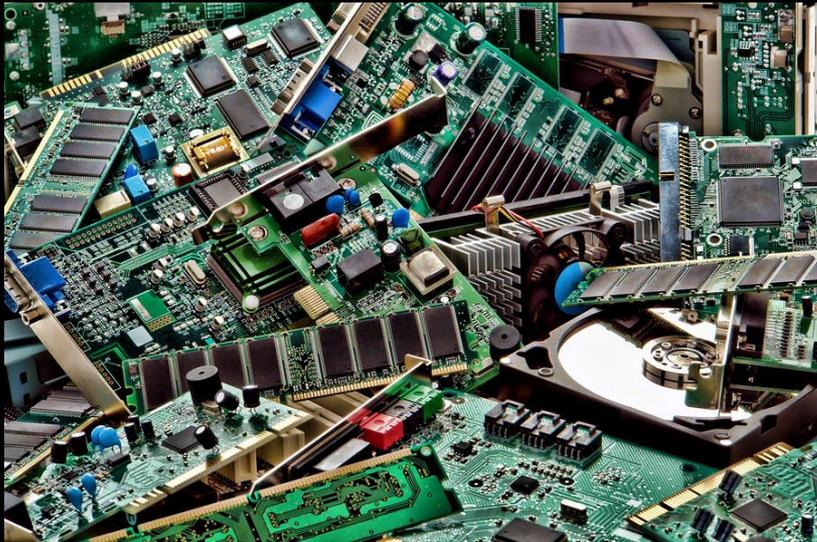




Douglas Adams' Deep thought

H G Wells' Eloi

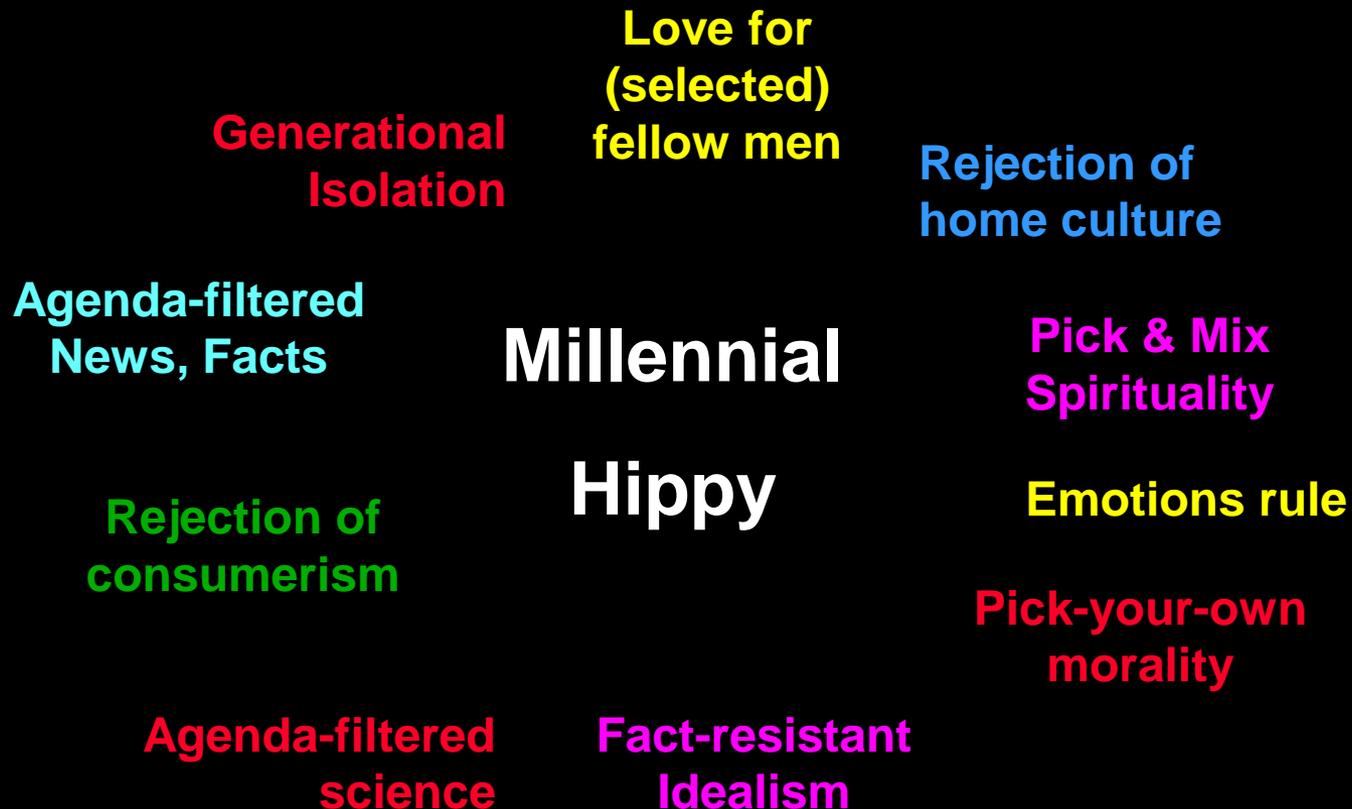


Ian Pearson
The new dark age

Maslow 2017



Millennial Hippy



Dark Age pressures & enablers

Anti-science culture

Blogs

*Rejection of
authority*

Wikipedia

Rebellion

Moral relativism

*Search
engines*

Age of magic

Need to feel good

*Social
media
bubbles*

*Abdication of
