

## **REDESIGNING DIPLOMACY:**

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DESIGN OF FUTURE POLITICAL  
SYSTEMS AND SPACES

Dominick D. Turner  
May 2010

*Submitted towards the fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Architecture Degree.*

School of Architecture  
University of Hawai'i

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## REDESIGNING DIPLOMACY:

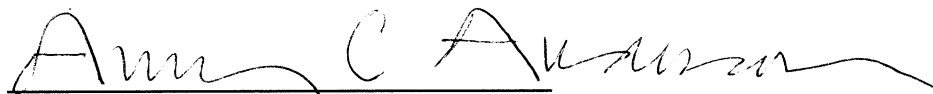
INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DESIGN OF FUTURE POLITICAL  
SYSTEMS AND SPACES

Dominick D. Turner


May 2010

*We certify that we have read this Doctorate Project and that, in our opinion, it is satisfactory in scope and quality in partial fulfillment for the degree of Doctor of Architecture in the School of Architecture, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.*

Doctorate Project Committee

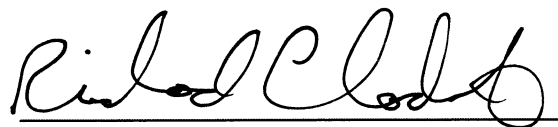


Amy Anderson, Chairperson



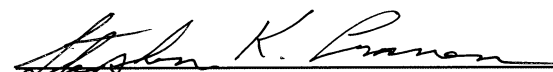
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I.	Introduction	
1.1	<b>Background &amp; Intellectual Context –</b>	
i.	"Understanding nation state dominance using critical I.R. theory & implications for diplomatic representation"	1-6
1.2	<b>Framing the Argument</b>	7
1.3	<b>Explanation of Research Methodology &amp; Scope</b>	7-9
i.	Scope	10-11
ii.	Topics not covered	11-12
II.	Critique of Nation State	
2.1	<b>Critique of I.R. theory “Political Realism</b>	
i.	Intro-Outlining Fundamentals of Statehood	13-15
ii.	Understanding Nation State through a realist lens.	15
iii.	Outline Basic Characteristics of Political Realism	15-16
iv.	Reoccurring cycles of aggression	16-19
v.	Hierarchical organization	20-22
vi.	Materialistic world view	22-26
vii.	Reductionist World View	26-27
viii.	Narrow futures oriented policy making	28-31
2.2	<b>Conclusions</b>	31-34
III.	Architectural Case Studies	
3.1	<b>Case Study #1.Paris – U.S. Embassy Paris Architectural Analysis</b>	
i.	Project Information	35
ii.	Political Context	36-38
iii.	Geographic Siting	39
iv.	Design/ Concept	40-41
v.	Conclusions	41-44
3.2	<b>Case Study #2. New Delhi –U.S. Embassy New Delhi Architectural Analysis</b>	
i.	Project Information	45
ii.	Political Context	46-50
iii.	Geographic Siting	50
iv.	Design/ Concept	51-54
v.	Conclusions	54-56

---

<b>3.3</b>	<b>Case Study #3. Netherlands- U.S. Embassy The Hague Architectural Analysis</b>	
i.	Project Information	57-
ii.	Political Context	58-59
iii.	Geographic Siting	59
iv.	Design/Concept	60-66
v.	Conclusions	66-67
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Case Study #4. Berlin –Nordic Embassy Complex Architectural Analysis</b>	
i.	Project Information	68-69
ii.	Political Climate	69-71
iii.	Geographic Siting	71-72
iv.	Design/Concept	73-75
vi.	Conclusions	75-77
IV.	Case Study Conclusions & Analysis of Emerging Issues	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Analysis of Current Architectural Representation</b>	78-86
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Analysis of Emerging Issues</b>	86-100
V.	Proposal of “Ecologism” as alternative System of Governance.	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Theoretical Foundations- Ecologism and Understanding Global Context</b>	101-114
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Preferred Futures Narrative- "Ecologically Based Macro-Regional Development Model"</b>	115-130
	<b>Three political “Entities” emerging under the Macro Regional Development model</b>	
<b>5.3</b>	<b>“Nest” - Investigations into community based Diplomatic Representation Defining Elements of local Political Space</b>	131-134
<b>5.4</b>	<b>“Shell”- Investigations into an Eco-political corporate Organizational model Defining Regional Political Space</b>	135-140
<b>5.5</b>	<b>“Branch” -Investigations into the self- organizing “Virtual Community ”Model Defining Elements of Global Political Space</b>	141-146

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VI.	Architectural Response–Investigations into Spatial responses for Local, Regional and Global diplomatic “Entities.”	
6.1	<b>Nest Entities –</b> Diagramming Community Based Political Space	147-152
6.2	<b>Shell Entities –</b> Diagramming Corporate Political Space	153-156
6.3	<b>Branch Entities –</b> Diagramming Virtual Political Space	157-171
VII.	Conclusions	
7.1.	<b>Analysis of Diagramming Spatial Relationships.</b>	172-179
7.2	<b>Addressing Criticisms of Ecologism as a Political System</b>	179-182
7.3	<b>Addressing Criticism of Ecologism theory</b>	182-186
7.4	<b>Expanding the Profession through Interdisciplinary Research</b>	187-188
VIII.	References	190-192
IX.	Image References.	192-195

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**I.I Background & Intellectual Context –****i. “Understanding nation state dominance using critical I.R. theory & implications for diplomatic representation”**

The architectural representation of diplomatic structures, particularly in the United States, has developed parallel to the world of international relations. Over the decades, our international relations policies have produced an architectural language that has shifted from a focus on openness and free architectural expression abroad, to a concentration on security, bureaucracy and economy as the driving forces behind the design process. At the same time, past U.S. administrations have inadequately understood the connection between international relations policies and these increasingly restrictive design requirements. The result has been nothing short of disastrous in terms of the current representation of the United States abroad. Since 1971 up until the present day, 31 US diplomatic facilities have been targeted or attacked, reaching a death toll in the hundreds.<sup>1</sup>

As a direct result of our policy making as well as other political/socio/economic factors, negative attributes have been associated with our diplomatic buildings abroad. Many have become or are currently viewed as targets of terrorist organizations or other hostile factions throughout the world that seem diametrically opposed to a specifically “American” view of diplomacy and international relations. At the same time on a larger scale, a variety of contemporary issues (namely encapsulated within the phenomena known as globalization) has cast doubt on the ability of contemporary nation-states to solve globally spanning problems among the most notable including issues related to the environment.

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1 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_terrorist\\_incidents,\\_2008](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents,_2008)

In light of these events, at the beginning of the 21st century, many scholars have questioned the relevancy of the traditional schools of thought that govern dominant political entities to keep pace with emerging issues. To be sure, the issues involved are complex and inter-related. A web of relationships exists between the forces of globalization, technological development, state and non-state actors, national security issues, emerging world powers and environmental considerations. International relations theory (hereafter referred to as I.R. theory) is a fundamental tool because it attempts to form (at least partially) an intellectual basis for understanding the motivations of political entities. I.R. Theory by definition:

*“Attempts to provide a conceptual framework upon which international relations can be analyzed.”<sup>2</sup>*

Ultimately, by proposing political structural foundations based upon new arguments, it may be possible to better reconcile our political decision making practices with an appropriate architectural response (as well as criticize existing responses). While it is true that some of these issues might have always been at the forefront of international relations theory, emerging issues and trends in the international arena constantly force social scientists to continuously re-evaluate the structures that we use to explain our world.

Consequently, new paradigms (including the importance of environmental issues, technological advancement and changing population demographics) offer an opportunity to re-construct traditional norms in I.R. theory, with the intent of gaining a different perspective that may better explain a wide variety of phenomena. Understanding the relationship between policy making affecting the built environment is paramount to designing for diplomacy. It is necessary to investigate how new political paradigms will begin to influence the relationship with other disciplines, i.e. an architectural design response for example.

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2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ir\\_theory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ir_theory)



Architecture and politics have had a long inter-related history and it is necessary to investigate this relationship, as well as understand the unique position that architecture has served throughout history. Understanding this dialogue is a starting point for both designers of political spaces and politicians to truly understand the nature of their influence. Historically architecture has been utilized as a tool for facilitating both the symbolic and very real representation of power. In this regard, Architecture has developed into an appropriate “vehicle” for solving the problem of both the legitimizing and representation of many types of power throughout history.

Legitimate political activity then, has developed into a concept realized when historically significant events occur parallel to architectural forms of expression. But is the true nature of political space that of a facade, similar to that of a two-dimensional set in a play? Or rather, is it something much more integral to the entire process of political legitimacy? Either way, the nature of political activity is often intimately related to the nature of political space. In the past, this has often culminated into a desire to construct seemingly permanent, iconic or monolithic structures. Over time this representation has repeatedly come to materialize into a mythos inherent to almost all cultures.

Over time, this powerful symbolism often re-emerges in different iterations (based upon the prevalent system of social organization) but essentially to the same effect, we are simply re-creating forms of dominance and giving physical form to political legitimacy in order to justify our actions. But what of the origins of this relationship? The real world connection between the built environment and the mythos of power has been a foundational building block utilized throughout history. Whether the form be that of a pyramid, obelisk or dome, the expression of power often continues in what could be considered an unbroken line that stretches back to the annals of civilization (and perhaps before).

At first utilized by mankind to offer or symbolize the nature of man's relationship with the divine, the nature of sacred spaces has purposefully been secularized, and assimilated into the sphere of the political realm in antiquity. Now the notion of political spaces are vital to organization and order within civilized societies. And for nation states, this space represents a bridge to political sovereignty as well as its claim to political legitimacy.<sup>3</sup> But the true historical nature of this legitimacy is a legacy of war and bloodshed. And from the connection of a hereditary line of god-kings to the ancient pyramids in Giza, to the murder of Julius Caesar on the senate floor, this relationship has often been enforced in blood. Historically, buildings have been used as tools that help to crystallize the tangible link between power relationships and social organization.

But why do humans accept these forms of political expression as being fundamentally legitimate? Part of the answer is related to the functional and semi-permanent nature of architecture, and the fact that for long, it was used as a means of political control through hierarchy or the organization of space. But in regard to diplomatic structures, the nature of political spaces is unique. These buildings are powerful symbols, physical representations of complex layers of social meaning. Plainly put, they assert statements of power, order, classification, and function. Further, they do so on a scale that resonates within the human psyche to a degree that historically other mediums have not been able to replicate. For much of human history, the final word in regards to policy was the massive iconic structure.

Part of the reason for the success of the architectural response is that diplomatic structures can be honest in ways that politicians are not allowed to be (though admittedly at the present the statements that buildings make are much more static). If architectural representation of political entities were a straight forward task, an analysis of diplomatic buildings and their embedded symbolism should be able to easily uncover aspects of a nation's political intentions and perceived notions of power, its motives and its direction as a nation. But this is simply not the case because in the contemporary world, these statements are understood through many factors that distort even the clarity of the buildings function.

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3 Alsayyad, Nezar. *Forms of Dominance -On the Architecture of Urbanism of the Colonial Experience*. England. Avebury 1992 (316)

Buildings must be functional and are often representative of their intended function. Throughout history, the recognition of this “truth”, firmly grounded built structures in a world that must define the physical realities of form, space, and order. On top of this foundation, layers of meaning were thus added, integrated, and sometimes codified often becoming lost to subsequent cultures over time. Nevertheless, there is a mystique concerning how political structures exist almost in another dimension often taking on the "heavier" characteristics of the nation or state and becoming truly legitimate representational vehicles. There seems to be a sense of responsibility, that within these places there is a great deal of weight to decisions made.

I posit that at the root of this phenomena lies the relationship between the convergence of political ideology (theory), policy making (practice) and architectural representation (interpretation of data). A more accurate argument for the phenomena of political space inhabiting may be that it is not borne from one or the other, but in fact a symbiosis, between physical (yet inanimate) structure, and intangible but "existentially unique political realities that culminate in the momentum necessary to legitimate these political realities. But to what degree are each of these elements important especially when considering the physicality of architecture when framed within the context of today's technology driven, fragmented and globally connected world?

There is also a practical element of these implications to consider. When evaluating notions of the civil/military relationship for example, it can be interesting to see the influence of national security issues on the design of diplomatic structures. National security policy and its definition can often be expressed in terms of a referent<sup>4</sup> whether that be the state, the people, or the regime for example. In the case of the U.S., security is framed in terms of the interests of the nation state, and further defined under the realist lens. As such, the diplomatic buildings of the United States have been involuntarily transformed into targets for national (and international) criticism and praise due to this framework.

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4 Alagappa, Muthiah. *Asian Security Practice, Material and Ideational Influences*. Stanford California, Stanford University Press. 1998(45)

The diversion of enormous flows of capital often with earmarks for certain developmental programs into these diplomatic structures, further creates caveats of politicizing that help to define the structures existence. In this way it is similar to us looking at the DNA of a diplomatic structure, in order to find out what characteristics it might have. How much of the space is dominated by military-related needs, versus diplomatic needs, what does the spatial experience feel like? How does it respond to the environment? Is it fortress-like and secluded, or warm and inviting?

The point is that diplomatic structures are in every aspect political inventions, and should be praised or criticized as such with regard to their host nation's policies. But in regards to representation, are these policies in fact relevant or essential to the individuals that make up the nation? What happens when other actors become powerful enough to form their own diplomatic agenda's and practices? How will diplomacy and likely the concept of "the embassy" be affected in a globally connected political environment full of such complexities? These are among some of the topics that will be addressed throughout this document.

Thomas Markus, Author of "Buildings & Power" classifies buildings into three ideal types based upon their function. These classifications include those buildings that facilitate relations between people, those involved in generating or controlling the flow of information, and those involved in commerce.<sup>5</sup> Embassy's, are unique in that their function is to facilitate every type in one way or another. The importance of the symbolism within these buildings should not be lost within the complexities of the functions that they serve. These building facilitate the flow of political, social, and economic relations between people groups directly, and as such the symbolism and democratic ideal of direct representation is harnessed. The buildings also are involved in the management of information. Though the nature of access to information is changing, diplomatic structures were historically often on the front lines, analyzing and transferring knowledge in the form of data to a wide variety of organizations. Lastly, diplomatic structures are involved in commerce on the national scale, facilitating the exchange of goods and services based upon maintaining national interests.

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5 Markus, Thomas. Buildings and Power. London. Routledge. 1993(1)

## **1.2 Research Statement & Framing the Argument**

This project is at its core about attempting to understand and redesign certain aspects of diplomacy( especially those aspects that have architectural implications). The author is interested in analyzing the relationship between the nature of the underlying forces that define “diplomacy” under the nation-state system and resulting architectural expression as well as identifying some ideal types of political-spatial expression. It is also of value to evaluate whether or not these underlying theoretical underpinnings are relevant in relationship to current and emerging issues in the dynamically changing political climate, and proposing new frameworks that are more appropriate with both policy and spatial consequences. The argument then largely focuses around a critique of the central actor in today’s world that is, a focus on the nation-state and evaluating the nation-states view of diplomacy.

## **1.3 Explanation of Research Methodology & Scope**

Diplomatic architecture not only asserts some fundamental ideas about power, but can in fact transcend this definition to become aligned with physical and non-physical manifestations of specific ideologies. It is the philosophical roots of this mythos that I as an architect was interested in investigating, primarily to understand firstly, any underlying roles of how architecture informs political policy or vice versa, then to understand the foundational elements of the concept of a political space.

To do this, I found it necessary to take two approaches to satisfy an appropriate level of investigation in my mind. First, to evaluate the political realities that inform the design of diplomatic structures, I had to choose a tool appropriate to forming conclusions about how international relations theory works in the global context. This importance of using I.R. theory as a tool was previously outlined. Critical I.R. Theory on the other hand, is often utilized by social scientists to evaluate mainstream I.R. theory. In a similar manner, I am attempting to critique the relationship between mainstream I.R. theory and its representation through architecture, using a methodological analysis that would be familiar to social scientists.

However, this document differs from a traditional approach to understanding social science issues (as far as the traditional neo-liberal analysis of I.R. theory is concerned). This body of research is intended for other architects or any professionals within any field of discipline interested in attempting to understand the value of a more “interdisciplinary” and holistic approach to evaluating political structures and their implications beyond that of the specifically political realm. To me this meant that the research I undertook would culminate in a political design.

Secondly, I needed to reconcile this political design with some form of architectural expression. But over the course of the research period, I became increasingly hesitant to suggest that “building” i.e. a built element as the most natural and logical solution, would be the assumed direction or conclusive argument seeded from this research.

Intellectual, this seemed counter-intuitive for several reasons. For one thing, an architect's approach to the practice of solving design problems is currently building oriented. The engineering related nature of the profession allows us a sort of pragmatism that expects simple cause and effect outcomes that result from a program (defined by increasingly restrictive variables). In the simplest terms, this means understanding architectural design in terms of the proper organization and management of spaces. But what if the spaces that were being investigated were fragmented, interconnected and layered with complexity or multi-programmatic?

Along with the quantifiable and practical requirements, architects must also consider when relevant, the intangible elements including that of the cultural, philosophical and artistic (all of which are deeply important) dimensions that are pervasive enough to often define the character and subsequent success of a design. Substantiality and intangibility, these dichotomies were some of the similarities that exist within architectural and political theory that initially struck me deeply as having a unique chord of similarity and congruency.

Delving deeper into the foundations of these non-traditional but politically related indicators led me to understanding design and the architect's role in a much broader context. I concluded that if I desired better outcomes (in terms of an architectural response), then it becomes necessary to use relevant theory and modern tools that draw from a wide range of academic disciplines. This includes the cognitive ability that humans possess to construct scenarios that influence present behavior and decision-making, always anticipating the future consequences of our actions.

The resulting research then should be understood as a "soft-science" approach that essentially blends factual (quantifiable evidence) with "philosophy", and other dynamic factors to come to a conclusion. In practice this was an eclectic process that was completely non-linear and led me to many divergent paths, unexpected connections and even more questions. Eventually, certain points of interest seemed to synthesize around the argument for an ecological basis, and bio-centric world view as both governing factor for political and architectural disciplines. An Ecological-political perspective is thus chosen as a starting point for understanding a futures oriented political system and was chosen as the focus based upon current trends within the international political system.

The decision to propose ecologism (as a form of governance), opposed to nation state dominance, was an attempt to in my own mind clarify a position of convergence between I.R. theory and ecological thought politically, as well as an attempt to de-politicize ecology from being seen as a "sub-issue" within mainstream I.R. theory and largely superficial arguments about politics. Ecologism, (as political theory) is suggested to fall into the realm of critical I.R. theory that departs from the mainstream I.R. theory approaches and allows for overlap between both traditional and non-traditional considerations in the realm of I.R. theory. It seems reasonable then, to suggest that a convergence between a unique I.R. design approach (with futures oriented agenda), environmental determinants, and representation through modern architectural design techniques might yield examples in each area that are wholly more appropriate given the contemporary challenges we face (and future prospects).

The end result is a proposal of a Political Design that incorporates the most fundamental elements of this ecological focus, and a subsequent proposal of political spaces that respond to this new framework. By necessarily expanding the profession, and the nature of what is discussed between these two disciplines, it may be possible to fashion political and architectural design prototypes that signal a significant departure from the outmoded ideological and structural directives of the past.

i. Scope of Research.

The Scope of this research initially focused primarily on analyzing the “Contemporary American Context”. I chose to critique nation-state development in the western context for two reasons. For one, because it was simply the most contextually familiar and I thought it might be more conducive to uncovering a plethora of resources both familiar and obscure, (which it has done). Secondly, I chose the western context because an understanding of nation-state development directly corresponds to a historical time line that has played out in terms of the developmental history of key U.S. Embassy/Chancery archetypes which have come to be associated as American symbols of diplomacy and power over the last few decades. The following research is then to be read as a critique geared towards I.R. Theory because I.R. theory by definition:

Events in the nation’s history (approx. since WW2) was chosen as a way to understand the practical application of a synthesis between I.R. theory and architecture. The importance of the architectural case studies in regards to the over-all critique is to aide in crystallizing the ideological tenants that nation-state systems represent, as well as gauging their effectiveness (and relevance) in order to propose alternatives for future structures. Architects often design within a set framework of many different factors known simply as a “program”.



In the same way a preferred futures scenario takes many of these concepts and crafts a futuristic political "program" where new spatial realities might be imagined more appropriately. That being said I thought it important to include such a proposal which may be useful for "framing the contextual argument". Finally, an architectural proposal, which outlines fundamentals for new political spaces based on this new political environment is presented in the form of diagramming of political spaces, in an attempt to outline the most critical elements of new diplomatic representation.

## ii \_\_\_\_\_ Topics not Covered.

That said, I thought it important to mention focus areas that are not attempted in this research document. An in-depth critique of nation-state development and governing I.R. theory as a whole, undoubtedly requires an intricate understanding of various disciplines including politics, social theory, anthropology, and history (amongst many other disciplines) and is in no way free from "interpretation", shaded by the influence of many cultural lenses.

The author recognizes his own bias in this, and acknowledges that countless data sets may be utilized to support claims about how nation states function (or should function in the future). Many of these convergent disciplines admittedly extend far beyond my own expertise. Of the disciplines I have attempted to converge however, I have limited the scope to issues that relate directly to influencing architecture and political design and attempted to address issues on three scales of governance.

I believe attempting to limit the scope to such issues relevant to this perspective will help to focus the argument and frame the implications of the value of this perspective more clearly. In other words, it is an attempt to get the reader to understand the big picture at work here; developmental ideas about social organization and architectural responses, which is the ultimate goal of this project. Therefore, the scope of this body of research is not concerned with understanding a complete picture of how different nation-states have interacted with each other throughout the course of human development in exhaustive complexity (though if possible that study would be extremely helpful).

This body of research is comparative, however; in the sense that the author is attempting to critique and contrast specifically the I.R. theory of political Realism (argued as the mainstream theory ascribed to by nation-states) with a counter-proposal for an alternative theory (that of ecological sensitivity) and system of global governance. None of the solutions, however, is a complete primer on understanding the whole volume of history behind the development of the American state (or the future of it for that matter). Instead, it should be read as a speculative exercise for understanding certain aspects of current state development that may align or clash with an ecological perspective. In addition, it is an attempt to develop a synthesis between environmental issues and I.R. policy in the form of diplomatic representation.

The embassy is chosen as the major archetype because for me it represents the most pure example with the greatest degree of flexibility to be gained from its redesign (as opposed to chanceries, consulates, etc which may just serve auxiliary functions). In any case, the isolation of particular positions (or the omission of them) in the vast web that characterizes nation-state development should in no way be viewed as an attempt to mitigate or else vaunt the importance of one issue over another. As a whole, the topic is incredibly complex and requires a level of reduction in order to identify the moving parts. Any attempt to fully explain and critique state development in its entirety would also require an understanding of developmental patterns that will greatly vary depending on historical and geographical factors. The author understands that not all nation-states have developed identically.

## II. Critique of Nation State

### 2.1 Critique of I.R. theory "Political Realism"

#### i. Introduction-outlining fundamentals of statehood

A brief definition of nation state is:

*"A certain form of state that derives its political legitimacy from serving as a sovereign entity for a nation as a sovereign territorial unit. The state is a political and geopolitical entity; the nation is a cultural and/or ethnic entity. The term "nation-state" implies that the two geographically coincide, and this distinguishes the nation state from the other types of state, which historically preceded it."*<sup>6</sup>

The concept of sovereignty is a bit more elusive but usually credits some response along the lines of:

*"Possessing the quality of having supreme, independent authority over a territory. It can be found in a power to rule and make law that rests on a political fact for which no purely legal explanation can be provided."*<sup>7</sup>

It is the sovereignty of nation-states, which allows them the monopoly over both human and natural resources. This monopoly legitimizes a variety of political directives (all that have serious repercussions). These directives are established through constitutional law and carried out through the various inter-related State-owned industries that go into making up the processes of "industrialization". The role of private and multinational industries also factors in and can have varying levels of environmental consequences. The regulatory industries of the state extend to borders defined by its sovereignty, but realistically the environment recognizes no such borders.

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6 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nation-state>

7 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereignty>

Additionally, militarization and warfare as a solution to conflict also have complex environmental consequences. Technological development often shares roots of convergence in regards to the innovation of technologies with branches of military research. Patterns of technological development often take an environmental toll because the process is often prototypical in character and thus (as in the case of weaponry) can have adverse environmental effects. The result is a pattern of technological development that may be effective for a consumer economy due to the speed of productivity but also carries the toll of a huge amount of embodied energy within the development and manufacturing processes.

The historical civil/military relationship has also instilled a degree of organizational normalcy/tradition both within civilian life and within the private professional sector as well. This hierarchical model extends to the diplomatic profession. While order in itself is a good thing, the attempt to maintain inflexible hierarchical structures ultimately leads to ineffectively being able to respond quickly to the changing political climate. This author is under the impression that individual leaders can and have made distinct changes in the course of political history-unique to their personalities and ideologies. It also may be more likely that current administrations (especially in the American tradition) are just inheriting the problems that are indeed systemic to nation-state dominance.

Among these contemporary themes, seems to be a logic that somehow posits the United States at the forefront of some "moralistic helm". Recent developments have proven that even The US is not immune from external pressures and especially political/economic consequences. Positions of nation-states in regards to many of these issues seem to highlight areas of an increasingly deepening dissonance between the rhetorical language and agendas of nationalistic interests and the realities of daily life. What then are the reasons for this dissonance? The study of I.R. theory exists as a tool for social scientists to theorize about these problems and pose answers to these questions. The field of I.R. is also, 'political' and its tools often have their own agenda (branches exist for defense strategists, etc). In the political arena, politicians often assert their own agendas on the public and rationalize them through a variety of rhetorical devices.

Political Realism, which is arguably the most famous mainstream I.R. theory, represents a distinct viewpoint that contemporary nation-states seem to identify with on many levels. I believe that a critique is then needed of the theory that aides in defining our concept of sovereignty and ultimately defines the nation-state and a relationship to the environment. Critical I.R. theory can help to explain the motivations behind the actions of nation-states as sovereign entities, and in fact offer new definitions of concepts like power, freedom, diplomacy, and sovereignty that may all have important implications.

