

A New Language of History

**Not only as the old one became severely worn out
but also, as in nature the end of growth for living organisms is
normally either birth or death,
and Humanity has not yet considered those
possibilities**

1st presentation Jun 25 2026 ISSS Cyprus — Rerecorded w/ ed Aug 24, 2026



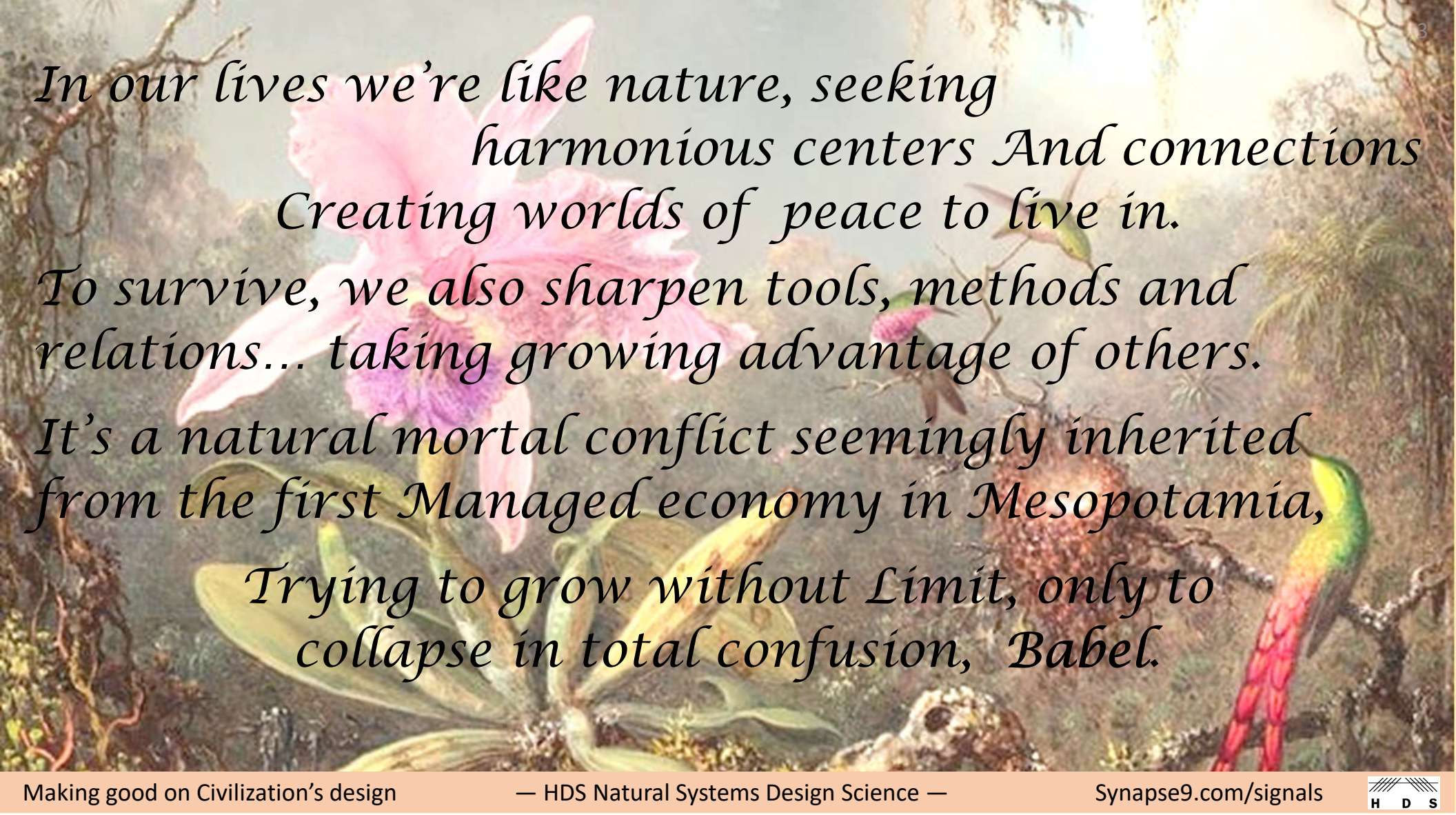
A New Language of History

Preface

I hope to be offering a tender but accurate view of humanity's tragically heroic repeated erasures of its own history, often both not very truthful, and willfully deceitful. We did evolve as story tellers, yes, but then learned to tell ever bigger untruthful stories.

Yet, every growth system in nature starts that way, did we just miss a turn, or confuse our amazing stories with material realities? In any case, our leading civilizations have been growing to their collapse, turning their cultures, into long Dark Ages

So, maybe we only need to learn the real stories??



*In our lives we're like nature, seeking
harmonious centers And connections
Creating worlds of peace to live in.
To survive, we also sharpen tools, methods and
relations... taking growing advantage of others.
It's a natural mortal conflict seemingly inherited
from the first Managed economy in Mesopotamia,
Trying to grow without Limit, only to
collapse in total confusion, Babel.*

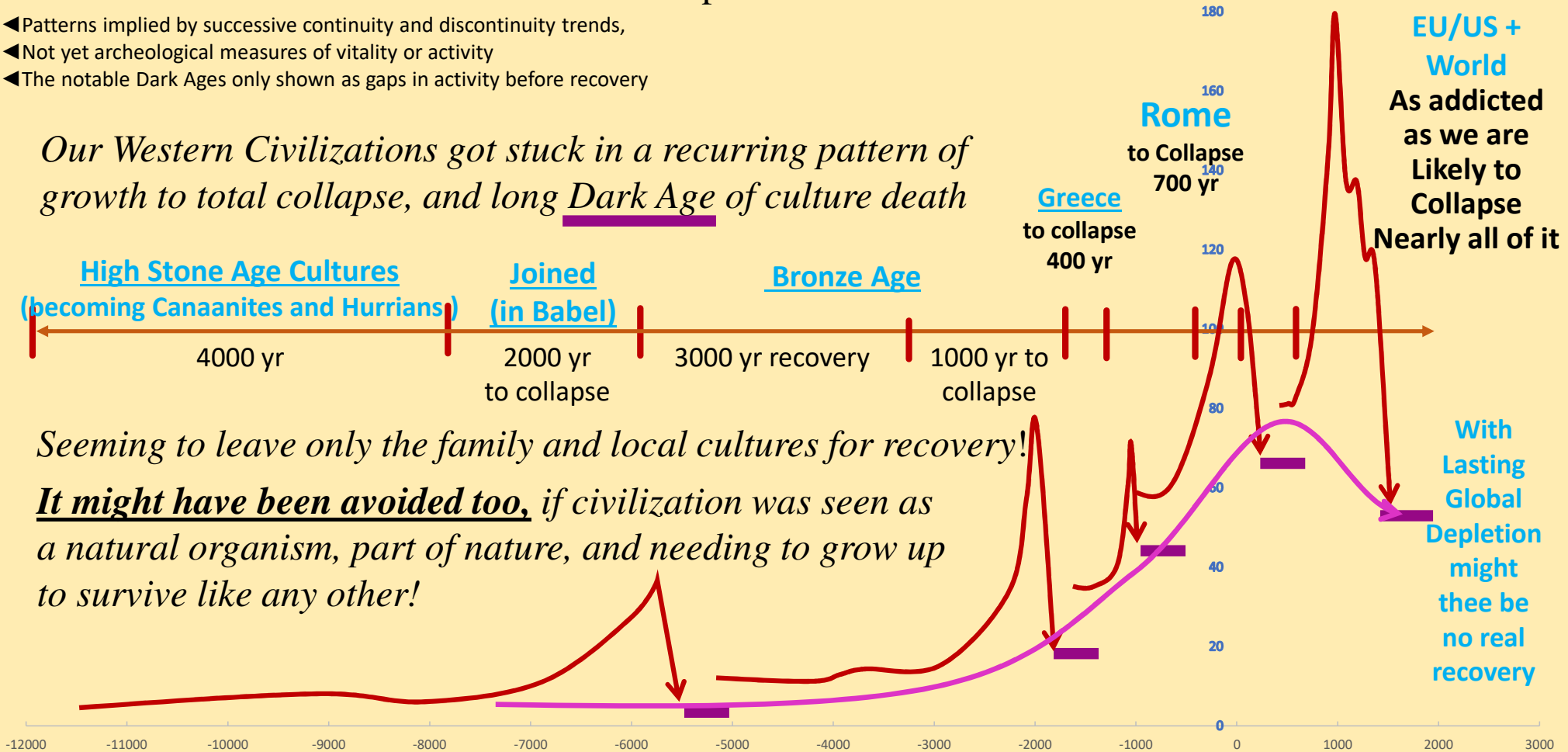
A “long now” of human history: Repeatedly Getting Carried Away

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Growth to collapse from Babel to Us

- ◀ Patterns implied by successive continuity and discontinuity trends,
- ◀ Not yet archeological measures of vitality or activity
- ◀ The notable Dark Ages only shown as gaps in activity before recovery

Our Western Civilizations got stuck in a recurring pattern of growth to total collapse, and long Dark Age of culture death





A New Language of History a recurring pattern, and... So now what?

