

THE BLIND SPOT



THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARY

Documentary in English
Approximately 100 Minutes
HD - 5D
300.000 - 500.000 USD
Contemporary issues and cultural history
Target audience is political, economical, and environmental
Locations in USA, Europe, Asia



**THE PROBLEM IS, WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
WE NEED VISIONARIES WHO CAN SEE WHAT WE CANNOT.**

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IF WE DO NOT CHANGE DIRECTION, WE ARE LIKELY TO END UP WHERE WE'RE HEADED.

The earth's forests are receding, while its deserts are expanding. Topsoil on our croplands is diminishing, and the ozone layer, which protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation, is being depleted. Concentrations of heat trapping gases in the atmosphere are rising, while the numbers of plant and animal species are shrinking. World population continues to grow, and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. And yet, while public awareness of all these problems is rising dramatically everywhere, they are strikingly absent from the political dialogue. Will we survive the 21st century with the way we currently attempt to solve problems? Is it possible to see the problems in new ways and generate wisdom together?

This documentary will tell the stories of several key innovators who are changing the world by uncovering and addressing critical blind spots in our society. These researchers, educators, and reformers have unearthed historically destructive cultural patterns that continue to

threaten our economic, environmental, and cultural stability. Our narrative will take the perspective of these key individuals, as they seek to illuminate and change the unconscious habits that have created a global epidemic of institutional failure.

To answer these questions, we will investigate the groundbreaking work of the following individuals, who each have identified and/or sought to remedy a critical blind spot:

- Brian Griffiths: Uncovering the Roots of Culture Wars
- Jeremy Rifkin: Transcending the Pattern of Centralized Power
- Peter Senge: Embracing an Economics of Mutual Benefit
- Carolyn Lukensmeyer: Building Community-Guided Government
- Sunny Schwartz: Rehabilitating the Failed Justice System
- Marshall Rosenberg: Ending the Shame and Blame Game in Relationships
- Rich and Yvonne Dutra-St. John: Changing the Culture of Violence in Schools

