

The “Green Fields” of “Governance” or the “Scorched Earth” of “Socialism”

The global society is experiencing the repercussions from the first tidal wave associated with the “wrenching transformation¹” referenced by Al Gore in his book, “Earth in the Balance”.

This initial destructive wave (financial in nature) is due to the commitment by the majority of the governments of the world to provide a house for every form of family unit.² Thus, this commitment, from the United Nations 1995 Habitat II Conference would be listed as priority one³ in the June 2001 “United States – Habitat II” Progress Report. Referencing this ill-fated policy the report states:

“...the role of the secondary-market government sponsored enterprises (GSEs)—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.... over the next 10 years the GSEs will purchase \$2.4 trillion in mortgages for 28 million low- and moderate-income families, an increase of almost \$500 billion over the earlier goal.”

Global financial institutions following governmental policy created MBS (Mortgage Backed Securities). The worth of the MBS would soon equal the cost of the ink and paper used to create the so-called financial instrument. The rest of the story regarding government policy number “one” priority is replete with intrigue, fraud, mayhem, and, of course, financial ruin. Political officials assume their typical position of finger pointing and desk pounding. The resulting amount of justice dispensed is equal to the value of the MBS.

A Look Ahead – “Governance” - item 5^{3a} on the government’s implementation list. Scott Fosler, former board member of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship, acting as moderator during the 2003 National Stewardship Forum, stated:

“The challenge remains to locate vocabulary that expresses what we want to say without threatening or turning off important potential stewards and constituents.”⁴

Mr. Fosler would likely discourage the use of the word “duped”. Nonetheless, “duped” is most applicable in explaining the deceptive course in the implementation of the three legs of “Sustainable Development”⁵ – “social, economic” and “environmental”.⁶

Example:

During the November 4th, 2008 Marshall County, Alabama Work Session, Commission Chairman Doug Fleming led the discussion on the prime topic of the meeting - the County Commission’s intent to expose supposed falsehoods printed in Marshall County Citizen for Property Rights (CPR) flyer. The CPR formed to protect property rights after the County adopted a draconian ordinance designed to implement Alabama’s “Limited Self-Governance” act. The flyer quoted an appropriately descriptive

definition of “Governance” which was printed in the United Nations 1999 Human Development Report.

"Governance is not government – it is the framework of rules, institutions and practices that set limits on the behavior of individuals, organizations and companies," page 34.

Ultimately, Chairman Fleming acknowledged the CPR’s right to utilize the appropriate definition.

Following Chairman Fleming’s acknowledgement, Commissioner Strickland displayed a desired to ridicule the assertion that an Alabama statute could conceivably be associated with a global program.

Duped! - To view the video of this prime example click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/5rr62c>

The implementation of “governance” is not limited to legislative action. The “wrenching transformation” i.e. “globalization” involves more than governmental authority. As such, this “governance” system designed to implement and enforce “sustainable development principles”⁷ require a “framework of rules, institutions and practices” designed to “limit” “behavior”. In order to be successful this system appropriately described by the United Nations 1999 Human Development Report includes additional forays into the structure of society.

Example – Since 1997, Region 2020, a purported civic organization has led the efforts for “regional cooperation”⁸ in 12 central counties of Central Alabama. Under the heading of “STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT & SERVICES” Region 2020 clarifies “regional cooperation” - “to develop a region that achieves regional governance with Home Rule.”⁹ Joining in the call for “governance” are the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham and the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce. Larry Watts, Executive Director of the “Regional Planning Commission,” stated that their combined effort was to create “regional governance” not “regional government.”¹⁰



Their longstanding effort to “limit behavior” through “regional governance” has resulted in the creation of the “Regional Growth Alliance. (RGA)”¹¹. The RGA was presented in 2003 with the “First-Ever Regional Stewardship Award”. In the 2003 the Alliance for Regional Stewardship recognized the efforts of a total of four¹² programs across the country designed to “limit behavior”.

In 2006 the Alliance for Regional Stewardship held the “Regional Stewardship Collaborative Governance Implementation That Produces Results” forum.



The Alliance forum publication¹³ acknowledges exemplary examples of “regional

governance” and provides additional information regarding various forms of “behavior limiting” “governance”.

“There are several ways to characterize the relationship between governance and government.”

- “Governance *is* the use of government authority to set the rules for interaction among private individuals and organizations.”
- “Governance as the processes that set the purposes of government and decide which purposes will be embraced as public problems that government will try to solve (governance as politics).”¹⁴



Expanding the scope of “governance” the Alliance for Regional Stewardship states that:

“Regional Collaborative Governance” is, – “about how regional stewards find practical ways to solve problems by transcending traditional jurisdictions, sectors, and issues, and creating a new framework for collaborative action.”¹⁵

“Regional Collaboratives” – “...are run by practitioner-professionals who are skilled in the art of effectively blending government, business and nonprofit resources. **They create goals for the region**, and then design strategies that implement collective, effective, measurable results.”^{15a}
Emphasis added.

“Regional steward” - “Regional stewards include local elected or appointed officials, university or college leaders, executives of local businesses, foundation executives, non-profit leaders and community activists. What they all have in common is the realization that to accomplish **their goals** they need to work collaboratively with people in other jurisdictions and sectors.”¹⁶ Emphasis added.

“Collaborative governance is a practical process, led by regional stewards, to reinvent how our nation solves its problems, how it **reweaves the fabric of American society region-by-region.**”¹⁷ Emphasis added.

Reflecting on Scott Fosler’s quote:

“The challenge remains to locate vocabulary that expresses what we want to say without threatening or turning off important potential stewards and constituents.”

“Reweaving the fabric of society” does somehow sound more acceptable than Al Gore’s “wrenching transformation”. Of course “Sherman’s march through Georgia” is a nice way of referring to a “scorched earth policy”.

1. Al Gore, *Earth in the Balance*, (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1992), pp. 269-274.
2. “In the first place, the right to adequate housing applies to everyone, without restriction or distinction based on age, sex, family or economic status, group or other affiliation or social status;” (HABITAT II) www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/docs/statements/HabitatII-1995.doc
3. “Within this framework, this report highlights U.S. progress, as well as remaining challenges, in the six areas enumerated in the Habitat Agenda: (1) Shelter; (2) Social Development and Eradication of Poverty; (3) Environmental Management; (4) Economic Development; (5) Governance; and (6) International Cooperation.” <http://www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/habitat.pdf>
- 3a. *ibid*
4. www.regionalstewardship.org/ARS_forums/boston/Principles_notes.doc
- 5 <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>
6. www.regionalstewardship.org/ARS_enevs/November2003/Principles.pdf
7. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE
WORKING PAPER 00-04 “Basic Principles of Sustainable Development”
http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/Working_Papers/Sustainable%20Development.PDF This paper will appear in The Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
8. <http://region20.ipower.com/page3.html>
9. <http://region20.ipower.com/page4.html>
- 10 http://www.regionalstewardship.org/ARS_enevs/February2004/Birmingham_News.pdf
11. *ibid*
12. Salt Lake City, Utah, Birmingham, Ala., Fresno, Calif., and Long Beach, Calif.
http://www.regionalstewardship.org/ARS_enevs/May2004/StewardshipAwards.pdf
13. http://www.lincolnst.edu/subcenters/regional-collaboration/pubs/ARS_Monograph_11.pdf
14. *ibid* page 8
15. *ibid* page 6
- 15a. *ibid* page 17
16. *ibid* page 15
17. *ibid* page 35