



2005 State of the Future

JEROME C. GLENN AND THEODORE J. GORDON

Combination of 100-page paperback of research summaries/conclusions and 3,800-page CD containing cumulative Millennium Project research since 1996 and an annotated bibliography of over 600 scenario sets.

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The *2005 State of the Future* is a unique resource for understanding global change and strategies to improve the human condition. It is used as a text in universities around the world, and serves as an invaluable resource for corporate strategic planners and government policymakers.

This guide to the future distills the collective intelligence of nearly 2,000 leading minds in more than 50 countries who work for governments, corporations, NGOs, universities, and international organizations. For example, the annual gross income of organized crime is more than twice that of all military budgets worldwide... the views of woman and men on future ethical issues are strikingly similar around the world...the high technology and low wages of China and India will result in their becoming giants of world trade, which should force the developing world to rethink its trade-led economic growth strategies...with the advent of the “24-7 always on” globalized world of ubiquitous computing, we will be making many more decisions per day, constantly changing our own and others’ schedules and priorities...a worldwide race to connect everything not yet connected is just beginning... conventional military force has little effect in combating the asymmetrical and intrastate warfare as the boundaries between war, civil unrest, terrorism, and crime become increasingly blurred... more casualties are caused at the hands of men to women than between warring parties... in the best case scenario, China’s water situation does not start to improve for another 10 to 15 years, which is now the key impediment to its growth and could lead to future mass migrations... dramatic increases in collective human-machine intelligence are possible within 25 years. It is also possible that within the same time frame single individuals acting alone might create and use weapons of mass destruction (WMD)... conducting regional water negotiations in the Middle East is the best way to build confidence that peace is possible in the region.

The *2005 State of the Future* is the ninth in an annual series of global “report cards on the future.”

An extraordinary overview of the emerging future, which reminds policymakers of their long-term responsibilities. Barbara Haering, Vice-President, Parliamentary Assembly, OSCE

Exceedingly valuable and unique resource for corporate strategic planning. Michael Stoneking, Partner, Deloitte & Touche

The *State of the Future's* annual guidance is invaluable. Michael Doyle, Columbia University and former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Very important for Korea and the future of our planet. Lee Kang-chul, Chief of Staff for the President of South Korea

Incredible wealth of knowledge we need to create a real worldwide intelligence. Luis Alberto Machado, Former Minister of Intelligence, Venezuela

2003 State of the Future is used by both those who need the most concise briefings – print section – and those who want the full research background – the CD section. As a result, the combined print-CD provides

a common framework for global actors, educators, and the concerned public to use in building more coherent policy.

This comprehensive annual report provides an assessment of the human situation as-a-whole, addressing the international situation on 15 global challenges with sensitivity to regional perspectives, prospects for the future, and actions for today. “It has become increasingly clear that humanity has the resources to address its global challenges; what is less clear is how much wisdom, good will, and intelligence will be focused on these challenges,” says co-author Jerome C. Glenn, “There is so much extraneous information that it is difficult to identify and concentrate on what is truly relevant. Our report cuts through this clutter by presenting clear summaries, with supporting materials, which capture the current informed global view of humanity’s challenges.”

The “2005 State of the Future” report consists of a series of executive summaries in 100 pages, accompanied by a CD-ROM of approximately 3,800 pages with complete details of the Millennium Project’s cumulative work since 1996 and an annotated bibliography of over 600 scenarios.

The new “State of the Future Index” (SOFI) shows that the outlook for the future is getting better due to the past 20 years of improvement in the infant mortality rate, food availability in low-income countries, and other factors. However, plausible and significant drops in the index could occur due to proliferation of various forms of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, the rich-poor gap, and increasing global climate changes.

The State of the Future provides cumulative analyses about global issues from the neutral view point. Many kinds of policy-makers will get inspiration from this book.

Dr. Tetsuo Saito, Representative, Diet of Japan
Former Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, Japan

The authors:

Jerome C. Glenn and Theodore J. Gordon have been co-directors of the Millennium Project of the American Council for the United Nations University (AC/UNU) since 1995. Glenn has been the executive director of the AC/UNU since 1988 as liaison between the US and the UNU, the primary academic research system of the United Nations. He has 35 years experience in futures research for various think tanks and was deputy director for PfP International in micro-enterprise development where he introduced e-mail to thirty developing countries in the early 1980s. Gordon was a space scientist in the Apollo program, has 45 years experience in futures research, founded The Futures Group, co-founded the Institute for the Future, and was an early pioneer with the RAND Corporation’s Delphi studies.

About the Millennium Project

The Millennium Project is a unique think tank with 25 Nodes—groups of institutions and individuals who connect global and local perspectives—around the world plus 2,000 volunteer futurists, scholars, business leaders, scientists, and policymakers from more than 50 countries, acting under the auspices of the American Council for the United Nations University. It is dedicated to exploring global futures by interviewing and surveying individuals at corporations, universities, NGO’s, UN organizations, and governments to understand world change and to identify actions to reach the best possible future for humanity. In addition to its annual *State of the Future* reports, the Millennium Project also produces the *Futures Research Methodology* series, and special studies such as nanotechnology impacts, Middle East peace scenarios, environmental security, 2025 global science and technology scenarios, early warning and decisionmaking systems. The Millennium Project’s work has been recognized by leading organizations, has been named one of the best foresight organizations by the US Department of Energy, is annually selected among “Top Picks” by *Future Survey*, and is recognized as one of the leading “Best Practices” by United Nations Habitat.