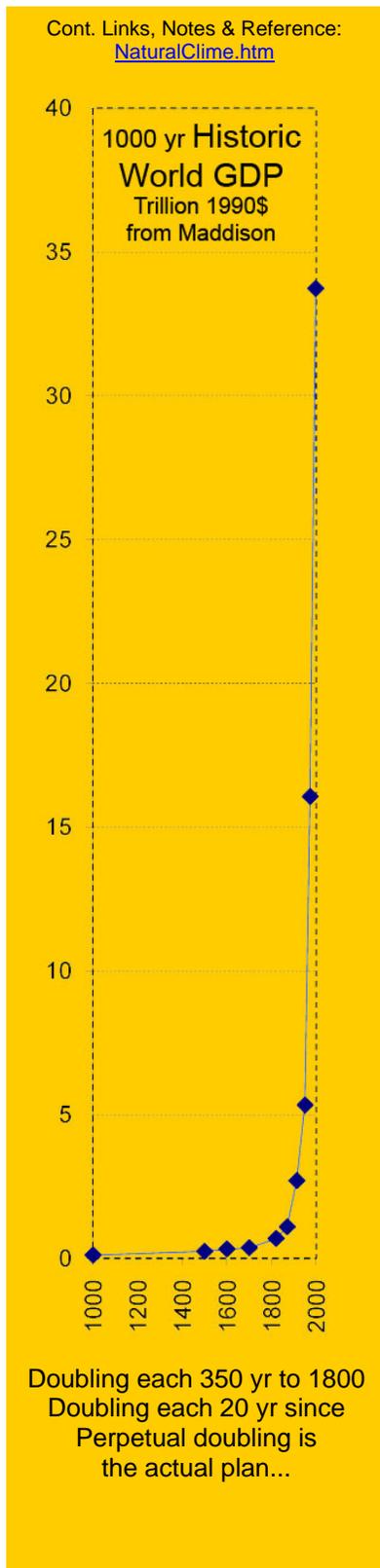


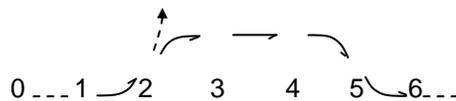
# The one Real option... natural climax



A lasting way to stabilize wealth... attracts those who like ideas just for their beauty. It would also give us **time!** We're being rejected by nature for our thoughtless intrusions. J. M. Keynes saw a solution for having no way to control our run-away growth but to have it's bubbles build and burst, but it was ignored. Others did non see why economies would ever meet limits of diminishing returns, bringing on credit contractions as we now have. Keynes saw we could be mature and turn off what pumps up the bubbles. Now these 'crises of capitalism' are global and dangerous; 'peak food', 'peak oil', 'peak extinction', global warming, etc., with worse to come. Nature is gagging as we force ourselves on her. We thought we could grow out of any pinch, so we grew into a real jam instead. The choice is to switch the surpluses feeding the pumps to better use. Keynes called his 'sustainable design' for economic climax "the widow's cup"<sup>1</sup>, after a story of Elijah granting a widow an inexhaustible jug of oil. **It's also the way businesses and natural systems stabilize after growth.** Keynes' idea was not understood, and also objected to since it would end the automatic concentration of wealth. Continuing on the learning curve of past World GDP growth (1) is both highly immature and not at all viable. Diverting surpluses from growth would be our first act of maturation, as all successful efforts end their creative explosions. Whatever you call it, it would give humanity time to think without pumping up our problems, and maybe provide some resources for our great unfunded needs.

Still, proposing to use nature's method of maturing, turning growth toward stabilizing our new relationship with the earth, is so very different... you may even need to think! ;-). If we just 'wait and see' our immaturity will determine our limits with mounting crises. Like 'the sorcerer's apprentice'<sup>2</sup>, we need desperately to find how to switch off our prize invention, requiring a hint, to not waste time, and then to continue to ask open questions.

It's a stunning choice, a fork in the road. Nature offers plentiful examples of both ways of solving this classic choice of development paths, but almost no one has studied them as a science. Developmental paths are individual constructions, and established science is not a method for studying individual development paths. To study development paths you need to ask pointed questions as they change. Development paths are learning processes of their whole local environment. Sometimes they follow their least resistance, sometimes their discovered opportunity. It's a different kind of science.



## The whole story of any play

The trick to seeing how things develop is to read growth as local path making in a whole environment learning process. The path found is what determines natural system designs. Business plans explore many directions to find one to pursue. In the story of mankind we are at point 2 having a good plan to complete. After the magical point of germination 1 every growth system finds expansion easier and easier, until it gets harder again from running into things. In period 1 ever bigger work is done but that runs into complication. After point 2 bigger jobs turn into smaller ones again, either by finishing, or failing at, the big ones. That's the choice. There is no other.

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