#### ii. Understanding Nation State through the realist lens

Political realism is arguably the primary tool of many nation state systems because realism is primarily concerned with maintaining the balance of powers (and superiority) between nation states (with power defined as “the control of man over man”).<sup>8</sup> In the contemporary world, states have a variety of tools used to accomplish this goal, including different forms of coercion. From this simple theoretical standpoint, is generated in many international relationships something of a zero-sum game in which there will always be winners and losers (i.e. social injustice and global inequality in regards to material and resource allocation).

#### iii. Outlining Basic Characteristics of Political Realism

A critical view of I.R. theory should take into consideration the social theory behind it and examine its relevance to contemporary society. It should also give us some indication about where we are heading as a society. Considering this "futurist" mind set seriously, it is possible to see that there are many issues that mainstream traditional I.R. has difficulty addressing. I believe that at the top of the list, however; would be the way a realist argument understands the natural environment in terms of value and ownership (in the westerns context). Radical ecologists would argue that mainstream I.R. theory defines International political processes and norms in ways that fundamentally contradict the principles of sustainability:

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8 Art, Robert, Jervis Robert, International Politics- enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, Pearson Education 2009 (17)

*"The mainstream view on I.R. politics tend to ignore the reciprocal patterns of causation that characterize both physical nature and the global political world (and certainly holds true for political economy) while mainstream I.R's emphasis on circumscribed, time-bound and space-bound events bypasses the holistic character of events."<sup>9</sup>*

When we begin to bring these issues into the realm of what is discussed it is possible to begin to question the very relevancy of our social structures and become designers of our own political destiny. The evidence seems to point to the fact that mainstream I.R. theory (namely realism) has been perpetuated by an incomplete and exploitative understanding of humankind's relationship with nature. I am interested in investigating the theoretical foundations of realism and offering examples that diverge from this particular definition of organization with relationship to the international system as a whole. The following are a number of key tenants that define this theory traditionally and some criticisms of political realism as a theory.

#### iv. Re-Occurring Cycles of Politically Sanctioned Aggression

The use of military was historically the ultimate vehicle for the assimilation of cultures and the acquisition of territories under a common flag. Most nation-states are thus inherently aggressive entities (both historically and contemporaneously). An archaic definition of national sovereignty and the definition of its borders was once tied directly to military might, determined by the territory reached by cannon fire.<sup>10</sup> The contemporary version of this is nation states supporting the deep-pocketed funding of military industrial complexes and a civilian-military relationship that depends heavily on military force to define or enforce its diplomatic agendas. The military budgets of some countries, far exceeds the GNP of other nations.

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9 Laferriere Eric and Peter J. Scott. International Relations Theory and Ecological Thought: Towards a Synthesis. London Routledge 1999 (159)

10 Solomon, Richard, Wriston, Walter, Shultz George. Peaceworks No. 18 Keynote addresses from the Virtual Diplomacy Conference. United States Institute for Peace. 1997(4)

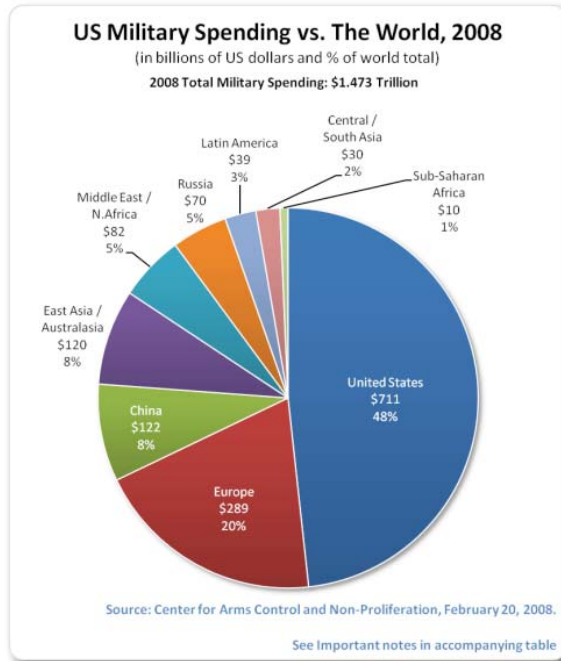


FIGURE 1

*[The lion’s share of this money is not spent by the Pentagon on protecting American citizens. It goes to supporting U.S. military activities, including interventions, throughout the world. Were this budget and the organization it finances called the “Military Department,” then attitudes might be quite different. Americans are willing to pay for defense, but they would probably be much less willing to spend billions of dollars if the money were labeled “Foreign Military Operations.” — The Billions For “Defense” Jeopardize Our Safety, Center For Defense Information, March 9, 2000 <http://www.globalissues.org/article/75/world-military-spending>*

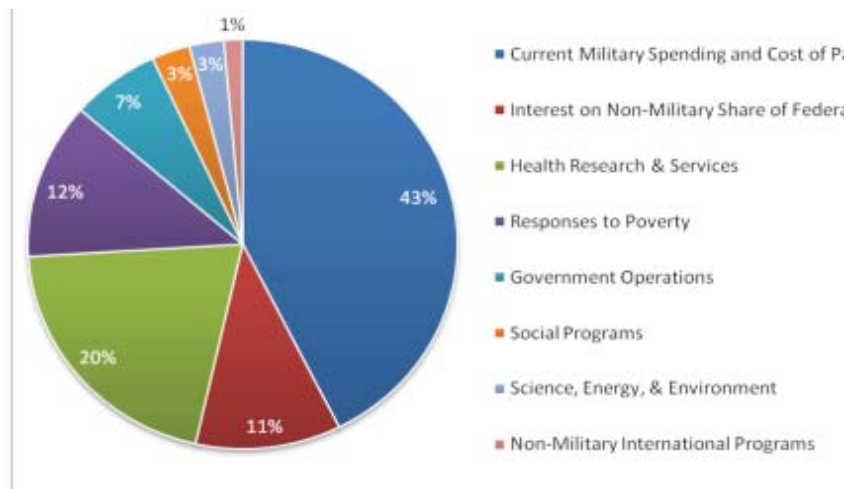


FIGURE 2

The Financial support of such defense related industries is truly a testament to the nation-states adoption of the realist argument within the realm of the international system. It is also admittedly a necessary precaution if in fact (as traditional realism suggests), the world has no higher governing principles of authority that might otherwise enforce peace or allow for peaceful cohabitation. Historically this tradition traces back to military principles taken from strategists such as Sun Tzu and the Athenian commander Thucydides, the historian of the Peloponnesian war. It has been further re-defined by various political-military authorities such as Niccolo Machiavelli in the sixteenth century and its principles quite clearly defined and outlined by Hans J. Morgenthau in *Principles of Political Realism* in 1945 as follows:

*Six Principles of Political Realism*

- 1. Politics, like society in general, is governed by objective laws that have their roots in human nature, which is unchanging' therefore it is possible to develop a rational theory that reflects these objective laws.*
- 2. The main signpost of political realism is the concept of interest defined in terms of power which infused rational order into the subject matter of politics, and thus makes the theoretical understanding of politics possible. Political Realism stresses the rational, objective and unemotional.*
- 3. Realism assumes that interest defined as power is an objective category, which is universally valid, but not with a meaning that is fixed once and for all. Power is the control of man over man.*
- 4. Political realism is aware of the moral significance of political action. It is also aware of the tension between the moral command and the requirements of successful political action.*
- 5. Political realism refuses to identify the moral aspiration of a particular nation with the moral laws that govern the universe. It is the concept of interest defined in terms of power that saves us from moral excess and political folly.*
- 6. The political realist maintains the autonomy of the political sphere; he asks "How does this policy affect the power of the nation" Political realism is based on a pluralistic conception of human nature. A man who was nothing but "political man" would be a beast, for he would be completely lacking in moral restraints. But, in order to develop an autonomous theory of political behavior "political man" must be abstracted from other aspects of human nature.<sup>11</sup>*

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11 Art, Robert, Jervis Robert, *International Politics- enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, Pearson Education 2009 (17)



Nations choose to use force (in the form of coercive politics) for a variety of reasons. Sometimes the reasons for force are justifiable such as self-defense, or acting in the interest of the protection of its citizens. These uses of force are characterized by strategies of “*defense, deterrence, compellence and swaggering*”<sup>12</sup>. These uses of force provide the “incentive” for the diplomatic process to take place between nations a concept more popularly known as “hard power”. Ultimately, nation-states always act in their own interests. And this assures that each of these strategies will be used at some point (depending upon the severity of the perceived threat) to solve potential challenges to nationally identified interests and promote diplomacy.

The economic advantages, population size, naturally occurring resources, and historical development of industrialization of nation-states including the U.S. has aided in legitimizing their use of coercive strategies to promote a kind of global security. And within this realist context it is necessary and acceptable to use these applications of force that may carry a high cost to the environment, and socio/cultural frameworks.

The theory of nuclear deterrence is but one example of an acceptable means of balancing powerful nations amongst technologically advanced societies using the deterrence strategy. In the United States, like many nations, force has been executed in relationship to the acquiring of natural resources, namely petroleum in the Middle East (but also land and resources in terms of internal conflicts in the nation’s history).

Not surprisingly then, nation-states like the US have to protect and promote their image even more in nations that it considers as “hostile” to its diplomatic mission. A negative relationship with these countries ensures deepening resentment, often revived by the threat of forceful occupation. This often results in a harsh cycle that includes the re-opening of “wounds” and inevitable associations with issues like colonialism that have never “healed” from previous centuries, political systems and occupiers.

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12 Art, Robert, Jervis Robert, International Politics.2009 (136)

## v. Hierarchical component

The hierarchical component of realism implies “An importance of social stature and power relations. Through this, a type of desire for homogeneity emerges. According to some social scientists, hierarchical political systems are evidences of realism in practice, i.e.:

*“Sameness may be seen as a reoccurring theme in realist theory.”<sup>13</sup>*

Some form of political order, hierarchy and division of power is necessary for political organization on large scales to function and maintain the legitimate image of a singular sovereign political entity. Part of this argument is legitimate due to the sheer number of population and issues that need to be managed. But what makes the western model superior to any other? In recent years, new models of organization have emerged (particularly in the commercial sector) to suggest that there are viable alternatives to the traditional hierarchical model in regard to governance. Gerard Fairtlough proposes several of these organizational models (which have political implications) in his book *“Three ways of Getting Things Done”*.

In the book, Fairtlough explains applications of the notions of the “heterarchy”, and “responsible autonomy”, citing examples where new methods of organization have evolved within large multinational (and traditionally hierarchical) corporations as successful and necessary responses to global business problem solving. Heterarchy as an example is defined as:

*“A system of organization replete with overlap, multiplicity, mixed ascendancy, and/or divergent-but-coexistent patterns of relation. Definitions of the term vary among the disciplines: in social and information sciences, heterarchies are networks of elements in which each element shares the same “horizontal” position of power and authority, each playing a theoretically equal role.”<sup>14</sup>*

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13 Lafferiere Stoett. International Relations Theory and Ecological Thought 1999 (85)

14 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heterarchy>

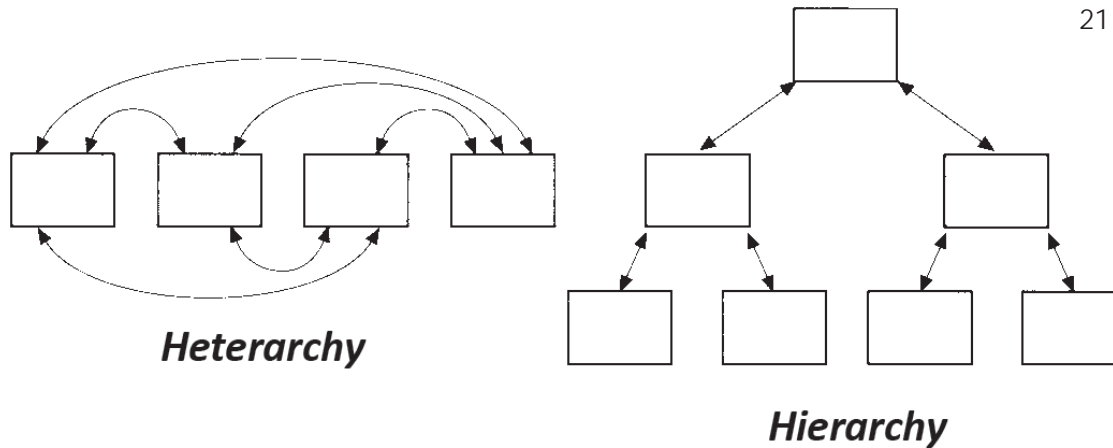


Figure 3

These emergent organizations can exist within “parent” hierarchies (branching out and evolving organically) or even have completely new organizational principles and rules of conduct depending on the discipline. But these applications were specifically geared towards the commercial sector recognizing its need in part, to address complicated and interconnected international issues more effectively. If the business world has been so quick to recognize these movements in the international system and adapt, then it begs the question, why have political systems been so slow to respond to the same trends?

Is it any surprise then that as a result of the adoption of new technology and organizational models, commercial entities are now becoming recognized as legitimate actors with a powerful voice within the realm of international politics? Perhaps there is some evidence that traditional political hierarchical organization leads to forms of government that are very static, authoritarian in nature and explicitly undemocratic. There are many historical examples where both political organizations, governments, and militaries have benefitted expressly from the hierarchical component.

Historically nation-states become more complicated over time, and are able to achieve less growth (the ideal goal of virtually all nation-states) often suffocating under the weight of their own complex political hierarchies. Much of the sovereignty issue seems connected to a necessary hierarchy. Unfortunately, such organizations can end up working to exclude its citizens from the democratic process. However, there is evidence to suggest new technologies “flatten bureaucracy” and allow for more effective policy making.

Centralization of power has come under criticism from those in critical I.R. theory circles as not being flexible enough to account for the needs of those marginalized groups and minorities that nation states are supposed to be serving. Political structures that are static due to rigid constitutions, national security protocol, or made so by inflexible relationships with other nations are often both inefficient in international diplomacy ( due to the self-interests that nation states must advance) and ineffective domestically, bogged down by the red tape of bureaucracy. As a result, complex global issues such as environmental treaties are not readily agreed to, and In general, change on a global level happens piecemeal, if at all.

#### vi. Materialist world view

Theoretical analysis is suggested by Rupert and Solomon in *Globalization and International Political Economy – The Politics of Alternative Futures*, as a necessary means for understanding movements within the International system. The book places great emphasis on understanding the importance of the social science behind economic policy. There are parallels that must be addressed when considering the materialism inherent to nation state interests and the I.R. theory of realism specifically. There are also direct implications to the environment. The authors suggest an understanding of both International Political Economy (IPE) and the critical tradition of historical materialism (HM) as theoretical starting points from which it is necessary to understand in order to begin to form a basis for critiquing the logic of political organization.

It is important to note that the study of IPE theory often invokes either classic liberal logic derived from Smithian notions of market-based cooperation<sup>15</sup> or Hobbesian<sup>16</sup> zero-sum logic describing the right for states to operate as “sovereign authorities” within the anarchic context of the international system at large. Both of these revolutionary idealistic viewpoints have played their part in helping to define realist arguments. Both theories place social science, respectively within an understanding that at that time represented a certain relationship between humanity and nature. The resulting political-economic realities are thus based upon this relationship. In practice, this can lead to environmentally destructive practices. This said, admittedly, there is no specific evidence to state that realist theory is anti-environmental in its specific rhetoric, only in consequences through application.

Also of importance is the influence of capitalism and the economic implications that have evolved historically and become associated within a modern-realist understanding of the political economy. Rupert and Solomon credit the birth of contemporary capitalism as a practice that developed out of 18th century England and the establishment of a competent middle class.<sup>17</sup> It is the technological step of transforming raw materials to a stable consumer base (thus creating the essential middle class) that allowed for this movement to begin in earnest. These relationships, based upon the view that the earth was endlessly bountiful, spoke nothing of the systematic, organized understanding of environmental policy or ecological science that at the time could not have been incorporated into an understanding of the international political economy (IPE). The authors further argue that the oversight of contemporary IPE research is that it is itself political, and so not being completely objective, its conclusions often supporting the political goals and agenda’s of the nations which are utilizing it for their own purposes.

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15 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam\\_Smith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Smith)

16 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Hobbes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Hobbes)

17 Rupert M, Solomon. Globalization and International Political Economy - The Politics of Alternative Futures. New York Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2005. (9)

That is to say, the very tools used to describe a nation-states' successful development may be propagandizing in that they are biased in describing its strengths while failing to recognize or take responsibility for the historical positions which have led it to obtaining these strengths. The consequences of which include violence, and destruction of the environment for the sake of expanding empires, along with the human costs associated. These justifications could arguably be seen as a continuation of realist principles being played out in the IPE by offering a purely utilitarian ecological world view. In this case here the total value of national resources is found in its ability to secure national interest (based upon the one-sided view of ecological resources).

A solution to escape the purely technical and often biased "economists view" of international relations then, is to embark upon an understanding of Historical Materialism as well as IPE. Historical Materialism has not, however; been traditionally accepted or associated with a legitimate approach in the west of evaluating international relations due to its associations with author Karl Marx and his criticisms of Capitalism. The major argument found through this analysis is that politics (being an extension of social relations and structure) is intrinsically a part of economic life and any attempt to separate them confuses the more complex understanding of the issues. The fundamental argument is that ultimately, attempting to explain one apart from the other, which is done in our universities all across the nation, does a great disservice to the conceptual understanding of the complexities of the "Political Economy" as a whole. The article goes on to explain that according to Marx, Capitalism represents a dialectical paradox in that it allows for a "dual freedom" to exist.

*The Marxist view is that capitalism entails liberation from the relations of direct politico-economic dependence (such as the simultaneously political and economic subordination of the serf to the feudal lord) characteristic of pre capitalist forms of social life. Instead of being born into-and destined to live our entire lives within-pre capitalist politico-economic hierarchies, the emergence of capitalism undermines these hierarchies and presents possibilities for social individualizations (the sense that one is one's own master and can succeed or fail based on one's own merit and effort) and "political emancipation" within republican forms of state (securing individual rights and liberties for citizens". But capitalism simultaneously limits the historically real emancipatory possibilities it brings into being by (re) subjecting individuals to social domination through the compulsions of market dependence: everyone must somehow acquire the money necessary to purchase the necessities of life, and for the vast majority who are not already wealthy this translates into a compulsion to sell their labor-power to a capitalist employer to " make a living".<sup>18</sup>*

Among the resulting political implication is that economics has taken under the realist system a primary position of importance. While this is not a fault of realism alone, this socially constructed notion of “intrinsic value and materialism” strongly contrasts that of many cultures, peoples and political systems that have historically held different ideologies about the concept of material wealth ownership, asset identification, and even the very nature of the relationship between man and the environment . In many indigenous cultures for example, a drastically different system of organization was possible because a fundamentally different (whether it be naturist, animist, indigenous spiritual etc.) Understanding of wealth, materiality and the value of natural resources was understood as the primary “law of the land”.

Contrary to popular opinion, this recognition then, does not prompt a call to revert or devolve into a system that is less than complex or appropriate for addressing the needs of the modern world today. Instead this recognition of the importance of diversity within the definition of materiality promotes an ideological desire to investigate new systems that respond to a wider field of issues by examining successful historical examples. But what differentiates this argument from simple liberalist reasoning or emotions-based ideological arguments, is the understanding that in such cultures structural institutions were in place to force the dependence upon the system ,and for often long periods of time these systems (often having political and architectural implications) resulted in sustainable and efficiently running societies.

Those institutions (such as Ahu’pua’a in the native Hawaiian context, or many well documented Native American tribe’s beliefs regarding land stewardship) are proof that large cultures can be sustained in harmony with the understanding of a bio-centric world view as the fundamental underpinning of their political systems. It is important to consider on the broader scope of history that the mainstream I.R. theory of realism has developed from centuries of social science theory, and has evolved into a contemporary context that has its roots in a wide variety of disciplines that have both theoretical and practical implications with regards to materialism. Realist theory makes certain assumptions about human materialism based upon social statutes that has in the past, justified the inequitably distribution of resources and wealth based on a wide variety of prejudices such as race, gender, & social class.

Capitalism, though in itself an amoral tool for modern societies to utilize, can have positive or negative implications depending upon the application. The fact that capitalistic power practices in some cases have exacerbated situations where globally great inequalities exist often resulting in environmental destruction is quite frankly, evidence of a deeper structural social problem that has continuously plagued the human condition from time immemorial.

#### vii. Reductionist World view

The main argument concerning realism and a reductionist world view derives from an understanding of the state that comes largely from the American text, from Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye called "Power and Independence" (1977)

*"In this tradition Realism is largely defined as not being complex interdependence; but is limited to the concerns over state power and military power especially, and only (unified) state actors matter in world politics."<sup>19</sup>*

The problem is that all issues are channeled through the filter which asks "How does this political action affect the power dynamics of the state today?" This over-simplification of an understanding of international relationships does not take into full consideration the complexity of issues and influences of non-state actors and marginalized groups, and the political implications to the environment or to future generations. Much of the argument for this type of reductionism comes from a post-modern scientific rationalist view of the world. The problem with a pure focus on this viewpoint is eloquently summed up in Sherry Black's article articulating the need for redefining successful community development in which she states:

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19 Lafferiere, Eric, Stoett Peter, International Relations Theory and Ecological Thought (1999) (8)



*“This scientific world view has become the foundation for many disciplines, including economics. The inherent flaw in using the scientific model to explain pieces of complex systems and make applications based only on parts of a whole, is that significant relationship and connections are missed.”<sup>20</sup>*

The ability to “miss” the marginalized yet important connections in lieu of state interests creates a situation which ignores democratic processes and ultimately under-cuts the rights of its citizens from the most basic local levels of government all the way up to the leadership itself. It is also responsible for the general public having as is quoted:

*“A general dissatisfaction with the scientific orthodoxy and a re-spiritualization of modern society, with changes in basic values and priorities.”<sup>21</sup>*

These are indicators of the societies dissatisfaction with the nation state system. On an international scale, it represents an eschewing of democratic process for the “stability” provided by expressions of force. It is especially dangerous when reductionist tendencies take form of ideological pursuits within administrations. The argument is summed up in “Limits of Power-an end to American Exceptionalism” when the author states that:

*“Ideology often serves as a device for sharply narrowing the range of a political debate. Dissent where it persists seldom penetrates the centers of power in Washington. Dissenters are thus labeled as unable to discern the true motives of National Interest, and end up on the fringes concerning public opinion<sup>22</sup>*

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20 Black, S. Sherry. "The Circle of Development and Indigenous People", Business Alert, First Nations Development Institute. (1992) (20)

21 Black. "The Circle of Development and Indigenous People" (1992)(25)

22 Bacevich, Andrew. The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism. New York: Metropolitan Books 2008(81)

vii. Narrow futures oriented policy making

The reductionist view that realist politics promotes also has implications that go beyond the present day. The realist view of time and space bound “isolated events” to explain I.R. should be viewed as suspicious, especially when the state attempts to adhere to simply subjective claims made by politicians such as “They don’t like us and our way of life etc”. Such arguments that appeal to national and ethnocentric mechanisms that draw conclusions about events viewed in a handpicked section of the international system should be scrutinized.

A wider and longer view of political implications should be considered in order to reconcile perspectives and preferred power relationships of the present to a greater context that will contribute to what one could call a global or "futures oriented interest" (as opposed to purely nationalistic interests). This approach however immediately admits two great inconsistencies within the field of social science, and history. For one thing, there is a lack of simple good record keeping on the scale that would begin to identify global political behaviors without bias. This includes archiving the nature, characteristics and implications of political relationships on a scale and systematic way that could successfully begin to “map” human political organizational relationships in a meaningful and in tampered way.

Part of this problem is that history and historical events are viewed through cultural lenses, and history has always been tampered with. This may realistically never change. But it is not an issue of capacity. Currently, analysts are hard at work evaluating the potential for alliances and enemies as far as they fit within the context of the national interest. However, what about the global interest? There are some institutions that are dedicated to understanding a development of certain pieces of this “global interest” but they are by no means the majority.

This is quite different to how political relationships are studied in the contemporary context. It is necessary to apply a futures oriented focus to the understanding of political science and begin to ask questions about the ultimate direction and health of global political relationships. Secondly, because of such a system there would be a global interest in history being remembered in a way that is not written simply by those who “win wars” as the popular saying goes.

More importantly, such an attempt to record history within its most authentic context will aid in preserving the knowledge, accomplishments and cultural investments of a wide variety of groups to better understand the historical significance played throughout the ages. Already this is a wholly more equitable proposal for understanding history which turns the euro-centric framework on its head. This view of a complete unabridged history attempts to extend beyond the cultural frameworks of social status, gender and race.

It may aid in cultures understanding the reasons behind their past political organizations to evaluate whether or not current political behavior is still relevant. The implications could no less change the way we educate understand and respond to each other on a global scale. As it is currently, the art of diplomacy, policy making and its short view is quite two-dimensional. Essentially, all nation-states only have one preferred futures scenario, which is to stay in power continuously. In reality when other factors are put on the table this may not result in political outcomes that are in the “futuristic interest” of the state, (even from a realist context).

The American context for example should be relevant only as far as it continues to serve the needs of its people. Instead it seems that many resources are spend in continuing to finance directives that at some point may have been necessary but may or may not continue to be historically relevant as time goes on. The American Intelligence community is one such system that constantly has had to weather criticism as just such an organization, where one author questions its effectiveness:

*“Though nominally serving the public, make up an apparatus to go great lengths to evade public scrutiny, performing their duties shielded behind multiple layers of secrecy. Ostensibly, this cult of secrecy exists to deny information to America’s enemies. Its actual purpose is to control the information provided to the American people, releasing only what a particular agency or administration is eager to make known while withholding (or providing in sanitized form) information that might embarrass the government or call into question its policies.”<sup>23</sup>*

Such organizations also blur the line between the military/civil relationships often operating in gray areas between civilian and military boundaries, raising concerns due to the issue of civil/military relations being a key issue in determining the “development” of a civilization. At the same time, intelligence agencies, and what they do is an admitted necessity in the world because one of the key factors is that they operate on a global scale under the realist context. An unfortunate but factual result is that espionage is associated directly with the modern diplomatic mission (with many diplomats admittedly being spies).

In any case, various bureaucracies with literally unspecified budgets are conscripted to the never-ending information war. Issues that might promote a futures scenario that might not fall in line with “The national interest” have been historically labeled as political dissent, untrustworthy, socialist, treasonous, etc, for fear that these conflicting interests will return the state to some state of chaos. In this nation’s history, important issues, ideologies and new ideas concerning social organization were labeled as dangerous (civil rights movement for example) and provoked the monitoring of its citizens both at home and abroad (ironic considering the fact that such radical ideas surrounded the foundation of this nation).