personal
responsibility*

Emotionalism

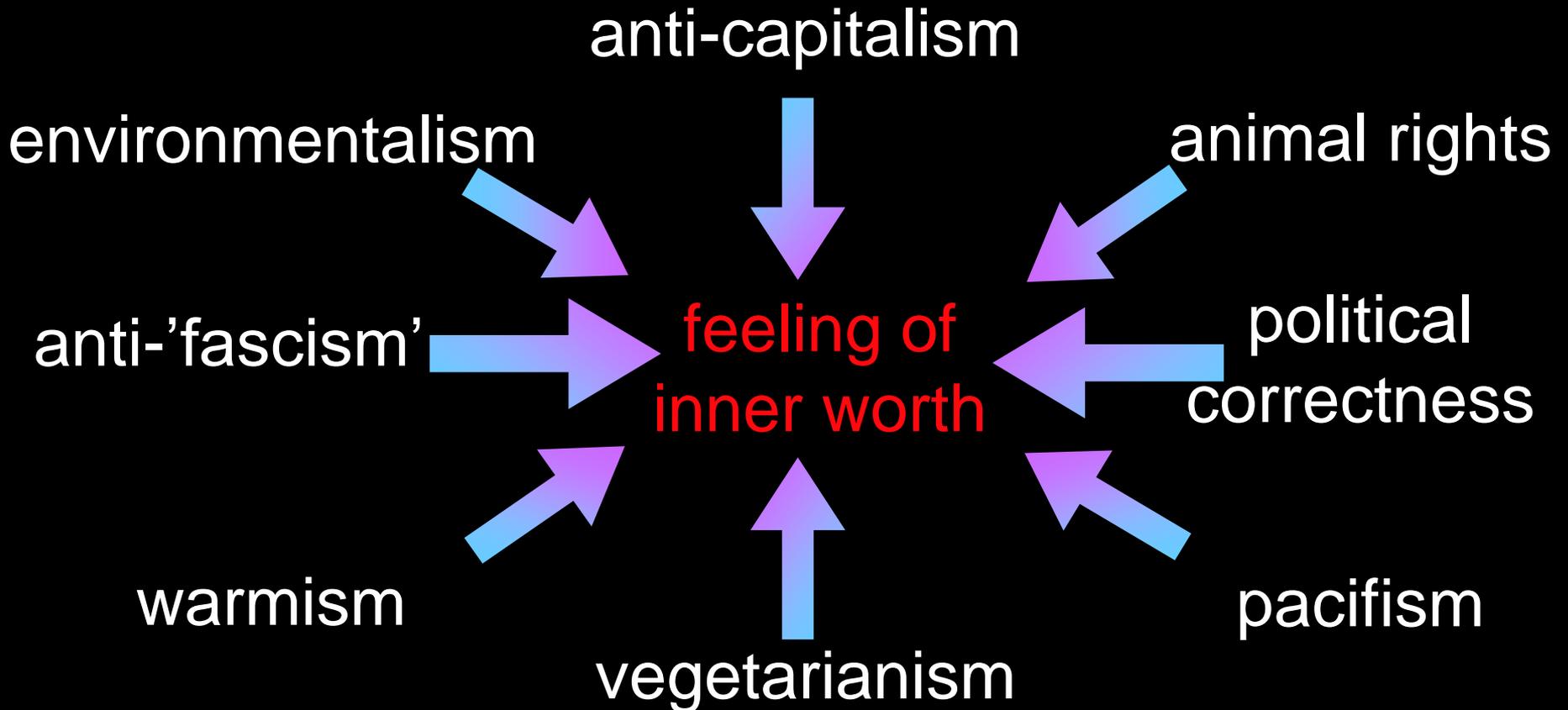
Chat rooms

*Education
replaced by
indoctrination*

*Powerful
media spin*

Decline in free-thinking

21st Century piety



People have a strong need to feel they are 'good'. Some of today's ideological subscriptions are essentially religion substitutes. Environmentalism is currently entering a Spanish Inquisition phase.

