



# **100 QUESTIONS**

**THE TABLE OF FREE VOICES, BERLIN, 09.09.06**

# REINVENTING ECONOMICS

## QUESTIONS ABOUT POVERTY, PROSPERITY AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY.

1. Are brands more powerful than governments?  
–Barcelona Forum, 2004
2. Does economic globalization promote democracy or consolidate dictatorship?  
–David Dubois, 36, Metz, France
3. If we produce enough food to feed everyone in the world, why don't we?  
–Amy Johnson, 32, Chicago, Illinois, USA
4. Why are women still at a disadvantage?  
–Ramazon Keskin, 34, Cologne, Germany
5. How should an economic system be devised that isn't in conflict with human, animal or planet rights?  
–Jens von Schéele, 32, Stockholm, Sweden
6. If Darwin's theory is right about life beginning in Africa, then why are African states less developed than Western states?  
–Elliot Chikoma, 16, Swakopmund, Namibia
7. Does our wealth depend on the third world being poor?  
–Tom Henze 30, Berlin, Germany
8. Why is it socially acceptable to hoard wealth while so many go without basic needs?  
–Kent Keller, 49, Milwaukee, USA
9. Is the current economic system inherently corrupt? If so, how do we go about dismantling it?  
–Glen Tyler, 25, Capetown, South Africa
10. How should the development of developing countries take place? Is micro-finance or macro-finance better?  
–Delgersaikhan Jadamba, 37, Ulanbatar, Mongolia
11. How can people in the developed world enjoy cheap products and also criticize China for its rapid industrialization?  
–Qin Chuan, Beijing, China
12. What's after capitalism?  
–Wera Koseleck, 53, Groß Nemerow, Germany

# CONSCIOUS RECOGNITION

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY.

13. Is egoism the reason for human failure?

–Alain Appel, 18, Basel, Switzerland

14. AIDS in Africa: how big is our responsibility?

–Judith, 23, Munich, Germany

15. Does our education system really enable a child to bloom?

–Sr. Jacintha Fernandes, 50, Edacochin, Cochin, Kerala, India

16. Is corporate social responsibility possible?

–Adam, 27, California, USA

17. How can human society be in balance and harmony when there are so few women in positions of power and feminine values are so minimized in all areas?

–David Woolfson, 52, Toronto, Canada

18. How can we reconcile respect for universal human rights when these rights conflict with traditional and/or religious values?

–Frank Davis, 53, New York, USA

19. What are the basic dignities that each human being deserves and why do we let so many people go without them?

–Claire Mackintosh, 25, Brisbane, Australia

20. Why do we consider some lives to be worth more than others?

–Nicola Brown, 49, Devon, UK

21. Do we have the right to consider human beings as more valuable than other life forms?

–Silke, Berlin

22. If somehow we could snap our fingers and there would no longer be any drugs in this world, would there be no more suffering? Or is it possible that addiction is not really about drugs, that addiction is really about the relationships that human beings form with one another?

–Ethan Nadelmann, New York, USA

23. Why do I as a black American continue to love and defend a country that treats me like an unwanted child? (People from other countries can answer this question in reference to oppressed groups in their countries.)

–Jason Robinson, 27, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

24. When might it become necessary to break the law?

–Matt, San Francisco, USA

# **POLITICS OF VIOLENCE**

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT PEACE, CONFLICT AND CASUALTIES OF WAR.**

25. Do you know the connection between politics and violence?

–Yang Shaobin, 43, Yuanmingyuan artists' village, Beijing, China

26. Why is an Iranian nuclear bomb supposed to be more dangerous than an American, Israeli or French?

–Wolfgang Jost, 23, Berlin, Germany

27. Why is there no peace in the Middle East yet?

–Moise Marabout, 23, Agades, Niger

28. Why is it that when the powerful use force it is called "self-defense" and when the weak use force it is called "terrorism"?

–Haya El Azzah, 25, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

29. At a time when the concepts of 'self-defense' and 'humanitarian intervention' are being redefined, how are we to tell the difference between 'holy war' and 'just war'?

–Sandra Schaede, 29, Berlin, Germany

30. How do we stop our governments from going to war?

–Glen, Capetown, South Africa

31. Who is profiting from terrorism?

–Barcelona Forum, 2004

32. The trend in war in the last 100 years has seen a dramatic increase in civilian death... why is this tolerated?

–Angela, 32, Sri Lanka

33. What would be the best use for the trillion dollars a year spent by the United States and other countries on their military budgets?

–Howard Zinn, USA

34. How can we stop gang-violence in the inner cities and motivate young people to place importance on education instead of killing each other?

