

Existential Risks



Some fear that pure capitalism of labor will push such existential threats as climate change, nuclear war, and global pandemics into the background. These fears seem justified under today's [debt-based capitalism](#). But [land-based capitalism](#) radically changes the calculus. Here's how.

Climate Change

The collection of ground rent increases population density, a natural outcome of the desire to save money on rent and take advantage of economies of scale and divisions of labor. This increased density reduces carbon emissions as people are closer to work, play, and shopping. The efficiency of water and energy use increases. Density increases the efficiency of waste processing. Reducing sprawl reduces and preserves biodiverse lands.

Well-designed [Earth Dividend](#)-subsidized mass transit becomes financially feasible and can save travelers time and money. Private transit providers are drawn to density, where transit passes can generate large amounts of revenue. [Auto passes](#) encourage four persons per auto.

In less urban areas, without mass transit, emissions are reduced by the changing nature of work and play. Mixed-use [voluntary collectives](#) eliminate commuting, as home, work, and sometimes even play are under the same roof.

In today's debt-based capitalism, a local polluting industry is often the only employer. Workers have no choice but to endure the stink, the noise, and the funny-tasting groundwater. With the Earth Dividend, that changes.

Reliance on local polluting industries is materially diminished. Not only are necessities provided for, but voluntary ground rents decline rapidly when a factory closes and stay down until new enterprises restore community growth.

Regulations are one aspect of the "big lie" in debt-based capitalism. They are not protectors of the environment but a web of complex and contradictory legal

loopholes that allow major corporations to pollute with impunity and, at the same time, drive their smaller competitors out of business as “polluters.”

The elimination of regulation in land-based capitalism allows any dominion to force polluters to cease by a 2/3 plurality without worrying about legal loopholes. Often, this will lead to [negotiations that will lead to the most efficient outcome](#).

Nevertheless, all deviations from industry environmental standards must be reported on the [VOS](#), the only imposed regulation in land-based capitalism. There is penitentiary time for business owners who fail to disclose incursions on the VOS.

[Treble insurance](#) incentivizes lumber companies to reforest, mining companies to resurface, and fishing companies to restock. Because of negative externalities to the planet, there are [limited rights](#) to pollute the air and the oceans and deforest the world. [Trebling](#) for these rights ensures they go to the most efficient user. Between trebling for the rights themselves and trebling for resource-rich land, resource extractors will often pay over 90% of the net profit in ground rent to [protect the land from competitors](#).

[Intellectual property](#) royalties are paid based on use. This encourages innovation that benefits humanity rather than innovation that is monopolized. For instance, the inventor of efficient artificial photosynthesis (to remove CO² and produce sugar simultaneously) would make a fortune in royalties, even as the machines are distributed worldwide at cost or even for free.

Not to be forgotten, the [crime reduction](#) will increase walking, biking, and use of public transportation. [Covenants](#) can protect biodiverse land, and so can conservation groups, often with a nominal treble.

Nuclear War

Nuclear war under debt-based capitalism is not a question of if but when. As of this writing, the famous [Doomsday Clock](#) is a record close 90 seconds to midnight.

A likely reason is that without population growth, debt-based capitalism is doomed. In the unlikely case of population growth sufficient to delay the demise of debt-based capitalism, resource failures will doom us instead. Hopelessness, the ever-higher opportunity and financial cost of a child, and a culture stressing the individual over the collective favor negative population growth and the catastrophic failure of debt-based capitalism.

The hope generated at the start of the [AFFEERCE Benefit Corporation](#) will push back the clock. The knowledge that a solution is coming will change everything. Very soon, it will become evident that selling one's land into the commons trust is the most lucrative choice for landed oligarchs, dictators, and ordinary land owners. It might take [40 years](#), but the writing will be on the wall from the very start.

The cost of defending sovereign land is too high for sovereignties to exceed the size of a large kibbutz.

[Trebler war](#) replaces violent war for land conquest. Not only is it more efficient in achieving the same aims as violent war, but everyone is a winner. The [Federation Military](#) prevents the contenders in a trebler war from breaking the rules of engagement.

Although land-based capitalism does not rely on population growth, the Earth Dividend reduces the opportunity and financial costs of having a child directly and through voluntary collectives and extended families. Should this lead to a [tragedy of the commons](#), a 2/3 plurality of the Federation itself can institute a [baby tax](#).

Pandemics

Quarantines and lockdowns are gross violations of [objective rights](#). Yet, sometimes, they are needed. That is why a 2/3 plurality of a dominion is required to institute a quarantine, lockdown, or partial lockdown.

There is plenty of evidence that lockdowns reduce immunity and increase mental health problems and drug use, as well as cripple the economy, so a lockdown should only be done if a vaccine or cure is right around the corner. However, that is up to a [2/3 plurality of the people](#) and cannot be decided by a court, [VSG](#), health agency, or cellular government.

With the Earth Dividend, all healthcare is free and well-funded. Should a pandemic strain the [self-insured HMO](#), despite increased treatment competition for the refund, the [VIP Treasury](#) can allow a minor deflation in other goods until the pandemic passes. [Quadratic voting](#) would increase the healthcare distribution to help prevent problems in the future.

[Deregulation](#) allows full VOS-informed legal access to newly developed and experimental drugs and vaccines.

[Intellectual Property](#) royalties provide enormous profits for developing vaccines and drugs that are freely available to all.

Cataclysm

Despite our best efforts, the Yellowstone Caldera could erupt, an asteroid could hit the Earth, or climate change or a nuclear accident might render large portions of the Earth uninhabitable. How this is handled under land-based capitalism is the subject of a module, [How AFFEERCE Responds to Cataclysm](#).