The wandering eye of the PC Inquisition

Female equality

Abortion rights

Gay equality

Racial equality

Animal rights

Religious freedom

Attitudes to crime

Carbon footprint

Human rights

Global equality

Dress codes

Father's rights

Global warming

Gay marriage

Female equality

Black equality

Islamophobia

Climate change

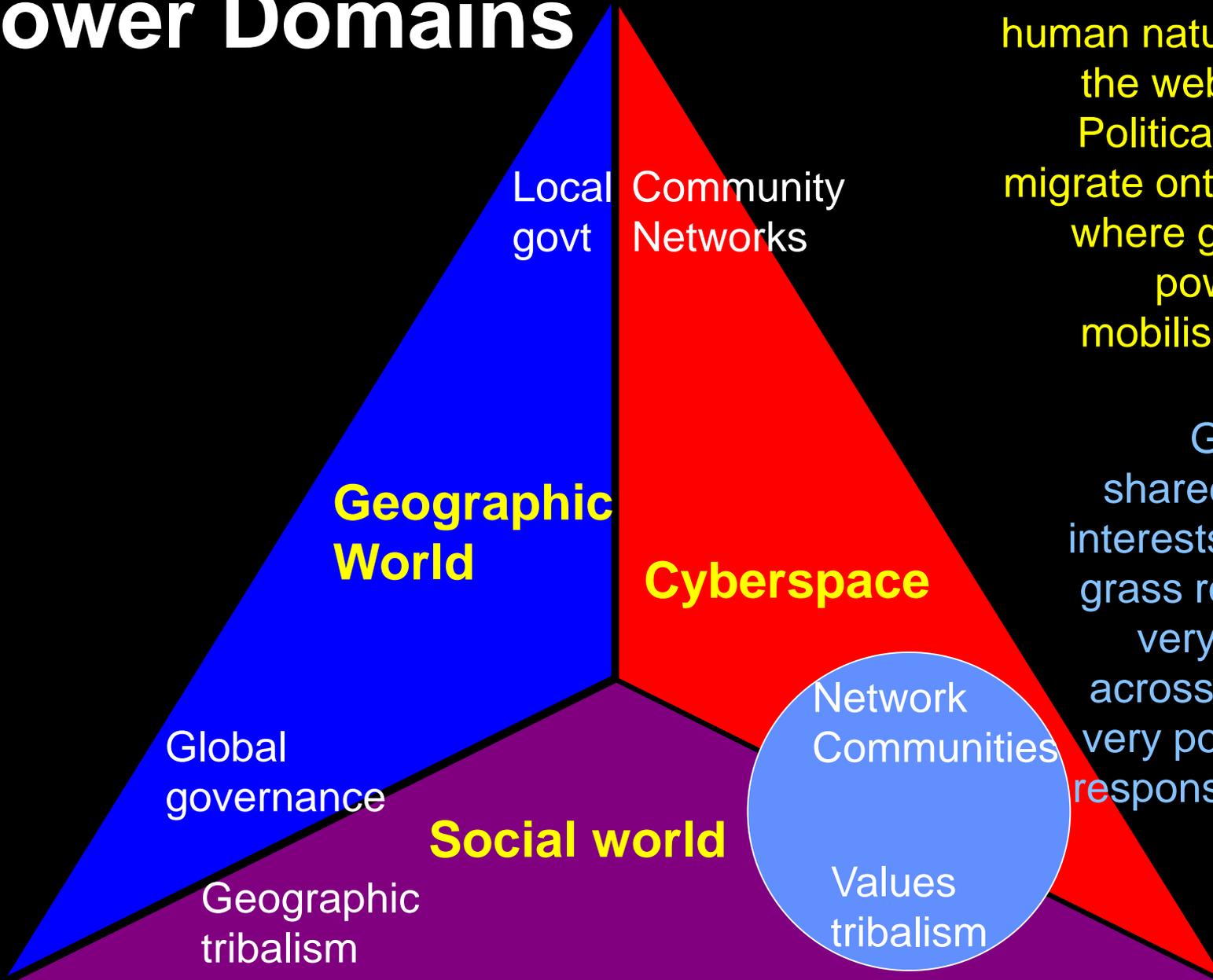
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???

Trans equality

Everyone wants mutual tolerance and fairness, but is the meta-religion of political correctness now preventing the pursuit and open discussion of objective truth?

Power Domains

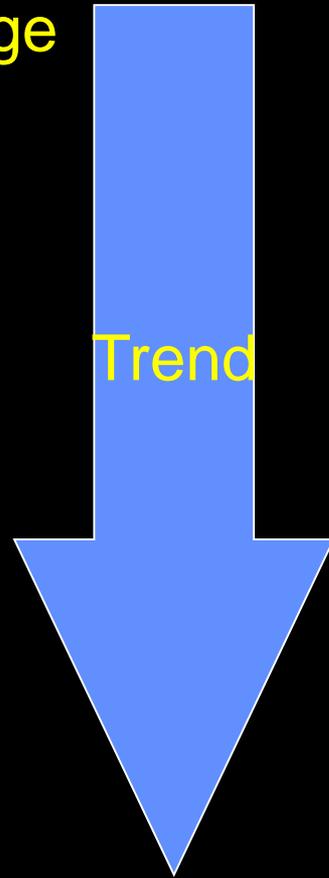


Tribalism is built in to human nature and fits the web perfectly. Political platforms migrate onto the web, where grass-roots power can be mobilised quickly.

