

Baltimore in the Future Tense
Chapter 3: The Triple Whammy
By Tom Riley

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Draft
To MP4

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Author

General Description:

This is the text for one of a series short videos on designing new solutions to the problems of the 21st Century by applying new science. This series is called “Baltimore in the Future Tense”. It is in the form of TED style presentations with a few graphics supported by talk. The presentations appear in six short video chapters and appendixes.

This text and videos are available on “The Big Moon Dig” Web site:

The Big Moon Dig / What & Why / Divide Baltimore
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BMDWhyWhat.html#DivBalt>

Starting point essay: “Baltimore”
<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/Baltimore.pdf>

This series was written especially for a University of Baltimore course:

“Divided Baltimore”
<http://blogs.ubalt.edu/dividedbaltimore/>

The text is in Adobe pdf. Graphics were assembled using PowerPoint and SketchUp 2015. The voice and voice times were generated with Natural Reader. The videos were made with Movie Maker. The graphic credits appear at the end of each text, as does a list of references.

The series outline is in the Chapter 1 text file.

Chapter 3, The Triple Whammy

Major change expected

Major disruptions feared

One is not enough

9/11, Banks in 2009

A bad day for the dinosaurs

Triple whammy

One: Population Peak

Two: Global warning/Seas

Three: Ready, set go

Getting ready

Revolutionary state

Plan B ... Plan U

Slide 01: Text intro

MP4: A

Graphics: Text

Time: 00:53

**Baltimore in the Future Tense
Chapter 3 – The Triple Whammy**

Tom Riley

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The Big Moon Dig

<http://bigmoondig.com/Essays/BMDWhyWhat.html>

October 1, 2015

Comment:

Hello, I'm Tom Riley of "The Big Moon Dig".

Let's talk for a just few minutes about using new science to address our current problems. The new stuff is absolutely breathtaking, but communicating complex and novel ideas is a real challenge. We now have the raw information we need to solve our problems but we need to turn it into practical solutions.

In my first chapter, we looked at the big picture. This third chapter is on what we can expect.

These days it is truly dangerous to stick our collective heads in the sand. It is time to get our head up and facing forward. What we see, we may not like but face the future we must so face the future we will.

When we have finished our dive into new science with a few more chapters, we will then be able to design specific actions to address our current problems.

_____ -

Slide 02: One is Not Enough

MP4: B

Image: Divided Baltimore

Time: 01:00 edit



Comment:

Life and society can take a hit or two. But, an unrelenting pelting will change things and once things start to change, change gets into the wind and can blow us anywhere, for good or bad.

The riots in Baltimore in the spring of 2015 were one hit. They did not change very much just as similar riots had not changed very much in the past.

The economic collapse of 2008 was another single hit. Again, it had happened before. This time so little changed that we are setting ourselves up for the next economic event.

Nine/eleven was another big hit. It changed how we handle national security but little else.

One hit, unless it is a planet killer, is simply not enough to make major changes in life on Earth or in our societies.

What then does it take?

_____ -

Slide 03: A Bad Day for Dinosaurs

MP4: C

Image: Dinosaur Skelton

Time: 00:55



Comment:

If history is speaking to us, then three hits in rapid succession will do the job, the legendary Triple Whammy. The dinosaurs found this out the hard way.

For a million years before their final demise, the dinosaurs had been in real trouble.

One: A subcontinent-sized volcanic eruption in India, called the Deacon Traps, had been spewing out lava and gas for a million years. The gases were greenhouse and were changing the climate worldwide.

Two: The Atlantic Ocean was opening up shifting ocean currents and cutting off the transfer of tropical heat to the North Pole. The Ice Age cycles were just starting.

Then one bad day:

Three: An enormous asteroid struck the Earth, a once in a billion year event.

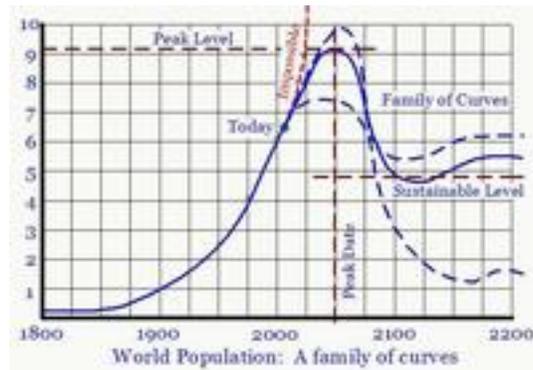
Three kicks in the teeth were enough. The dinosaurs threw in the towel, leaving as their only descendants the birds.

