



YOUR ROADWAY TO FREE THOUGHT



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Is Not Preparing for Survival a Form of Self Genocide?

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ANP NEWS

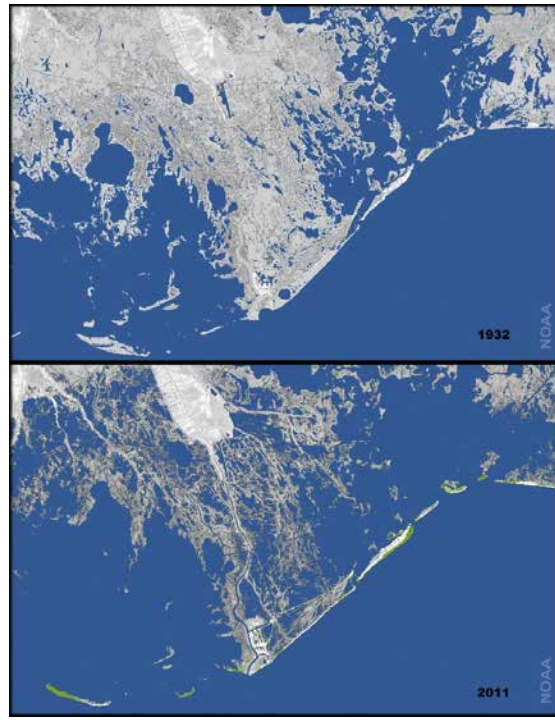
As Douglas Adams once wrote in his famous Guide, “The History of every major Galactic Civilization tends to pass through three distinct and recognizable phases, those of Survival, Inquiry and Sophistication, otherwise known as the How, Why, and Where phases. For instance, the first phase is characterized by the question 'How can we eat?' the second by the question 'Why do we eat?' and the third by the question 'Where shall we have lunch?’

Obviously, we’re in the Sophistication phase currently. But what use would our sophistication be if we were to find ourselves moving backwards at any point? Most people might shake their heads in disbelief at the thought, but considering recent hacking efforts, terrorist activity, and civil unrest in the form of violent riots, who’s to say that this comfortable life we maintain is here to stay?



Thomas Cole, *The Voyage of Life*, 1842, National Gallery of Art

Even if these situations never change our lives drastically, it should be noted that – regardless of anyone’s opinions on the matter – our sea levels are rising. I’m not here to point blame at human activity or to chock it up to



Earth’s natural cycle. I am not a scientist. But the fact is that despite congress’ denial of the changing climate, the Department of Defense has been actively trying to find ways to protect 18 major U.S. Naval Bases built on the coast that are threatened to be mostly submerged by 2100, the Navy Times reports.



We could speculate all day long about how and when survival skills may become necessary. But the bottom line is, are you prepared if anything major were to happen that shakes our way of living?

Believe it or not, not that long ago humans use to be at the top of the food chain without needing to rely on technology. Yet nowadays, most people couldn’t build a shelter, hunt or gather, or defend themselves to save their lives. So what on Earth happened?



William Hahn - *Going Home Pioneers Braving a Storm*

Early Man’s Gradual Transitions to Modern Society

Somewhat ironically, our current inability to survive on our own stems from our astounding proficiency at survival. Many thousands of years ago, early man hunted and gathered for sustenance much like every other omnivore. Our ancestors way back built their own shelters, hunted and gathered their own food, made their own heat, cooked their own food, etc.



Being able to stay in one place and growing food efficiently enough that only a few individuals needed to be in charge of it in order to feed a whole early civilization, many people were freed up to perform other productive tasks like the various smiths’ works, fishing, devising strategy, and even philosophy and art. With these genius concepts, we transitioned hunting and gathering into the much more efficient agrarian economy.

Thus, the division of labor became possible for the first time. This led to our first armies, our first architectural wonders, early engineering, you name it. And with this division of labor, individuals’ skillsets became more specific. One team of people gathered food, another team made weapons, another team made clothes etc. So naturally, if one worked in any one field, it wouldn’t be as necessary for them to be as familiar with other fields.



Division of Labor in Modern Times

Yes, we have grown to the point where we’ve made work so efficient that much of it can be done by unskilled labor. Not that there’s anything wrong with any form of honest work. My first job was as a cashier. But think of the number of people who spend their entire careers never developing a trade or basic survival skills. Now think about the number of people nowadays who can’t cook, having to rely on their trusty microwaves. Who can’t do even the smallest repairs on their homes or appliances. Who can’t sew, even simply to patch a small hole.

Sure, there are skilled laborers who can be hired when minor repairs are needed. But consider where many folks would be if a devastating enough terrorist attack or civil unrest or natural disaster were to necessitate survival.

As we’ve discussed, the division of labor is a genius accomplishment that homo sapiens have mastered over the millennia. I don’t aim to dispute this. This concept is what allowed us to advance to the point where we no longer need worry about every little aspect of survival. Where we can focus on specific tasks in order to flourish like no other species.

Everyone Should at Least Know the Basics of Survival

But to not even know the bare minimum of survival is insane. I’m not suggesting we all build elaborate bunkers or devote every aspect of our lives to Bear Grylls-esque survivalism. But we should all certainly at least know the basics. Prepping for survival for some may simply mean learning to make a fire (without lighter fluid), learning to spot edible plants and how to hunt, learning to make a makeshift shelter, etc.



It’s as simple as reading up on some techniques and going on a primitive camping trip here and there. Even if you only make weekend camping trips – as in primitive camping, none of that “glamping” nonsense – every few months, you’ll at least be ahead of most of the game.

To forget the survival skills our ancestors once depended on will no doubt be self-genocide if our world were ever turned upside down for any length of time. How big of an “if” that is will be for each individual to decide. But better safe than sorry, some might say.

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