Groups with shared values or interests can wield grass roots power very effectively across borders. A very powerful and responsive engine

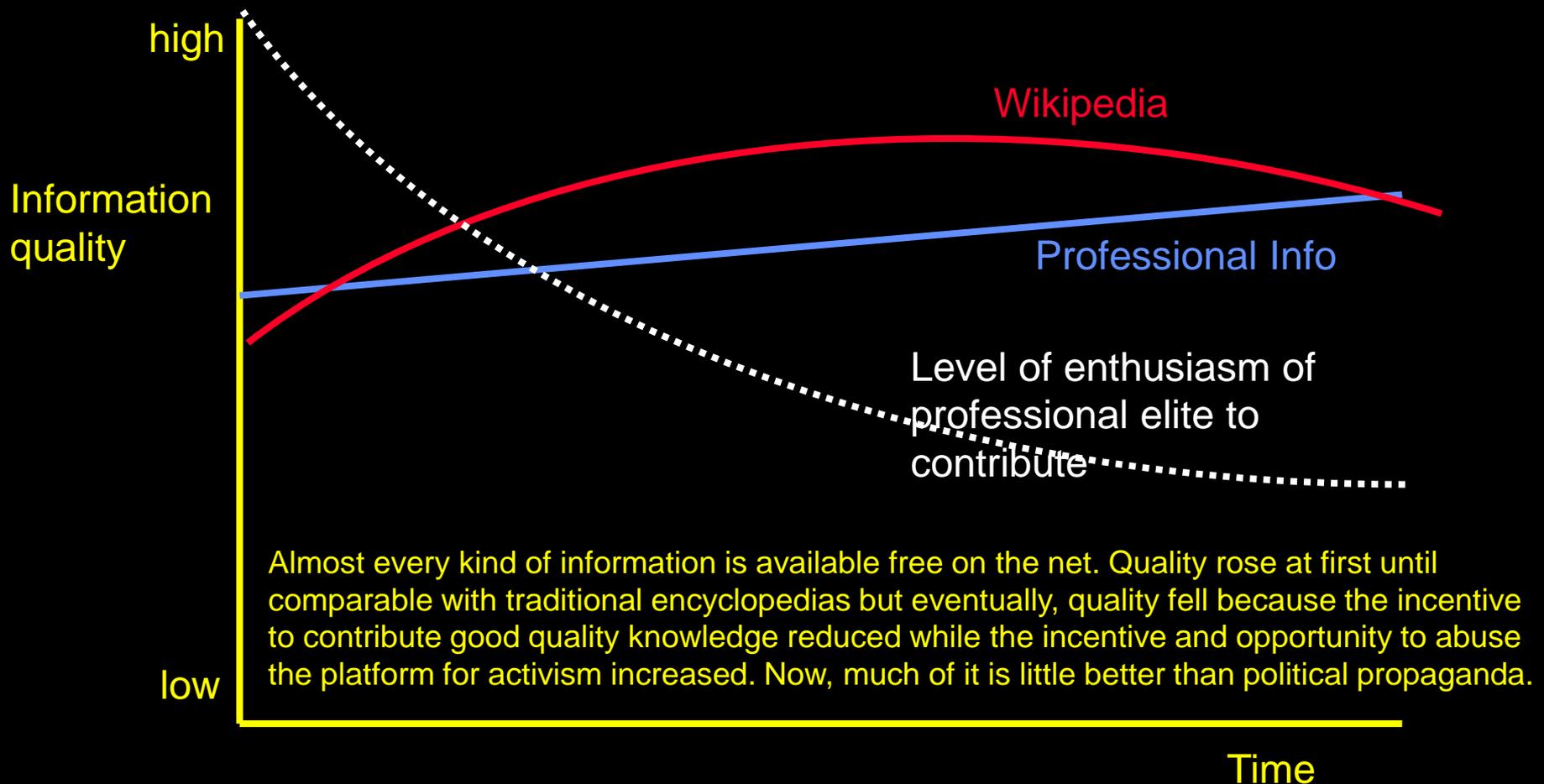
But truth is on a slippery slope

undiscovered knowledge
knowledge
reasoned argument
personal opinion
instinct
emotions
guesswork
shared ideology
anti-knowledge

