

## A Future Worth Fighting For

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The Trumpists have a vision. It's hideous, yes — but it's a vision. And in politics, in culture, and in history, vision matters.

What are Democrats offering in response? What's their story? Their plan? Their dream? Even at its best, the message seems to be status quo ante — and more frequently, little more than “give us money.”

Meanwhile, the Trumpist right — via Project 2025 and the army of think tanks behind it — is laying the groundwork for a techno-feudalist future (a system in which tech platforms replace markets by extracting rents, controlling digital infrastructure, and turning users and workers into dependent subjects). Think billionaire barons. Think privatized surveillance. Think corporate-state fusion where algorithms enforce social control and The Commons — what remains of it — is monetized into oblivion.

Let's be clear: this is not “capitalism” as we've known it. It's the digital enclosure of human life, within privately owned digital systems — where every action, every click, every relationship takes place on privately owned platforms that extract value from our behavior while tightening control over what we see, say, and do. And it's happening fast. If they succeed, we'll look back on the dysfunction of today as a kind of golden age.

But here's the thing. What they are peddling is not inevitable — they are offering a vision. If we're going to fight back, we need one as well. We need to dare to imagine a future worth fighting for, one that's not just a little less cruel, a little less corrupt, but wildly better, alive with possibility.

We are caught in a liminal moment — the old world is dying, and the new world is struggling to be born. This, as Gramsci warned us in 1929, is the time of monsters. But it is also the time of vision. And if we fail to offer one, we leave the future to be ruled by those monsters who would prey on our fears and profit from our division.

As it happens, we are standing at the edge of the most astonishing transformation in human history. Over the next 50 years, three massive shifts — all unfolding now — could birth a civilization that is more just, more joyful, and more sustainable than anything we've ever known.

### 1. The End of Endless Growth

Human population is peaking. Within our lifetimes, global population will plateau — and then begin to decline. This is not catastrophe. It is a reprieve. It is the long exhale. Fewer people means fewer resource demands, less pressure on forests, water, food systems, cities. It opens the door to ecological renewal on a planetary scale. And with the right policies, it means we can distribute what we have more fairly. It's a massive opportunity — if we seize it.

## 2. The Arrival of Fusion Energy

This is not science fiction. This is happening. We are approaching the holy grail: clean, limitless energy. Fusion — not fission — requires no uranium, no meltdowns, no radioactive waste. And when it arrives, the implications will be nothing short of miraculous. No more oil wars. No more poisoned rivers. No more carbon compromise. The entire logic of extraction collapses. This is abundance. This is the literal power to remake the world.

## 3. AI That Works for Us

The third leg of the stool is the most fraught — but also the most extraordinary. Artificial intelligence could enslave us — or it could liberate us from the brutal demands of labor-for-survival. If we regulate it now — strictly, globally, democratically — AI could do what automation has always promised but never delivered: eliminate drudgery. Free us from bullshit jobs. Let humans create, care, heal, imagine, repair.

If we do this right — if we combine falling population, abundant clean energy, and AI-for-humanity — we could be on the brink of the full flowering of the human spirit.

Politics, at its core, is the management of scarcity — and the lie that there's not enough keeps us divided. When we're denied what we need by those who hoard it, we don't always look up. We often lash out — at those beside us, or below us. That's what scarcity does. It bends empathy into suspicion.

Shaped by scarcity — scarcity that justifies hoarding, hierarchy, and fear — politics can lead us to turn on one another, rather than confront the true source of our anger. So what happens when scarcity begins to recede? When the logic of dearth gives way to real, shared abundance? If we get this right, we won't just reshape systems — we'll reclaim what makes us human.

And to be clear, the end of the billionaire class isn't some petty ideological demand. It's a prerequisite to this future. A handful of men hoarding planetary wealth, designing escape pods to Mars, buying up democracy at auction — these are the feudal lords of our time. And they're not just greedy. They are in the way.

Elon Musk, the most powerful of these new lords, said recently that “empathy is the greatest weakness of Western civilization.” Read that again: “Empathy is the greatest weakness of Western civilization.” That is the future they are building — one where care, compassion, solidarity, and love are pathologized as threats. But it is empathy — not domination — that makes us human. It is not our weakness. It is our superpower.

Their vision is dark. It's cynical. But it's not stupid. And unless — and until — we name what's possible, they win by default.

We must tell our story — boldly, unapologetically, and with a vision powerful enough to match this moment:

A world in which extreme wealth is dismantled, and the accumulation of obscene riches is seen for what it is — a failure of the system, not a mark of [its] success.

A world where work is meaningful and voluntary, not a life sentence handed down at birth.

A world where the planet begins to heal — not because we vanished, but because we finally learned to live in balance.

A world where freedom means more than choice between brands, and democracy means more than quarterly donations.

A world that refuses to trade human potential for shareholder value.

Like Bellamy's *Looking Backward*, this is a utopia with roots in the real. It's not perfect. It's not naive. But it's possible. And for the first time in history, we have the tools to build it.

And so we come to the point: this is the fight of our lives. Not just against Trump. Not just against Project 2025. But against the bleakness of a future run by those who mistake empathy for weakness, who want us afraid and divided and scrambling just to survive.

We cannot let them win by default. We must offer a better vision. We must dare to dream. And we must fight like hell to make that dream real — not for ourselves, but for the generations to come.

Because for the first time in human history, we have the opportunity to build a future not shaped by fear or scarcity, but by dignity, justice, and the full expression of the human spirit.