Long before we learned to write, people created several wonderfully creative advanced civilizations.

Ours is the latest edition, originating in the Middle East, that all dramatically rose as we have, but then collapsed at their peaks, erasing their societal cultures, as may be happening to us already given the similar extreme practices and symptoms, we're experiencing.

Many feel the catastrophic threat but feel quite helpless too.
We'll feel better if we study what's really happening

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a recurring pattern

The first grow-to collapse economy was very special, joining two Stone Age cultures, North & South Levant, in response to a climate change!

the **true cradle of Western civilization ~11,000 years ago,**
before writing or names.

- 1) For ~4,000 yrs they informally built on their differing skills,
- 2) Then they began perfecting their arts and trades as an economy,
- 3) leading to maximizing profits to grow their growing, like we do.

That economy ‘inexplicably’ collapsed at its peak of its success, called **Babel** in the Bible. The fifth such experiment, “Us, is doing much the same thing, *not having learned from experience since!*

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Background

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1. But, where'd I learn about it?

- I first started learning about all this difference between nature and humanity growing up in a small upstate New York college town, Hamilton, we called “Secret Valley,” where everything seemed to work.
- My parents, grand, and great grands, were accomplished scientists, educators, builders and organizers — though I was not educated as such, just left to my own curiosity, discovering my big family later in life, with **my ability to notice patters.**

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Background

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2. But Where'd I learn about it?

- My dad was chair of the Physics dept., and his best faculty friend, Ken Boulding stayed in touch, the faculty moms taking caring of Ken's mom, while he traveled, and somehow picked up patterns from how he and my dad related.
- As a college freshman I noticed a very odd thing about how equations were made, **physics discards the data from starting and ending change unexplained**, finding later it was often the lively processes of system formation.

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Background

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3. But Where'd I learn about it?

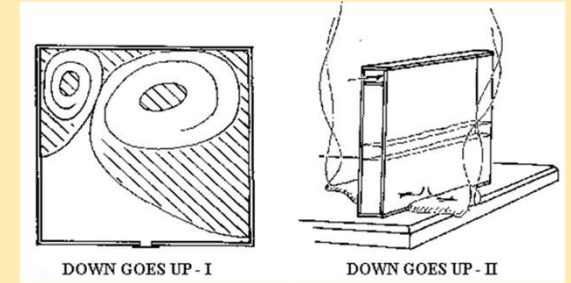
- So, I didn't go on in physics, but into architecture at Penn, finding interest in what makes life lively, and learning from Luis Kahn & others, that **design is for living, not really for control.**
- I also studied design pattern languages, for the processes of system formation, **new forms of organization built by innovation then maturation.**
- **You see it in the “S-curves,”** of progress for design efforts or most anything else, as well as in natural transformations.

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Background

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4. But Where'd I learn about it?



- It was the '70s. After graduation I traveled to visit friends, ending up in Denver, doing carpentry, and **made a portable lab to study micro-climate design.**
- I found: 1) **it was growth that made life lively** and 2) **growth also produced the continuity of changes in nature**, 3) Not being paid for it, physics had never studied that.
- But I lost my house, got sick, and went back home, having to restart my career. — After a wonderful long exploration.

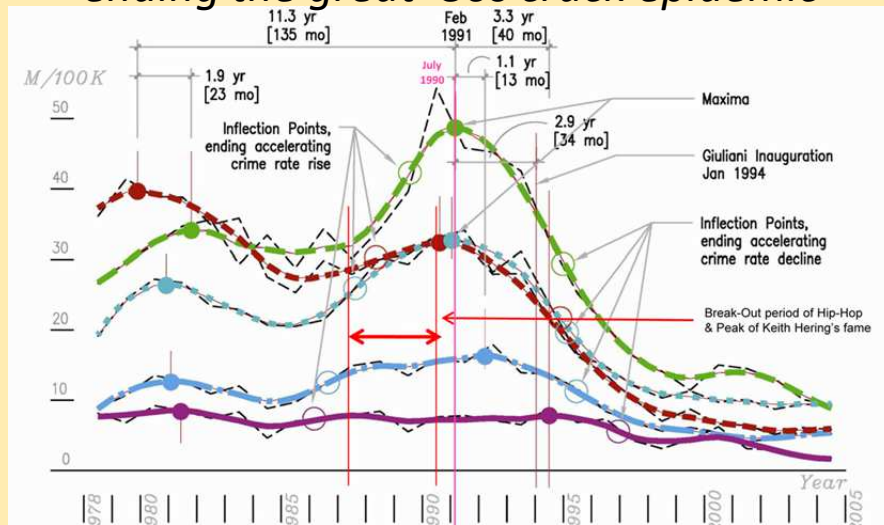
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Background

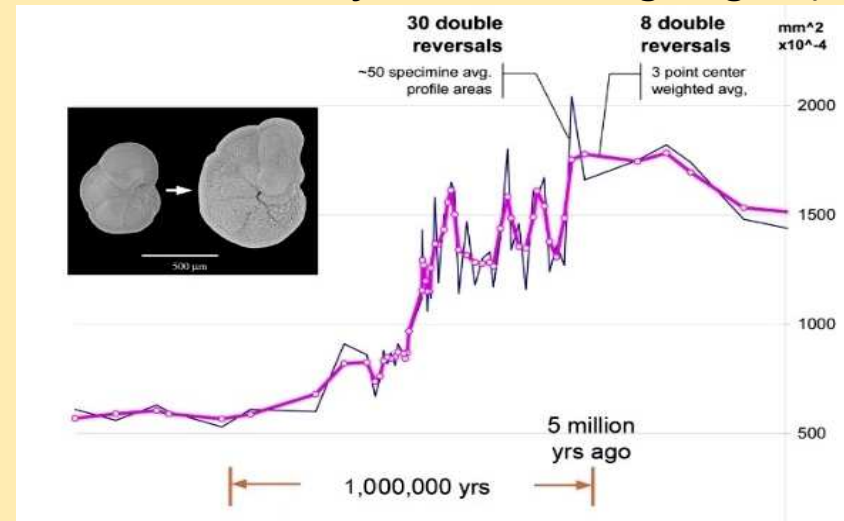
..... **So** while working my way up in New York architecture offices...

While learning the craft and working on my new physics of natural design, I developed the **CURVE software** for restoring the Lively shapes of nature to change over time. ***It puts back into the picture what physics took out***, the formative processes of natural relationships people can still learn from.