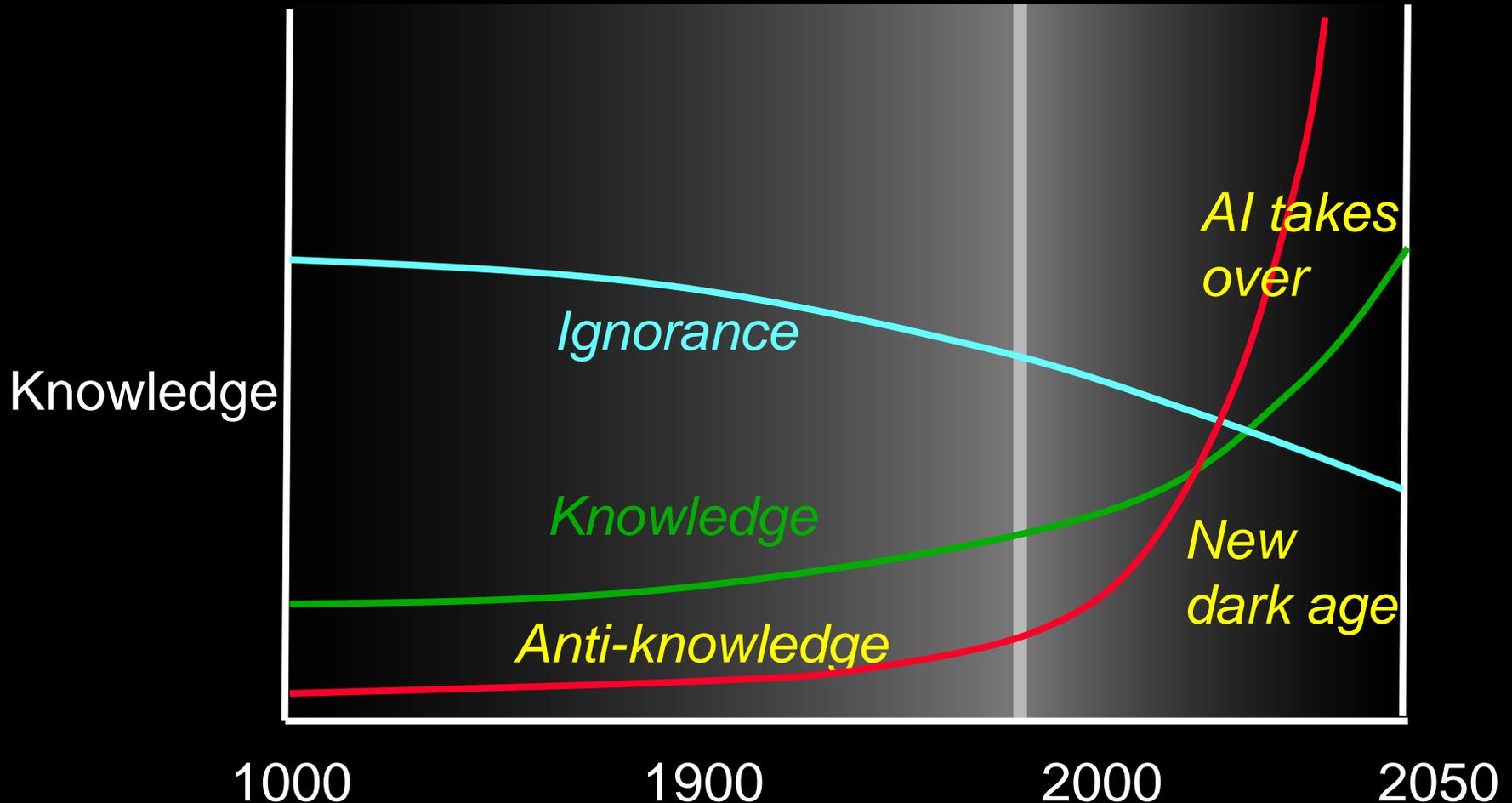


reality
science
logic
everyday experience
intuitive knowledge
feelings
religion/new age
spin/fake news
political correctness