–Stephanie Allen, 53, Santa Monica, California, USA

35. Is there a modern version of colonialism?

–Adrienn Meszaros, 30, Budapest, Hungary

36. How do you counteract violence, anger or hatred?

–Anonymous, New York, USA

37. Between non-violent resistance and armed struggle where do we go? What is effective? What is the right thing to do? Do we need a biodiversity of resistance?

–Arundhati Roy, New Delhi, India

## **UNDERSTANDING POWER**

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT FREEDOM AND GOVERNANCE.**

38. Is there something better than democracy?

–Alex, 33, Berlin, Germany

39. What is freedom? Is it relative to where you are in the world?

–Adelina Wong, 18, Richmond, Canada

40. Should we have the right to choose where we live?

–Judy Twedt, 24, Denver, USA

41. Where does the line between personal freedom and social responsibility towards the common good fall?

Who gets to decide?

–Saphyre Rogers, 43, Denver, Colorado, USA

42. How would the world be today if the Africans were never brought over to the Americas to be enslaved?

–Shoshana Friedman, Chicago, USA

43. Why do so many people in foreign countries that don't have democracy which are also being oppressed by dictators, get so aggressive against the Western World, which wants to spread our way of life (i.e. not living in fear all the time)?

–Chris B., 16, Vancouver, Canada

44. How much of our liberty are we going to offer for our supposed security?

–Florian Großer, 37, Starnberg, Germany

45. Will it now take a global government to solve what were once considered national or regional issues yet now affect us all?

–Michelle, North Bend, Washington, USA

46. What is the purpose of public international law if there are no effective enforcement mechanisms to apply it?

–Maria Kyriacou, 28, Nicosia, Cyprus

47. What does courage mean now?

–Sara Francis, 35, Dublin, Ireland

48. I would like to know if there's a way when change is happening that it can happen gracefully and doesn't have to take innocent victims with it? Is there a way for America to lose its standing as the most powerful nation on this planet without that disrupting the entire planet? Can power ever relinquish power?

–Jodie Evans, Venice, California, USA

49. How can the decent people of the world help each other while the actions of their leadership are self-serving and internationally divisive?

–Bo Chamberlain, 32, Tennessee, USA

# THE HUMAN FOOTPRINT

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ENERGY, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF LIFE.

50. Can a person be perceptive enough to see our planet in a way that tells them that they too are part of nature?

–Sebastião Salgado, Aimorés, Minas Gerais, Brazil

51. What can I do, and tell others to do, to stop global warming?

–Nancy Clemons, 57, Cameron, Missouri, USA

52. Is there an ecological limit to economic growth?

–David Letellier, 28, Berlin, Germany

53. What if all Chinese people want a car?

–Andrew, 22, Frankfurt, Germany

54. Whose responsibility is it to manage the world's resources?

–Barbara Mark, 54, San Francisco, USA

55. How can we create communities that are sustainable so that we stop using up resources at a rate faster than they can be replaced?

–Cat Matlock, 36, North Carolina, USA

56. Why is the food we eat of such bad quality?

–Sascha Hellmick, 25, Augsburg, Germany

57. Why is it easier to get a cold can of Coca-Cola than a fresh glass of water?

–Dagmar Seidel, 38, Berlin, Germany

58. How can everyone have sufficient clean water without conflict?

–American Council for the United Nations University Millennium Project, USA

59. How will the world compensate for the growing energy needs and resource consumption of developing nations like China and India when nations like the United States consume resources disproportionate to their populations?

–Nathan Huening, 26, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA

60. What is the energy balance of renewable energies? Do they produce more energy than their production consumes?

–N.N., Antarctica

61. What steps can be immediately taken to prepare all world societies for the pending "Long Emergency" associated with the convergence of peak oil, destruction of biodiversity, climate change, poverty, and global disease?

–Mike Walters, 28, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

62. What is the future of the city?

–Nick, 21, Brisbane, Australia

## **THE NEW GLOBAL FRONTIER**

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT CULTURE, COMMUNICATION AND INTERCONNECTION.**

63. What is today's most important unreported story?

–Anonymous, USA

64. Is the ubiquitousness of mass media more of an opportunity or a problem?

–Jerry Mander, California, USA

65. How do we determine "truth" and "fact" when we can manufacture either?

–Ebon, Brooklyn, USA

66. Why do we still believe more in nationality than in humanity?

–Katharina, 24, Germany

67. I am white, but I am more African than any black person who was raised in America. Should people really still be defined by their race, or is where they come from more important? For example, aren't African-Americans just Americans?