*Converging cultures of NYC
ending the great '80s crack epidemic*



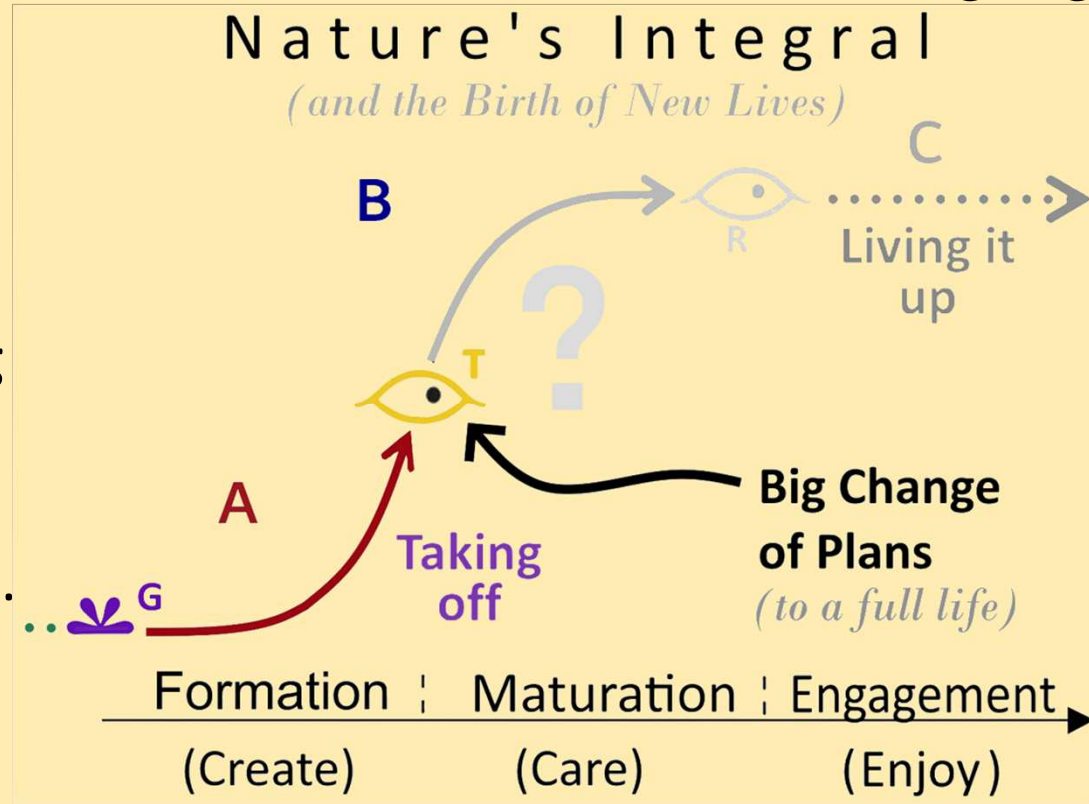
*Million yr plankton emergence
w/ overshoot and fallback to surge again)*



What If we Learned Nature's Language?

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Germ-in-ation is the spark that ignites growth, **A** cycle of speeding up ever faster, sure to collapse unless it changes. **Think of any?**



Seeds **start their roots in the flower!!**, a head-start for quick takeoff when in warm moisture, **ready to change** **Think of any?**

As the seed sprouts it starts a great burst of growing **A** the whole design of the seed, a sprout

Then... to not grow too tall and fall over, they change to growing slower at: **B** to complete the design to last

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In nature, the S-curves of change come from working relationships holding together. So relaxed with math removes our awareness of them.

The trap! — That took the world by storm.

We designed science for taking power over nature

... With a tool that projected boundless growth as a trusted solution ...

= “Great solutions” with no warnings => multiplying world crises
& dark ages after collapse”

Natural solutions

1. We **can** get good at noticing change and learning to respond.
2. **Study Our first managed economy** ~8,000 to 5,000 years ago, profoundly **collapsing from rules for growing success.**

Human shortcuts

1. We **don't like changing rules**, confusing us when either our own or natures.
2. **How people change is with care** and help with **seeing the advantages to all working together** to respond.

The Physics Lab Where I First Noticed



I first noticed something wrong with our translation of nature into equations in freshman physics, 1964

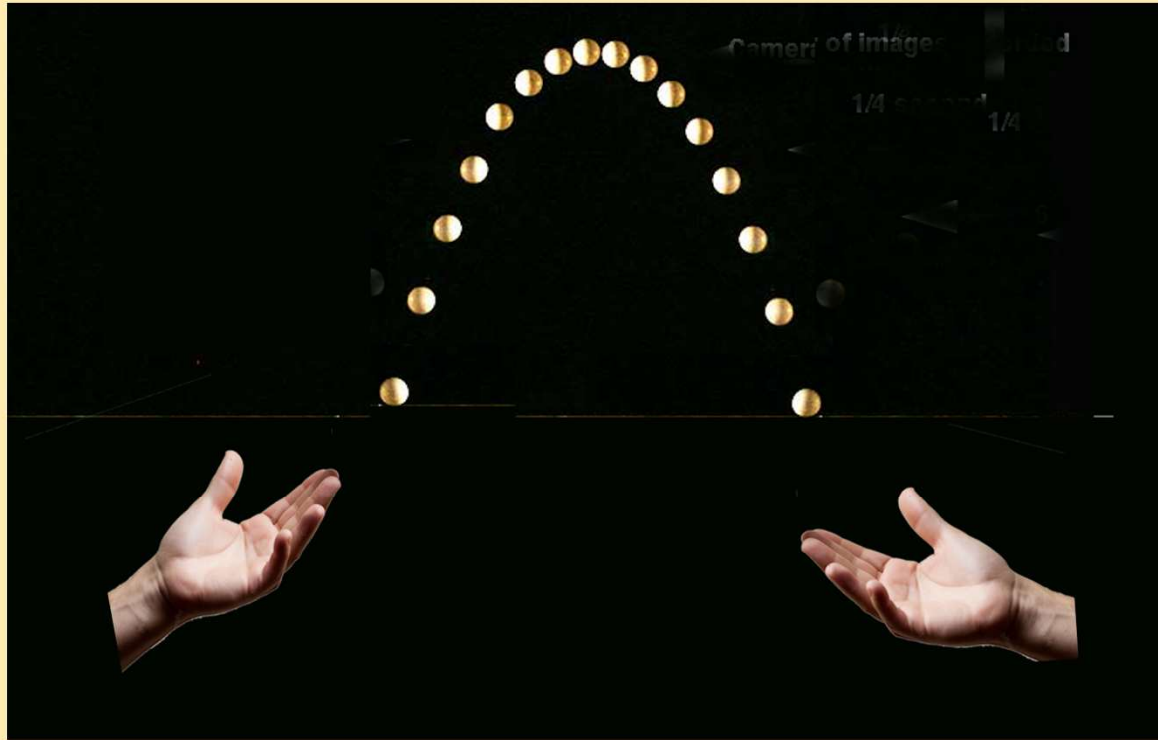
As I already knew some of the territory, in the first Physics lab I made jokes about it asking why equations are shows as starting and stopping in mid air (without any process).

HOW TO MAKE
A FORMULA

Camera of images
1/4 second
1 BALL
1 STROBE LIGHT
: PHOTOGRAPHED
: DO THE MATH

Then, over time, I discovered the evidence that
LONG AGO physics got the wrong formula
Nothing wrong with the math — but with the story.
WHY CARE ABOUT THE MATH and ignore the story
A ping pong ball, tossed, from one end of a table to
another, lit by a strobe light, is ($= a*x^2 + b*x + c$)
Doesn't the event in context matter too?