The wiki economy – beginning of the post-truth era

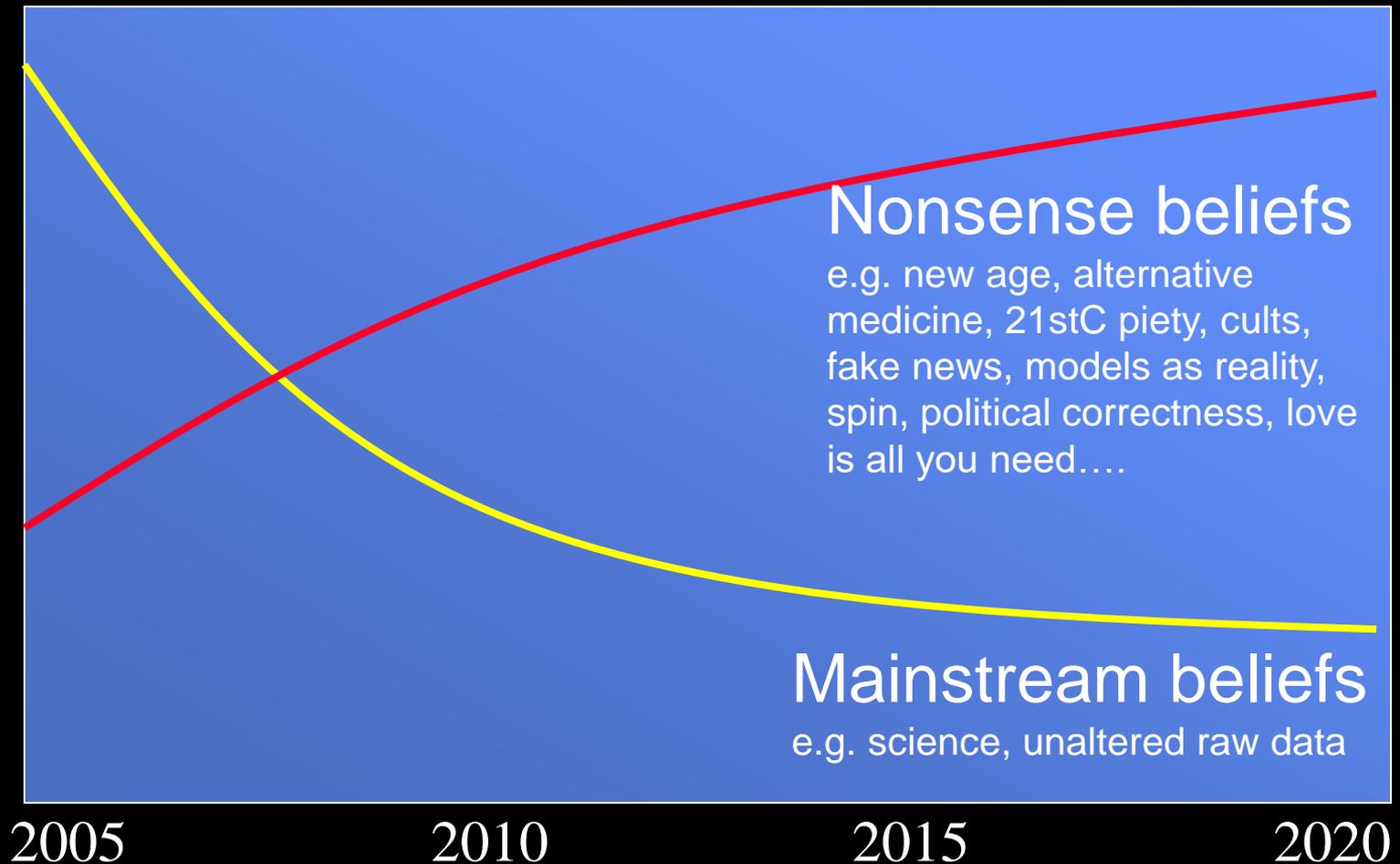


Dilution of knowledge

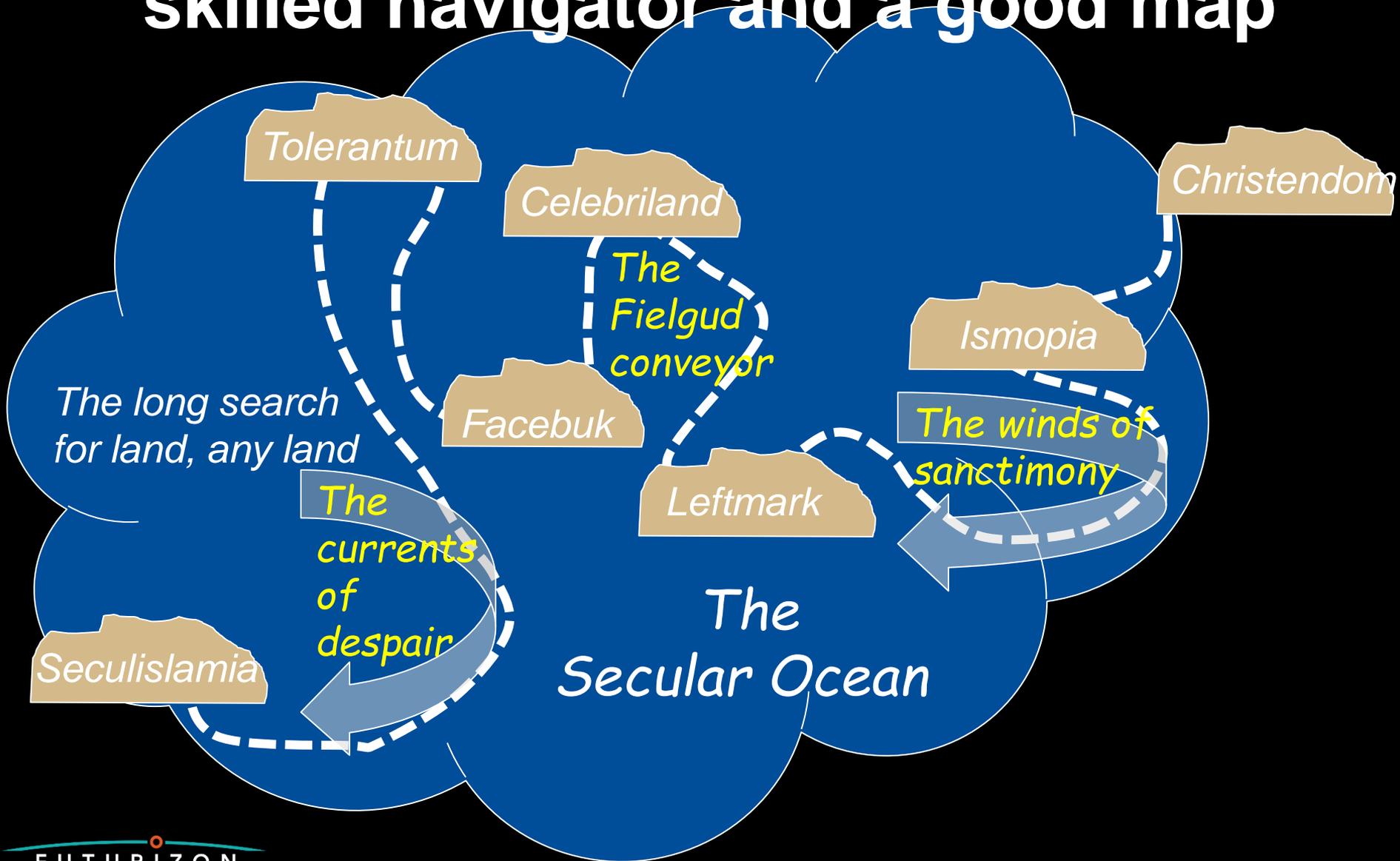


In pursuit of social compliance, we are often told things known to be false
With clever spin, most people accept them and become worse than ignorant