A further layer of confusion is added when the influence of modern media coverage and an industry of “white-washing” are considered. The political influence of the “media industry” in the contemporary world cannot be ignored. Often truly important issues are rendered nearly meaningless (unless of course they are utilized to promote some sort of nationalistic or governmental platform i.e. to win elections or get support for going to war etc).

The culture of secrecy (the definition of which can be extended to include lobbyist's and special interest groups) is working towards an increasingly opaque view of politics -requiring the subversive directing of flows of information, and resources within a nation towards political agendas. Effectually, citizens are further removed from the diplomatic process and grow more skeptical of the role of the government.

Though these "shadow governments" are struggling to fight an essential reality, which is that at the end of the day in the context of the contemporary world information cannot truly be controlled but only managed. It is clear then that accessibility and manipulation of data, shall be an essential tool that may define the political successes and failures of a wide range of actors in the immediate future.

## 2.2 Conclusions

The Mainstream I.R. theory of Realism seemingly undermines some of the key values that have traditionally motivated individuals to form nation states in the first place, ideally a desire for freedom/self government democratic process (specifically in the American context). Realist I.R. theory evolved as an attempt to understand simply how nations interact with each other and has largely failed to acknowledge the voices of the underprivileged, minority and politically unpopular and economically powerless as being particularly important to the overall process.

And perhaps at a time this could be said to have been an accurate assessment of global politics, but the theory in its current context when attempting to address contemporary issues, suggests that realism in itself attempts to address only certain pieces of a larger and more complicated puzzle. Part of the problem is that the answer is not purely an academic one.

No theory can ever really encapsulate the full view of political interactions that exists on a variety of different scales. However the realist theory at its foundations seemingly does not set out to judge these interactions as important or truly vital to the political process. Its largest weakness seems to be that of omission. Of course the deeper problem is that foundations of realism don't fully account for the importance of cultural tradition, as well as moral and ethical/ideological realities that may play a role in the connection to the interest of people groups.

Also, relationships between politics and the environment when further investigated may lead to more intelligent political organizations that are sensitive to a more diverse definition of actors. The role of the nation state is evident in this, inserting the values of the current administration behind the shield of national Identity, and national security. It is also ironic because an acceptance and investigation into many of these marginalized demographics would begin to give a clearer picture to a more accurate national identity, and what referents should be considered when defining issues critical to the security of those groups.

Again, radical ecologists remind mainstream I.R. theorists of the limits of any “security” or “order” that ignores its ecological foundations. In reality, the American concept of security has created some serious problems in practice as will be shown in the architectural case studies. The overly bureaucratic response has in the outlined cases created more bureaucracy, chaos and unsafe conditions. Bacevich further elucidates this argument albeit cynically in his statement concerning the pentagon:

*“Today everything about the national security state is gargantuan; its payroll, total budget, organizational complexity, appetite for information, ability to churn out reams of self-justifying press release, and capacity for dissembling, chicanery and dirty tricks. The Pentagon alone houses a workforce of 25,000 employees who each day make 200,000 phone calls and send a million e-mails, while occupying 3,705,793 square feet of office space, traipsing 17.5 miles of corridors, mounting 131 staircases, watching 42,000 clocks, drinking from 691 water fountains, and relieving themselves in 284 lavatories.”<sup>24</sup>*

Despite our security efforts, can we as a nation say that we are any safer than we were on September 11th 2001? Perhaps in certain ways yes, but the cost to diplomacy, civilian mobility, and international relationships seems to have suffered quite drastically. Moreover, future prospects of living under a national-security state, alienating our allies and continuing to fund costly militaristic crusades that stretch across the globe seems unavoidable unless the American position on international policy-making is seriously reconsidered.

What do these issues imply for the nation state and diplomacy in the short and long term? Noting that nation states are still seen as “useful” and not yet archaic the short term solution is not calling for some apocalyptic scenario or immediate disassembly of the government (though history has proven anything even the most seemingly preposterous notions are possible). A fervent effort should be made to transition from political, economic, and industrial organizations that are flexible, inclusive and integrative of environmental and global cooperative political structures. But is it possible within the current political framework?

This author is of the belief that it is not wholly possible to realize many of these goals until the balance of power has shifted to allow for these issues to be addressed and promoted by powerful actors. Today, state leaders should attempt to realize the value of power potential in a globally connected environmental context, before the world forces such changes. This is possible by adopting a political philosophy (or I.R. theory) that inclusively deals with marginalized groups and increasingly regards discussion within the environmental context (that is the effect policy has on the environment).

The means to an end should also focus on a culture of peaceful resolution to conflict. Again this goes back to the ideological notion of "global interest". In other words why is it appropriate that first world democracies don't fight wars with one another but it is acceptable for others to do so? The reality is that these issues should be seen in light of the fact that natural resources are often a constant point of contention between people groups, and may be the among the most ancient and enduring reasons for continual conflict and political unrest. It is important to understand that this tendency to conflict has not defined the existence of all cultures however; (who have had various periods of length in regards to a feudal state) but seems to be a particular malady inherited by whatever power is at the height of its prestige at any point in given history. Thus, it is a critique of the particular “Euro-centric” viewpoint of both I.R. theory and of contemporary politics and economics as a whole that has led to the desire to address largely environmentally related concerns in ways that the nation-state has thus far been unable to do successfully.

### Architectural Case studies.

Starting from the post World War 2 period up until contemporary times are examples of diplomatic representation. The following architectural case studies were chosen because they all represent moments in the nation's history where unique political and architectural ideas were expressed. They were also chosen to critique the design from an architectural perspective as well as investigate the political aspects of the designs in an attempt to understand the rationale behind the design decisions and spatial implications.

It is important to point out that while analyzing these buildings in each case, there are examples of design decisions that could be considered both successful and unsuccessful under the context of political realism that may converge or differ when considered under an ecological focus. In any case, the following can be seen as an analysis of some poignant examples of the American design response, (and for contrast one European example) to the developmental parallels of the relatively modern contemporary Embassy archetype and its chosen architectural expression.



### III. Architectural Case Studies

#### 3.1 Case Study #1. Paris – U.S. Embassy Paris Architectural Analysis

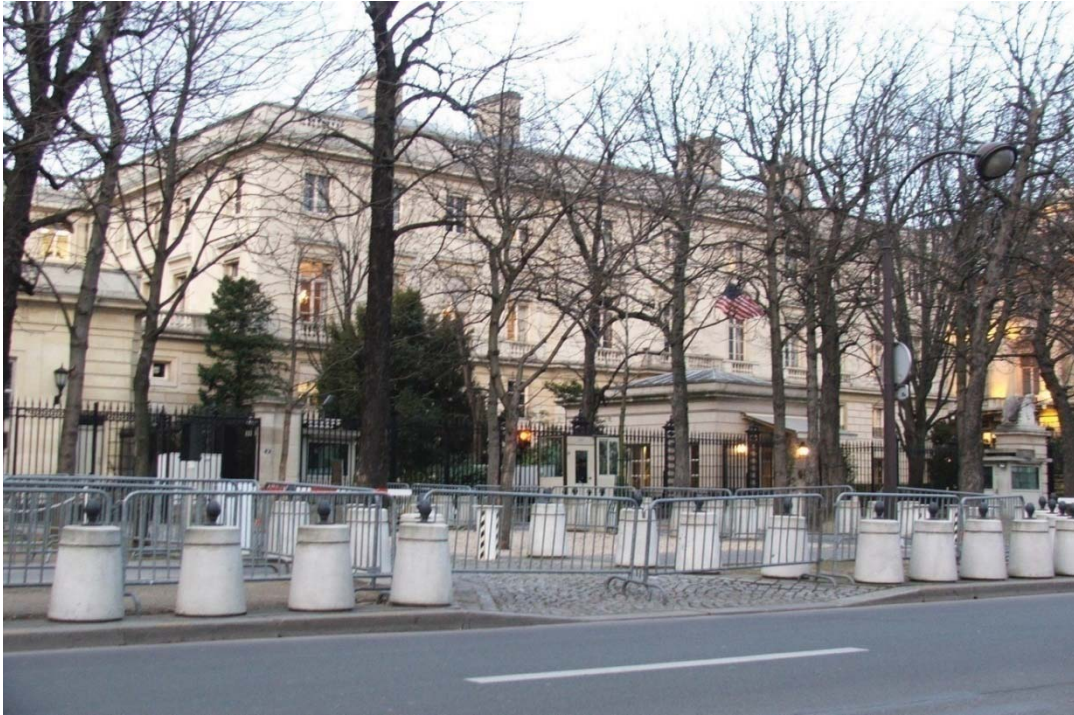


Figure 4. U.S. Embassy Paris

#### i. Project information

**Clients:** U.S. State Department

**Total Site Area:** TBD

**Project Description:**

A building complex, containing, a building for multiple uses including hosting a variety of diplomatic functions and residences. The building continued certain associations with power established from classical 18<sup>th</sup> century French Architecture. The project had a turbulent history ,and now represents an archetypical model of early US Embassy buildings abroad.

**Overall Cost:**

Not determined

**Architect:**

Originally designed by Ludovico Visconti  
Renovated and additions added by various Architects.

**Originally Acquired:**

1948

## ii. Political Climate

*“It would take another devastating world war to demonstrate that economic generosity could be the height of political realism, and Americans in the 1920’s could hardly be expected to see this.”<sup>25</sup>*

Emerging from World War II, Officials at the FBO began to collect U.S. properties throughout War-torn Europe. As the U.S. emerged from the previous decade as a new world leader on multiple fronts, officials in the State department began to focus less on a unilateral position and much more upon how its international status as a leader amongst nations with related interests might be best represented and preserved abroad. The attitude of the State department seemed to be one of asking:

*“ How to assert a helpful influence abroad without sacrificing anything of importance to our people”<sup>26</sup>*

This was specifically the attitude towards rebuilding Western Europe with a focus on re-establishing the ancient seats of power that had often come to destruction during the war. While this was the case in Western Europe, a great deal of Eastern Europe had been left to its own devices. In the decade that followed the 1930’s The State department took an active role in positioning itself as a much more internationally involved and economically integrated organization. In regards to diplomatic representation, the FBO seemed to take the position of “scooping up” historical properties in vital city centers in a seemingly mad rush across the globe. This response was in part necessary to fill in the gaps of U.S. representation throughout various regions.

Partly due to the various Post-War international organizations formed by the United States (Bretton woods, IMF etc) the U.S. had begun established itself as the nation with interest in aiding in the rebuilding of Europe. A general rule of political realism must be addressed here, for the aiding of European nations financially, and the development of the International Banking system, gold standards and various other “mechanisms” after that can arguably be seen in the general realist principle of “nations acting on their own interests” to preserve power and control. The US had emerged from the war period and found itself in a new position of global dominance, and it intended to stay there.

25 Herring, George, From Colony To Superpower : US Foreign Relations since 1776. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.(457)

26 Herring, From Colony To Superpower.2008 (457-458)

Though this could be viewed as an alignment of realist principles, there was genuine altruistic interest to rebuild Europe and mitigate the post war chaos, after all the U.S. had invested the lives of thousands of its own citizens to achieve this peace. When it came to architectural representation, in some cases historical structures were sought out often for reasons that were more functional entirely. Many of the earliest diplomatic buildings were in fact residences. They appeared to make decent diplomatic structures because of the advantageous positions they held within the city, often cited on prime real estate, close to civic centers, and often connected historically or had the ability (capacity and capability) to facilitate some reasonably sized diplomatic functions.

Indeed familiarity and a close relationship with the surrounding built environment often appeared as a practical and politically “safe” option when considering the establishment of diplomatic agencies. This functional “flexibility”, combined with the lure of relatively inexpensive post-war real estate seemed to define the FBO’s position on what embassies, diplomatic residences and chanceries should look like more than any other factor.<sup>27</sup> It is also possible that FBO officials scouting these historical residences, for example, were making certain assumptions about how the U.S. should present itself to the world.

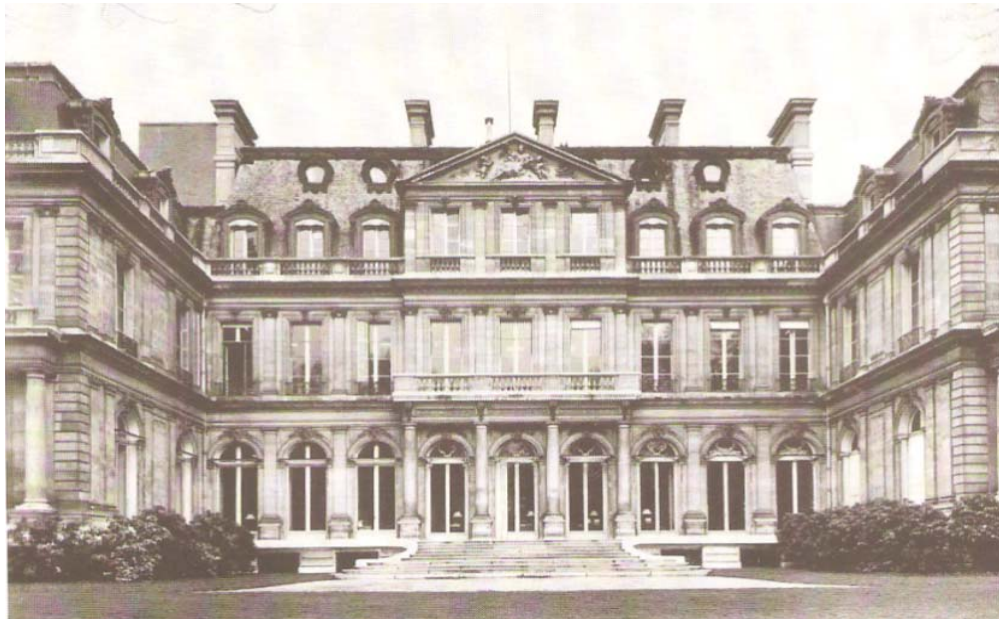


Figure 5

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27 Jane C Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy: Building America’s Embassies*. (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998. (53-56)

*“At this point without a strong “American vernacular” for the still relatively new embassy building program the most natural solution seemed to be to assimilate symbols representing authority from historical examples of power and prestige with little regard to what an American example should look like.”<sup>28</sup>*



Figure 6

The early adoption of diplomatic structures in post-war Europe thus represented a seeming desire to continue a diplomatic relationship with France that in large part respected its Architectural traditions. This made sense because the Nations were allied historically and Paris was a seat of power and diplomatic activity in terms of the representation of power and elitism in regards to the public. The building for long had been a part of the political-historical framework of the city in which it was so intricately imbedded.

#### Economic Incentives

The acquisition of the building used for the Embassy in Paris did not come without consequences as Loeffler points out:

*“From the start, however; the FBO faced many challenges related to procuring such properties including issues with obtaining financing and maintaining “architectural authenticity” and “cultural possessiveness”.”<sup>29</sup>*

In regards to financing, the 1946 congressional authorization allowed the State department to purchase foreign buildings with foreign credits.<sup>30</sup>

28 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*. 1998. (53-56)

29 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*. 1998 (52)

30 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*. 1998 (54)

This allowed for the acquisition of this pivotal property, as the fluctuating dollar at this time was not adequate for purchasing the property (which ended up being purchased in foreign currency). After a round of complaints by congressional representatives, the building was acquired in 1948.

### Historical Significance

The Paris property had a unique history the original Architect Ludovico Visconti who designed the building had previously worked on additions to the Louvre.

It was rebuilt and enlarged in the 1870's and was currently in private ownership serving as a private residence. The Residence had a turbulent history from being seized by Nazi's from its Jewish owners during the war to its final resting place as a U.S. Government Office space.<sup>31</sup> Not only had the residence changed hands a number of times, but also it had served as a distinguished historical backdrop to a number of historically important events over the decades. The direct connection with historical events was apparently seen as valuable by the FBO and the site being adjacent to the British embassy was also convenient.

### iii. Geographical siting

Paris to this day remains a geographically significant location for diplomacy. It is considered one of the United States' most important missions. Paris was historically a crossroads of diversity and culture a very important center of commerce, trade, and diplomacy. Additionally, The US was involved in Post-War economic projects that caused it to be linked strongly when considering rebuilding Western Europe with particularly strong connections existing between England, and France (Including the development of how many modern Embassies function organizationally).

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31 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy.1998(52-54)



#### iv. Design Context Materiality and Aesthetic Expression

This Project was essentially a government-scale historical renovation. The Paris property was saved from destruction a number of times, and eventually expanded in program to include more functions. Much of this was due to the importance and strong desire to protect the architectural expression of the city by the residents. It was a diplomatic process just negotiating what could be done, given the cities restrictive building codes and requirements. In the end, the property was renovated extensively and carefully restored with the aid of private American contributors in order to serve its diplomatic program while aesthetically handsomely representing its former glory.<sup>32</sup> The building is essentially a continuation of classical Architectural principles and thus representative of a much older tradition of power that associates certain established Architectural principles that have been repeated since antiquity.

##### Spatial organization.

As mentioned earlier the Western systems influenced each other in terms of Diplomatic style and though the United States has more fragmented power structure the way that the embassy worked was fairly traditional across the board. In 1964 the FBO attempted to renovate the building, and it was carefully restored and outfitted.”<sup>33</sup> According to the author:

*“The Old hotel was now used as a private residence for the American Ambassador, but it also held functions such as conferences, press briefings, receptions, luncheons, dinners and garden parties.” The plan was typical of an 18th century French mansion it was outfitted with Elevators and included an entrance and reception hall, Consulate Generals Office, Court, Passport and visa offices, Main reception room, library and administrative offices. .“ It was also equipped to handle programs of art and music including presentations by visiting American Artists and Orchestras, and designed to accommodate visiting government officials and dignitaries as overnight guests.”<sup>34</sup>*

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32 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998(54)

33 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*. 1998(54-55)

34 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998(55-56)

The current residence exists as a complex of three buildings including a chancery, the Ambassador's residence and the Embassy building. The US Embassy in Paris represented a romantic age of Diplomacy where the grand residence was the stage for a whole assortment of various forms of Official, and private diplomacy with the Ambassador acting as a sort of master of ceremonies. Soon after the war the need for the mansion model of embassy design, completely changed, and a need for structures suited to more flexible programs quickly became necessary.

#### v. Conclusions.

For the architect, spatial adjacencies are quite important because they inform us about patterns in social hierarchy and order. The sizes and juxtapositions of spaces then, should be understood as direct expressions of power relationships within a building . However, for diplomatic structures, the influence goes much deeper. Diplomatic buildings (like all buildings) are a part of a larger context (the built environment), existing within a dynamically changing but well-established social matrix.

The influence of such structures extends far beyond the walls of the Embassy, defining circulation patterns (with security and traffic requirements) and the character of surrounding neighborhoods, and ultimate take some kind of environmental toll. In the case of Paris, the hierarchy of spaces identified a classical and formal organization. This organization was derived from well-established rules that were centuries old. In fact, the adaptation of European architectural styles to American architecture goes back to the formation of almost all of the United States' diplomatic buildings so in this regard it is not remarkable that the Americans adopted such a structure.

The formal entrance and reception hall giving way to a cluster of offices around the periphery of a formal court and grand stair was a way of breaking up the flow of space from one room to another, systematically and gracefully. The structured hierarchy is a classical understanding of space and order. It makes long held assumptions about the nature of space without having to be exceptionally imaginative or original. Nor does it have to be, the U.S. Embassy in Paris capitalized on a formula of representing forms of dominance that the city had been well aware of (and comfortable with) for many years. It is questionable then, how essentially "American" this building was.

It made no great moves towards representing its origin country in culture other than the diplomats themselves that worked there. The building despite its turbulent history had perhaps been so deeply ingrained within the fabric of the city that it could not represent something else. This does not mean the public saw the building as particularly important however (noting that it was saved from demolition a number of times), it was just particularly French in character and its interior spaces were as much an example of European power and opulent luxury as was the exterior.

The size and location of the rooms also delineated importance. Administrative spaces are pushed to the periphery so as to gain the advantage of natural light. The “guest rooms” thus became suitable administrative spaces. Interestingly, the Consul General’s office is located quite close to the entrance on the first floor which nowadays would be seem highly improbable due to security issues. The formality of the spatial adjacencies, and the luxurious appointments of the Embassy also presupposed notions of power that identified directly with royalty. This was no simple hotel, the materiality and architecture was on the grand scale of an aristocrat.

The architecture of a hotel no doubt based on classical French palace designs delineated space extremely hierarchically even strictly. This would perhaps be viewed differently in other cities elsewhere, but seemed wholly appropriate in Paris, a city with a long history of this type of architectural representation. Given the context, such a building might have been necessary to be taken seriously in a city with such a long established architectural history (and many architectural accomplishments). The nature of the building was decidedly more residential in scale, offering the impression of a very personal, aristocratic and elite form of diplomacy that might occur in spaces that had character, long histories and vast, carefully manicured lawns.

As the evolving needs of the diplomatic mission progressed through time, so to, did the forms that diplomatic structures took. The early models, which quite literally identified in importance with wealth and luxury, were discarded for a formal and spatial organization more readily adaptable to a variety of purposes. If any concept of realism might be pulled from this particular building, it would be the hierarchical nature of the architectural expression and the corresponding hierarchy of how “standard diplomacy” was viewed at the time.



In this regard, it would have to be said that in the realist context it was quite successful. The French have a longer history of diplomacy of this type, and the Americans simply adapted the technology. Shaun Riordan describes the organization of French diplomacy historically to be, “a highly centralized policy machine, adding:

*“The French rarely employ local staff in their embassies, relying heavily on professional diplomats. However, the strict hierarchy makes it difficult to do so because the ambassador, as head of diplomatic mission is also in charge of political, commercial, consular and administrative sections. This is virtually true in all diplomatic services. Essentially, it reduces all creativity and cultural influence to one individual. And even ambassadors when making policy decisions are not always regarded as welcome from the officials of foreign ministries as they may have their own agendas. I would have to say though they height of rigidity in all diplomatic networks is the notion that they must be expressed in physical form which reinforces and reproduces internal hierarchies, and departmentalization.”<sup>35</sup>*

Though the US varied in the adoption of foreign officials, they wholeheartedly adopted a highly centralized organizational concept. This could be viewed as a diplomatic response to Paris as an ally. Honoring the old system of organization and falling in line as opposed to reconstructing the nature of diplomacy itself, and an incorporation of diplomacy that Western Europe (Particularly England, and France) had become quite used to (for allies, 1st world democracies). Diplomacy worked in essence because the power relationships and history between these countries allowed for amiable diplomatic processes to take place. These countries had a shared political interest.

The political relationships with Germany, however, had to be rebuilt after the war. The United States and many western European nations were strong allies after the war and began on a path of developing as influential first world nations with globally interconnected capitalist economies. The influence on diplomacy was that England, the United States and France developed bureaucratic models that were inherently similar to one another.<sup>36</sup> Though all with unique characteristics inherent to the history of the State, the legacy of the “Westphalian system” proved effective in producing States, with highly rigid diplomatic Structures.

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35 Riordan Shaun, *The New Diplomacy* (Massachusetts, Blackwell Publishers Inc 2002. (14-15)

36 Riordan, *the New Diplomacy* 2002.(13)

*“Essentially, all have rigid bureaucracies, in which responsibilities at each level of the hierarchy are carefully defined. Junior and middle-ranking officers are not encouraged to innovate or question the decisions of their superiors. On the contrary, originality of thought has blighted more than one diplomatic career.”*<sup>37</sup>

Though not a direct connection, this centralization bears close relationship to the structure of Military Service. In no way is the system disastrous, but being highly bureaucratic and controlled in every way maintains well-established rules of diplomatic etiquette in the realist definition:

*“Diplomacy is the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states*

*– E. Satow, A Guide to Diplomatic Practice, ed N Bland (Longmans, London, 1904) p.1 ”*<sup>38</sup>

Even so, Europe’s current position forming the E.U. in order to provide increased regional security, is a strong example of regional diplomacy and a push towards intergovernmental and supranational cooperation that seems to lean more towards an expression of economic superiority and dominance than a specifically military form of expression. This involves agreement on a variety of issues regarding the Environment and even accepting a common monetary system, a system that seems to be working in the light of some of the economic implications of globalization. On the other hand, the US embassy in Paris is now plagued by many of the security initiatives of the former administration after September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 . As a result, security restrictions have been imposed oriented towards a string of aggressive policies.

It is fair to say that the mobility and character of the embassy has been affected in light of these increasingly restricted issues. Most troubling perhaps seems to be a trend that calls for a retreat of these buildings from vital city centers to more remote locations, as well as the addition of heavy fortifications in cities that are not even considered hostile to US interests. The huge capital flows, that goes into Embassy siting, and building affects the framework of culture, and economy and of course the environment, in the embodied energy (or the energy used to build them). As a result, resources are tied up in building large buildings when the monies could otherwise go towards creating some kind of lasting influence, as one former US ambassador to France said, *“The classical ‘big embassy’ structure in developed countries is today akin to using mainframe computers in the age of the internet.”*<sup>39</sup>

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37 Riordian, the New Diplomacy 2002.(13)

38 Riordian, the New Diplomacy 2002.(12)

39 Riordian, the New Diplomacy 2002.(15)

### 3.2 Case Study 2. U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, India.



Figure 7. US Embassy New Delhi

#### i. Project information

**Clients:**

U.S. State Department

**Total Site Area:**

~38,000 sf

**Project Description:**

A building complex, containing, a building for multiple uses including hosting a variety of diplomatic functions and residences. Cultural Sensitivity was important to address in this project (as well as difficult climactic conditions), as was a desire to stand out against competing ideologies which influenced Architecture across the region, namely Communism. – The design was to represent American power and prestige in a new way, and as such notable architects were short listed for its design.