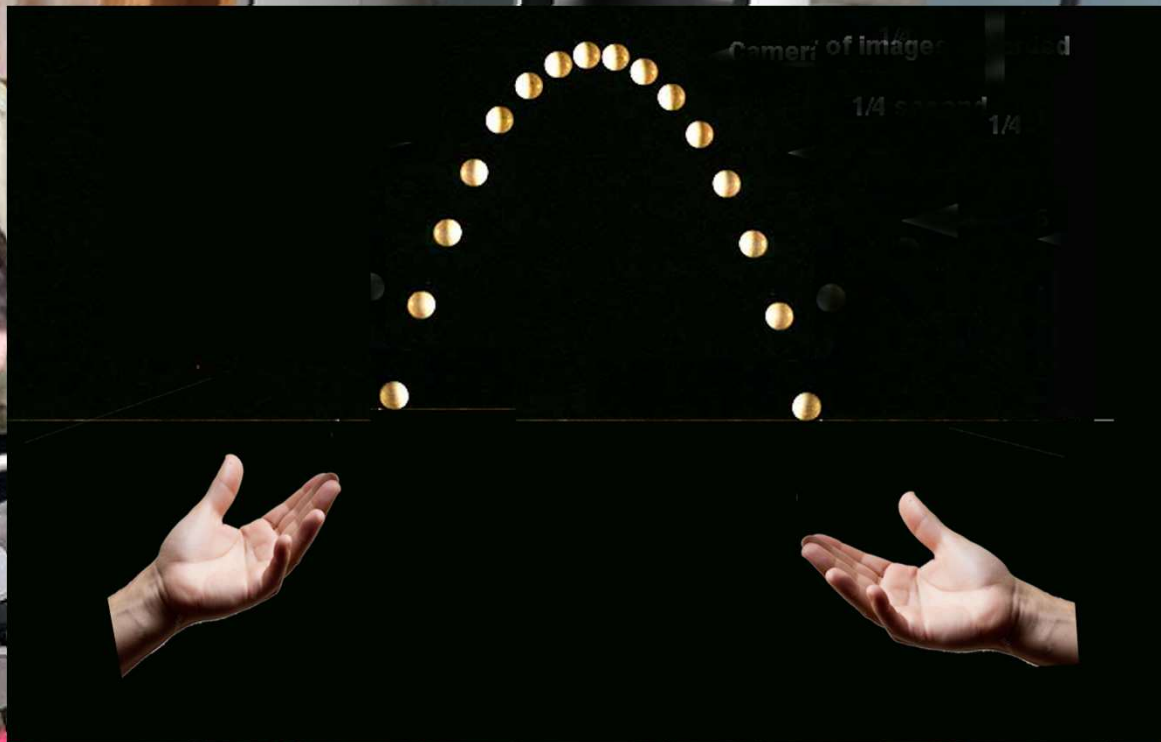
So, What
is the
math
saying
with such
great
precision?



Everything
else about
it that
seems to
matter, is
being very
left out.

What about the tossing and catching ... the self-organizing systems that energize the ball's takeoff & Landing ... prompted by signals.

**Precision is
an illusion of
control, but
variations in
the context
are often
more
important**



**Is science not
what we
thought, for
pointing to
clear paths
ahead?
Not doing
that job at all**

**If it leaves out the whole context in which change is
taking place, and the precision that encourages users
Hiding what nature needs to work by itself.**



In reality — Nature creates worlds of richly organized centers,
sharing connections with others, to work as wholes.

All omitted in the science of equations, used for economics.

But ... **Who** was it that decided to leave out all the contexts and
represent nature with formulas??

It was “the first scientist,” Thales of Miletus, a noted ~600 BCE Greek businessman, ships captain, trader, and intellect.
Having searched ancient libraries as he traveled,

(looking for the financial secrets of antiquity how to grow wealth without work, ... pushing nature beyond its limits and often to civilization collapse.)

The greatest turning point in human history,

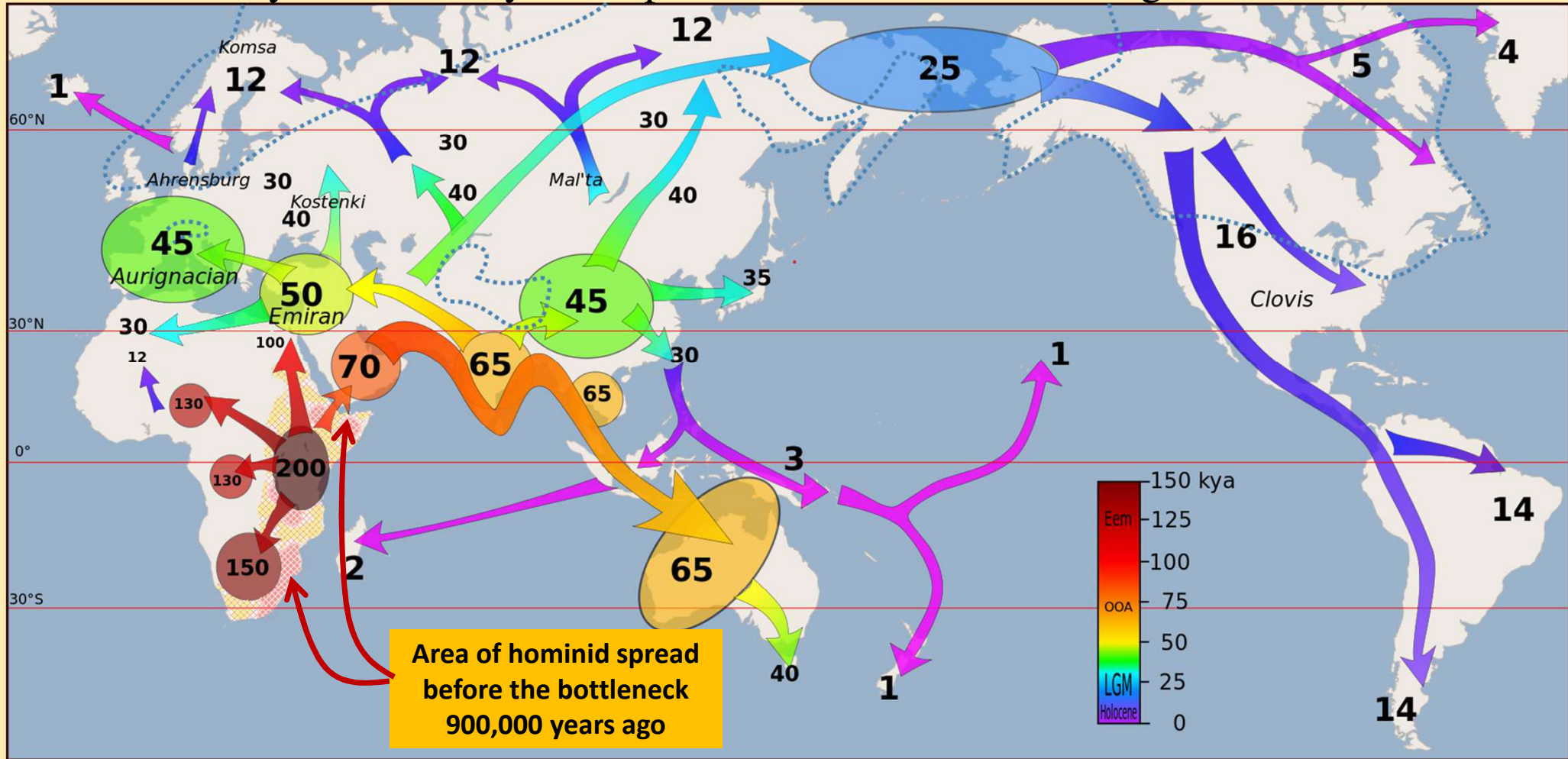
- nature turned into numbers for profit
- sharp put-downs of “nature religion”
- And nature made into abstract numbers without context!

Of course, it also went back much further too,

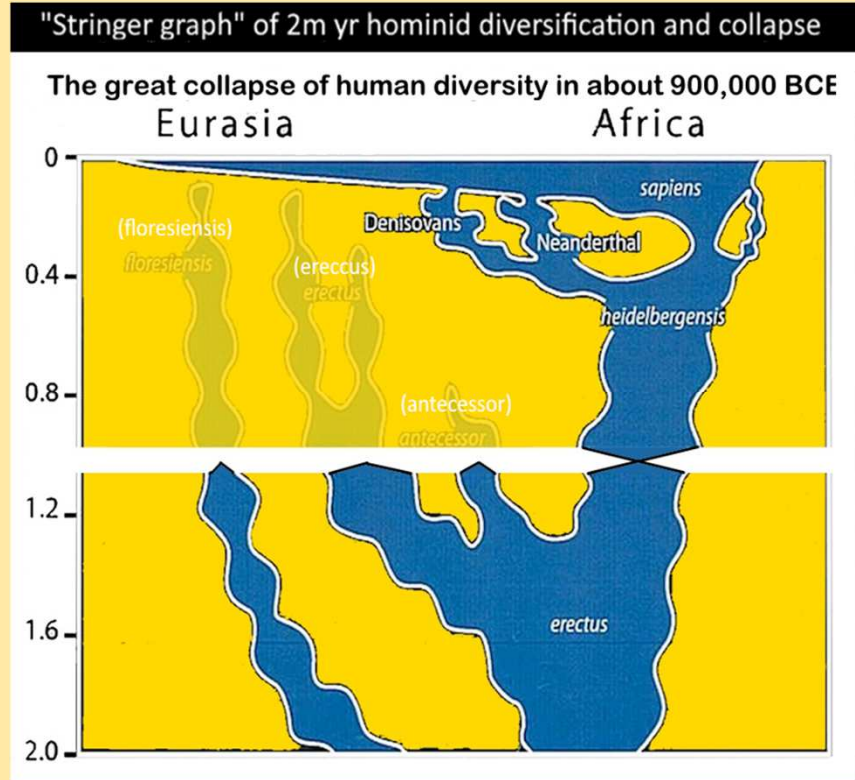
200 thousand years of Sapiens travels, from Kenya and South Africa homelands

Preceded by the million year + spread of Homo Erectus along Africa's East coast.

