz #2

Current Taboos

Two Answers
(of many possible)

Human Population

JFK Assassination Conspiracy
Question:

When was the last time that you heard the issue of Human Population addressed in any public forum?
New Scientist

NOT LIKE WILDFIRE
Can we stop forests from burning?

ALL HAIL
Driverless buses hit the streets of London

GO TO BED!
Sleep-deprived kids show signs of early ageing

LIGHT IS THE DRUG Dazzling new treatments for mental illness

SHOULD WE...
GIVE ANIMALS RIGHTS...
GENETICALLY MODIFY OUR CHILDREN...
MAKE EVERYONE NORMAL...
PUT SECURITY ABOVE PRIVACY...
ALLOW ROBOTS TO KILL...
RELEASE SYNTHETIC LIFE...
RE-ENGINEER EARTH...
IMPOSE POPULATION CONTROLS...
COLONISE OTHER PLANETS...
STOP DOING SCIENCE...

THE ETHICS ISSUE

CARBON BUBBLE Why saving the climate could crash the economy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AD 1 (Christian Era)</td>
<td>100 Million (Approx.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12th, 1809 (Lincoln, Darwin)</td>
<td>1 Billion</td>
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<td>October 29th, 1929 (Black Tuesday)</td>
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<td>November 8th, 1960 (JFK’s Election)</td>
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<td>January 1st, 2000 (Millenium - Y2K)</td>
<td>6 Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24th, 2017</td>
<td>7.5 Billion</td>
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</table>
**Pertinent Populations**

**United States**

1800 - 5 Million  
1850 - 23 Million  
1900 - 76 Million  
1950 - 151 Million  
2000 - 281 Million  
2017 - 325 Million

**Nicaragua**  
(48% the size of Colorado)

1945 - 1 Million  
2017 - 6.5 Million
This Issue is very Sensitive,

has Unfortunate History

and is very Difficult to Address

But Failing to do so would Without Doubt Create Much Bigger Problems
Addressing Poverty or, for that matter, any Major Issue facing the planet, including Climate Change, without considering the role of continued growth of the Human Population is like -

“trying to clean out the garage without moving the Winnebago”*

* (Pete Peterson, Dick Lamm)
Politics and Economics
Pertinent Ideas

Adam Smith - Scotland - (1723-90)
(Moral Philosopher - Political Economist)
Author: The Wealth of Nations (1776)

“Wisdom” of the Market
“The Invisible Hand”

Global Nature of Commerce

“Globalization”
(Nicaraguan Economy)

“The Race to the Bottom”
(Rana Plaza Collapse)

Meme Warfare

The World is Flat
(Thomas Friedman, 2005)

Capital in the Twenty First Century
(Thomas Piketty, 2013)

Das Kapital
(Karl Marx 1867)
CAPITAL
in the Twenty-First Century

THOMAS PIKETTY

TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR GOLDSMIDT
Labor Conditions in Nicaragua
2nd Poorest Nation
(Western Hemisphere)

Only Haiti is worse off - now suffering an absolute Disaster

Tiny Minority owns almost everything
Too many workers for available jobs
So, employers pay absurdly Low Wages

Working conditions are often Unsafe and/or Miserable.
Many choose not to work because it’s not worth it.

MesoAmerican Nephropathy*

Newly described Disease of Poverty

Multifactorial:
(Heat Stress, Dehydration, Environmental Toxins ??)

*Two Fathers of Posibilidad Students have died of MesoAmerican Nephropathy
• Yali to Jared Diamond:

• Why do your people have so much Cargo?

• Diamond’s Answer
  • (Theme of the book)

• Circumstances
Rana Plaza Collapse
2013 Dhaka - Bangladesh

1134 garment workers died when the Rana Plaza collapsed - 2500 injured.

The day before the collapse, obvious large cracks developed in the structure, and most of the tenants and businesses evacuated.

The following day, owners of the garment factories demanded that workers return to work, threatening Loss of a Month’s Wages.