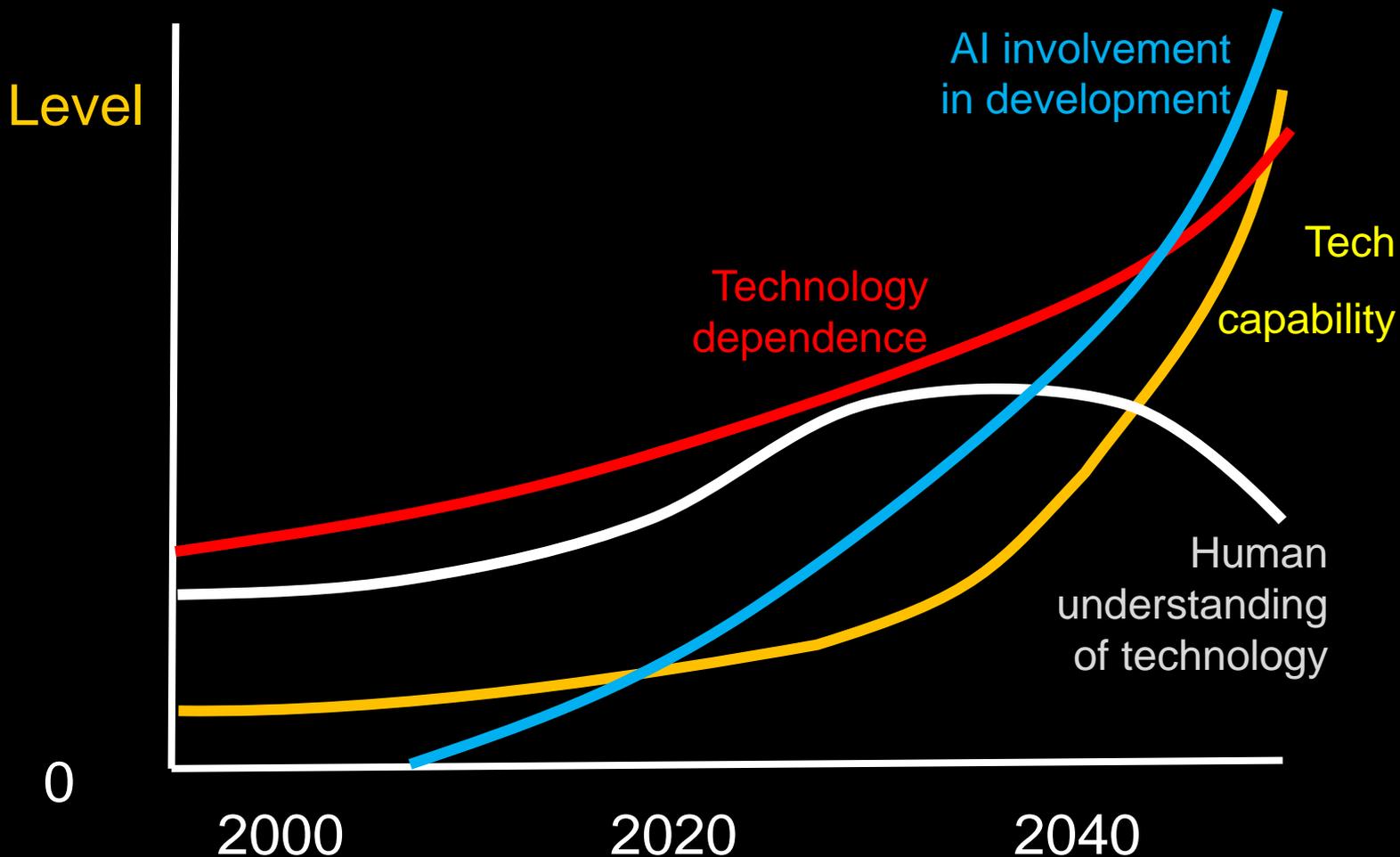
The rise of nonsense



Values drift dangerously without a skilled navigator and a good map



As tech develops, people will depend on it more but understand it less



The age of magic

Arthur C Clarke: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic"

Professional
knowledge

1% of people hold almost all useful knowledge. That proportion will shrink as AI takes on professional roles

Scientists need to guard against becoming too fond of their power and abusing it as 21st century high priests