–Thomas Troxler, 24, Johannesburg, South Africa

68. What can we learn from Africa?

–Anonymous, Brussels, Belgium

69. How can we create a balance between the preservation of local cultures and the development of a global community?

–Anonymous, Tacoma, Washington, USA

70. How can we protect cities from sameness? How can we retain the identity of different cities?

–Sara Baig, 27, Karachi, Pakistan

71. Television is a very powerful communication tool. Why do we use it to spread such unimportant information?

–Michael Graham Richard, 24, Gatineau, Quebec, Canada

72. How does consumer culture actually influence the personalities, the ways people live, the way they think within a given culture? How does it become part of us and what does it mean to be able to resist that visual and verbal culture that seems to me is always reducing and simplifying reality into something that can be easily bought and sold?

–Siri Hustvedt, New York, USA

73. What are the myths that we need to create to change the world for the better?

–Kieth Dierkx, 48, Piedmont, California, USA

74. Can we still be indigenous in the 21st Century?

–Anonymous, Helsinki, Finland

# INNOVATION ACCELERATION

## QUESTIONS ABOUT SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE.

75. We are in the knowledge age. How can the increase in access to technology (Internet and computer) among low-income communities help to promote social and economic development?

–Rodrigo Baggio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

76. Do you think, now that we have the Internet in our homes, that we are being intimidated and controlled more than ever?

–Anonymous, Stoke-on-Trent, UK

77. Is there a value in resisting a new technology which, while potentially harmful in the short term, could save millions of lives in the future?

–Eric Mahleb, 36, Savigny France

78. Why are we taking the incalculable risk of allowing genetically engineered food crops into the environment without fully understanding the effects and implications?

–Noah Brotman, 25, Toronto, Canada

79. What kind of genetic engineering should be allowed to correct defects and imperfections?

–Kurt Weidemann, 83, Stuttgart, Germany

80. Look at domesticated animals – pets – and how their inability to fend for themselves has rendered them largely obese, lazy, dependent, and less curious. In this sense: are humans becoming domesticated by technology?

–Ian, 23, Arlington, Virginia, USA

81. How objective is science?

–Janina Sprenger, 22, Berlin, Germany

82. How can architecture better serve the social, economic, political and environmental concerns of our present and future?

–Kenneth Hinchcliffe, 41, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

83. Why don't we dump all patent laws all around the world and stop restraining creativity and innovation?

–Etienne Savard, 34, Beloeil, Quebec, Canada

84. Will it someday be possible to directly connect the human brain to machines (like computers)? If yes, when and how?

–Nicolas Flagey, 27, Cachan, France

85. How could the technology boom of the past fifty years have been more useful to humankind if it wasn't driven by military or market forces?

–Dan Hill, 59, Leechburg, Pennsylvania, USA

86. How can the Internet as a global informational tool that criss-crosses entire continents, serve to enhance our own communities?

–Max Stelmacker, 36, Surrey, Canada

87. Why does it seem that life gets more and more stressful with each thing we invent to save time?

–Desiree Zwanck, 26, Berlin, Germany

## **A PERCEIVING EYE**

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR VIEW.**

88. What does the future you want look like?

–Anonymous, New York, USA

89. What moves you?

–Anonymous, New York, USA

90. Who are your heroes?

–Anonymous, New York, USA

91. What is your tree? What is it in your life that calls you to be bigger than what you think is possible?

–Julia Butterfly Hill, 32, Southern California, USA

92. What's the most important subject in the arts that needs to be talked about and why?

–Layna Francisco, 22, Manila, The Philippines

93. What are the three most important values a child should be taught?

–Elana Kloppenburg, 30, Rome, Italy

94. What concrete steps can we take to make sure that everyone has a decent education and that people, wherever they are born, have greater opportunity to contribute to the world?

–Bill Joy, California, USA.

95. In your opinion what should a young adult be reading, seeing or experiencing to spark a strong desire and knowledge to become a world-changer?

–Amy Green, 32, Columbia, South Carolina, USA

96. What is God's religion?

–Miraj Khaled, 30, Dhaka, Bangladesh

97. How can two answers to a single question be right, but still contradict each other?

–Matthias Hohlbach, 30, Munich, Germany

98. How come we are so many people and still feel alone?

–Nadia Holtz Calderó, 21, San José, Costa Rica

99. If you had one piece of knowledge to give to the world, what would it be?

–Anonymous, Baltimore, USA

100. If any of these questions are answered, how do we get the world to listen?

–Benjamin McQuillan, 24, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA