



# GREAT TRANSITION INITIATIVE

## TOWARD A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION AND PRAXIS



## Global Scenarios

### Why Scenarios?

The terra incognita of the future is beyond the ken of scientific projection and social prophesy. Although deep uncertainties—and human choices not yet made—undercut our capacity to predict what will be, scenarios help us to imagine what could be. Global scenarios are stories about how history might unfold in this century. Beginning with contemporary trends and driving forces, each embodies different assumptions on the resolution of critical uncertainties and human choice—thought experiments for stimulating imagination, alerting us to dangers, and inspiring corrective action. Exploring the frontiers of the possible helps gives soul, sight, and direction to the blind march of history.

### Future Paths

The Global Scenario Group, precursor to GTI, introduced a simple and widely-used "taxonomy of the future" to organize the possibilities. At the highest level, three broad channels—**Conventional Worlds**, **Barbarization**, and **Great Transitions**—radiate from the present into the imagined future (see graphic).

**Conventional Worlds** are governed by today's dominant forces of globalization: economic interdependence deepens, dominant values spread, and developing regions gradually converge toward rich-country patterns of production and consumption.

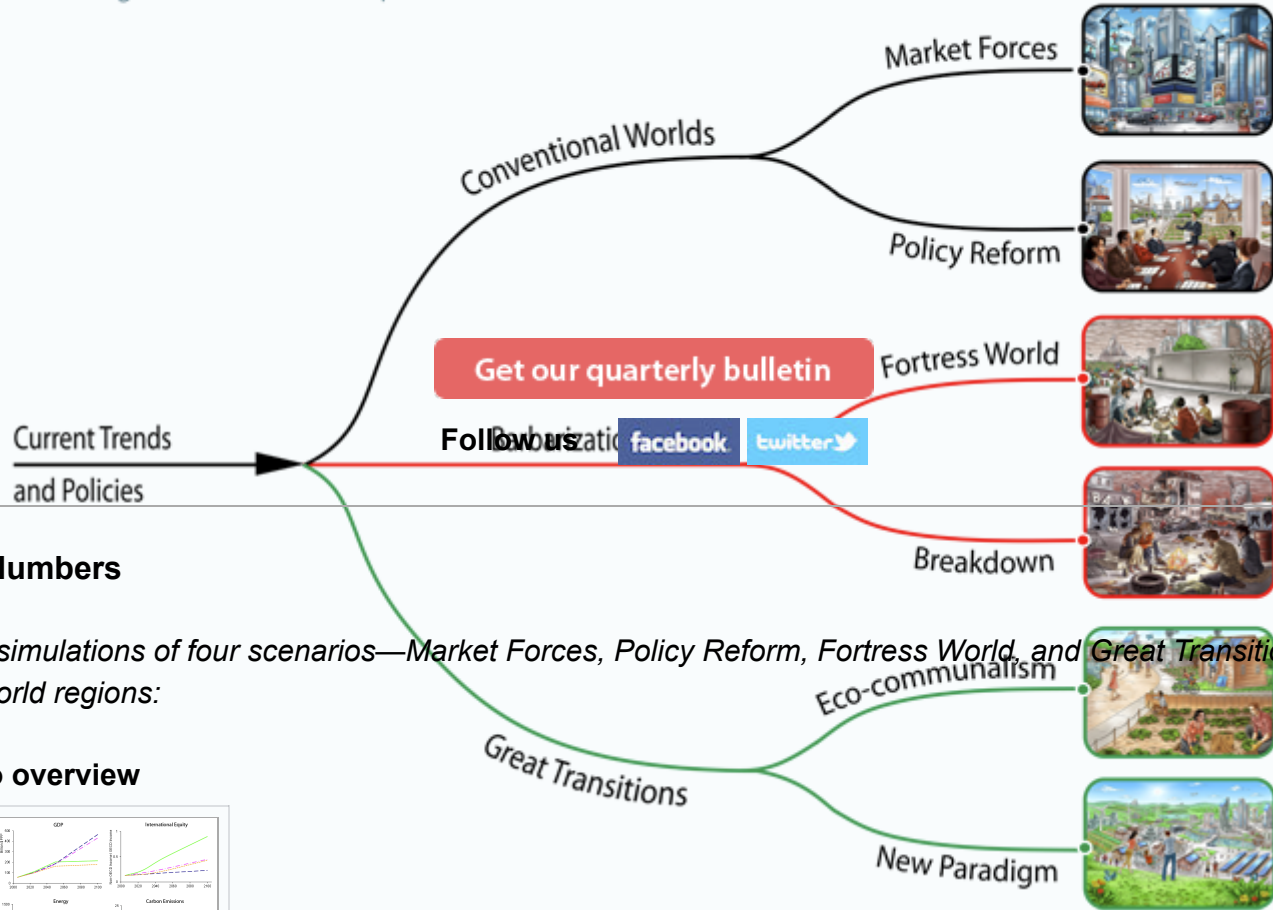
**Barbarization** explores the very real risk that Conventional Worlds strategies prove to be inadequate for addressing mounting environmental and social stress, and problems spiral out of control, leading to a general crisis and the erosion of civilized norms.

**Great Transitions** examine worlds that transcend reform to embrace new values and institutions in pursuit of a just, fulfilling, and sustainable civilization.

We consider two variants each for Conventional Worlds, Barbarization, and Great Transitions, a total of six visions.

# Taxonomy of the Future

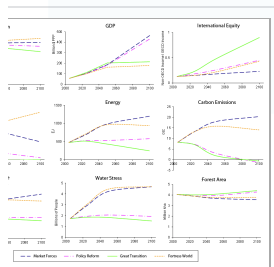
Click images for scenario descriptions



## e Numbers

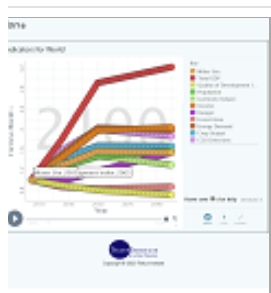
ed simulations of four scenarios—Market Forces, Policy Reform, Fortress World, and Great Transition—for 7 world regions:

## ario overview



## Highlights

## ctive tool



## Futures in Motion

## tables

	2009	Market Forces 2009 2050 2100	Policy Reform 2009 2050 2100	
GDP	6485	7600 9077 9275	7787 8676 8451	
Equity	49	55 58 70	55 55 70	
Energy	55.7	101.0 186.1 454.1	100.1 180.2 431.1	
Culture	44.8	76.3 140.2 457.9	76.9 146.4 399.0	
Water	31	28 23 12	29 24 15	
Food	83	48 75 87	67 73 84	
Area	6	4 2 1	4 2 1	
Area	8018	12860 20498 30209	12860 20771 31012	
Area	0.41	0.46 0.50 0.53	0.41 0.41 0.42	
Area	0.12	0.09 0.07 0.05	0.12 0.12 0.11	
Area	13.8	10.5 8.9 5.6	5.7 2.6 0.7	
Area	477	693 998 1201	527 530 579	
Area	36	36 35 35	27 11 4	
Area	22	23 24 27	29 13 4	
Area	24	24 26 23	12 3 0	
Area	6	5 4 5	3 0 0	
Area	10	6 6 5	10 11 18	
Area	2	2 2 3	3 4 4	
Area	0	1 2 2	16 58 70	
Area	9	7 5 3	5 3 1	
Area	306	479 670 882	415 463 681	
Area	27	26 28 34	25 26 30	
Area	8	9 9 10	8 9 10	
Area	37	36 32 21	41 41 32	
Area	5	5 5 5	5 5 5	

## Detailed Results

[1 More](#)**Key to Earthland: the Great Transition to Planetary Civilization**

network for understanding the current crisis and developing a vision and praxis for a just and sustainable future

**Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead**

overview of the global scenarios

**Century Ahead: Searching for Sustainability**

variety of scenario quantifications

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