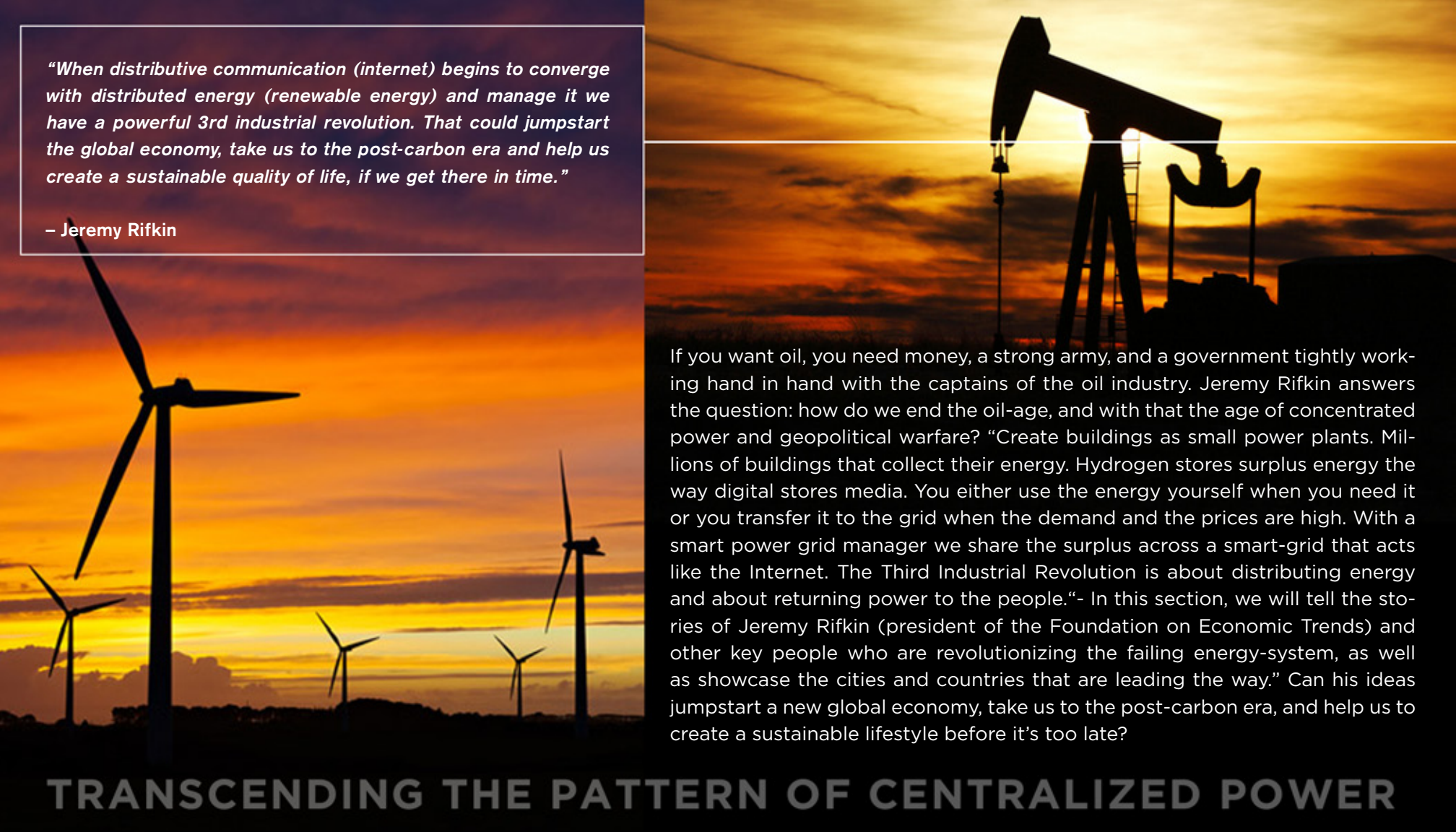


UNCOVERING THE ROOTS OF CULTURE WARS

As long as the grass grows faster than it is reaped, the economy generates productivity for almost everyone. Problems arise when the grass is eaten faster. Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, even the Mayans couldn't solve this problem, and it seems that we can't either. Attempts to employ corrective action are blocked by vested interests and well-intentioned political and business leaders. It is a culture war. Brian Griffith: "People around me passionately disagreed over what was right, who was the enemy, or what direction was helpful. Comparing the different messages I grew increasingly curious about the culture wars that divide every society."

"We tend to pick a story about where we're coming from and where we're going. And whatever story we like best, that becomes our own history, our mythology, and our religion all at the same time."

- Brian Griffith, historian/writer



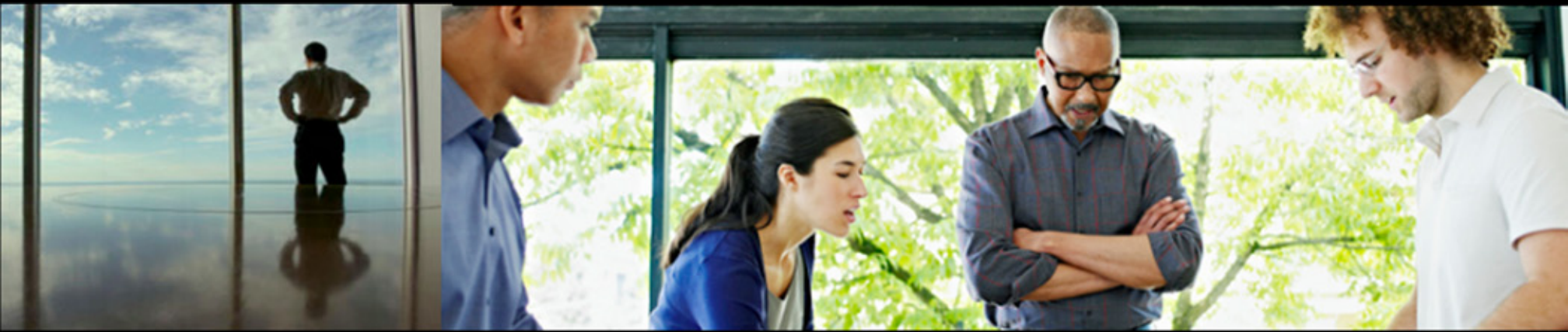
“When distributive communication (internet) begins to converge with distributed energy (renewable energy) and manage it we have a powerful 3rd industrial revolution. That could jumpstart the global economy, take us to the post-carbon era and help us create a sustainable quality of life, if we get there in time.”