Collapse was triggered when generators in the building responded to a power outage.

The building was designed for apartments and shops, not for factories. Three additional floors had been added on later, w/o structural reinforcement, Violating Building Codes.
“A headline struck me on the day of the tragedy in Bangladesh – ‘Living on 34 Euros a Month’*. That’s what the people who died were being paid. This is called *Slave Labour*. In the world this slavery is now committed against something beautiful that God has given us, the capacity to work, to create and to have dignity. How many of our brothers and sisters find themselves in this situation! Not paying fairly, not giving a job because you’re only looking at balance sheets, only looking to make a profit. That goes against God!”
# Economic Comparison of Norway, the U.S. and Nicaragua

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<tr>
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<th>GDP (per Capita) (Nominal US$)</th>
<th>(World Rank)</th>
<th>Gini (154 Nations) (Inequality Index)</th>
<th>(World Rank)</th>
<th>HDI (World Rank)</th>
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<table>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>(11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>$5,755</td>
<td>(130)</td>
<td></td>
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# Wealth World Wide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decile</th>
<th>Percent of Wealth</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wealth Distribution Details:**

- **Top 5%** (owns 76%)
- **Top 1%** (owns 50%)

One percent of the population owns as much wealth as the remaining 99%.
We must make our choice. We may have Democracy, or we may have Wealth Concentrated in the hands of a few, but we Cannot have Both.
Reflecting on
The State of Economic Science
in light of the
2008 Global Financial Meltdown

such is the detachment (of Economics) from reality that these contradictions arouse notice only when the entire world is hurtling into an economic depression based on corporate greed wedded to false economic theory.

- 19 Trillion Dollars -
(U.S. wealth lost 2007-9)

The Folly of Fools: The Logic of Deceit and Self Deception in Human Life
Economics is not a Hard Science, like Physics, despite its use of Mathematical Formulae. It is a Soft Science.

Like Psychology, it is based on Premises about Human Nature, especially on certain assumptions about Economic Behavior.

It is only as Accurate as those premises - which are necessarily Psychological.
We all have **Beliefs** (and **Internal Conversations**) about our **Prospects for Success** in any endeavor. People with high **Self-Efficacy** (who believe they can perform well) are likely to view difficult tasks as **Something to be Mastered** rather than something to be avoided. Poverty has negative impact on self efficacy. **The Poor** tend to have **Low Expectations** regarding their **Life Prospects**.

The film *Stand and Deliver* (1989) was based on **Jaime Escalante** (1930–2010), a math teacher in East LA in the 1980’s. He taught calculus to disadvantaged Hispanic students so capably that many did well on the AP Calculus Exam. Escalante was so effective because he skillfully improved the **self efficacy** of his students.
**Structural Violence**

A form of **Violence** wherein certain **Social Structures**, **Patterns** and/or **Institutions** harm people by **Preventing** them from meeting their **Basic Needs**.

**Paul Farmer** MD - Partners in Health  
*(Medical Anthropologist)  Social Justice/Public Health NGO*

"Their sickness results from Structural Violence. Neither Culture nor Individual Will is at fault. Rather, Historically Given and Economically Driven forces and processes conspire to constrain Individual Agency. Structural Violence affects those whose Status denies them Equal Access to the fruits of Scientific & Social Progress."

Education, Gender and Self Efficacy in Nicaragua.

Well Documented Pattern: Women have fewer Children per Family when they are more well Educated.

Educational Success is enhanced with increased Self Efficacy, which then further improves Self Efficacy.

Increased Self Efficacy promotes Family Success and tends to interrupt the Intergenerational Chain of Pain of Broken Relationships and Poverty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>U.K.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After Piketty

The Agenda for Economics and Inequality

Edited by Heather Boushey, J. Bradford DeLong, and Marshall Steinbaum
The Contradictions of CAPITAL
in the Twenty-First Century

THE PIKETTY OPPORTUNITY

Edited by
Pat Hudson and Keith Tribe
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