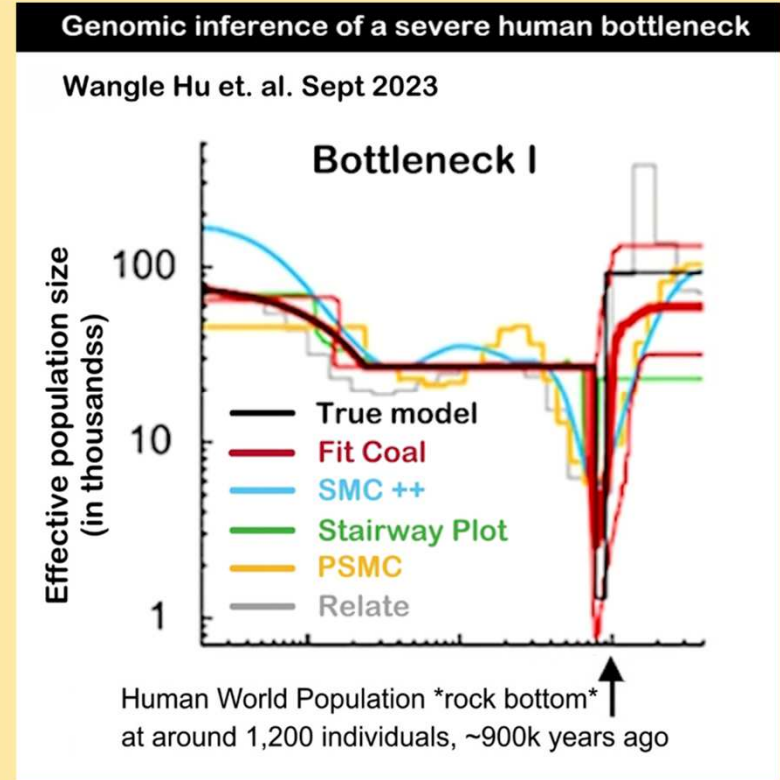
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with... **The first species collapse of humanity, from many to one, 900,000 years ago, perhaps the first sign of our minds getting carried away !**



Still unexplained, modern humans began as a diverse species, then a population collapse, eliminated four, leaving just one.



Six independent archeological studies of ancient human diversity agreed, a million In population was reduced to ~1,200

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The Archeological Periods of Civilization's stages of evolution Just for reference

Era	kyr bp	Yrs	Duration	Time Period
Prehistory	-2,600	2me g	2meg 200C bp	Paleolithic Period: 2.6 Myr ago to 10,000 BCE
	-2,200	20k	20k 2,200 bp	Mesolithic Period: 10,000 BCE to 8,000 BCE
	-700	5k	5k 7C bp	Neolithic Period: 8,000 BCE to 3,000 BCE
Ancient	-3.8	1.8K	1.8K 3.8k bp	Bronze Age: 3,000 BCE to 1,200 BCE
	-1.5	1.7K	1.7K 1.5k bp	Iron Age: 1,200 BCE to 500 CE
Classical	-4.4	4000	4000 4.4k bp	Ancient Greece: 8th C BCE to 4th C BCE
	-1.5	9000	9000 1.5k bp	Ancient Rome: 8th C BCE to 5th C CE

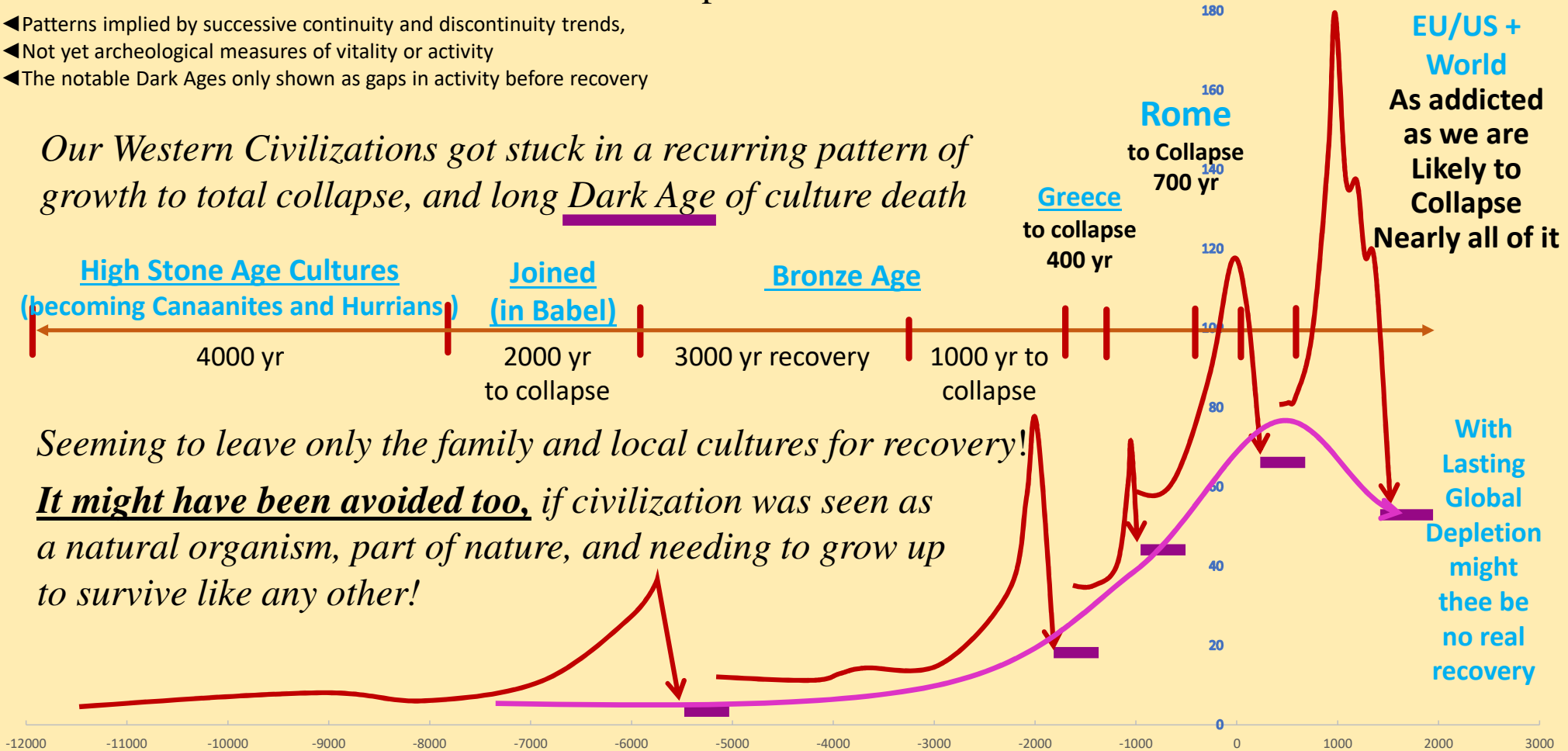
Era	kyr bp	Yrs	Duration	Time Period
Medieval 8C	-1.0	5C	5C 10k bp	Early Middle Ages: 5th C CE to 10th C CE
	-.2	2C	2C 1.2k bp	High Middle Ages: 11th C CE to 13th C CE
	-.525	1C	1C 5.25c bp	Late Middle Ages: 14th C CE to 15th C CE
Renaissance Early & Modern	-.5	3C	3C 5C bp	Renaissance: 14th C CE to 17th C CE
	-1.5	1.75C	1.75C 1.5c bp	Enlightenment: 17th C CE to 1875 th C CE
Modern	-1.1	.4C	.4C 1.1 bp	Industrial Revolution: 1875 CE to 1915 CE
	-.6	.6C	.6C	World War I: 1914 to 1918 World War II: 1939 to 1945 Following Interwar 1918 to 1939 Post War to 1965
Contemporary	-.6	.6C	.6C	Info Age & Greate Explosion: 1965 to present 2025

A “long now” of human history: Repeatedly Getting Carried Away 24

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Decoding the Real Stories

How nature works by itself is animated by self-organized energy systems, not math, growth as the system formation process that builds and fits them to their contexts. That formative activity is what “S-curves” are good evidence of.