– Jeremy Rifkin

If you want oil, you need money, a strong army, and a government tightly working hand in hand with the captains of the oil industry. Jeremy Rifkin answers the question: how do we end the oil-age, and with that the age of concentrated power and geopolitical warfare? “Create buildings as small power plants. Millions of buildings that collect their energy. Hydrogen stores surplus energy the way digital stores media. You either use the energy yourself when you need it or you transfer it to the grid when the demand and the prices are high. With a smart power grid manager we share the surplus across a smart-grid that acts like the Internet. The Third Industrial Revolution is about distributing energy and about returning power to the people.”- In this section, we will tell the stories of Jeremy Rifkin (president of the Foundation on Economic Trends) and other key people who are revolutionizing the failing energy-system, as well as showcase the cities and countries that are leading the way.” Can his ideas jumpstart a new global economy, take us to the post-carbon era, and help us to create a sustainable lifestyle before it’s too late?

TRANSCENDING THE PATTERN OF CENTRALIZED POWER

EMBRACING AN ECONOMICS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT



Competing fast-food chains diminish in pursuit of the uniform French fry the diversity of potato species, and pesticides used seep into the water supply. While these and other priceless commons are being damaged, our system directs our attention not toward noticing this or protecting them, but toward cute commercials in which competing fast-food companies tell us how fun and healthy all this is. Imagine an executives from MacDonalds sitting with potato farmers learning from one another. Imagine how they in concert design a food system that works for them and the environment. The ensuing investigation: how do you get the whole system in the room and get everyone to respect the different interests and perspectives, and then to build a network that creates breakthrough innovations? Welcome to MIT's innovative approach to problem solving and leadership.

"Radical change is becoming the norm and sustainability is not a problem to be solved – it is a future to be created. Leadership is not about position or formal authority but the capacity of human communities to shape futures that people truly desire." - Peter Senge, Senior Lecturer at MIT and founder of SOL Society for Organizational Learning

BUILDING COMMUNITY-GUIDED GOVERNMENT



Imagine that democracy in America returned to the idealist values of the country's founding fathers. Imagine sitting at a table with ten to twelve people of diverse backgrounds discussing and generating ideas about an issue that's important to you. Imagine an auditorium that's full of such discussion tables, and that it is connected via intranet to eight additional auditoriums spread across the country. Now imagine that the best ideas expressed at each table are debated in the auditorium, vetted by and voted on, in concert, all eight auditoriums, then funneled directly to public decision-makers who are committed to putting the solutions to work. You've just attended your first AmericaSpeaks 21st century town gathering. - In most countries voices don't seem to make a difference in the policy choices that are most important to the future. Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer launched this AmericaSpeaks back in 1995 to remedy the disconnection she saw growing between citizens across the country and the government in Washington. Can she transform the system from within, restore the voice of the public to the decision-making process?

"Democracy was founded on a deep belief in human beings capacity to selfgovern. Thomas Jefferson put it this way: The best public policy is the integration of the knowledge of experts informed by the wisdom of common ordinary people."

- Carolyn Lukensmeyer

REHABILITATING THE FAILED JUSTICE SYSTEM



1974: rehabilitation programs were substituted by harder punishments. The prison population has risen from 200,000 to 2,200,200. In the US prison system today 75% of the men incarcerated for 5 years return to jail. Many leave the prison more violent than before they entered it. San Francisco prison facilitators and former inmates carefully defuse a prisoner's beliefs about what it means to be a man.



"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

**- Sunny Schwartz,
lawyer and expert in criminal justice reform**

How do you get a man with a 20 year prison record to identify his beliefs leading to violent reactions? How do you transform a prison culture that empowers prisoners to learn than to give up on themselves? County Jail #7, in San Bruno, California, has an 83% less recidivism rate due to innovative policies and solutions.

Why is it that the three most powerful nations in the world have the highest incarceration rates? How do these nations create high poverty rates, large gaps between rich and poor, high crime rates and flawed correctional institutions? Why are the worlds powers most prone to this developement? What do they have in common?

ENDING THE SHAME-AND-BLAME GAME IN RELATIONSHIPS



In this film, we will follow Nonviolent Communication founder Marshall Rosenberg uncovers and changes the beliefs and patterns related to conflicts that have evolved out of entrenched power structures and hierarchies. In most popular tv-shows and movies, the climax is about exposing the wrongdoer. Early on, most of us grow up learning to classify people in various shades of good and evil, right and wrong. Ultimately such judgements provoke defensiveness, resistance and counterattack- seldom more. Violence rates in a society correlate with the rates of shame and blame used in literature and media. How do we shift from thinking who is the idiot to something different? What is the alternative? What does it take to get there?