Fashion

Celebrity

TV Culture

Sport

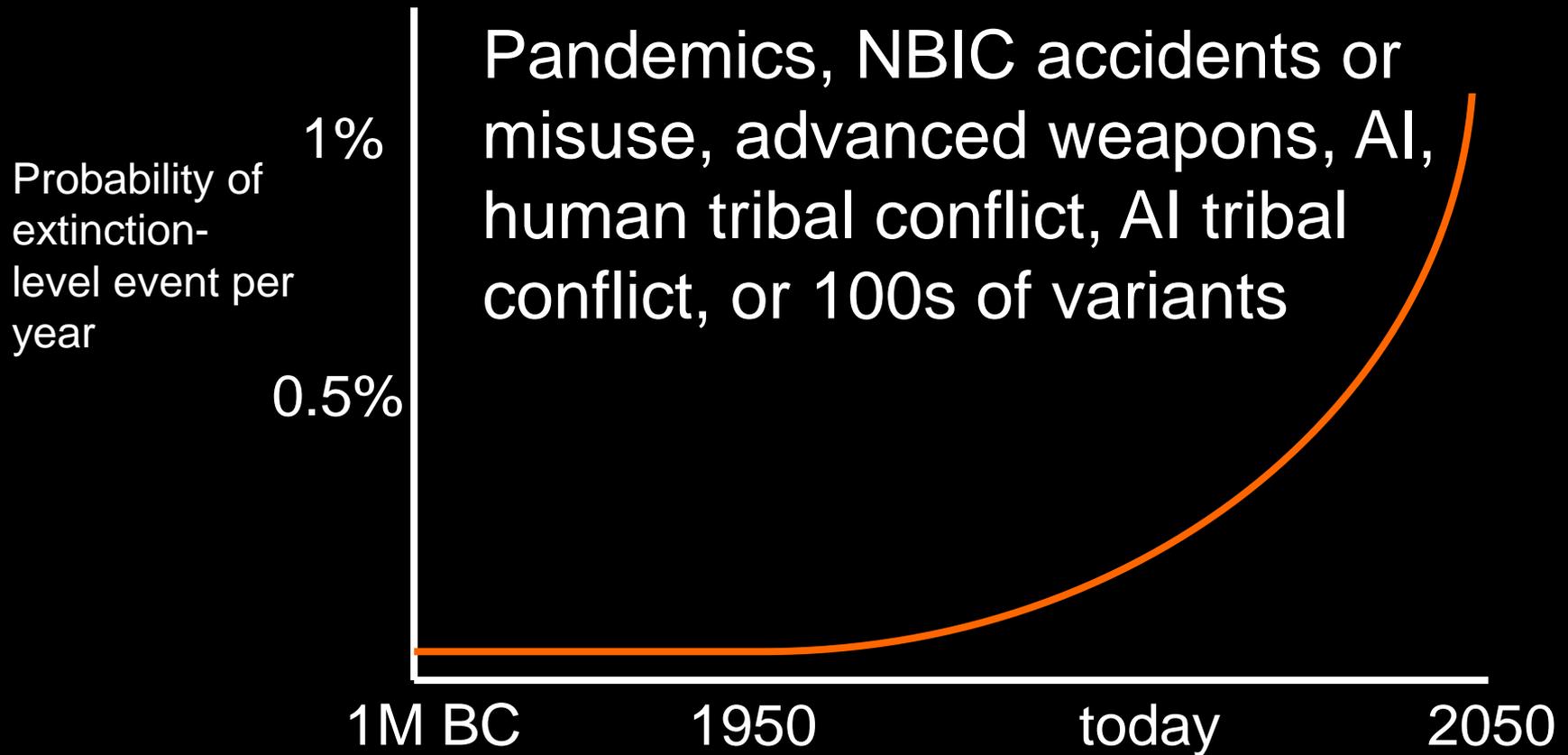
Music

Games

Facebook

99% are only well informed on trivia

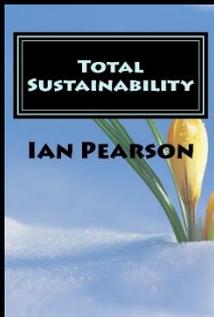
Increasing danger from technology



Perhaps we don't see aliens because they all wipe themselves out within 300 years of discovering radio!

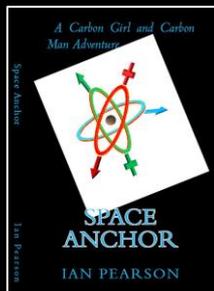
Good luck!

Ian Pearson Bsc DSc(hc) CITP FBCS FWAAS FRSA FWIF



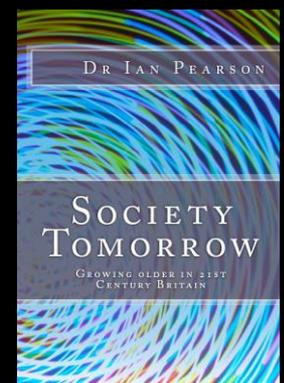
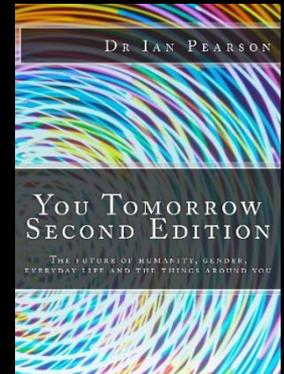
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