The working material and organizational parts mine their contexts for adaptable resources to remake anew, from nature’s vast supply of adaptable old parts and patterns

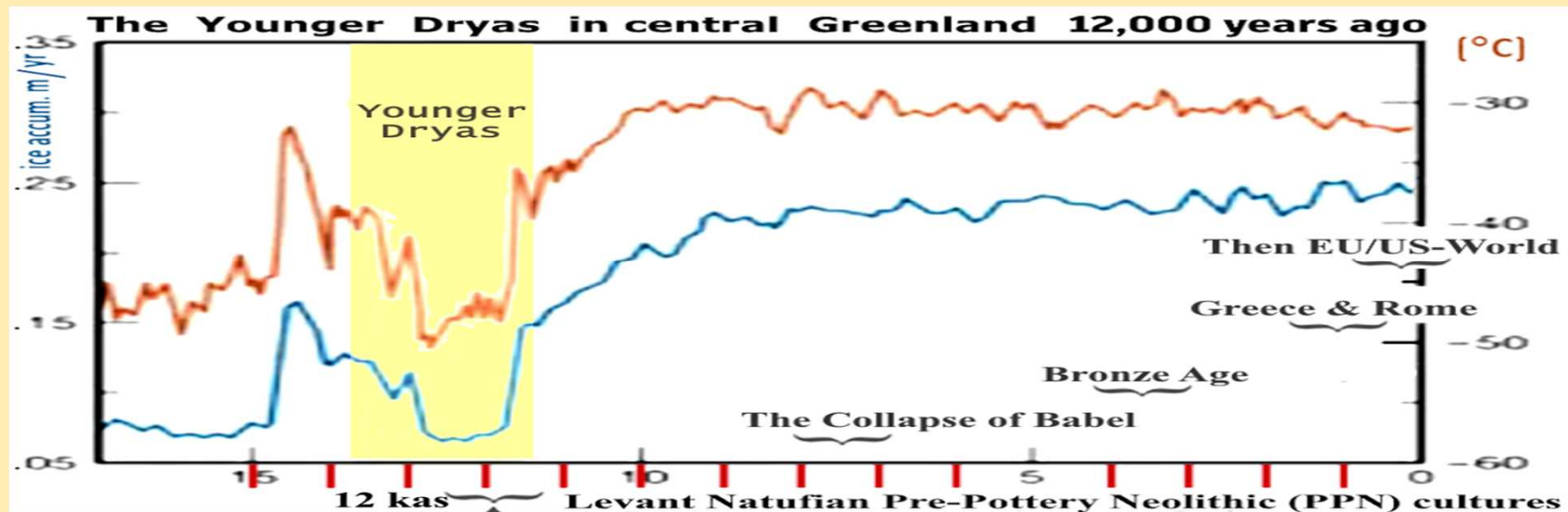
The main Cypher for following such “happenings” is noticing the emerging system formation and change as system “takeoffs and landings”



Modern History's First Climate Change Trauma

Three of the recognizable stages of whole growth system transformation:

1. First is feeling “eventfulness of change.”
 - As in dating, but also in life, new experiences becoming more common
2. Then the signs of things taking hold, as lasting system formation.
 - Noticing and confirming regular progressions, of the non-linear kind
3. More set patterns forming, a signal of both momentum or rigidity
 - The signal of system formation as a warning of steering challenges ahead



Modern History's First Climate Change Challenge

Leading to the creative bursts of Babel and the Bronze Age

The first emergence of modern civilization was a burst of creative collaboration between neighboring late stone age Middle Eastern cultures, a “big chill” ~12,000 years ago, the Younger Dryas event

The Natufian cultures of the Northern and Southern Levant, were motivated to make better homes, a burst of increasingly organized creativity — joining the two highly innovative PPN (Pre-Pottery Neolithic) cultures,

The Southern Levantine PPN

Settled heavily in the **Jordan River Valley** (with iconic sites like Jericho/Tell es-Sultan and WF16). Masters of early perennial water management, alluvial architecture (pioneering round mudbrick homes), the first experimental, large-scale harvesting of wild grains.

The Northern Mesopotamian / Anatolian PPN

Settled the hilltops of Upper Mesopotamia, including **Göbekli Tepe** and near *Taş Tepeler* sites. The achieved extraordinary social organization, monumental megalithic architecture, and deep symbolic, artistic, and ritual expression (carving the famous massive T-shaped stone pillars).

2000 AD Today
 Modern 500yr
 1500 AD
 1000yr
 500 AD Collapse
 Rome 1000yr
 500 BC
 100yr
 150 BC Collapse
 Clas. Greece 650yr
 800 BC
 300yr
 1100 BC Collapse
 Bz Age 1400yr
 1st Kingdom of Egypt
 3100 BC
 3000Yr
 5500 BC Collapse
 Fertile C. & Babel 5500yr
 8000 BC Join
 Gobekli Tepe 9.6ky BC
 Jerico 9.6ky BC
 Jordan Valley 11kyBC

A Great Multi-Cultural Success triggered by the Younger Dryas! ²⁸

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Round homes of Jerico
 Innovative settled farming, Jordan Valley
 (Southern PPN)



The Farming
 methods that Led
 to Cuneiform
 accounting

The Engineers of Gobekli Tepe
 The Egyptians in 3500 years ago seem to have
 learned artistic stonework principles of the
 originators, 8000 years before.
 (Northern PPN)



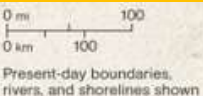
The two innovatively organizing late Stone Age cultures joined
 to create the root of Western Civilization in ~ 10,000 BCE, thriving for ~5,500 years

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The northern culture of stone engineers thrived on rangeland harvesting of wild grains and drove migrating herds of wild animals.

The Jordan Valley Farmers invented accounting, the first written language, to organize trade and economic accounts,

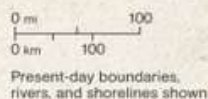


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Grain domestication
Present-day grain cultivation is shown; the range of wild grains is thought to have been slightly larger.

Animal domestication
Wild sheep and goats were the first livestock tamed, about 9000 B.C. Pigs then cattle followed in the next thousand years.



It spread, then multiplied, leading to collapse!
— in Mesopotamia — Babel, the tower of confusion that followed!

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Scribes Recorded
Contracts, organized
trade, and made markets!

Civilization then spread across
the “Fertile Crescent,” with trade
and productivity managed and
recorded by scribes

With wealth concentrating in
Mesopotamia the scribes took
on managing the surpluses
maximize growth too.



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The Scribes didn't see it coming, not knowing their plan to stabilize growth would destabilize it too.

So, one city-state after another tried a fix and failed, for not fixing the problem, the fragility of systems managed for endless growth, and no one spotting the cause, so it kept being passed on!

Most stories describe Babel as a building tower collapse, but the stories and events better fit reading it as a collapse of their languages, in a tower of confusion.



briefly unified Sumer c. 2350 BCE



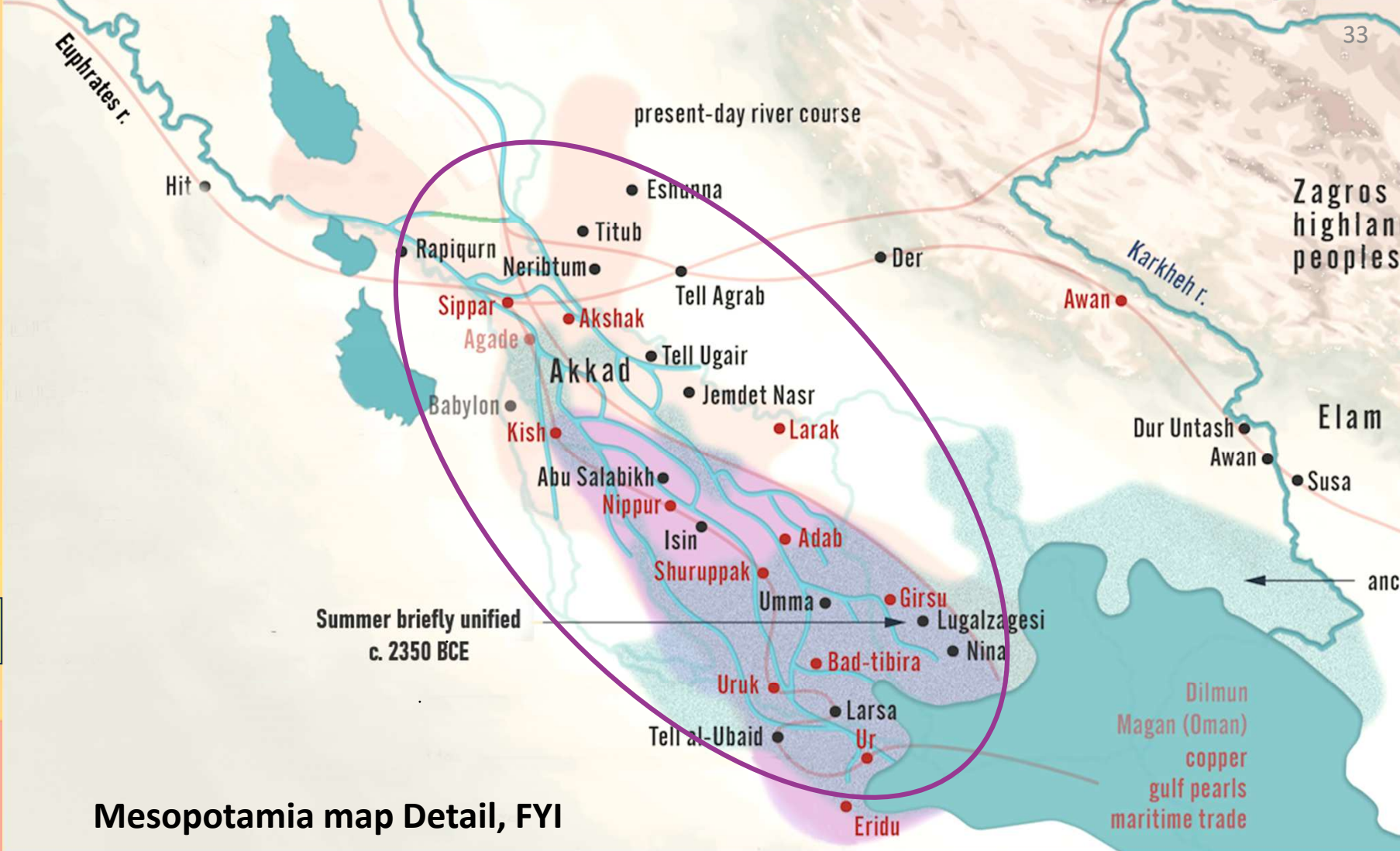
Mesopotamia

Our first managed economy, growing to collapse, in total confusion the systems becoming unaccountable Like ours are today.

Most city states were trying to perfect growth to infinity. But unavoidable errors in planning caused its language to lose meaning instead!

According to the biblical narrative, Abraham (then Abram) and his family left Ur around 1890 B.C. and moved to the fertile Euphrates headwaters, ~ 700 years before the Bronze Age Collapse

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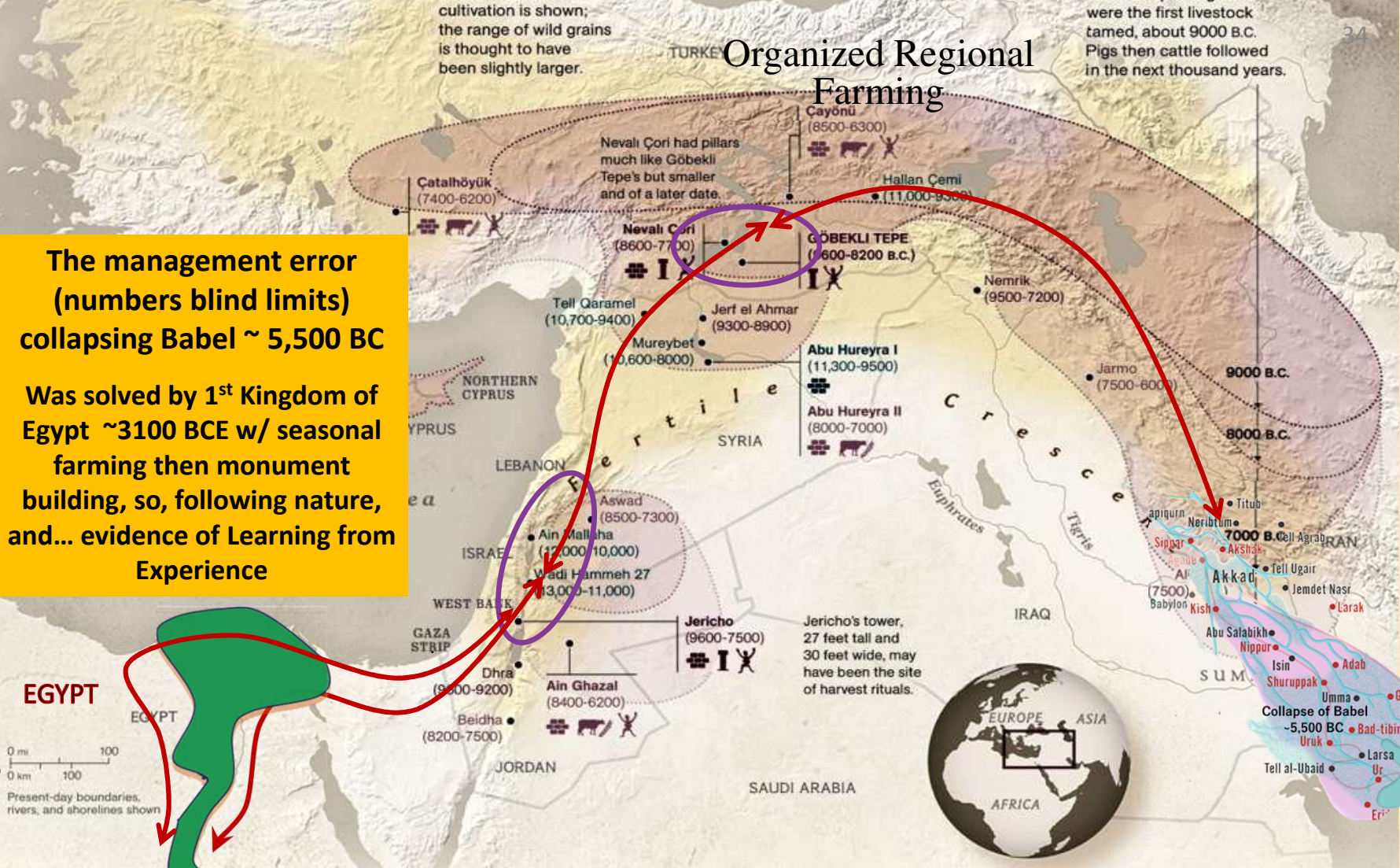


Mesopotamia map Detail, FYI

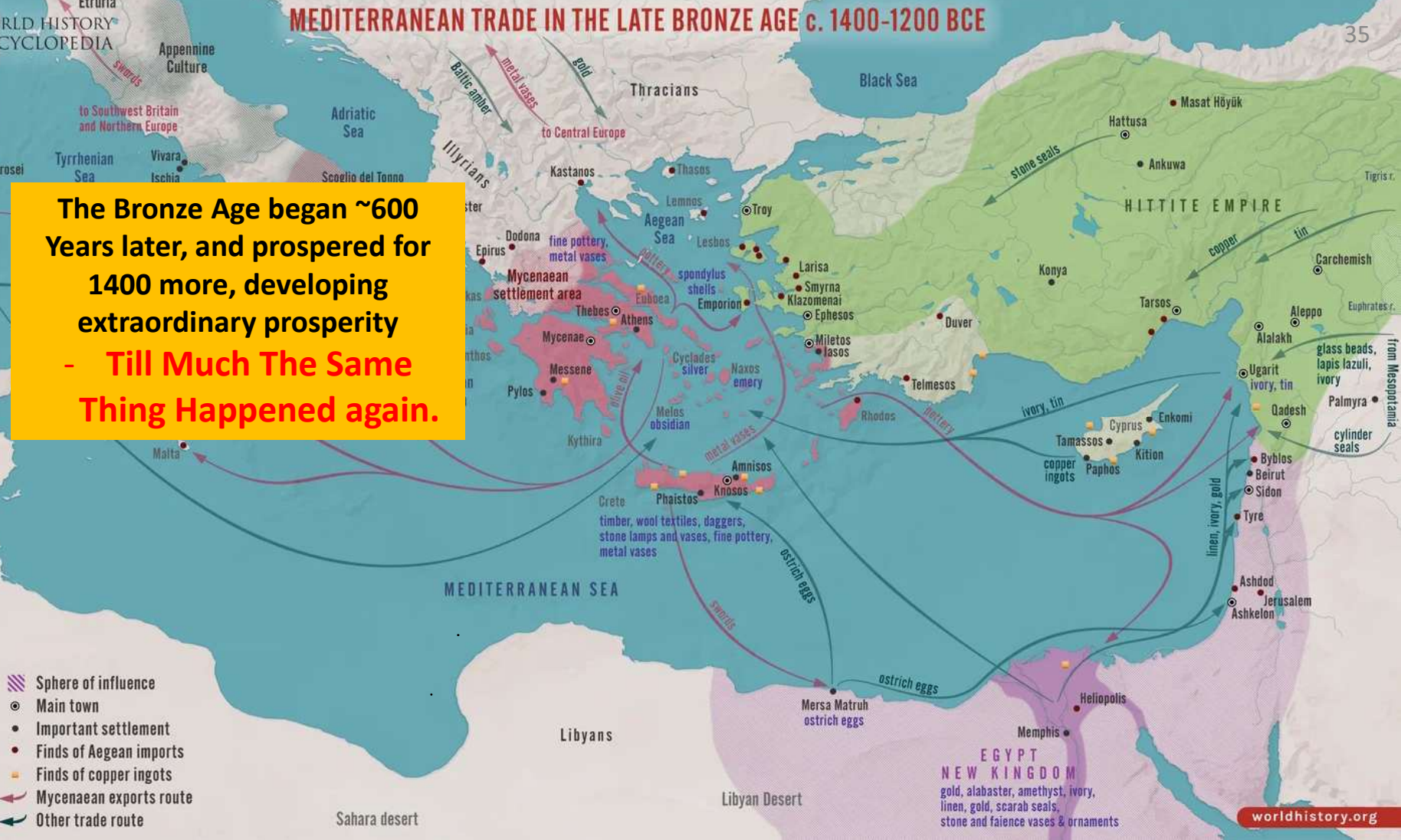
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**The management error
(numbers blind limits)
collapsing Babel ~ 5,500 BC**

**Was solved by 1st Kingdom of
Egypt ~3100 BCE w/ seasonal
farming then monument
building, so, following nature,
and... evidence of Learning from
Experience**

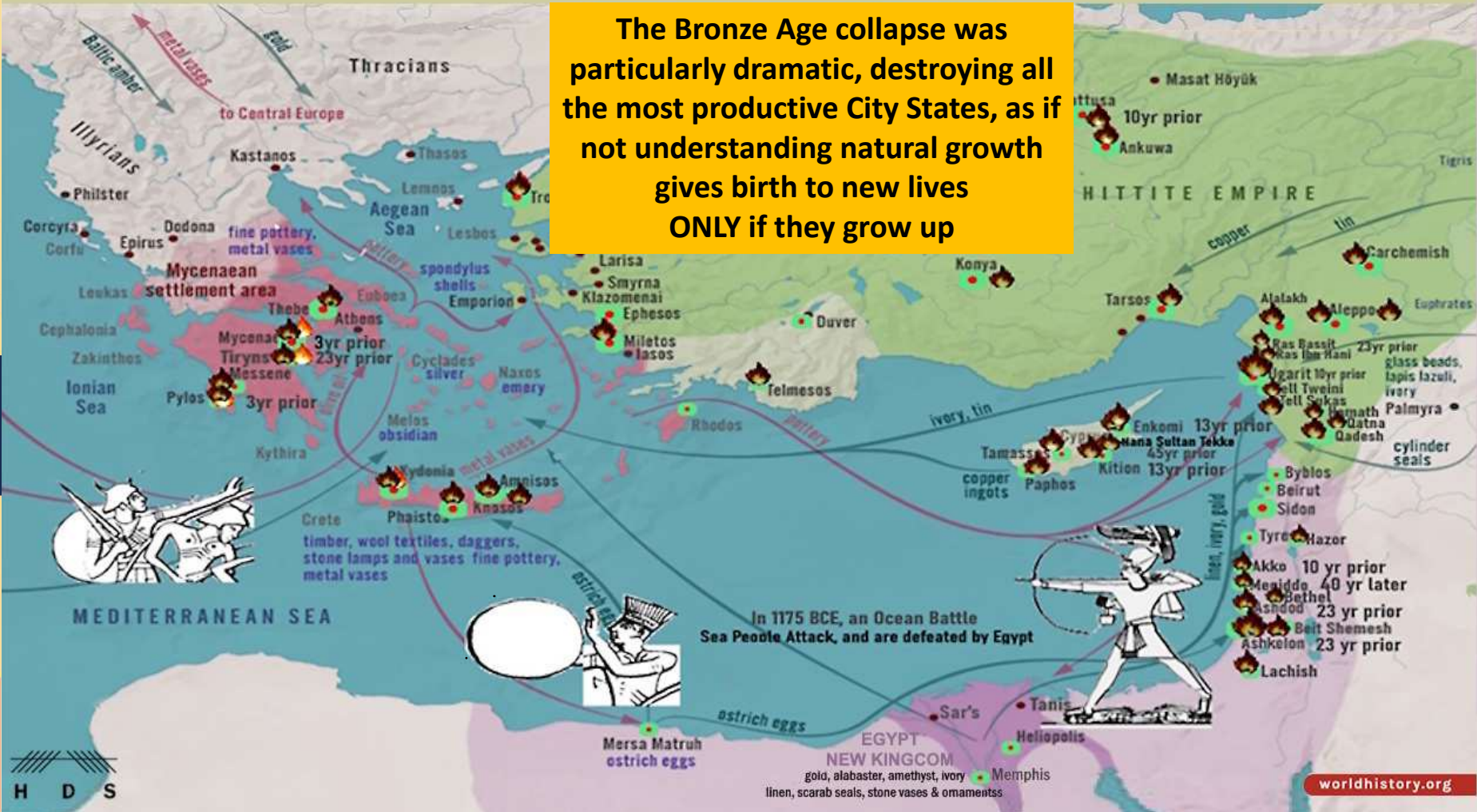


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The Bronze Age collapse was particularly dramatic, destroying all the most productive City States, as if not understanding natural growth gives birth to new lives ONLY if they grow up





So... each of our great civilizations could have
perfected their sustainable designs to prosper
FAR longer



Though, as with the growth maximizing accounting provided the Greeks by Thallus, it's not really a cultural blindness that's involved, but a cognitive one, believing what you see is all that matters.

Welcome back to homebase... The 2026 ISSS Cyprus Meetings

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Have We Done our Job? For ref's see this link.
Synapse9.com/_ISSS-26

- Have we
- ☐ Elevated Systems Science?
 - ☐ Addressed Humanity's Greatest Challenges?
 - ☐ Seen a clear vision of the long path for humanity ahead?
 - ☐ Had a good time?

If you're around after closing on Friday,
come to the Radisson Beach Hotel. Jessie

**So, from here on, it's Time To Find Real Words Again,
The Secret To Growing Up and making it home!**