Slide 04: One, the Population Peak

MP4: D

Image: Graph

Time: 01:38



Comment:

What then is coming for us?

What is our number one?

One: The biggest thing out there, at least the biggest thing we can see coming, is the peak of world human population. Our best available computer models predict that the total human population of the Earth will peak at about 10 billion in about 2050.

Human society as we know it has shown an exponential population rise for a very long time. Starting after an enormous volcanic eruption 70,000 years ago, Mt. Toba, our population rose very slowly at first but then it got hot with the Agricultural Revolution and the rise of civilizations about 15,000 years ago. Then with the Industrial revolution only 200 years ago things really took off.

It is now clear that this type of exponential growth cannot be sustained. It simply alters the Earth environments that support us too adversely.

The population models are not all that new. Population was one of the first things ever modeled on computers. Now there is new science and it is about how this transition will take place. It is now known that mammals naturally reduce their rate of reproduction when crowded. This effect is already clear for humans and will generate a peak soon.

Society cannot weather a hit of this level without substantial change. We must now design a society for a sustainable Earth. This change could go very badly if we do not plan for it well. In the long-term however it could be very good because we will still have a planet to live on.

Slide 05: Two: Globule Warming

MP4: E

Image: Sea

Time: 00:15



Comment:

Two: Global warming is real and the seas are both rising and turning acid.

Again we can see this one coming and we can take action but we cannot now prevent it from being a major hit to society. I will leave it to others to provide the details.

Slide 06: Three: Ready Set Go

MP4: F

Image: Text list

Kick in the Teeth List:

Bad:

- Population peak
- Global Warming

- To be Determined

Good:

- Population peak
- The Internet
- Plan B ... Plan U
- Breakthrough technologies
- To be Determined

Time: 00:56

Comment:

Three: The third hit is not so clear, but there are many candidates both good and bad.

On the good side, technology innovations on the level of the Internet do change society. There is every reason to expect such innovations to keep coming thick and fast. It is simply impossible to pick winners and losers beforehand. Also with change in the wind, we have an opening to fix long standing problems like social injustice.

On the bad side, anything can happen. Global warming could have effects that we do not now see. Wars will continue and could get out of hand.

The point here is that with two big hits coming, we can expect major societal disruptions from these hits as we will have to take them together. With two hits running, a third hit would not have to be all that big to do some real damage.

For what we are about to receive, may we truly be thankful.

_____ -

Slide 07: Major Disruptions a coming

MP4: G

Image: Text

Time: 00:33

Major Disruptions Coming

- Plan Ahead
- Change is in the wind
 - Change for the better is possible

- Thanks,
 - Tom Riley
 - The Big Moon Dig

Comment:

Where do our problems fit into all this?

When the winds of change are blowing, and they are blowing hard right now, then change both for the good and for the bad are possible.

We are set up for major hits that will cause major disruptions. We can meet these with planning and foresight. There is much we can and should do. It will take much planning to minimize the number of people who get caught in disasters.

The 21st Century is a century for the brave.

Thanks for your attention,

Tom Riley
"The Big Moon Dig"

Total Time: 06:14

Target: 05:00

Allowing 00:02 times 6 for slide changes = 00:12.

Graphics Credits:

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1. **Introduction** -- Text by Tom Riley
2. **Street Scene** – Unrest in Baltimore, The Baltimore Sun
3. **Dinosaur** -- Dinocreta <http://www.dinocreta.com/carnivorous-dinosaurs/dinosaur-bones-pictures.html>
4. **One** – Graph by Tom Riley
5. **Two** -- Ocean with Ray (National Geographic)

6. **Three** – Text by Tom Riley
7. **Conclusion** – Text by Tom Riley

Sound credit:

1. **Rocket blast** – Titan Rocket sound clip is by NASA

References:

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