"We can't win at somebody else's expense. We can only fully be satisfied when the other person's needs are fulfilled as well as our own." - Marshall Rosenberg

CHANGING THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS



"Separation, isolation and fear are the sad results of our culture's dysfunctional rules. From the time most of us are young, we are taught to protect ourselves, to be on guard and to compete with others for love and approval from the world." - Yvonne St. John-Dutra

Kids nowadays learn more from TV and the internet than from their parents or teachers. Watching the good and evil myths retold in thousands of variations from Tom and Jerry to Skyfall sets up a social totem pole that prepares kids for the "real world" of institutional competition and bullying. How do we reverse a long and deeply entrenched ritual leading to dropouts, drug-abuse, suicide and homicide? How do we make bullying and mobbing look weak? How do we get the bullies and the bullied to embrace out of regret and fight together for a common cause?

CONCLUSION

A wide-angle, low-perspective shot of a two-lane asphalt road that stretches straight into the distance, vanishing at the horizon. The road is flanked by dry, scrubby vegetation and small trees. The sky is filled with large, dark, dramatic clouds, with patches of lighter sky visible through the breaks. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

From the macrocosm of centralized power to the microcosm of interpersonal relationships, the innovators in our film will reveal critical, never before seen blind spots in our society, as well as practical solutions to some of our greatest problems and a higher vision to which we can aspire.

Martin Rausch, writer and producer, has been pursuing a life-long passion for discovering leverages in our society that when thoughtfully applied lead to positive shifts in belief-systems and action.

Jeremy Rifkin has had consistent success in litigation to ensure responsible government policies on a variety of environmental, scientific and technology related issues in the US. Rifkin is the principle architect of the European Union's long-term economic sustainability plan and probably the most influential individual consulting governments in creating the transition to a postcarbon era.

William Ury is currently a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Negotiation Project and mediator in conflicts ranging from corporate mergers to wildcat strikes in a Kentucky coal mine to ethnic wars in the Middle East, the Balkans, and the former Soviet Union. He is the author of *The Power of a Positive No: How to Say No & Still Get to Yes* (2007) and co-author of *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*.

Peter M. Senge, Ph.D., is the founding chairperson of SoL and a senior lecturer at MIT who works with organizations around the world to enhance the capacity of all people to work productively toward common goals and realize their potentials.

Dr. Senge was named by the *Wall Street Journal* among the top 20 most influential business thinkers.

Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Ph.D., is a leader of deliberative democracy, a public servant and social entrepreneur. In 1995, she founded AmericaSpeaks, a non-profit that strengthens citizen voice in decision making. Carolyn was Chief of Staff to Governor Celeste of Ohio and consultant to the White House Chief of Staff for nine months during the Clinton years.

Sir Ken Robinson challenges the way we're educating our children. He champions a radical rethink of our school systems, to cultivate creativity and acknowledge multiple types of intelligence.

http://www.ted.com/speakers/sir_ken_robinson.html

Brian Griffith has a life-long passion for combining and comparing ecological, social and religious history. *The Roots of Culture Wars* is based mostly on his writings from "The Gardens of Their Dreams – Desertification and Culture in World History", "Correcting Jesus: 2000 Years of Changing the Story" and "A Galaxy of Immortal Women - The Yin Side of Chinese History."

Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D. has initiated peace programs in war-torn areas throughout the world including Rwanda, Burundi, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Serbia, Croatia, and Ireland. He is the founder and director of educational services for the international Center for Nonviolent Communication.

Yvonne and Rich St. John - Dutra. Yvonne and Rich combined their collective passion and experience to co-found the Challenge Day Program in 1987. Their work has affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth and adults in the US, Canada and abroad.

Sunny Schwartz is a nationally recognized expert in criminal justice reform with 30 years of frontline experience as a lawyer, advocate and consultant. She is the author of *Dreams from the Monster Factory*, which gives a comprehensive insider's perspective on America's failing prison system and recounts her own real-world implementation of a targeted strategy that both saves taxpayers' money and dramatically reduces recidivism.

BIOGRAPHIES