**Overall Cost:**

Not Given

**Architect:** Edward Durrell Stone

**Constructed:** 1950 ~1953

## ii. Political Climate

*“The post-war mid 1950’s was characterized as the pinnacle of the American Foreign Building Program. No other time both leading up to, or afterwards had the development of new projects been in such high production. At this time, the goal was that the State department: “wanted its new Architecture to convey the image of a young, vigorous, and forward looking nation”.*<sup>40</sup>

The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi was heralded as one of the most popular and highly acclaimed embassies of all. It was designed as more of a landmark building that encouraged a powerful display of prominence but it also met programmatic requirements gracefully. The building was one of the first built in the modern style, and received acclaim for being forward thinking and culturally sensitive. This came at a time when famous architects were asserting themselves as Loeffler puts it “By benefiting from the prestigious association with State Department Patronage.”<sup>41</sup>

The building was also constructed during a period where architects came under criticism for choosing to accept elements of the “International Style”\* and other popular ideas originally developed through the Bauhaus movement. The political climate at the time underscores the importance of India to the United States during the 1950’s . This was viewed by many as a time where Domestic and International life was heavily influenced by Cold War politics. Herring writes,

*“It was a time that resembled traditional power struggles between nation-states, but it was also a fierce ideological contest between two nations with diametrically opposed world views”.*<sup>42</sup>

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40 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy.1998(167)

41 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy.1998(187)

42 George C herring, From Colony To Superpower : US Foreign Relations since 1776. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.(651)

*International Style\* - The International style was a major architectural style that emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, the formative decades of Modernist architecture. The term had its origin from the name of a book by Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson written to record the International Exhibition of Modern Architecture held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 1932 which identified, categorized and expanded upon characteristics common to Modernism across the world. As a result, the focus was more on the stylistic aspects of Modernism. Hitchcock's and Johnson's aims were to define a style of the time, which would encapsulate this modern architecture. They identified three different principles: the expression of volume rather than mass, balance rather than preconceived symmetry and the expulsion of applied ornament. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_style\\_%28architecture%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_style_%28architecture%29)*

The world views in question were democracy and communism, but the I.R. theory that they both were operating under was that of political realism. It was during this time that the U.S. government FBO recruited top architects such as Edward Durrell Stone and Walter Gropius (Architects with International fame) to produce signs reflective of the nation's values and capable of boosting its prestige internationally. The result was an interesting synthesis between political ideology and architectural expression was forged, as Herring notes:

*"The Cold War and modern Architecture joined forces with sometimes stunning results"*<sup>43</sup>

This can be viewed as propagandizing democracy in an attempt to thwart competing definitions of political superiority. It was under this atmosphere of political tension and architectural experimentation that the Embassy in New Delhi was designed. In this project U.S. designers sought to "win goodwill from host nations by avoiding ostentatious display and where possible conforming to local Architectural traditions."<sup>44</sup> Later this openness proved disastrous a decade later as Loeffler points out :

*"Many of these Embassy buildings became targets for anti-American attacks throughout the next decade."*<sup>45</sup>

At this time though, security simply was not an issue as cited by one observer who remarked :

*"The sight of the American flag waving in a foreign city can have a powerful impact on citizens of host countries as well as Americans. Before American embassies became targets of attack at the time of the Vietnam War, there was little concern for perimeter security and no need to downplay the presence of an embassy."*<sup>46</sup>

During the cold war period, the stockpiling of weaponry and technologies was the direct result of two powerful nations locked in a "balance of power struggle" with one another. Simultaneously, these nations further put pressure on the rest of the world to fall into line with a particular ideology in which ultimately only one could emerge as victor (a classic realist interpretation of international relations).

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43 Herring, . From Colony To Superpower.2008(654)

44 Herring. From Colony To Superpower,2008.(654-655)

45 Jane C Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy: Heyday of the United States Embassy-Building Program, 1954-1960," Journal of the Society of Architecture Historians 49 (September 1990), (251-78)

46 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy,(172)

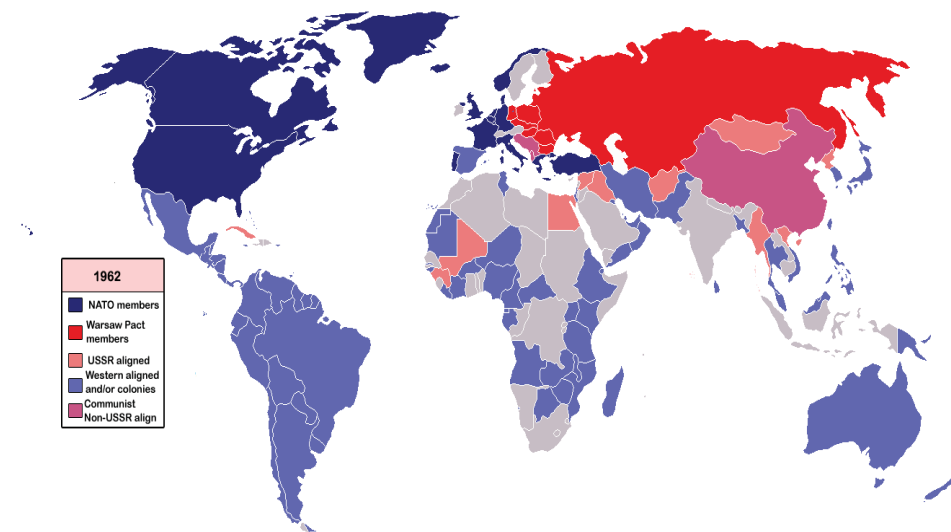


Figure 8. Cold War Map

### Geographical significance

India would later fall into this trap itself emerging from the Cold War Period with nuclear capabilities and locking itself in a nuclear stalemate with neighboring Pakistan. In terms of Coercive politics the concept of nuclear deterrence was at work here. Naturally, India being a Non-Aligned power at the time in the center of large blocks of Communist neighbors (China, North Korea and the Soviet Union) became strategically important as a possible ally in Asia with regards to establishing deep roots of “American” democracy in the region. As such, the US took great advantage of this opportunity to infiltrate what was at the time politically unaligned territory.

### Economic issues

Economically, the cold war dominated much of the domestic lives of the typical American in the 1950’s –due to the return of the troops and postwar baby boom, the US began a time of prosperity and economic development. Economist John Kenneth Galbraith referred to this generation as “The Affluent Society” and explaining that though there was prosperity also a strong wave of ideological polarization sprang up simultaneously: *“Tempering this period of economic growth was the inescapable veil of terror, the so called “red threat” that swept across the country at the time. The fear of communists amongst the general population “produced a mood of near hysterical fear, paranoid suspiciousness, and stifling conformity across the country”.*<sup>47</sup>

47 Herring. From Colony To Superpower.2008(655-657)



Internationally, this time also represented an age of modernized espionage, with the United States Capitalizing on the “Red Scare” propaganda to justify the invasion of personal freedoms by wiretapping suspected Communist cells and individuals in many cases ignoring moral and ethical boundaries in the process. During this period, the cultures of secrecy in the US further developed in terms of power and available resources. As a result of the cold war between powerful nations, embassies gained a new focus, concessions had to be taken for securing Embassy buildings as well as VIP targets there.<sup>48</sup>



Figure 9

Keeping with realist tradition, the ideological furor naturally took on an international flavor. On an International level the U.S. congress had up until now strongly opposed any type of economic incentives for states that were not staunchly opposed to communism. It was under this environment that in 1951, President Truman appointed Chester Bowles as American Ambassador to India. During his residency Bowles’ goal was to focus on regional development and that included the responsibility for dispersal of Economic Aid .<sup>49</sup>

48 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (187-188)

49 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998(188)

Bowles was interested in capitalizing on India’s strategic importance in the region. At present, there were strong-anti western feelings in India linked both to the US and to its past issues including colonization, foreign presence in the many municipalities and ever-present threat of U.S. imperialism. Overcoming some of these obstacles, Bowles expanded the size of the U.S. mission and used the tool of good publicity, provided by a combination of a variety of grass-roots civic projects and the outlet of local media coverage of celebrity personalities such as Jacqueline Kennedy visiting the Embassy to help establish stronger relationships<sup>50</sup>.

### iii Geographic Siting.

Culturally speaking, New Delhi was full of inspiration. At this point in Embassy design there was in fact still no “distinguishable American flavor”<sup>51</sup> or vernacular concepts about what American Embassy’s should essentially be. But there were strong inclinations from the influence of the “international style” at the time. The city had drawn a number of notable world famous architects (both before and after this period) to both propose, and build designs in the city that were wholly devoted to the establishment of this places unique identity in the world. Stone was a trained modernist, yet travelling to India he was inspired by his research.

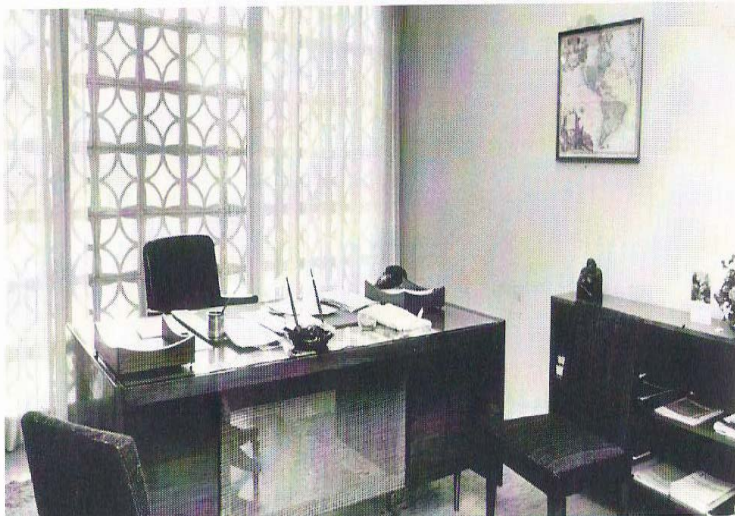


Figure 10

50 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (188)

51 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998(167)



Therefore, Stone and other architects at the time sought to distinguish themselves by being inventive in terms of addressing modernism in a way that may have been free of useless ostentation but did not necessarily reject vernacular expression. In retrospect perhaps a rising sense of Anti-American sentiment locally, produced a desire for a design that was in effect more sensitive to appealing local sensibilities. In this, the building could be said to have been a success.

#### iv. Design Context

The architectural design scheme was a courtyard design that incorporated a large interior pool with fountains (the use of water was commonly integrated used in traditional Indian Architecture). This ingenious solution was not only an attempt to respond to cultural uniqueness but was also sensitive to addressing the climatic qualities of the region.

#### Materiality and Aesthetic Expression

The cold war era pushed many design related responses in regards to architectural representation particularly in the outward expression that the American architects chose to employ in their diplomatic buildings. During this period of strong ideological expression many U.S. Embassies, began to be viewed and designed as truly political statements and flourished as such due to the lenient security considerations that existed at the time. To paraphrase Herring, this meant in terms of U.S. buildings

*“A desire to reject even, with regards to architectural embellishments a relationship to “drab Soviet Architectural Styles”<sup>52</sup>*

This was perhaps in play in the back of the minds of Architects such as Stone when he designed the Embassy. What is interesting is that the early opportunities that The United States has to represent itself seem heavily reliant upon the discernment of the architect of record with few exceptions. Loeffler writes, “The US did not seek to incorporate symbols or patriotic themes or motifs that drew from American History. This was in part because the State department gave preference to Architects who were designing structures in what it considered to be hardship posts (in these cases represented by the most difficult climate often tropical locales).”<sup>53</sup>

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52 Herring, From Colony To Superpower.2008.(654)

53 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy.1998 (172-73)

In these cases, perhaps the strict formality accompanied by classical architectural forms was no doubt out of place. In any case, amazingly there simply was no standard set of rules, (even symbolism could be reinterpreted) to define what an Embassy building had to look like, save the symbols of the country including The great seal of the United States, and the American Flag which had to appear. The seal filling the entire width of the entrance bay, A bold proclamation at what many considered a foreign post that largely went unchallenged based upon a variety of factors.



Figure 11

The desire for cultural connectivity was eventually reflected in the building materials that came to represent the symbols of American power and prestige abroad. The decision to adapt technologies and materials within the building itself that represented “the superiority of democracy” (New Delhi was an attempt to incorporate local Indian Architecture and customs) was also a conscious choice by the architect and was a constant source of critical scrutiny. In the case of the New Delhi Embassy for example, the screens used on the exterior which were to represent an Architectural response to a unique climate stood in stark contrast to most Embassy’s at the time and were heavily criticized by western architects.

Still this modernist approach contrasted what communist regimes like the USSR were employing (basically imposing a language of rigidity within its own diplomatic structures by way of Stalinist architecture<sup>54</sup> (or Social Classicism) for example, which was more related to an acceptance of the constructivist movement.

## Spatial organization

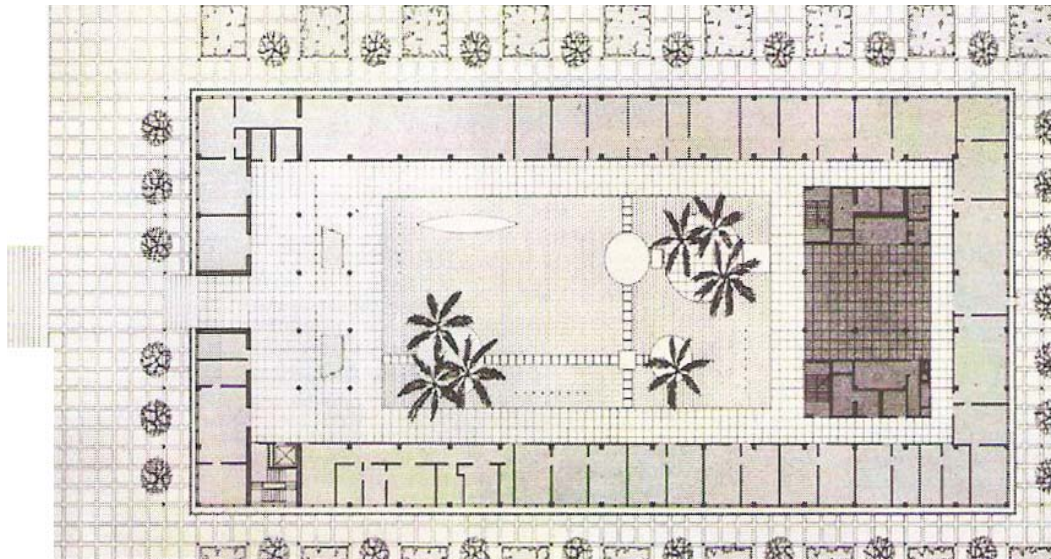


Figure 12

The embassy in New Delhi was also unique in its design, the layout was that of a courtyard and the complex included both offices and residences. Stone, the architect said the design was inspired by the Taj Mahal, and after a lengthy process committee members on the AAC\* described his proposed design as:

*"The best from local tradition and created a truly modern Embassy of great distinction in the American spirit"*<sup>55</sup>

The design was simple enough, a rectangular cluster of (air-conditioned) offices and residences of two stories arranged around an exposed tropical public courtyard. Still, Stone had to find a building system that could be designed by local laborers.

Loeffler adds an interesting comment that,

*"No one seemed bothered by the fact that it was an office building modeled after a Muslim memorial."*<sup>56</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Jane C Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (194)

<sup>56</sup> Jane C Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (192)

\* AAC – Architectural Advisory Committee (State department FBO Committee that evaluates architectural projects)

Perhaps that the architect was not greatly concerned about the functionality of the office building or the residence as part of the same compound.<sup>57</sup> The reality of the situation is that while for the U.S. the Embassy appeared to be a symbol of “shimmering dignity” and “eastern and western skills”<sup>58</sup> it was in fact plagued by inconsistencies that made functionality difficult. Some problems included acoustic issues making conversations audible throughout the complex due to the screened walls and a climatically problematic chancery. In the end the Embassy was remembered for its uniqueness and appreciated for the “attempt” to design diplomatic architecture that was appropriate to its climate, despite the turbulent political climate in which it was constructed.

#### v. Conclusions

The case of India was of cultural complexity, a variety of political factors intervened and the use of propaganda on both sides was heavily used as means of national strategy at the time, the resulting embassy in New Delhi seemed to represent both an acknowledgment of those issues and a solution that whimsically escapes the political tension at the time. At the height of McCarthyism where there was a national witch-hunt surrounding labeling who was a “communist” it is almost unimaginable to think that such creative embassies that accepted foreign ideas about architectural expression were accepted. Perhaps the lesson to learn from realism is that the cause that serves the nations interest the best will be accepted particularly when there are conflicting interests at play. Also, the paranoia of the red-scare was difficult to replicate by existing communications and organizational development of a media network that was not yet a globally influential entity as it is today.

Yet outside of the country, The U.S. State department recognized that it was through obtaining valuable support that it would make the biggest impact in regards to support of American democracy. So it fully endorsed approaching this new Embassy building in a new light. There was of course also the opportunity for propaganda. Yet the embassy in New Delhi offers a different perspective where there was real architectural experimentation (though questionable its level of success) with functional issues regarding response to climate and cultural sensitivity.

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57 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (193)

58 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy* .1998(194)

In this, the embassy was successful, the architect used local materials, and building techniques and the ambassador was actively engaged in “grass roots” methods of promoting the America through engaging the population. Therefore, the embassy was to have a local function and purpose suited to its host culture. At the same time, these efforts were notably strategic and may or may have had little to do with any heartfelt concern about India’s local populations, as much as it was a means of public diplomacy to promote an American presence. At that time there was particular anti-American sentiment growing from the community regarding the imperialist nature of America etc. The U.S. was attempting to win the hearts and minds of the people in a sense through its far-flung outpost and the many movie stars that graced it.

The building also makes some interesting statements about circulation largely, opening up its core to the public, and creating (with landscaping) aesthetically pleasing and culturally sensitive design language. The architect seemed to be at least in his own way attempting to create some kind of dialogue between two cultures that might be united. The administrative spaces form the boundaries of the complex. But the scale is such that they do not seem too readily imposing. Even the infamous screen, though criticized, abstracts the nature of the grid so common in soviet architecture and in a way gives rise to more oriental notions of privacy (that incorporate some notions of translucency regardless of the material choice). Although the building was certainly designed under a realist pretext, it is successful in that it oversees these hurdles in the immediate context and designs for the people that it serves directly. In light of this though, it should be mentioned that at the same time there was a great culture of secrecy (developed through both world wars and domestic issues) that started to influence the design of such structures.

Internationally, the notion of protecting the national security of America, and thus embassies, especially those between communist countries and the US, formed the sole examples of structures that functioned to both contain and produce methods and individuals devoted to various forms of espionage. Under this context the same type of embassies, with this degree of openness simply cannot be reproduced today. This new age of information warfare had ushered in also a new unofficial meaning for diplomacy. The functions of the embassy had expanded once more now to host a contextually deeper meaning, one of obtaining information which could lead to the use of to preemptive, defensive or offensive expressions of military force.

This time in the nation's history also coincidentally represented the largest embassy-building period, as well as the novel threat inherent in nuclear proliferation. As a result of the pace of political developments corresponding with new ideas in the world of architecture, many notable architects were given carte blanche to design many embassy buildings that would function as prototypes throughout the world's most politically charged locations. And here is where an interesting question is raised. Should architects design such diplomatic missions so as to respond to present conditions (as chaotic as they may be) or should they design to the ideal or hopeful condition as a means of encouraging future relationships to develop?

For if they design for the present such products may one day seem like outdated relics, and if for the ideal, their work may be seen as subversive, or else critical of their own governments causes at the time. In the context of nation-state dominance such a display would be unacceptable. This is not even to mention that the size scale, and ability to deal with the different clients (local, international, governmental) which have all differing desires might result in buildings that either overstate themselves or perhaps worse, are mediocre/or poor representational attempts at defining a national identity. In this way, it is possible to see how an architect's vision has played a large role in consolidating public opinion around a project. A point which will be further illustrated in the next example.



### 3.3 Case Study 3. U.S. Embassy, The Hague, Netherlands.



Figure 13

#### i. Project information

**Clients:**

U.S. State Department

**Gross Floor Area:**

38,000 sf

**Project Description:**

A building complex, was designed within an extremely sensitive (and restrictive) site. Cultural sensitivity was important to address in this project, as was a desire to create a more modern and "unique" appearance for an embassy building. The result was Breuer's sculptural invention that incorporated odd angles, rich materials, and broke from cultural tradition at the cost of great criticism.

**Overall Cost:**

1 million. (U.S. Dollars)

**Period of Construction**

26 Months

**Architect:**

Marcel Breuer

**Constructed:** 1956-1959

## ii. Political Context

*“Breuer’s United States Embassy in The Hague originated in a government initiative to display American modern architecture abroad.”<sup>59</sup>*

The design for The Hague was chosen from a short listed group of which included the noted Architects, Rapson and van der Meulen, William Gehron and Marcel Breuer. Famous Architect Ralph Rapson also attempted an embassy but his scheme was rejected, Rapson later cited that the State provided him as he put it:

*“Absolutely no design guidance, and neither he nor his partner John van der Meulen gave any thought to the significance of the embassy as a symbolic building” They envisioned a modernist glass box floating above the ground plane, as an open and inviting element in its own way sharply contrasting its 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century neighbors.<sup>60</sup>*

The design was quickly dismissed as inappropriate, Breuer was ultimately selected, and though his scheme was quickly approved by the State Department, the project was not completed without much resistance from local authorities.<sup>61</sup> The State department fully supported Breuer’s scheme though it was criticized relentlessly on all sides both architectural and political, (functional and aesthetic points). There was a lot at stake at the time when America sought to represent its diplomatic architecture in increasingly independent and modern ways. The result of which at least in this case seemed to have met a great deal of political resistance. It was a good lesson for the State department towards understanding the relationship between site and the importance of respecting historical precedent. Further intensifying the argument, The Hague being located at the historical seat of power of the Dutch capital the design had to represent a tradition of long-standing Diplomatic relations between the United States and the Netherlands. As it stood the Hague was:

*“An amalgamation of seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth century architecture.”<sup>62</sup>*

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59 Hyman, Isabelle , Marcel Breuer, Architect – The Career And The buildings  
New York, NY Harry N Abrams Inc, 2001 (133)

60 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy (211)

61 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy (209)

62 Loeffler, The Architecture of Diplomacy (209)



And it was within this complicated yet harmonious fabric that the architect Marcel Breuer was assigned the task of creating a modern form that allowed for both continuity and independent representation to fit within a pleasantly landscaped and long established square. This would be a lofty goal for any architect, but by that time, Marcel Breuer had completed many notable structures and become quite popular in the United States and Europe (A fact that only deepened the well of his criticisms later).

### iii. Geographical siting

It varied from project to project, but during the 1960's, the sensitivity to site was being addressed in particular at the architects discretion. This was perhaps an attempt to appeal to critics who thought that the design of the building was already too intrusive to the historically and architecturally established framework of the neighborhood. The site for the Hague caused many design restrictions that the Architect had to follow. He was criticized nonetheless for choosing the site because of its associations with the war. The site became available due to the consequences of a tragic bombing accident by the British during WW2 in which over 500 civilians were killed. Soon after its completion, the building came under intense critical scrutiny due to this fact. It was but one of many criticisms to follow. According to Breuer, the project scheme was separated into two buildings to appeal to the city's desire to restrict traffic around the square ( a common European design requirement).<sup>63</sup>

Though working within functional and political boundaries imposed by the city and local authorities, the design scheme of the building was different enough to contrast sharply with the existing environment and nonetheless still allowed to continue development by the local building department despite occurring amongst a largely voiced amount of community dissent. At the time the building was constructed in the 1960's there still was not a strong focus on securing the building extraordinarily. "*The embassy at The Hague bordered public sidewalks in order to fit in with an existing cityscape.*"<sup>64</sup> This issue continues to be one of the main concerns of designing embassy buildings.

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63 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (215)

64 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (171)

#### iv. Design/Context

Architectural historian Janet Loeffler assumes that this building's fortress-like elements may have been a precursor to future fortress-like embassy buildings that have been designed in recent years however has contributed more and more to the stereotype of the embassy structure being viewed as an "architectural ego trip".<sup>65</sup> Since then of course this has changed dramatically, for the worse. Facilities have been developed and subsequently categorized by current administrations as either low-risk, medium risk, high etc facilities based upon characteristics that include their current political importance, available budget, and geographical significance now dominate the discussion on Embassy safety.

As fortress-like as it was in its inception, due to the U.S. increasing design requirements even this building could not have been designed and built today. This is mainly due to current events, leading up to the tragic bombings on September 11, 2001 which marked a turning point (at least for the last administration) as a clarion call for a design position for all embassy buildings both new and existing (irregardless of location) to take an unmistakable defensive posture in terms of their design and geographic siting. Loeffler concludes that the embassy-building program eventually shifted then to the following strategy:

*"From attempting to address the conceptual problem of representing American democracy and ideals, to the logistical problem of turning a concrete bunker into a presentable multipurpose office building."<sup>66</sup>*

It is that focus, unfortunately, that remains the direction of the Embassy Building program to this day as echoed in the sentiment of a recently published article concerning the building as summed up in a quote that former Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security uttered which was that,

*"Perfect security meant nobody's there at all".<sup>67</sup>*

Ironically, and sadly this statement, originally meant as a joke, has actually come to represent the reality for The US Embassy at The Hague and other historical Diplomatic Monuments overseas.

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65 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (264)

66 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (264)

67 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy* .1998 (264)



Figure 14- “Redesigned” Entrance for visitors.

As residents who live nearby currently express it is an extremely uncomfortable experience to live by a U.S. Embassy Building.:

*Often, pedestrians strolling near US embassies, just walking their dogs, going shopping or kids cycling to school, find themselves camera-surveilled, body-searched, their documents repeatedly checked and everyone extensively questioned. Calls soon went up in European cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Rome and The Hague for these annoying, high-security US embassies to be moved to the outer perimeters of all these major centers of commerce and democracy “By 2012, the US Embassy staff are moving from this Bauhaus-building in the centre of The Hague to a new building on the outskirts of town. Dutch citizens say that the daily interaction with residents will stop, and impact negatively on the US’ relations with the Dutch. Similar problems also occur at 96 other foreign legations, where new embassies have mushroomed well away from city centers .”<sup>68</sup>*

68 <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/268472>  
<http://thehague.usembassy.gov/index.html>

The city centers have always been the known sites for Embassy buildings as they represent the good-faith agreement that a foreign nation has in the Host Nation and vice versa. This knee-jerk reaction was in part due to the September 11th attacks and was instituted by the previous Bush Administration in a sweeping national security effort. Currently, the protocol of the US seems fail to address any of the policy that creates tension in cities that are not even considered to be hostile to the United States!

Currently this plan remains in the process of completion seemingly dooming America to repeat its mistakes in regards to both diplomatic representation and embassy design. Additionally this particular embassy has been retrofitted to contain some of the modern security devices as most embassies including the barricade as pictured (Figure 14) as commented on by an observer:

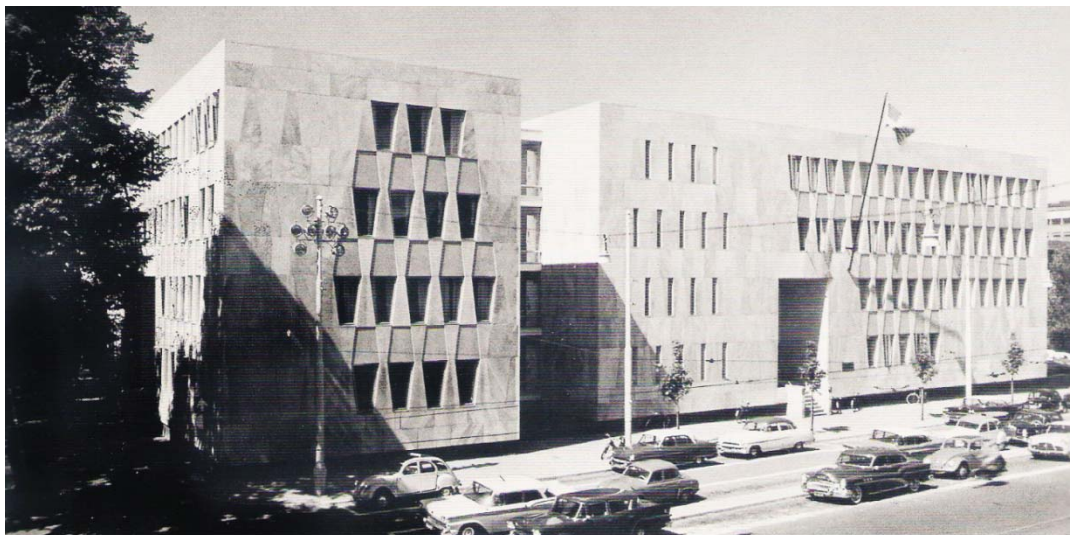


Figure 15

*“In The Hague, the Netherlands it’s become very difficult to get into the US Embassy: only people who have a previous appointment can visit it. Personnel inside the barred, bullet proofed windows still remain vulnerable... And, although the official Embassy street address is at the Lange Voorhout, the entrance to the Embassy has been moved to a complicated guardhouse at the back. And getting through the maze of security is terrifying for ordinary folk.”<sup>69</sup>*

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69 <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/268472>

### Materiality and Aesthetic Expression

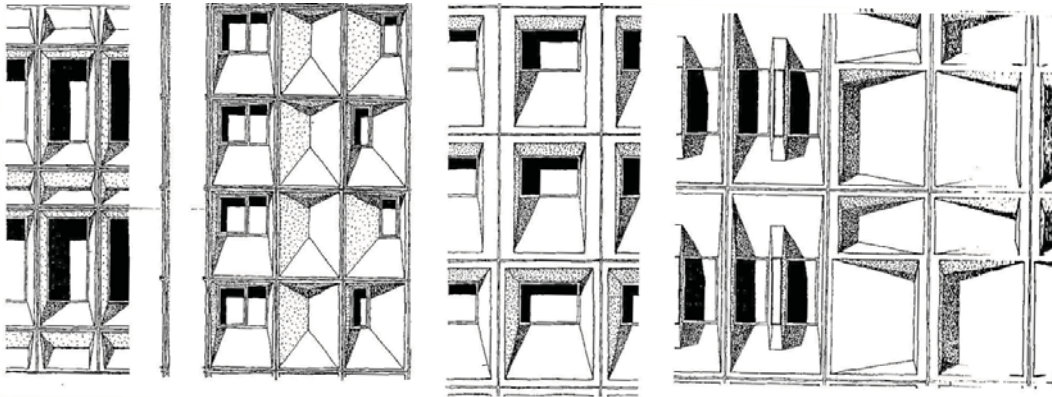


Figure 16

The architect seemed fascinated with the bizarre trapezoidal form and intended to experiment with it far beyond this embassy specifically. Though odd and sculptural in form, the embassy was artistically crafted and elegantly furnished. The exterior being sheathed in limestone and the interior filled with luxurious finishes from all over the world.<sup>70</sup>

It was not however, just a vain attempt at interesting shape making and spending. Breuer had developed a series of studies in other projects that were all variations on a theme. The origins of these shapes did have some functional aspect as well. From the International- style tradition, Breuer offered some experimentation in articulating the windows, perhaps to gain favorable light conditions as a response to harsh local weather conditions ( to mold sunshades or a type of brise-soleil into the facade for example).

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70 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 (214)



### Spatial organization

Interestingly though, the design for the US Embassy at The Hague itself was a step in the direction away from an Architectural vernacular that represented America by utilizing classical Architectural language. But perhaps his reasoning was just. A continuation of architectural tradition meant developing something using 20th century technology that was appropriate for place, not returning to historical aestheticism.

The surrounding buildings had done this as well adopting that which was architecturally acceptable at the time. Though admittedly, modernism was a sharp departure from classical tradition. Modernism had roots that had begun in Europe, but It was perhaps more openly embraced within the Architectural communities in America. The resulting fallout over this would further highlight this fact. The design of the building was a four story plan with two masses that were connected by a glass hall. The building Joined at right angles and enclosed a garden.

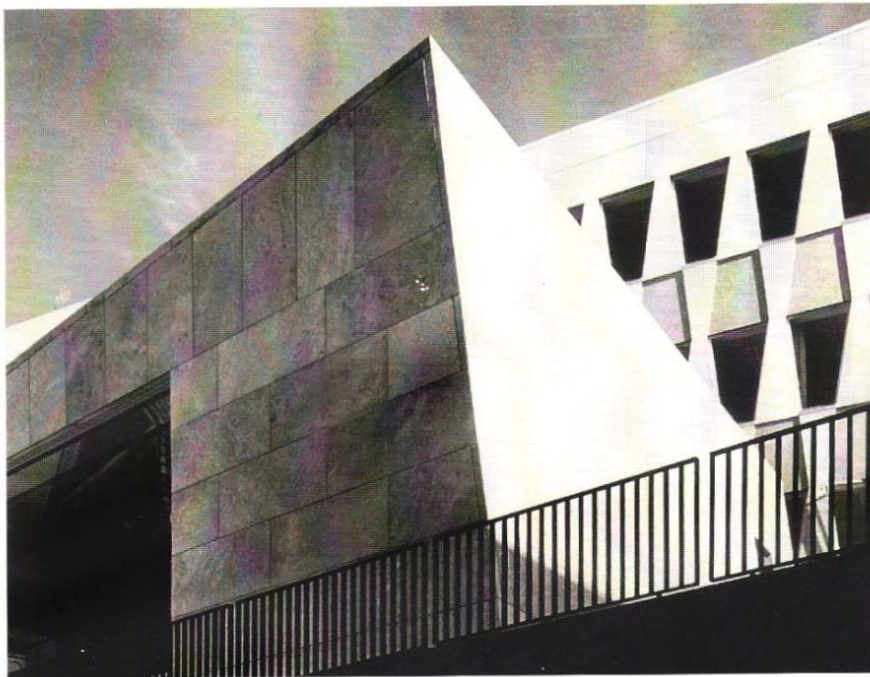


Figure 17

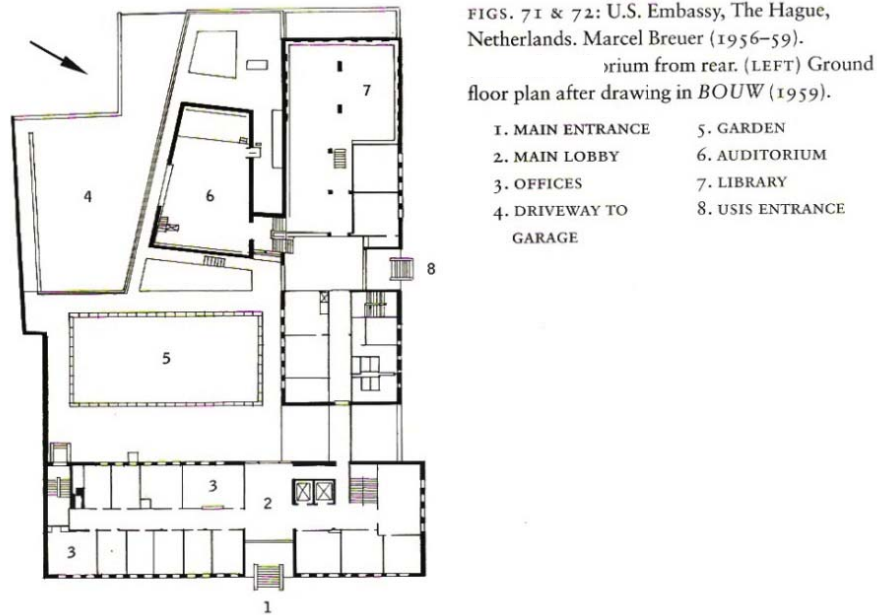


Figure 18

The blocks were split so as to create a visual tension the smaller mass containing the ambassador's office, political offices and other offices requiring controlled access.<sup>71</sup>

*"The larger mass contained support facilities, an auditorium and library. Separate entrances facilitated direct public access to the building. Its density is only relieved by texture and the restricted glass areas. The Architect admitted later that there was no real significance to the trapezoidal form he used throughout the building other than he had used a similar expression in his "De Bijenkorf" project<sup>72</sup> "*

The project went down in history as not being well received by the local residents and receiving a mixed welcome in the minds of American audiences who were generally supported modernist philosophy. Brueuer's building was odd, a partly sculptural, yet fortress-like mass that seemed proportionally and culturally out of place from the surrounding built environment.

71 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy*.1998 215

72 Loeffler, *The Architecture of Diplomacy* .1998 214-15

Residents of The Hague refer to Breuer's work as "steenklomp" (or lump of stone),<sup>73</sup> and unfortunately the massiveness and fortress-like nature of this work seemed to forecast future Embassy Designs. It was ultimately scorned because of its seeming disregard for the urban context as Loeffler documents the critical reaction to Breuer's building as:

*"Possessing an absence of association" to Dutch vernacular and historical architecture and its lack of "reference to De Stijl or any other elements of modern art associated with that region. (and probably most painful to Breuer, even though aimed at the State Department ) in parts of the Dutch press he "was seen as a European rather than an American artist"*<sup>74</sup>

#### v. Conclusion

The Hague offered a unique example where the Architectural criticism may have actually outweighed that of the political. Though the current status of the building may have had deeper political implications, Breuer's sculptural creation was not well received for a variety of reasons. But before delving into that perhaps, one of the major criticisms is the massiveness of the structure that sharply contrasts the carefully articulated (and ornamental) facades of its neighbors.

In my opinion, the building was successful in several ways. It was subversive enough to generate strong feelings about expression and the expression seemed to be focused on the building and specifically the Architect and not America. I wonder if it would have been different if Breuer had been born, raised, and trained as an Architect in America with American roots. Rapson's building was quickly dismissed for example. It is clearly that they wanted a European building, much akin to the Parisian example. However, the late 1950's ( early 1960's) was a time of great Political change and architectural movements reflected this.

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73 Hyman, Isabelle , Marcel Breuer, Architect – The Career And The buildings  
Harry N Abrams Inc, 2001 (240)

74 Hyman, Marcel Breuer, Architect – The Career And The buildings.2001 (240)



Spatially the building is actually quite interesting. The trapezoidal forms seem to create some interesting interconnected spaces in a program that is otherwise quite plain. The decision to split the buildings in two as well organizes space in a way to control the flow of circulation logically. Though the exterior of the building is quite monolithic, it is in no way an afterthought, Breuer had a long history of examining his facades as he produced myriad sketches, tweaking the form ever- so slightly, to generate different results in different projects.

But perhaps herein lies the dilemma, the local residents did not want an architectural experiment or expressions that imposed upon the site in some new or unique way. It seems they would have been happier with the hole left in the ground from the bombs than anything that upset the peace and harmony of The Hague. The Hague itself had taken on the characteristics of a long established institution. In this case, an institution that directly related to political power of the State and the National Identity of its people.

Naturally then, this embassy was seen not as an attempt to integrate the newest architectural trends into a lineage of older yet equally inventive archetypes, or even an attempt to integrate local architectural traditions (which it did not) but rather as an interloper, forcing unwelcome imposition on the relative uniformity of the built environment. Given the historical human influence of the areas, the site was realistically not impacted that greatly (in terms of construction efforts), but the fact that materials and undoubtedly human resources came from around the world to construct it represents some concerns about sustainability and the concept of energy conservation that should be considered as well from an environmental perspective.

### 3.4 Case Study 4. Nordic Embassy Complex, Berlin.



Figure 19 – Embassy Complex “ Central Corridor”.

#### i. Project information:

**Clients:** Denmark Danish Ministry of Housing and Building, Copenhagen  
 Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki  
 Iceland Government Engineering Contracts, Reykjavik  
 Norway Statsbygg / Public Construction + Property, Oslo  
 Sweden Statens Fastighetsverk, Stockholm

**Total Site Area:** 7.290 m<sup>2</sup>

**Gross Floor Area:** 15.551 m<sup>2</sup>

#### **Project Description**

A building complex, containing five embassies, a building for mutual use and a general basement, enclosed by a 226 m long copper band.

**Overall Cost** 42.5 Million Euro

**Total Site Area** 3.425 sqm

**Gross Floor Area** 15.000 sqm

**Period of Construction** 26 Months

## Competition Procedure:

1995 1st competition concerning an overall design concept for the building complex and the design of the building for mutual use. Competition winner BERGER + PARKKINEN Architects

BERGER + PARKKINEN Architects were commissioned for the further development of the urban design and the coordination, the common building, the copper band, the landscaping and the underground facilities. In addition, the winning proposal from phase 1 constituted the spatial limits and the architectural concept for the competition of phase 2. Separate competitions in each Nordic country concerning the design of the different embassies.

### Architects for the Embassies:

The Embassy of Denmark: Nielsen, Nielsen & Nielsen A/s, Arhus

The Embassy of Finland: VIIVA Arkkitehtuuri Oy, Helsinki

The Embassy of Iceland: Palmar Kristmundsson, Reykjavik

The Embassy of Norway: Snohetta A/s, Oslo

The Embassy of Sweden: Wingardh Arkitektkontor AB, Goeteborg<sup>75</sup>

## ii. Political Climate

At the beginning of the 21st century five European Nations, who had historically associated with each other commissioned an ambitious new competition to design a new type of Embassy Building. The organization was to represent the close relationship of the Nations involved in the complex.

*“The five Nordic countries - Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden - decide to build their embassies together on one site. This notion gives rise to the questions: What is communal, how about individuality? When the five embassies joined forces for the Nordic Embassy Complex they announced a competition for the Master Plan”<sup>76</sup>*

The competition was won by Austrian/Finnish architects Adolf Berger and Tiina Parkkinen who, besides the Master Plan, also designed the shared reception and exhibition building. Additionally Each individual Embassy Building was designed by an architect that each member nation chose to represent it best. The result is a strikingly harmonious composition of form and function, an example of different Architectural ideas using similar but with different materiality to both stand out and interconnect effortlessly.

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75 [http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port\\_emb.html](http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port_emb.html)

76 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordic\\_Embassies\\_Berlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordic_Embassies_Berlin)

The development of this building really coincided with the relatively recent solidification of the European Union and it represents the close inter connectivity available to five Nations connected through various cultural, economic, and political issues.

*“The European Union (E.U.) is an economic and political union of 27 member states, located primarily in Europe. Committed to regional integration, the E.U. was established by the Treaty of Maastricht on 1 November 1993 upon the foundations of the pre-existing European Economic Community.[8] With almost 500 million citizens, the E.U. combined generates an estimated 30% share (US\$18.4 trillion in 2008) of the nominal gross world product.[9] The E.U. has developed a single market through a standardized system of laws that apply in all member states, ensuring the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital. It maintains common policies on trade, agriculture, fisheries and regional development. Sixteen member states have adopted a common currency, the euro, constituting the Eurozone.”<sup>77</sup>*

The Nordic Nations are unique from the E.U. in that they have had a special relationship, shared culture, history and goals historically. Projects such as the Nordic Embassy complex are really flagships representing the ability for European nations to quickly coordinate politically based on regional agreements. Though the Scandinavian countries have histories that are quite different than the rest of Europe (and the E.U.), they share common goals that help to create a kind of multi-lateral community amongst themselves. Though not without its own serious challenges (especially with the changing political nature of Europe due to migrations and cultural influx) the ability for this community to so quickly produce such architectural redefinitions of Diplomacy (as understood through its representation) is impressive.



Figure 20

The Project is also quite interesting because the openness it exhibits stands in stark contrast to American examples that were being developed roughly at the same time (and place) namely the new U.S. Embassy in Berlin for example. This embassy seems to be designed by a completely different set of philosophical values than the traditional American Embassy has adopted and as such it has seemingly been able to adopt a more open, inviting and Architectural interesting form of expression.

### iii. Geographic Siting

#### EXTERIOR- Symbolism



Figure 21

This project takes siting very seriously and approaches the site design with a sense of metaphorical abstraction. Parts of the building vanish through glazed walls to expose the “Tiergarten” outside, providing a direct relationship to the environment. The architects describe that this references a tension between architecture and its connection to landscape. The architects also desired to represent a refined sense of culture and connection to the uniqueness of the geographic region citing:

*“This shows in the relationship created between architecture and untouched nature in the north of Europe. Birch-trees will accentuate the Nordic character outside the copper band. As a symbol for the ocean, connecting all Nordic countries a water basin is cutting through the complex in a clear geometric form and penetrates the copper band on two sides.”<sup>78</sup>*

### THE COPPER BAND

The copper band encloses the buildings of the Nordic Embassy Complex in Berlin, it acts as:

*“ a continuous and autonomous element flowing movement transforms the scale of the individual buildings.”<sup>79</sup>*

The effectiveness of such an Architectural device is as original as articulated windows, or climatic screen or even a great seal across the entrance. Ideally it is an attempt to communicate larger notions about political power symbolically, mainly the importance of the relationship between diplomacy and cooperative power and connectivity of the actors involved.

The effectiveness of this device will no doubt be questioned, criticized and disputed for years to come but it is at least an attempt to abstract symbolic principles in a way that may or may not be successful in a new direction. It is important to recognize that at the very least these devices are considering elements that may be read as attempting to produce a political environment that is altogether different from standard realist principles. In which case time will tell if it can be said to be successful. The notion of representing political ideas with only some form of architectural device however would be far from successful, that is specifically why the spatial orientation of this complex is so important in tying the elements together.

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78 [http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port\\_emb.html](http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port_emb.html)

79 [http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port\\_emb.html](http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port_emb.html)

iv. Design context.

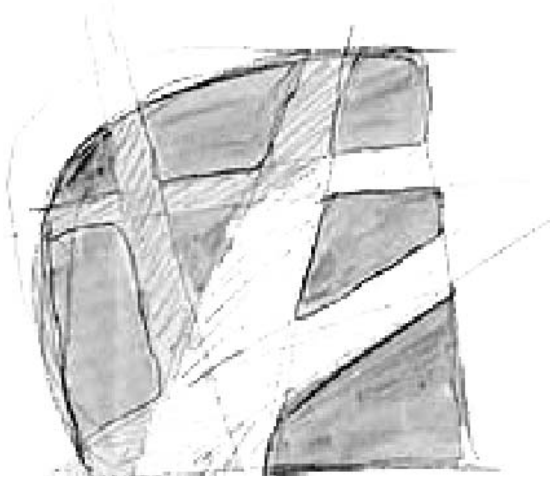


Figure 22

"INDIVIDUALITY AND UNION"

Architectural Program

Five buildings (which are rather small) are located on the outskirts of the central park at the center of Berlin. These buildings are unique in that they help to define and add to the quality of the landscape. They do so by integration in terms of materiality and scale. As a complex, the structure is successfully unified. The buildings appear as individual slices cut out of a unified whole. The scale is small enough for the individual elements to be read as both separate structure and an overall embassy. The facades of the building are articulated enough to identify their member nations as well as define the interstitial spaces between the buildings. As a result the complex has a distinct character overall that seems to be a general melding of minds. The complex is quite open creating conditions of solid and void, which encourage circulation through the various buildings. Interestingly, all five embassies reflect in the water. The buildings walls only allow access from the south where the community-meeting hall known as the "Felleshus" welcomes the visitors<sup>80</sup>. In this way, the flow of traffic is secured and restricted while still allowing for a welcoming appearance to visitors, all without iron bars, or intimidating razor wire.

80 [http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port\\_emb.htm](http://www.berger-parkkinen.com/eng/port_emb.htm)

[http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.arcspace.com/architects/bergerparkkinen/cbmp/12.NE\\_Felleshus\\_Level\\_1KIKi.gif](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.arcspace.com/architects/bergerparkkinen/cbmp/12.NE_Felleshus_Level_1KIKi.gif)



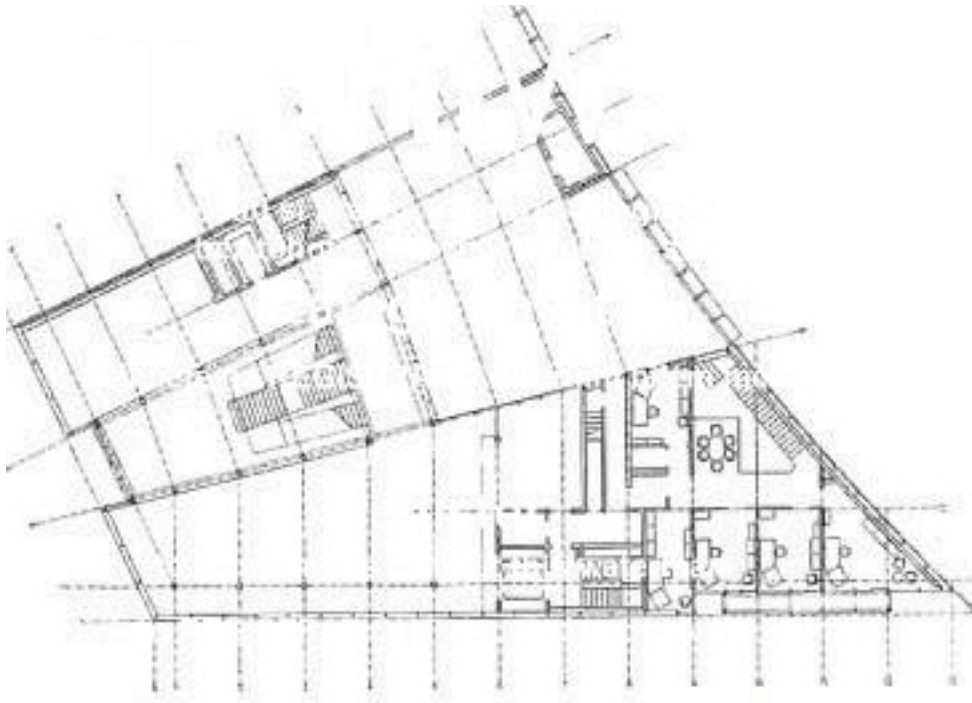


Figure 23

### FELLESHUS

*The house for joint activities is called “Fellehus”, which already hints at its spirits: It is a “house for all”, a place for congregation, both for members of the embassies as well as for visitors and people from Berlin.<sup>81</sup>*

The Fellehus is a building that accommodates social exchange and the flow of information. It is also the entrance of the building and the most visited area. This concept of Embassy Design is a wholly more transparent offering limited security to the necessary outlets and allowing the public to be impressed by high tech, environmentally sensitive architectural expression something that the member nations, pride themselves in. The space is also multi-purpose. Allowing for auditorium, exhibition, and Conferences as well as VIP (related events). The Embassy Complex also includes a restaurant and meeting offices for Embassy staff in addition, the consular sections of all five countries are located there.<sup>82</sup>

81-82 [http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.arcspace.com/architects/bergerparkkinen/cbmp/12.NE\\_Fellehus\\_level\\_1KiKi.gif](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.arcspace.com/architects/bergerparkkinen/cbmp/12.NE_Fellehus_level_1KiKi.gif)

### Materiality and Aesthetic Expression

*The centre of the building complex “The Plaza” is covered with natural stone from Norway and Sweden. It forms a half-public space with a strong identity. The spatial perspective of the buildings is strengthened by contrasting stone stripes of Swedish marble with integrated spotlights.* <sup>83</sup>

Much of this embellishment is symbolic in that it draws the eye into connecting the buildings through visual markers as can be seen in the photo above. It seems that a deep understanding of symbolism and its importance has not been lost on the designers of these structures. Indeed the connections, are even represented in the material choice where different raw materials are taken from their respective regions and used to represent a type of consensual order that exists between five related cultures. In this case, the materiality of the building can clearly be seen as forming a bridge between the political policy of the Nordic countries and its representation, a clear image that no doubt helps to inspire faith in the stability of this concept to its residents.

### v. Conclusions

#### Cultural Consequences

The final example, of the Nordic Embassy context is of course not American and thus originating from a different set of cultural perspectives. However the fact that these nation-states have come together economically, socially, politically, and otherwise led me to include this to offer the suggestion that Nation-States may in fact be capable of making slow steps towards real ecological progress, political, and organizational progress as far as architectural representation is concerned. As mentioned however, the European models of governance are not without their own serious challenges.



Figure 24

It is interesting to consider, for example, how the changing cultural landscape of many European societies (Germany, France, and Sweden) will affect the missions of diplomatic buildings there. In such cases, there are distinct racial culture and religious implications that are beginning to influence policy in these cities and even architectural aspects of the built landscape. Europe has always been a melting pot, but part of the EU's stability for example has come from a certain agreement along cultural, ethnic and political lines that while having nuances, vastly share a great deal of similarities.

A good example is in Switzerland, which has long been lauded for its system of direct diplomatic representation has had to deal with an increase of problems due to accommodating a growing number of foreigners, refugees and an increasing Islamic population. In this case, there has been a right-wing nationalist movement to ban the minaret (historically seen as symbols of Muslim occupation and dominance) which has spilled over into what many would consider very publicly administered (in train stations and on TV for example) racist advertisements against all foreigners.

A similar response would unquestionably be unthinkable in Germany and certainly France given the tension that already exists between such communities. It begs the question, will the fact that these nations rightfully feel threatened by an influx of cultural tradition and potential political power that differs from long-standing tradition ultimately lead to more integrative or resistive policies? How will this affect diplomacy and the way it is expressed on a global level (since these are the current implications)? Also, how effective have physical embassies as locations actually become given the developments in technology, communications, and mobility?

In reality there seem to be numerous outlets globally that people utilize to become legitimate citizens in any nation. So in regard to a large part of what embassies used to do (issuing visas) is it still necessary for them to have such a large physical presence? Only time will tell, but these instances where civilizations clash have always been opportunities for conflict as well as opportunities for a sensitive diplomatic approach when addressing these challenges. Essentially, the consequences of political agenda, along with the choice of architectural representation will help to define the true intentions of inter-regional political systems such as that of the Nordic Nations, and the E.U.. And whether it appears that these architectural responses are indicative of a true integration of "other" communities (two-way integration) or rather a move in the direction to further structural differences between ethnic communities and the majority populace for example, will ultimately become clear in time.

#### IV. 3.5 Case Study Conclusions & Analysis of Emerging Issues

##### 4.1 Analysis of Existing Architectural Representation.

Coupled with the critique in the first chapter, last chapter's architectural case studies provided some analysis of the relationship between I.R. theory and real-life historical diplomatic representation. This section will attempt to analyze some of the trends of current diplomatic representation as well as beginning to identify emergent issues in an effort to outline an epistemology for system change. But within the examples, certain conclusions may also be drawn about the direct connection to realist principles and their architectural implications that may be helpful in outlining important issues to political systems and its architectural design. Investigating may clarify how diplomatic buildings are perceived, with the hope of identifying architectural elements and systems that are appropriate.

##### Adaptability to Political Climate

As stated previously, embassy buildings are unique because they tread the line on many political issues. Their form and function should celebrate and represent this excitement and tension. But realistically how can static political structures adapt to represent changing political relationships? There are a number of solutions to consider in this regard that all have implications to permanence, size, and even staffing and other practical considerations (which ultimately is tied to the nature of the relationship between actors). Such structures may also exist within international zones. This brings up issues concerning extra-territoriality and international law that immediately begin to push at the boundaries of an importance linked to a physical location.

Everything about these buildings is connected to an understanding of the global scale, which immediately creates a dialogue between understanding the structure as a fixed artifact within a clearly defined boundary and the larger context of belonging to another nation, or people group in some other place. How will adaptability be expressed when other actors grow in political power to rival that of the nation state?

The question will inevitably be asked, How important is the physical site, the location of a place in a globally interconnected world that deals with a wide variety of geographically dispersed actors? The answer is that it depends upon the organization of the institution or political entity as well as the importance and ability to be represented through spatial design, this will be discussed more in depth further in the document. Ultimately it is a question of the importance of the physicality to the work of diplomacy and the need for convergence (for whatever reason) around a political issue. This dialogue of globally connected, locally experienced structures may continue to represent the mission of embassies as envoys or gateways (on some scales), as portals really, for the cultural exchange of information in the short term.

But as recent American history has proven, the traditional "three-dimensional" view, essentially "physical representation" of diplomacy has in the past been a liability for buildings when considering adversarial political climates and ideologies, therefore, physical representation and its scale and chosen "media" then will inevitably remain an issue of consideration as determinants such as security (in the realist context) play into the contextual discussion. The end result being, the big "department store" embassy of the past may no longer be a necessary or realistic model.

What may replace it then is of equal concern. There is evidence for either the "micro-embassy" approach as outlined by a number of authors (eg. Riordian)<sup>84</sup>, or a total transformation of the concept of "embassy" (due to the transformation of the concept of diplomacy) based on nature of the actors involved, technologies and political climate. This may seem to be a highly imaginative and provocative proposal, in reality the scaling back of physical embassies may be a successful adaptation solution to the political context imposed by geography.

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84 Riordian, . The New Diplomacy.2004 (29)

The argument for physical built structure though, diplomatic buildings are successful in the realist context. They offer a picture of diplomacy or rather an expression of the political sovereignty of nation states in action (though in a somewhat static state) that makes immediate associations with the concepts of sovereignty and in the foreseeable future will continue to be tools of national interest when used in politically receptive or neutral climates . It can also be seen as successful representation because this concept is more or less universally understood and taken quite seriously due to historical associations with hard power.

### The Changing Role of the Diplomat

*“Now there’s a level of proliferation of data, of information unlike anything that the human race has ever known. And in this context, to suggest that we’re going to have traditional ambassadors in traditional embassies reporting to a traditional desk at the state department funneling information up through a traditional assistant secretary who will next meet with a traditional secretary strikes me as unimaginable. And of course, in the real world, it no longer works that way.”- Newt Gingrich, Georgetown University, 7 October 1997<sup>85</sup>*

The Role of the Diplomat in general must be more inclusive to addressing issues, and engaging actors that take part in and tie local, regional, and global scales of government together. Additionally, the all-inclusive role of the Ambassador has already begun to shift towards a more cooperative model, as non-governmental and private organizations grow in influence. This will eventually lead to different power structures emerging that largely redefine the scope of a diplomatic mission and ultimately the role of its head diplomat.

Diplomats as a profession should begin to employ models of diplomatic organization within the embassy that promote the development of new ideas and methods of diplomacy that have basis in a wide variety of cultures. The value of the experiences of Ambassadors and career diplomats will always be invaluable as there is no substitute for the human element. There may be, however; various methods for putting that experience into practice and allowing for democratic forms of representation, though the prospects of this occurring within the current political system seem difficult to imagine.

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85 Riordian. The New Diplomacy.2004 (109)



## The Function and organization of Embassies

To begin with, the modern embassy structure is not solely concerned with facilitating elaborate galas and acting as a gateway for peoples attempting to obtain visas any longer. The very concept of obtaining a “visa” represents a history of non-governmental actors MNU's NGO's and other non governmental organizations obtaining political power on a global scale. With issues that are more complex developing parallel to the dynamic political atmosphere the “embassy proper” must now accommodate a wide variety of functions. Trends show that this is leading towards a fragmentation in regards to traditional embassy hierarchy and organizational structure.

*“One of the major goals of Embassies has always been to channel information (communications, etc) into the policy machine and negotiate with the host government.”<sup>86</sup>*

If embassies are to remain relevant as a building type in the short run, they must adapt to the times. Architecturally, this means that along with accommodating traditional functions, these structures should take a much more ad-hoc approach to space planning. Currently diplomatic missions coordinate a diverse group of activity including administrative, parliamentary, think-tank, crises and relief center, and a wide variety of other official and “unofficial” duties that are unique to the political region in question. These buildings must be adaptive based on the dynamic nature of the political environment. Many of these issues directly conflict with the historical image of a “iconic” embassy structure that is located in one particular place hosting high level diplomats in foreign locales.

The hierarchical nature of the current system and corresponding programs replicated in contemporary embassies does not seem appropriate to handle many of these issues. In the realist context, however the primary concerns of the state have been validly met. These include but are not limited to maintaining a position that *“Furtherers or replicates the position of western and “specifically American diplomacy”.*<sup>87</sup> This position is in fact word for word the decided upon direction as derived from “The Embassy of the Future” a joint research project into Embassy design which was spearheaded by the last U.S. administration.

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86 Riordian, . The New Diplomacy.2004 (14)

87 The Center for Strategic and International Studies “The Embassy of the Future, 2007  
[http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/embassy\\_of\\_the\\_future.pdf](http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/embassy_of_the_future.pdf) (2)

This type of focus on a specific type of hierarchical organization (that originates from western tradition) may hinder the creativity and in fact work against diplomatic relations in geographic locations where different rules apply. Within a realist context, this government funded research project addressed certain hierarchical concerns and solutions which attempt to depart from traditional diplomatic organization (albeit along the same veins of realist tradition). Among these initiatives includes a focus on integrating technology and business practices (essentially recognizing a need for technological modernization) as well as expanding knowledge and information sharing.

The study also seems to recognize the expanding problems that nation states face but addresses them under the lens of national security as the primary focus. The following solutions included a desire to strengthen presence and political platform, operating beyond embassy walls, and promoting secure borders (reinforcing the need for hard power and military force behind diplomacy). At the same time, the desire for retaining the “spirit” of American diplomacy by simulating open doors, seems quite impossible when considering such issues as the current civil/military relationship and the implications that security cultures has had at home and abroad. In fact many of these "initiatives" are backed solely by military force.

To the contrary, many of these goals might be achieved more successfully in a political environment that is at least partially free of military presence and the threat of coercive force or occupation. In light of such policy changes, embassy buildings might find that national security issues will be viewed quite differently in the future. And while it is impossible to expect perfect security in any politically charged environment, it is reasonable to expect as with the Scandinavian embassy structures that the function of such buildings might change drastically based on the mission or on achieving certain jointly agreed upon goals.

Along with over-arching environmental considerations, the influence of the general public, private sector, and non-governmental authorities is also worth consideration in any new system. The fact is that diplomatic space making is full of “unwritten rules” that must be articulated by design decisions. These decisions will ultimately inform human behavior, control flows of circulation, and organize types of people and information for specific purposes.

Growing support for Public Diplomacy, and other alternative Diplomatic activity should in turn have architectural consequences. New buildings should continue to push this trend but be focused on an expanding the definition of representation. They should incorporate new models of power and a local sensitivity to not only the architectural elements, but also the political environment as well. In this regard, all embassy buildings should be very prototypical, politically charged and quite dynamic. Finally, it is necessary to address the possibility that diplomacy and its representation in the future, will in fact, be absolutely nothing like it is today. Only recently has technology advanced to allow for the concept of the “virtual dimension” to be conceived practically, and thus influenced many realms of human activity including that of the political with its implications. Contemporary political structures are also unique phenomena in that they are selected for the sole representations and promotion of national interests.

The ever-changing political landscape has made the logic of a once legitimate need for centrality (both in governments and their embassies) largely cumbersome and inefficient. The consequences of such investigation may lead to new ideas about the organization and definition of power. It prompts us to ask the fundamental question: “What is power in the 21st century, and how should power be represented materially and otherwise?”

#### Geographic Siting.

For the Embassy to function cohesively, it must be connected to the vital cores for which it is supposed to serve. In this, the underlying realist principles and ecological principles might be closely related. At least on the surface, these two ideologies agree on a connection with vital centers but for different reasons. The connection to political power is obvious, but the ecological perspective also has the advantage because embassy buildings in the past were often build on previously developed land which generally has lower environmental impact than undeveloped sites do. At a closer look though, the realist principles argue that states, as central actors must act in their best interests, even if it means alienating an ally, as was shown in some of the case studies.

The realist principle does not recognize the importance of the other actors at work as instrumental to the success of the building. An ecological perspective then, might not attempt to dominate the landscape as previous projects have done, and certainly not to erase the cultural and architectural history that has existed up until that point (recognizing it as being integral to the balance of the environment. The relationship to the fundamental institutions throughout a place is also very important. Viewing an embassy building functioning in this capacity it is easier to imagine a more organic definition of growth that extends physical and virtual nodes throughout the arteries of a city. This again calls the necessity of the traditional physicality that has come to represent the embassy concept into question.

The “site” of an embassy is in reality extended by proxy beyond its current physical limitations. This has interesting architectural implications, which may be represented physically or metaphorically. In any instance, the application of diplomacy in this sense requires and depends upon a type of organizational approach that is sensitive to environmental patterns, networking technologies and actors in ways that are complex and layered (and simply do not exist today). An almost anthropological understanding of the cultural framework that exists within societies may be quite useful in tying political and architectural endeavors together and creating some sort of meaningful synthesis which may redefine how diplomacy is practiced in the future. In fact, there is a type of cultural imprint that embassy buildings arguably influence when they are introduced into the built environment.

The case of The Hague excellently points out the sensitivity of many of these issues. There it was true that a strong collective consciousness of the history of such a place stood in stark contrast and ultimately defined the success (or failure) of the embassy building located there. In that case, the embassy was a guest, and an unwelcome one at that. In its current iteration, the principle of “security first”, has created conditions where the locals were at odds with the building, resulting in their proposed removal from these vital arteries. To make things even worse in the interim, spatial interruptions of such buildings (specifically the decisions to amputate and bottleneck access to it) has in fact heavily influenced the functionality around the entire host community.

The frustration that this “security bubble” effectively extends to the local community has resulted in an uncomfortable and awkward tension amongst its residents. This ultimately renders ideas like accessibility/transparency in the American perspective completely out of the question after the events of September 11, 2001. It is easy to imagine how this will affect diplomatic relations and political opinion in both the short and long term. There are even philosophical and ideological forms of symbolism that can be derived from how a building physically makes contact with its site. Whether it feels imposing, light, or ethereal for example may suggest a timid relationship with the host "soil", while concrete integrated structures would suggest solid cooperation.

The way a building makes contact with the site might be used to make some sort of social commentary regarding the nature of the relationship with the host nation/culture/group. The point is that there is a direct relationship between the importance of the geographic site, and the formation of certain spaces inside and outside of a building that facilitates and gives legitimacy to the types of diplomacy that are being practiced there. This will always remain a sensitive issue, but the architect thinking of these issues should tread this line diplomatically. This connection is also related to the hierarchical nature of the spaces within the building as circulation flows within and around the site must harmoniously merge with the buildings own systems.

#### Materiality/Aesthetic Design choice

A final but extremely important point about the architectural analysis of existing diplomatic structures is concerned with the articulation of the building in terms of design choices that are often quite subjective. Historically, we have seen that much of this has been left to the whims of the architect of record. Not surprisingly then, the success and failures of many embassies has seemed to hinge on how well the architect understood the nature of the place and then responding to it with an appropriate form that elucidated the political situation at the time. While this has provided some successes in the long term (New Delhi for example), it has proven an extremely hit-or-miss situation. The choice of materiality, aesthetic expression may always be subjective in a sense, as there is no one solution that everyone will appreciate. Perhaps though, putting ego aside, architects could take inspiration from unique and important cultural subtleties that have helped to give a place its sense of character historically or in modern times. An embassy might also look towards future political characteristics that may appear to positively assert notions of power.

In light of focusing on the use of local materials, construction techniques etc, from a purely environmental standpoint, these structures could be quite unique in their ability to respond to the climate. The embassy should not lose sight of its place in the social matrix and its connection to the idiosyncratic novelties of a place. The challenge is of course for the designer to re-imagination and abstract important elements of the political as well as other spheres taking them out of the realm of anarchy and giving order to these elements through form, as if focusing them with a lens. This difficulty is inherent in all structures of importance, the designs must be sensitive so as not to appear on the one side self important or arrogant, and on the other, too detached from reality, this does not mean however, they cannot be full of the tension, mystery or chaos, echoing or else responding to the that nature of a particular place, they must after all remain honest.

#### 4.2 Analysis of Emerging Issues.

*“Shaping the complex, fast moving world of 2015 will require reshaping traditional government structures. Effective government will increasingly be determined by the ability and agility to form partnerships to exploit increased information flows, new technologies, migration and the influence of non-state actors”*  
 -CIA report; *Global Trends 2015*<sup>88</sup>

#### Towards a New Diplomacy - Why Change the System?

While nation- states do assure a measure of stability “today”, the justifiability of the cost is questionable. The justification of this stability is in question due to the “roots” of a diplomacy that depends on hard power to function. A futuristic approach to re-designing our political systems should incorporate a broader standard for defining diplomacy and therefore concepts like national security for example. Much of that stability has been historically afforded due to an overly funded military industrial complex that relies on force as its primary means of diplomacy. Additionally, there are economic costs that cannot be ignored in regards to environmental issues. Any standard product that is manufactured today to use a laptop for example, (unless it is manufactured within a controlled closed loop system) often involves a global effort from start to final product.

The end user, knows nothing of what it took to acquire those individual parts and essentially what role they are playing in the larger picture of environmental stewardship. This same analogy can be applied to the way our political systems are organized . If we view political systems as a “product” we can understand them as being global entities, interconnected in a vast web within which it is absolutely necessary to understand how and why each of its individual parts add up to influence our daily lives. This means that political systems should be accessible. For this to be possible there should be more transparency throughout the system and accountability as well. Economic policy is an unavoidable aspect of the global economy, and globalization should be used as a positive tool to work for as many groups of people (in today’s terms “nations”) as possible.

The current trend points to a definition of globalization that is purely economic, that is it continues the colonialist ties to material exploitation and uses free market principles to justify economic and ultimately national developmental growth demographics. But globalization can be understood in ways beyond a purely economic understanding. The economic view (though extremely important), should not be the only view used to express growth, development, and the success of organized groups. This view is opposed to the reality of a world with finite and fragile interconnected material resources define these power relationships. Technically, in the short term, nations states could attempt to achieve power while practicing an ecological perspective.

This might be done by strengthening international organizations and distributing power in ways that develop trends that are inclusive in distributed power (through the form of economic globalization) to a wider variety of actors (specifically developing countries). The author does not assume that nation-states are essentially evil or are attempting to destroy the earth only that many methods that have been practiced so far have led to various forms of extremely destructive forms of environmental degradation.

Such arguments are outlined and eloquently addressed in books like Nobel Prize winning author Joseph Stiglitz’ , *“Making Globalization Work”*, where he argues largely from a position of strengthening international institutions and developing fair trade regimes from a mostly economic background that will lead to the ability to address global challenges more adequately.<sup>89</sup> I believe that such arguments do well for addressing short-term problems.

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89 Stiglitz, Joseph. *Making Globalization Work*. New York. W.W.Norton & Company. 2007 (21)



Although he is not explicitly stating a desire for transition to a new system, Stiglitz acknowledges the importance of the state, while simultaneously offering practical solutions for how a nation state may begin to transform itself especially at the level of I.R. policy making to effectively begin to address global issues. I am not entirely convinced, however, that the obsolescence of the state (in its traditional iteration) is not becoming increasingly imminent due to the combined global problems it struggles to address. A good question to pose is how far can the state stretch its jurisdiction and sovereignty in light of these globally interconnected challenges and why is it even appropriate to attempt to deal with such problems in this way?

Organization on a global level in dealing with trade, capital, and the environment is necessary, and the world is currently in the process of attempting to organize in ways that address these challenges, which are made even more apparent through various types of globalization (especially economic). In short, a more realistic scenario for how to get “from here to there” might incorporate a number of approaches both top down and grass roots (bottom up) that may lead to much larger ripple effects in the international community. Without the reality of a situation imposed on us that leads to a blank slate ( provided by global environmental catastrophe or outbreak of disease or warfare) which effectively re-balances power relationships indefinitely.

The reality is that this process is in fact purely experimental and will have to evolve until an appropriate international system (and consensus for it) can emerge. It does not count out the possibility of entirely new political organizations emerging parallel to the nation state in power or influence that is grounded in forms of capital that extend beyond that of traditional resources. One thing is for certain, such a system must be informed by a few solid foundations including the agreement of the international community and solid science (including climatic) to back it up.

There is evidence that the technological advancements of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century have allowed other actors to influence the diplomacy bubble is proof that the system is perhaps not so impenetrable. Furthermore, it must not complicate the realities of daily life to the degree that it becomes cumbersome or highly ineffective. This is proving to be a challenge in itself as historically nations have been slow to adopt and enforce regulatory controls that are backed by climate science. Recent events have shown that there may be questions about the legitimacy of such scientific findings ( as is occurring at the time of this writing with the climate gate scandal during COP-15 ) and opponents will surely try to dismiss the validity of solid evidence and politicize the entire issue.

However, eventually the global system will change gradually because of the benefits to economic, cultural and environmental interests as well as the increasing consensus on environmental (and other globally influential) issues such as human rights, global security, and migratory issues . But ruling out the (very real possibility) of some devastating and uncontrollable event occurring , it remains up to all of humanity to re-organize its political systems and achieve a transition to some form of globally influential, environmentally sensitive system of governance.

As with the formation of any intelligent system of governance the process of transformation is just as important (especially if it occurs nonviolently) as is the reality of arriving. In the realist sense, though such an idea is terrifying. A new definition of sovereignty means a direct re-definition of how political power can be expressed. As a result, such attempts to incorporate environmental policy are often only a means to a certain political end and end up falling by the wayside or within the realm of conservationism. In any case if the goal is to produce a democratic system there is no reason to expect that people groups having a long history living under a certain system that they find appropriate will desire it to change greatly (unless they can benefit that much more greatly) from a new system.

It is a reality that nation state dominance is appealing to many people and certain characteristics of it may always remain a part of societies. As previously stated the nation state only has one preferred futures scenario, which is that of continued growth. It is important to associate and connect a responsibility with morally egregious behavior and political policy imposed by states. On the other hand, the definition of Ecologism (as theoretical underpinning to a new system of governance) may in fact share some realist components in as much as they are successful and politically neutral. However as outlined in the first section, many of the tenants of realism are at least in part at odds with an ecological perspective all together.

### Global Solutions to Global Problems - Coordination

Global climate change is important but only characterizes one of the many international environmentally related issues that all nation states face today. "Since the U.N. conference on the Human Environment in the early 1970's many complex environmental issues have emerged.<sup>90</sup>" At the same time, varieties of multi-lateral institutions have also emerged to address these problems. Such organizations include the (United Nations Environment Program or UNEP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Already coordination between agencies has proven to be a devastatingly complex problem with regard to dealing with global crises. Today there exists over 500 multi-lateral institutions dedicated to dealing with environmentally related issues. These current institutions have of course made successes in their respective industries but in terms of the global scale have largely proven clumsy and un-coordinated. In terms of international environmental governance, four issues (as outlined in *Emerging Forces in Environmental Governance*) emerge that multi-lateral institutions struggle to address in contemporary I.R. politics

These include:

- 
1. Failure to address the missing linkages between difference institutions and policy-making and implementation...
  2. Secondly, there are overlapping or conflicting functions and insufficient coordination amongst the different institutions.
  3. Third, there are not powerful competent institutions whose mandates are directly related to international environmental governance.
  4. Lastly, multilateral environmental institutions have not captured the initiatives of numerous actors, including NGO's and corporations, in policy making and its implementation.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> Kanie, Norichika (Editor); Haas, Peter M. (Contributor); Haas, Peter M. (Editor). *Emerging Forces in Environmental Governance*. Tokyo, JPN: United Nations University Press 2004 (15)

<sup>91</sup> Kanie, Haas, *Emerging Forces in Environmental Governance*. 2004.(15)

## REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS 75

Table 4.1 Select list of international organizations with environmental functions

Organization	Environmental role
African Development Bank	capacity building, environmental impact, water resource management
Asian Development Bank	capacity building, environmental impact, sustainable development
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	capacity building, sustainable development
Food and Agricultural Organization	forestry and sustainable agriculture
Global Environment Facility	capacity building
Inter-American Development Bank	capacity building, sustainable development
International Atomic Energy Agency	nuclear safety
Inter-Government Authority on Development (formerly IGADD)	food security and environmental protection
International Labor Organization	sustainable agriculture
International Maritime Organization	marine pollution (ICPPS)
International Whaling Commission	conduct of whaling
Helsinki Commission	maintain and improve Baltic marine environment
North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation	surveillance of environmental law in NAFTA members
UN Center for Science and Technology development	capacity building (technology transfer)
UNICEF	poverty and the environment
UN Commission for Human Settlements	environmental refugees
UNDP	sustainable development
UNEP	policy coordination
UN Commission for Sustainable Development	implementation of Agenda 21
UN Population Fund	population management
UN Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNDP)	desertification
UN University	capacity building
World Bank	capacity building, sustainable development
World Health Organization	water quality
World Meteorological Organization	climate change (remote sensing)
World Tourism Organization	ecotourism
World Trade Organization	trade and environmental issues (CTE)

Figure 25

The above chart defines many of these institutions missions and gives an idea of the complexity that these many organizations would have to overcome in order to coordinate/share power. It is easy to see that there are obvious problems that the most well funded multi-lateral organizations are attempting to address. When it comes to practice, even within these organizations the formation of effective policy making and environmental law often runs into resistance as it must work around the ideal in order to “fit” within state interests.

This occurs often because of national and economic interests outweighing that of environmentally focused policy. Nations do not ideally want to cause environmental destruction. They attempt to address environmental issues but are often swayed by their own complex and often-divergent political interests. They can be quite effective in managing the resources within their borders but beyond that, there is little that can be done. Many times, as occurs in the U.S. resistance to these ideals is labeled an affront to national sovereignty as an excuse to continue environmentally destructive policy.

Nevertheless, the issues no matter their complexity must be addressed. There are of course very practical economic and social benefits that can be had when considering a developed eco-political model. For one thing, because a stewardship over the environment is so important it will be monitored constantly in an eco-political model. One practical example is demonstrated in natural disasters. The effect of natural disasters will never be unavoidable, however; the devastation might be mitigated with globally connected communications systems. This is true especially if early detection systems were streamlined to help people on the ground prepare for disaster in advance. The knowledge of such ecological events would eventually inform policy making and alter the political economy in that region.

Such systems would go far in creating world unity on environmental issues. The development of such a system makes an argument for a strong coordination between the scientific community and international governmental institutions as well. But the problem is always finding consensus within communities as real change is often blocked by institutions, bureaucracy and a lack of funding.

With the exception of perhaps the military/defense organizations of the US operating internationally, few organizations are truly as inter-connected technologically as the scientific community. Science has of course been unable to avoid being politicized therefore this represents yet another challenge to reaching global consensus on many of these issues. The main point of suggesting a global system though, really what is essentially a type of world environmental organization WEO<sup>92</sup> is to essentially deal with global problems and that approach immediately eschews any type of bureaucracy that would recognize geographic borders.

### Environmental Consideration (all scales of governance)

At the root of many global problems is social injustice. This is a problem inherent in all cultures. But there are many issues directly related to the environment that may influence practically the quality of life today, as the world exists within the realm of nation states. A political model moving towards the direction of globally reducing different environmentally related forms of social injustice would be accepted if it were more inclusive( i.e. responding to the marginalized and third world especially). The developed world in a realist sense fears this because of the perception of upsetting the balances of power. However economically, trade as a principle is good. The formation of fair trade regimes that allow developing countries to responsibly manage their own resources will allow them to add to a strong global economy and create stability that is more global in the long run.

Not-surprisingly many of these issues are centered on the global economy. Creating the dialogue for a practical and inclusive political theory of Ecological thought is an intriguing notion because it relates fields that have in the past been seen as mutually exclusive at least in the west. It is a leap to make the argument for a theoretical standpoint that necessitates an understanding of political economy that values the environment as something to be understood outside of the economic perspective solely. Hopefully a more environmentally sensitive, politically inclusive theory for social organization would include the opinions of the marginalized thus creating platforms for fresh ideas that are culturally sensitive. Indigenous groups especially have much to contribute to the overall body of knowledge that lies outside of the realm of a purely economic understanding of the environments value. There is an ideological element of ecological theory as well that might influence a move towards green political systems.

Adding the environment to the list of sacred spaces allows for a fundamental re-examining of economic principles related to growth, and development especially when these principles are viewed under the lens of sustainable growth and various modes of environmentally sensitive development. It also allows different laws to apply to the environment, which ensure its protection and definition as space existing to everyone rather than a select few. This of course , creates a great deal of problems for the concept of nation state, which is strengthened by its definition of borders and boundaries. But in reality, the global economy has already created the foundation for a border less system to exist.

### Structural Environmental Controls

At the global scale, governments as well as a host of actor's work together to define environmental based goals and objectives clearly include the founding of a strong World Environmental Organization. Essentially, the goal is consensus and effective implementation of policy. The regional and local levels are informed largely by the geographic uniqueness and focus on developing green economies that are informed by independent scientific research. A key aspect of regional diplomacy involves strengthening regional security agreements that are inevitably related to environmental issues. Also the regional scale must be flexible enough to address both global and local issues. At the local level diplomacy is focuses on the networks that make up regional systems and the reasons for their interaction. A key unit of this future is the smart city, or eco-city, which is a prototypical model for the successful synthesis of a wide variety of human endeavors guided by the principles of environmental science.

This level of organization may prove necessary for orchestrating a wide variety of human systems and will require advanced technology and planning. New power relationships will emerge under the green economy that differs from traditional understandings of power and diplomacy when the environment is valued in ways that transcend material implications. It may be possible to envision a society based on "Ecologically derived freedoms", which may offer a more inclusive definition of "equality" (as long as certain conditions are met). But a key feature of this future is a type of security derived from environmentally related agreements rather than a reliance on military powers. But to be adequately constructed, the system must be new. Therefore, this is not a "Green" State, or a reformed State system, but a new system entirely which understands power, identity, and "national security" all as aspects that are to be dealt with under an ecological sphere.



### New models of Diplomacy are necessary

A truly Ecological approach recognizes the limited resources within any ecosystem and then sets off to immediately distribute those resources in a way that conserves energy, eliminates waste, and finds ingenious use for available materials. The connections to International decision making would be no less profound. The close tie to the environment means that cooperation is necessary to ensure that future generations can benefit from limited resources within a system and some form of equitable distribution of resources can occur within reason. The repercussions of this could redefine how politics works on a variety of levels. Investigation should be done into how the community, and regional sustainable practices will produce ripples that affect the global system at large. The role that geography plays in such as political system will be altered dramatically as well. Geographic distinctiveness in the past always acted as a means of protection, and defining borders, territories and ultimately allowed cultural diversification.

A different understanding where connections are encouraged in some aspects and discouraged in others will no doubt produce a great deal of tension and unification at the same time, promoting new identities and ideas about community, societal and national identity. Some of these restraints in futures societies will of course continue to exist, as geographically based disputes have often long since given way to ideological or racial/cultural prejudices (all based on human materiality). But a marginalization of these negative issues may also occur as well due to increasing virtual, physical and cultural contact driven by the need to solve global environmental challenges.

### New Buildings Require New Systems of Organization

Before it is possible to design buildings that wholly respond to a flexible political environment it is necessary to address the capability of the political system at work to allow for such change. Once that is accomplished then it should be evident in the way people organize themselves politically. These are the points of convergence that lie at the heart of both the architectural profession as well as the political. The relationship with the environment is essentially at the core of both arguments and of course has effects far beyond that of mere embassy building, or the nation state for that matter. It is natural to assume then that both diplomatic buildings and political systems designed with these larger globally spanning issues in mind would begin to take on forms appropriate to their inter connectedness within the natural environment as well as political organization that is again related to this harmony.

### New Communities with new Political Identities

One of the biggest issues to developed nations today is the prospect of migrations from the undeveloped world. The adherence to borders creates a wealth of problems when attempting to track who is entering illegally, and how money is being used. Traditionally the border conditions have been areas of conflict, but also opportunities for cultural exchange. The ability to move in and out of these borders has led to some of the most important economic developments of history ultimately fueling many of the foundations of the industries that we take for granted today (Silk Road, Spice Trade Etc). The ability to move in and out of geographically distinct areas (the ability to be mobile) will allow for a dissimilation of culture and along with technology (both transportation and communications structures) will allow for new types of boundaries to be formed that are perhaps not physical in the traditional sense.

The role that geography should play then is for human societies to have a more intricate understanding of the importance of the region in which they live and their responsibility to ensuring that it is maintained and protected so that future generations can also enjoy it. Culturally speaking, people groups and communities will find increasing ways to both individualize and integrate, resulting in complex layered societies rich with meaning but also challenged by a variety of absolutely novel problems.

### A Re-Definition of Security

These issues create new questions, especially considering the current definitions of “national security cultures”, and “security” relative to that of societies. Perfect security in the realist context is an illusion. And perhaps so to, is the hope of an end to all forms of conflict. But as with all political issues it is important to mention certain factors here that will no longer be dogmatically attempting to frame the argument in the advantage of certain National Interests. A new definition of Security can be adapted to the scale of the region, but in general, its characteristics include:

1. Developing cultures of self-sufficiency promotes a form of “security” in itself especially in regards to the dependence upon natural resources. Regions should be able to sustain themselves first thus removing the desire for conflict to occur over scarcity issues. In geographically difficult regions, the onus is on the government to provide reasonable quality of life for its inhabitants.
2. The concept of a National Security no longer strictly defined by the Military Industrial Complex and realist doctrines advocating competition and a desire to defeat the “other” Nations. This is perhaps one of the most important and transformational aspects of the Green Society.
3. Structures must be put in place that resist the urge to hoard or exploit natural resources for gain and return to a state of Anarchy (In the realist sense). Essentially, world cultures agree on the value of resources as intrinsically possessing value independent of capitalist enterprise.
4. I suspect many issues related to National Security will be much less given to militaristic forms of expressionism-in this environment which historically implies the forceful taking over or acquiring of such resources “as spoils” to be had by the stronger and thus justified aggressive nation.
5. A desire to cooperate in terms of producing global forms of equality will strengthen the notions of world alliance and confidence in establishing environmentally based treaties. This promotes Peaceful Diplomacy because there will undoubtedly be many issues dealing with resource allocation and culturally/geographically defined factors that must be solved diplomatically.
6. The result of this new understanding requires no less than a restructuring of the major military-industrial complex’s to focus on self-defense or specifically humanitarian crises. These endeavors have a great deal to do with diplomacy and the way nations are viewed today, and will continue to grow in importance in the future. Expanding platforms that are already in place (see, self-defense force/peace corps etc) is not that difficult to imagine. Societies could prove their trust in this format by the sheer amount of money that is allocated to humanitarian forms of conflict resolution and security-focused industries.

That being said, increasingly advanced forms of technological and scientific development will of course provide the possibility of real and ever more dangerous threats to those that don't adhere to a peaceful philosophy of life. This does not have to intrinsically be related to weaponry, the discovery of new ways of harnessing energy can be equally destructive. In this regard technologies should be developed (preferably non-lethal) both offensive and defensive to contain threats within the framework of an internationally supportive community. The philosophy of containment, as opposed to defensive or even preemptive forms of conflict resolution are preferable, as containment strategies are often least destructive to life, infrastructure, and the environment.

Recognizing the expanded role of conflict resolution and its relationship to more than just ideological differences is the While these solutions might have the present day effect of averting political, cultural, and economic stagnation, it is the ultimate goal of deep integration with nature and everyday life that will allow the flexibility for real transformation. That being said, there are many specific challenges that confront Ecologism as an I.R. Theory as well as a system of governance.

As a result of such dramatic social change (coupled with technological advancement), there are many opportunities for new issues to emerge that previously have not been imagined. This of course creates the opportunities for new forms of conflict that require solutions. But it should also be noted that the current philosophy of Nation-State development (which only recognizes the futures scenario of "continued growth") also has had much more time to deal with some of the same issues that an alternative system may face but has dealt with these issues in ways that have often been morally unjustifiable.

I believe Ecologism requires a redefined relationship to the non-human world I.E. finding value in non-human life and making political decisions based upon what's best for human kind as well as the environment. I also believe that Ecologism offers more futures oriented perspectives regarding policy making based upon how future generations may be affected (not purely the benefit of present societies). Communities may continue to be defined by variables related to culture, region and geographic location. But may also be more united in the interest of virtual communities with like-minded values and very real political power. The fragmented nature of such a world is a real problem when considering the adherence of structural solutions like law on a global scale.

The individuals of this age are categorized by their dynamic nature including that of the following:

#### Emerging Political Issues

- **Multiple-identities/ Interconnected Ideologies**
- **Cultural values-that are both extremely polar and heavily integrated**
- **Cultural/Traditional Identification with Environmental Causes/Opinions about own region**
- **Gender related issues.**
- **“Evolving traditional/spiritual/moral platforms”**
- **Many overlapping conditions regarding security and conflict**

#### Recognizing legitimate Actors

Another issue to consider is the nature of those involved in the political process. With a wider range of legitimate actors coming to the table, so too will the need for them to be organized be of great importance. The management of communities, NGO's, MNC's and a wide variety of “communities” that are seeking political legitimacy must be facilitated in an organized, methodical way, under the proposed political system.

This of course does not assume that individually any of these organizations are actually “organized” from a structural or organizational point of view but rather the overall global system must provide some sense of basic interface for a wide variety of actors to organize under. If some form of Diplomacy is to remain a relevant concept in the future (and I believe that it will) then the actors that surround the issues must themselves also be examined. The once logical centralization of political powers, structures, and bureaucracies suddenly becomes far less important in a political landscape that thrives on a network of complex and fragmented interconnections.

The definition of power itself will be different as new concepts emerge that will legitimize political reorganizations, juxtapositions and alliances based on issue that extend far beyond the economic lens. In this political setting, the depth of an issue that is political will be exponentially complex, and require a different strategy of attack that involves both a holistic understand of an issue as well as a means of addressing it. And finally any such future iterations of diplomacy as a political concept will undoubtedly be tied to identity, which can no longer be assumed to originate from the nature of a geographic or even a physical place.

[The following diagram offers an example of a web of political relationships that corresponds more to a model that represents a bio-centric world view as opposed to an anthropocentric world view.]

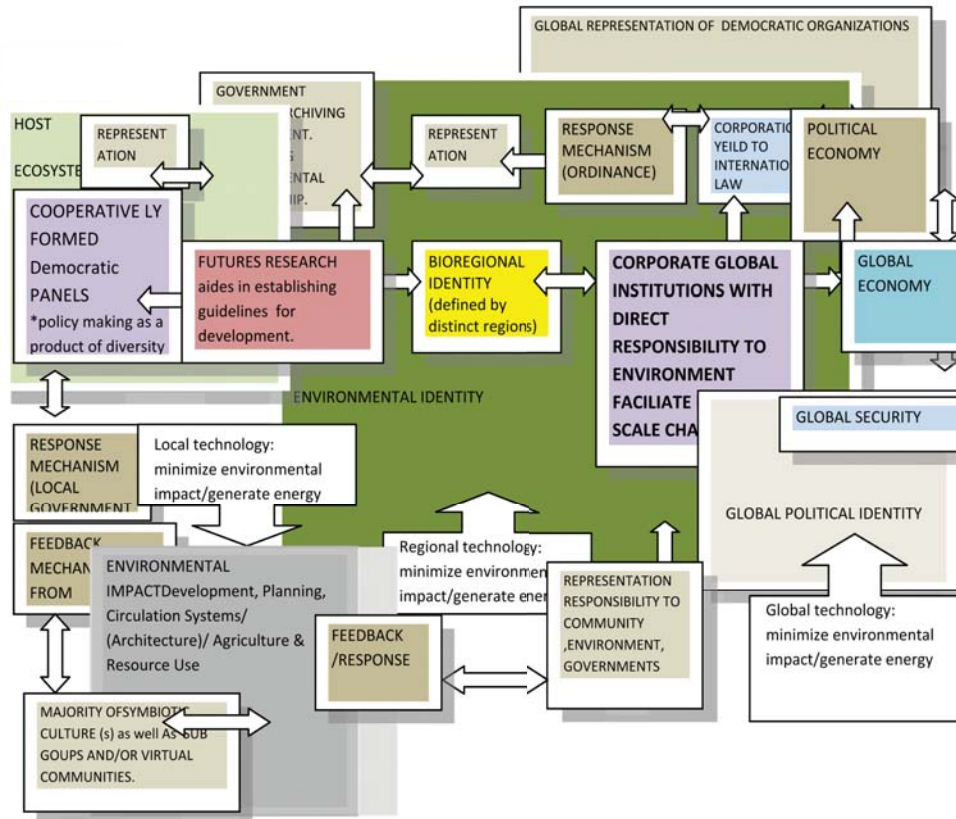


Figure 26

Some characteristics of the above model seem to highlight the following issues)

1. Political policy might emerge from a desire to respond appropriately to environmental concerns that directly affect host ecosystems and cultures.
2. Notice Feedback and response mechanisms at the species level act as bottlenecks to regulate (through various mechanisms such as the economy, law, and security forces and futures research) the direction of political progress
3. A more organic structure for forming governments and diplomacy that is more direct may be available in systems that rely upon cooperative agenda forming. (Though it is admittedly more complex)
4. A ground up approach that focuses more attention on inter-regional relations will aid in the emergence of strongly supported regional interests and identities.

## V. Proposal of “Ecologism” as alternative System of Governance.

### 5.1. Theoretical Foundations of Ecologism Introduction & philosophical Tenants of Ecologism

The entire premise of my preferred form of future governance is the promotion of a global governance system that recognizes three vital levels of effective government. Essentially this is a response to the desire to create world institutions<sup>93</sup> with peripheries capable of solving environmental problems. In the proposed scheme, the local, regional, and global governmental systems interact in ways that allow for effective and deep integration of green political policy. In effect, diplomacy has been redefined in the way that it is fundamentally practiced, and understood theoretically and practically on a variety of scales. In response to the desire for more effective diplomatic processes, three political systems or “entities” have emerged to address the different scales of governance that at their structural foundations integrate the primary tool of diplomatic process, (that is the intelligent management of information) within political, economic, and social contexts’ that tap into deeper, interconnected systems.

Before diving into the individual parts however; it is necessary to outline some of the theoretical underpinnings of the political theory of ecologism as the dominant political theory in my scenario. The following Ecological based I.R. theory is derived from a variety of intellectual traditions including that of scientific rationalism/naturalism—stemming from environmental research, Interpretive constructivism, and liberalism- which is related to political realism, and will provide the foundational support for the argument of ecologism to be viewed as solid I.R. theory. But this is balanced with the cultural knowledge that is seeded from a diverse tapestry of historical lessons, traditions and ideology. The following section will discuss these theoretical foundations in detail.

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<sup>93</sup> Kothari, Rajni. *Footsteps Into The Future – Diagnoses of the Present World and a Design for an Alternative*. New York, N.Y. The Free Press 1974 (138)



Ecologism as a system of global governance will by nature support new definitions of sovereignty claimed by independent self-sustained human societies. At the root of this global system lies a bio-centric world view. But first to define Ecologism it is important to distinguish from conservationism. Ecologism requires the fulfillment of certain principles. For one thing, Ecologism as an I.R. theory assumes that peoples have cooperated to maintain some form of environmentally sustainable existence usually requiring radical change in policy making than what the current system suggests.

Conservationism only offers managerial solutions to ecological problems while ignoring the pervasive nature of Ecology. As a model for political design the theory is inherently futuristic because it is subject to environmental law, which supports policy changes “today” that are aimed at ensuring the survival and the flourishing of future generations. The acknowledgement of the pervading and interconnected nature of the environment relative to I.R. policy becomes an issue *not* particular time- bound to current interests, governments, or social ideologies, but a realistic argument for the foundation of a “global interest” derived from a desire to sustaining life on earth (and perhaps beyond) for all societies (present and future). To elaborate, the theory suggests that there are boundaries that exist both politically and physically to growth, and it is recognizing and respecting these boundaries which will ensure the best chance for survival and progress of a society. Of course, this has implications for diplomacy as well as issues like “security” and “identity”.

### Economic Reform

The “Economy” of a world that has adopted an ecologically based I.R. theory as its governing ideology has come to terms with the finite resources available in relationship to human populations/geographic location. In other words, this political system<sup>94</sup> acknowledges the fundamental exhaustibility of resources and is concerned with the responsible allocation of them-to the benefit of everyone. Perhaps now is a good time to mention some alternatives to these views. One such idea proposed is that of a “regenerative economy”, one that thrives on ecological principles and ideally a Bio-centric world view. This emergent field within economics has come to be known as regenerative economics:

## Regenerative economy

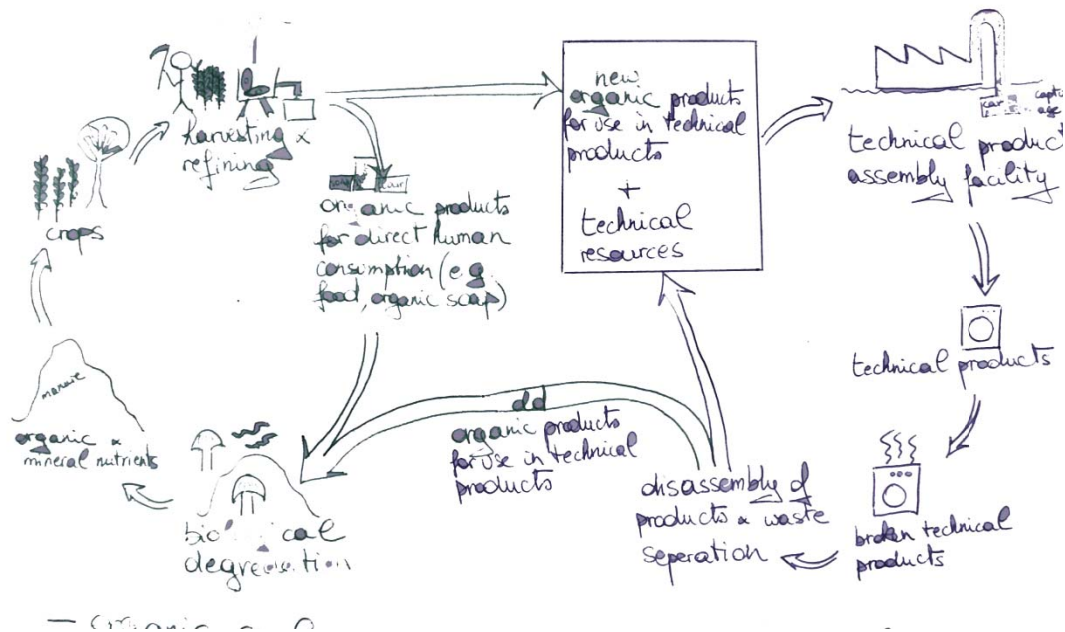


Figure 27

### Regenerative economics—

-Is an economic system that works to regenerate capital assets. A capital asset is an asset that provides goods and/or services that are required for, or contribute to, our well being. In standard economic theory, one can either “regenerate” one’s capital assets or consume them until the point where the asset cannot produce a viable stream of goods and/or services. What sets Regenerative Economics apart from standard economic theory is that it takes into account and gives hard economic value to the principle or original capital assets — the earth and the sun. We cannot do much to affect the sun although we can value access to the sun in such areas where access can be influenced. Therefore, most of Regenerative Economics focuses on the earth and the goods and services it supplies. Regenerative economics is completely comfortable within the capitalist economic framework. Recognizing the earth as the original capital asset places the true value on the human support system known as the environment. Not having this original value properly recognized has created the un-sustainable economic condition referred to as *uneconomic growth*, a phrase coined by Prof. Herman Daly, as stated in the book *Reshaping the Built Environment*.<sup>[1]</sup> The authors of the *Regenerative Economic Theory* believe that *uneconomic growth* is the opposite of regenerative economics.<sup>95</sup>

### Economic implications Cont'd

This society runs under the engine of a “green economy” (or rather multiple strands of green economies), that are linked and distinctive by region, cultural identity and population size. These different world economies have united under a variety of International law standards. What makes this economy run is a balance between free market capitalism reigned-in by the structure of ecological principles. Thus, the development of all societies begins to take on some of these economical characteristics for the sake of stability. International organizations will provide incentives to adopting certain objectives as well and- with a focus on making dependent societies independent and not instituting systems of control through debt. Recognizing the desire of individuals to shape their environment, “Green Corporations” have been given a measure of power that is balanced by direct responsibility in managing the environment and facilitating community development.

In this scenario, Green corporations are green due to their inclusion in structural systems that put restrictions on the products they deliver. This includes industry standards that define rates of waste production, recycling and raw material acquisition. Many of these restrictions exist already in some form today, either self imposed or adopted through the implementation of regulatory industries such as in the manufacturing of certain buildings materials containing glues/adhesives with CFC's and aerosol products ( a direct result on the 1987 Montreal Climate Protocol which shed light on the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica.).

The various professions thus represented by these corporations compete for globally available contracts, which effectively shape the regions they touch. The globally interconnected economy ensures that societies invest in each other's regions in the interest of trade and maintaining diplomatic relations. Investment will occur within the structure of sustainable laws, which necessitate the understanding of connectivity to industries related to trade such as manufacturing and shipping, taking into consideration concepts such as embodied energy (the energy it takes to design, manufacture and distribute products) in an effort to work as much as possible into the closed-circuit systems.

Restrictions in the form of international law will be focused on producing equitable trade agreements across regions. While the mechanics might be rather complex the desire to is promote good economic principles without assigning a necessary method (besides requiring ethically sound practices) to get there. This means essentially nations do not have to copy or assume that certain economic mechanisms will work in their own circumstances (there is a lot of evidence to prove that these mechanisms such as Washington Consensus) or put another way,

*" higher-order principles of sound economic management do not map into unique institutional arrangements".<sup>96</sup>*

Though the traditional “Energy Producers” will still represent some of the largest “Brands” of the green economy due to the scale of their operations, many new organizations will incorporate using communications technologies to their help further their causes including forms of NGO’s that have strong ideological or human rights related agendas with varying degrees of international, inter-regional, and inter-communal influence. These groups may eventually significantly influence the characteristics of regions.

#### Industrialization Reform

Furthering the developments of the last century the new society will continue to depend upon technology to make the world run. However, with a desire for “true equality” and environmental accountability many industries will simply not be able to sustain themselves under their current practices and require a transformational period. A re-organization is then likely which returns power to the hands of the employee in the form of advanced training, education and sustenance.

Globally speaking, adopting technological practices that force development into independent closed-loop systems within quality control practices associated with industrialization such as mining, manufacturing, shipping, technological development etc. will become a necessity if progress is to be made. The importance of understanding the closed loop system derives from an understanding that resources are not limitless but are indeed finite and should be managed in an appropriate way.

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96      Rodrik, Dani. One Economics Many Recipes - Globalization, Institutions and Economic growth. New Jersey Princeton University Press. 2007 (29)

It is this fundamental change with how humans interact with the environment that will ultimately pave the way for the greatest deal of societal transformation and technological advancement. The adoption of technocratic solutions in futures scenarios is often criticized (often for good reason), however; dependence upon technology is already a fact that all modern nations in the world must deal with. Whether this is right or wrong, this scenario also builds upon that tradition yet envisions a future where the focus of technological development shifts from simple consumer (materialistic), militaristic, or capitalist-related endeavors to a developmental focus that represents a culture of self-sufficiency and resource efficiency.

#### New Political Identities Emerge

One consequence of a society based on such tenants is the creation of identities alternative to that of the “Nationalistic”. The intent is not to suppress the desire to identify with any particular cultures or geographical identity or custom. Instead, the intention is to instill an understanding of the simultaneous value of different cultures, and customs (one of the ways to do so is through this connection with the environment, economy, and politics. Through these “heterarchies” and other systems of organization that emphasize horizontal as well as vertical organizational practices new political organizations can be quickly legitimized. As a result of encouraging a diverse tradition of interconnections, a type of internationalist identity or perhaps a true “cosmopolitanism” will arise due to the systemic dependence on the much-popularized “global village” concept. The notion was summed up excellently by Gandhi as he expressed the importance of nationalism and internationalism in the following quote:

*“Nationalist as I am in regard to Indian freedom, I do not look upon contacts with other peoples from a narrow nationalist viewpoint. My very nationalism is based on internationalism, and I am very conscious of the fact that the modern world, with its science and world trade and swift methods of transport, is based on internationalism. The country or people can isolate themselves from the rest of the world, and if they attempt it, they do so at their peril and the attempt is bound to fail in the end.”<sup>97</sup>*

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97 Groth, Alexander. Major Ideologies: An Interpretive Survey of Democracy, Socialism, and Nationalism. New York: John Wiley & Sons.1971 (180)

This sentiment is echoed in the current state of the world and the tension between retaining elements that make cultures unique and accepting the “international culture” (notably the western culture) and its tendencies to conquer and marginalize less aggressive cultures, and attempt to remake them in its own image. But introducing a layer of “Green Internationalism” amongst all of the other identities that people identify with might not necessarily represent a need to conform to the system through culturally biased forms of coercion or by other authoritarian mechanisms.

The concept might be widely accepted, if its definition is more inclusive than traditional identifiers have been in the past ( as well as incentivize to a degree). Mainly an elevation of the marginalized and so-called “post-colonialist non-western societies” and common ground found on related ecological goals should be considered as having a large part to do with this definition. The equality derived from such a definition does not assume that everyone is equal in a strict “socialist” definition but rather people have the ability to have similar opportunities-relative to what their geographic regions may offer. It is a desire to equalize opportunities and a quality of life through the accessibility and availability of information a major tool and equalizing factor of 21<sup>st</sup> century diplomacy used for the transformation of societies.

In order to be able to affect rapid change and reverse conditions of what ecologists refer to as the condition of “trophic cascading”<sup>98</sup> brought on by an imbalance in equilibrium, a number of systemic changes to diplomatic representation will be required. The result will be a hybridized system of global governance that borrows from the stability of past social structures but adds a great deal of discipline and organization in regards to environmental stewardship on an international level as well as the development of progressive “institutions” which support the legitimacy of the ecologist agenda. Of course, cultural differences will vary in their interpretations of this. The following are two examples of models taken from ecological theory that influence the diplomatic processes.

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98 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trophic\\_cascade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trophic_cascade)

## Bio-regions & Bioregionalism

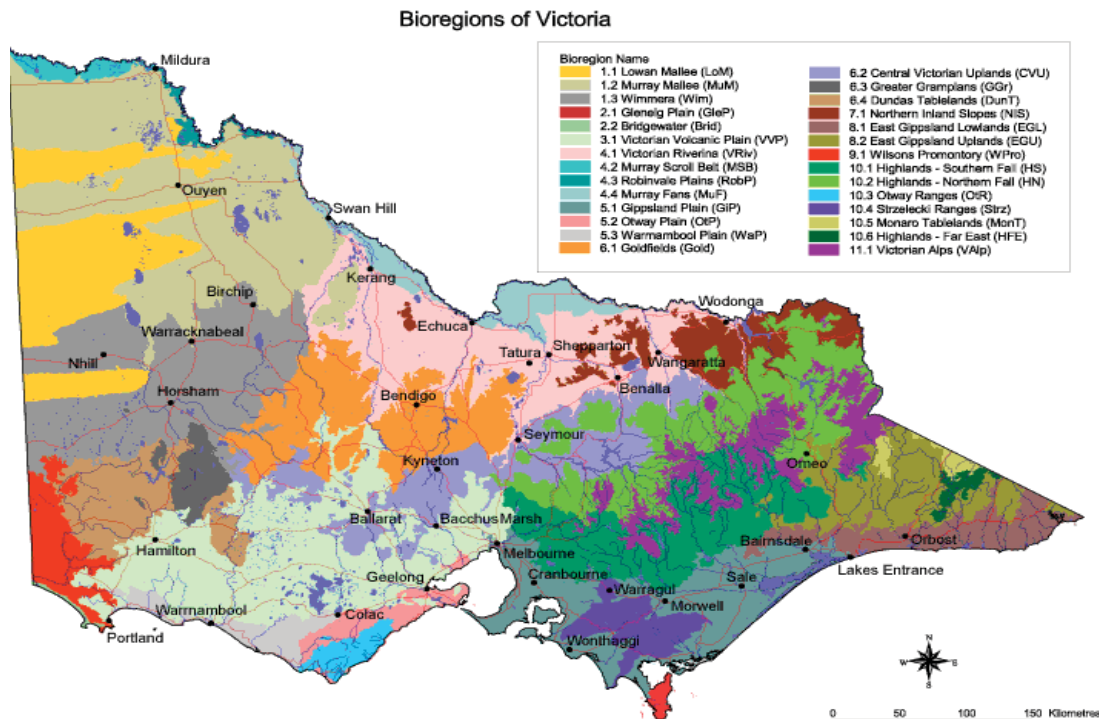


Figure 28

The term Bioregionalism originated in work by Peter Berg and Raymond Dasmann in the early 1970s. The bio-regionalist perspective opposes a homogeneous economy and consumer culture with its lack of stewardship towards the environment. The traditional definition of bio or eco regions is:

*“A political, cultural, and environmental system based on naturally-defined areas called bio-regions, or eco-regions. Bio-regions are defined through physical and environmental features, including watershed boundaries and soil and terrain characteristics. Bioregionalism stresses that the determination of a bio region is also a cultural phenomenon, and emphasizes local populations, knowledge, and solutions. This perspective seeks to:*

- **Ensure that political boundaries match ecological boundaries.**
- **Highlight the unique ecology of the bio region.**
- **Encourage consumption of local foods where possible.**
- **Encourage the use of local materials where possible.**
- **Encourage the cultivation of native plants of the region.**
- **Encourage sustainability in harmony with the bioregion.** <sup>99</sup>



This model is essential to the understanding of global relationships through the interaction of political macro and micro regions. Diplomatic channels should occur within these larger contexts. These green municipalities will have identities that are characterized by the people who choose to live and develop within them because at its core those individuals who have vested interest should have the most say over the structures that effect their own lives.. How international regions affect each other will be another topic of great complexity in the world of international relations. Immediately it will be necessary to embark on a way of understanding the political, cultural, economic, and environmental flows that “map” the relationships between regions, groups of individuals, communities etc.

But a better understanding these systems globally will be directly related to the flows of investment capital and economic directives derived from the new relationship with the environment at all scales of government. For this reason different scales of diplomacy should be managed at each level that consider a multiplicity of interactions on different levels. For example inter-regionally, from macro-region to macro region, intra-regionally (within the regions) or extra regionally. The regional identification may be helpful here when issues are being addressed that influence geographically connected regions.

At the highest points in this model are government agencies formed by the groups of people that have the responsibility of providing the basic needs for a quality of life that is acceptable. This includes overseeing many aspects of “the modern industrialized nation including aspects of national security, health care, education, and diplomacy, but also focuses heavily on environmental responsibility. Beyond this, regions may look quite different depending upon the solutions that their citizens advocate or reject in regards to adhere to solving ecological problems. In terms of equal representation, large regions are broken up by eco-regional maps to represent sensible trade partnerships . These provinces are created for census reasons and to help track various flows in an out of regions rather than an understanding of areas specifically as nation-states.

In this way, large geographical regions or macro-regions have identifiers that correspond to their geographic characteristics. Regional governments meet to form international panels, which are responsible for making international laws. This hybrid system incorporates elements of supra-nationalism and inter-governmentalism allowing for regions to retain their diversity yet confers on issues that effects everyone. Delegates from regions, convene to discuss environmental stewardship on the largest scales. Large Scale disputes and conflict resolution between people groups and mediation are also an issue that affects a regional and global context.

The interconnected governments are interested in the strength, security and stability of the “cooperative” and thus routinely evaluate the permeability of borders, ethnic disputes and climate change that may cause conflict within their regions. Panels will have to find ways of taking the opinions of the individual into consideration this includes competent individuals serving on the panels during times of political change.

This type of organization brings into the realm of politics and diplomacy a wide range of interconnected issues (and their significance as related to the environment). As a result the international system, will be imaged as not a place of anarchy (as in the traditional realist context) but of a complex system understood through scholarship in a the holistic view which includes research, cultural understanding, and traditions none the least of which include the study of ecology. Diplomacy will have much to do with regions connected through aspects of green political economy and a countless variety of identifiers physical, cultural, and increasingly virtual (made possible by communications technologies).

### Equilibrium Dynamics

Another important aspect of Ecologism Theory, Equilibrium Dynamics refers to the health of an ecosystem as measured through a relationship between tolerances as seen in the chart below. A simplistic understanding of Equilibrium centers around the concept of Homeostasis. Where Homeostasis is defined as:

*“The property of a system, either open or closed, that regulates its internal environment and tends to maintain a stable, constant condition. Typically used to refer to a living organism, the concept came from that of milieu interieur that was created by Claude Bernard and published in 1865. Multiple dynamic equilibria adjustment and regulation mechanisms make homeostasis possible.”<sup>100</sup>*

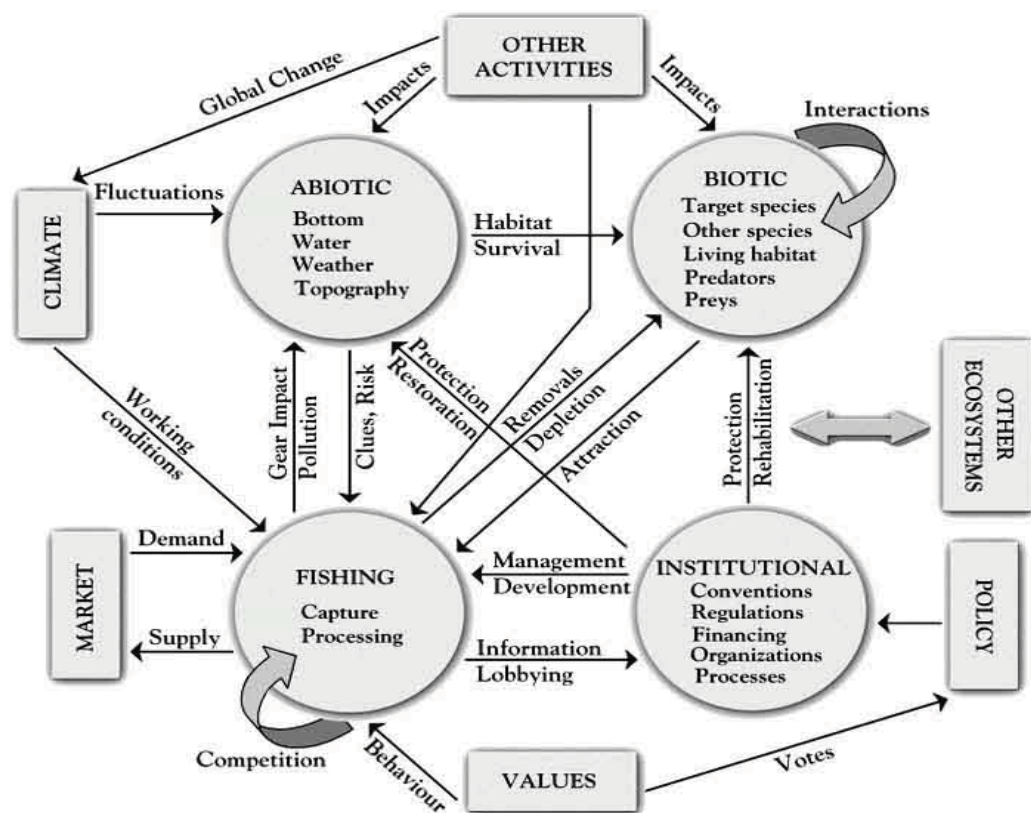


Figure 29

The nature and measurement of such ecological parameters helps to understand the total stability of the ecosystem in question. Of course the concept of equilibrium is more complex than this and there are many such theory's about equilibrium that lead to different conceptual understandings about how ecosystems function. In any case, an understanding of ecosystem dynamics as being fundamentally important to the way humans understand and organize themselves politically is essential.

### "Ecological Theory of Patch Dynamics"

On multiple scales, the theory of patch dynamics is concerned with the maintaining of the balance in an ecosystem. The idea is that through many diverse "patches", that are interconnected the totally system will be able to be sustained despite disturbances that may affect it periodically. The theory of Patch dynamics was widely discussed in the 1970's and describes the concept of a habitat patch as:

*"Any discrete area that is used by a species for breeding or for obtaining other resources. [1] They have a definite shape and spatial configuration, or heterogeneity. -Mosaics are the patterns within landscapes that are composed of smaller elements, such as individual forest stands, shrub land patches, highways, farms, or towns."*<sup>101</sup>

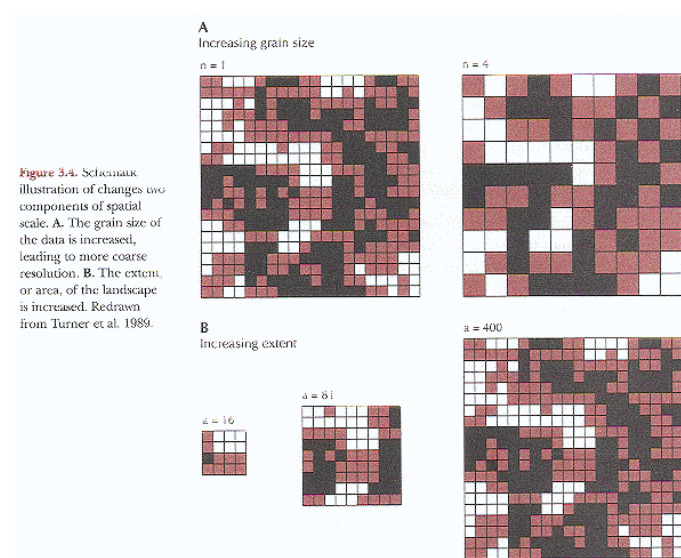


Figure 30

In the above diagram, the bio regions are represented as patches within a larger system, (the earth as a whole) with their exponentially smaller units eventually going down to the ecosystem scale. Human development i.e. industrialization changes the shape of the patch and so do human migrations. On this scale, patterns might be discovered in how patches transform and its relationship to the overall health of geographic regions. As the theory states, all landscapes are dynamic, and interestingly the stages that exist within the patch theory (which are potential, active, and degraded) can all be found occurring at the same time. This concept parallels the study of alternative futures in political science, where different scenarios can be seen as taking place at the same time including that of a transformative, continued growth, disciplined, or collapsed futures scenarios.

Patch Dynamics also has interesting Metaphysics implications. Within the world of multi-physics Patch dynamics<sup>102</sup> complex problems are solved by algorithms which classified, adapt and attack a problem with a mesh of solutions based upon the nature of the individual problem. Basically, the idea is that a wide range of integrated solutions is a better way to solve a complex problem sets in the long-term view. In application such mathematical theories could be easily seen applied to say the computer modeling of political entities where there is need to account for hundreds or even thousands of variables.

#### Alternative I.R. theories replace traditional Realism

Ultimately then, it should go without saying that one of the major goals of this political system is not simply for ecologism to practice “realism” in a green context. But instead it is a desire for the motivations, internal structures and that eco-political entities to generate new successful ways or organizing and diplomatic processes development. The point of referencing these complex systems of ecological mechanics is not to suggest there is some 1:1 relationship that exists in terms of the design of political systems and ecological mechanics. That would be simple reductionist reasoning.

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102 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch\\_dynamics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patch_dynamics))

On the contrary, it is important to understand the complexities at work as a reason to cautiously consider our international and domestic policy making, and take approaches that more closely investigate the connections between spheres of human political activity and their consequences. As scholars of systems thinking would admit, there are no easy or simple answers (and probably no write answers). Study of ecological science should in fact elucidate to the public-consciousness, that as a species existing as a part of the ecosystem it is important to understand our place within it and fundamentally design our governments to work harmoniously within it. In practice this means mitigating unnecessary risks to the status of equilibrium. In this regard (the ideological component) of ecologism of course follows closely the concept of naturalist I.R. theory. But there are also convergent yet separate I.R. theories that also explain ecologism in practice (application). Part of the recognition of a larger interconnected system is one of the main aspects of the theory of “interpretive constructivism”. This theory that shares some intellectual roots with “naturalism theory” is often argued as having:

*“A middle ground between the traditional social science I.R. approach of naturalism, rationalism, and materialism, on one hand, and post-structuralism’s radical rejection of a parallel with the natural sciences, on the other hand. Though this theory often rejects many of the key tenants to a naturalist approach they also convene on a number of points. Including the fact that identities of agents and actors in world politics are not fixed and are not the same in all regions and time periods in the way that rationalists presume. - They also agree in the statement that they believe agents in I.R. politics are not separable from the structure in which they develop (the environment in the ecologist standpoint). Constructivists also are highly critical of the rationalist conception of “anarchy”, especially the view that only one sort of anarchy is possible<sup>103</sup>It is the foundational approach to addressing environmental issues at home and abroad simultaneously utilizing theoretical foundations that are both practical and morally defensible, that will lead to solutions to climate change, enhancing national security by promoting a culture of “self-sufficiency”. The ultimate goal is of course moving human development to within acceptable standards, all which has to do with a new understanding of the relationship between humanity and the natural system. The United States has a great deal to do with facilitating these changes. Often touted as “the first nation” of the world we are amongst the world’s worst polluters. The argument is put succinctly by the statement: “A concerted effort to reduce the effects of climate change implies considerable inconvenience and even sacrifice, at least in the near term. Yet a people for whom freedom has become synonymous with consumption and self-actualization evince little appetite for either risk or sacrifice... “As long as Americans remain in denial-insisting the power of the United States is without limits-they will remain unlikely to do any of these things.<sup>104</sup>*

103 Bacevich. The Limits of Power.2008 (180)

104 Bacevich. The Limits of Power: 2008 (181)

*[The following narrative (and subsequent proposal of political entities) is meant to frame this new political context more concretely. These entities begin to address the elements of a new diplomacy and delve into the political, social, and economic implications within an ecological framework.]*

## 5.2 Preferred Futures Narrative-

### “The Macro Regional Development Model”

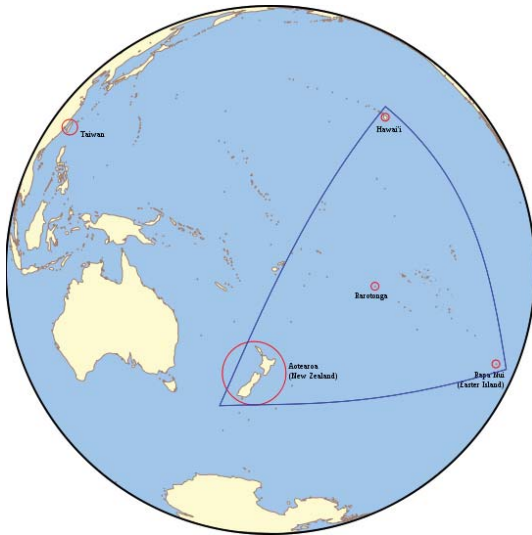


Figure 31

The rapidly growing power of the Association of Pacific Nations, a macro-regional political entity that initially grew out of the many treaties established by the Pacific International Environmental Community and other globally influential environmental security-focused organizations is now beginning to be studied as a new political model of organization. The PIEC originally was a community of member pacific nations that sought to understand the environmental impact of developing strong green industries to compete in the global economy.

The many political issues associated with the economic layers allowed for a synthesis between the environment and political policy. At its core, the APN acts as a direct representative and flexible alternative form of social organization for the many indigenous groups, societies and communities that would have otherwise in the past been swallowed up in the wake of power struggles between larger more organized and well funded nation-states.



The APN now acts as a figure-head for political representation of Polynesian nations throughout the Pacific as well as uniting in the support of many humanitarian causes including that of indigenous and under-represented peoples globally. The APN states that it maintains a long-term “global interest” that applies to all peoples along with the representation of the interest of the communities that make up the macro region. The crystallization of the APN in the early 2060’s allowed for a rapid departure from many of the political processes associated with nation states and the diplomatic processes of earlier decades. In the two decades since its foundation, the APN has proven successful in bringing to fruition a wide variety of goals based on its environmentally sensitive political agenda by responding through a variety of non-traditional diplomatic vehicles (in regards to its inter and intra-regional relationships).

It views the world at large as a collective of bio-regions. Early in its history the APN focused on channeling its pooled resources into research and development, pioneering new environmentally responsible industries and establishing the concept of “regional identity” as legitimate on a global scale. As a result of the APN has successfully capitalized on one of the most important political tools of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the “management of information.” Now the APN (as a collection of members) is seen as striving to achieve a position of “*collective information dominance*” as opposed to military or other forms. It has achieved this by building a fragmented, but stable and flexible political collective, that has extended and amplified its politically effective range through both physical and virtual diplomatic outlets. In terms of its scale, all nations of the Pacific have joined the APN and are represented by officials in order to take full advantage of the incentives that the collective can provide.

These advantages can be broken up to address most of the basic human needs. But among them include the open accessibility to information, advances in communications technology, health care systems, transportation, education, and even developmental initiatives in regards to “green modernization” at the regional and community level. But the APN also provides for a regional security including a rapid mobilization in the wake of humanitarian, and natural disasters and offering the benefits of services from being connected in a closed distribution loop relationship with the APN’s network of environmentally based industries.

As it grows the APN has even influenced traditional large nation-states, creating situations where the APN can deal with nations states for example on its own terms. For decades the APN has been working hard channeling the economic, social and environmental capital back into the region, and utilizing its unique geography and resources to build a strong regional security infrastructure through public and private commerce, institution and asset building strategies and futures research and development. It has also begun many experimental strategies such as supporting many of the technological foundations for viable and self-sustaining virtual infrastructure for diplomacy. Through these methods the APN has achieved its meteoric popularity through cooperative dependence upon a network of global actors to help concretely establish its political legitimacy as well as a dependence on many non-traditional forms of diplomacy.

Similar to other governmental organizations power at the regional level, rests in a congress of democratically elected representatives that convene regularly (both virtually and physically) to make decisions that affect their respective localities and interests. But from this point, the similarities with other political structures begin to diverge. The APN is different from many nation states in a number of fundamental ways. For one thing it is not only politicians that are able to be involved directly in the political process. The APN in practice is known as a political entity that operates on a tripartite power framework.



Figure 32

An Outline of the 3 Political entities.

This power framework comes from the understanding that in every political organization there are foundational branches of Theory, Data, and Practice that exist and must be addressed. This solutions is an attempt to systematically rectify the three elements. The APN itself has positioned itself as a fourth member that has some special privileges such as conducting meditations between the three entities, but is seen in general as the “host government” within the political collective. As a result, power is cooperatively meshed through 3 political entities that all address different scales and functions of diplomatic representation based on their ideal strengths and weaknesses. These three entities form the combined political strength of the APN.

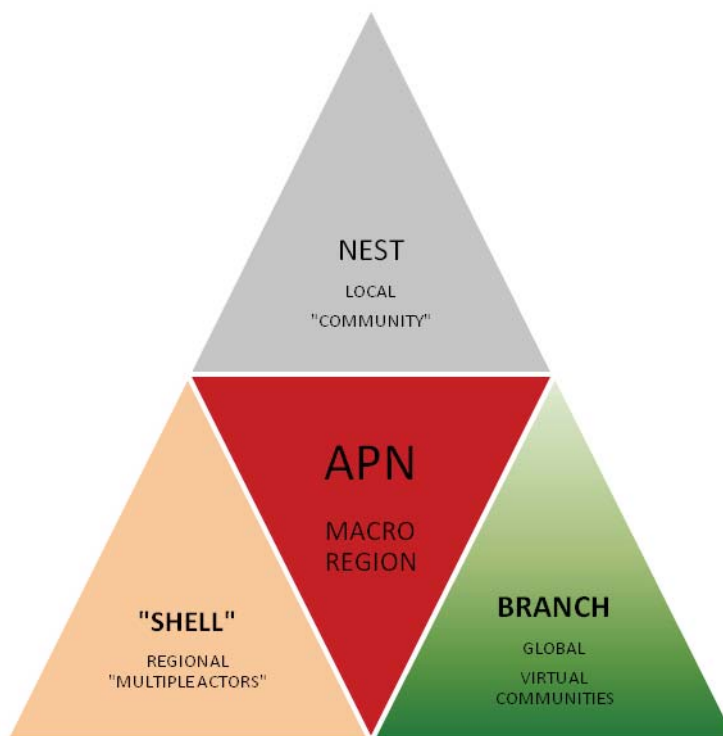


Figure 33

### Nest Entities

Nest “entities” are understood as the representations of the communities that make up the bio-regions. They form a very physical presence within the APN and are interested in the representation of their communities interests politically inside and outside of the region. Nests are the incubators of culturally based-political platforms. They are seen as the “protectors” of the political integrity of their own regions through a formation of ideological/theoretical tenants, and the maintaining of the cultural/historical tapestry within their communities. In terms of organization Nests are organized through methods legitimized by the members of the APN.

Representation on the APN is made up in part by Nest officials who regularly convene to establish initiatives that trickle down to the community level. Additionally, for added accountability APN members must have vested interest in the regions that they serve as a requirement. This is essentially an approach at attempting to “mesh interests” between related actors and create politically neutral environments. Forming relationships between the local, regional, and global government is an involved process. A variety of structures are thus set up to gauge and facilitate this organization.

### Shell Entities

“Shell Entities” have evolved from the corporate cultures of the past but now function under an Ecological framework( through the green political economy). As such, they practice more of what could be considered para-diplomacy because of the wide range of Actors that are involved at this level. The influence of multinational organizations (MNU’s), advocacy groups, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) has expanded within the APN so that its representation has become paramount to the success of the region. The APN maintains a system of representation of the Shell networks that has retained the interests of the communities that their actions effect.

As a result of the APN's commitment to international environmental treaties, shell organizations that they associate with must shoulder a large burden of responsibility (both inside and outside of the region) conducting intensive environmental research, planning, and assessment (subject to review) before their contracts can be honored by the communities they serve. Because of the increasing complexity of issues and actors to manage, many shell entities have heterarchical or autonomous organizational structures that work within larger structures to allow for flexibility in problem solving. The focus of shell networks is seen on a regional context because these powerful corporations and groups represent the physical arm of the APN by "building the change" that is seen in societies and ultimately helping to define the regional "character" and uniqueness of a place, depending on the types of contracts they get. As a result there is a unique relationship of balance, an equilibrium that must exist to manage the power of such organizations to be tailored to the needs of the clients they serve.

#### Branch Entities

The final political entities are known as "Branch" entities. Branches from the start are a different type of diplomatic response. They depend on the strength of a purely invisible concept of organization. Called so because of their organic nature of formation and self-organization, branches operate on the notion of virtual diplomacy and serve the interests of globally connected virtual communities. At the core, branch entities are organized around a logic of social networking theory and "networking logic".

All VC's place importance on the idea that people can practice diplomacy through a wide variety of non-traditional media exclusively citing the fundamental human right of accessibility to information that has the potential to change ones circumstances for the better. A multi-lateral treaty known as the Global Information Act (or GIA) acts as a dynamic and "open-source" constitution- generated by the communities it serves – and used to governs the rules of conduct for the formation, proper activities, and possible diplomatic outlets of its member communities.

As such, the nature of the branch entities organization is always in a state of flux. Dynamically, new actors, issues and relationships form that can possibly influence power relationships within the APN as well. Branches work by essentially pooling the interests of individuals into “virtual communities”. The political charged data that these branches seed from the environment often form enough momentum for a political platform to be generated. These VC’s then self organize throughout the network, clustering, dividing and connecting around a political issue until large stable constellations emerge that are organized, politically focused, and have assets to help in achieving their agenda’s and platforms.

VC’s can have any form of organization but a standard “template” made available through the G.I.A suggests organizing VC’s around a number of “engines” that will effectively generate successful policy implementation. With elaborate and diverse means of coercion through virtually all media channels, financial pooling and the interconnected nature of their virtual framework the power implications of virtual diplomacy is still being discussed. A virtual community belongs to the individuals that choose to organize and administrate it. The branch system is concerned with legitimizing actors that have been verified by a internationally agreed upon process. When identified, virtual communities can interact and take part in the virtual diplomatic infrastructure. VC’s can range from being very stable, “politically legitimate and effective organizations” that are respected by a wide variety of important actors to entities that have ties with terrorism and other hostile political groups. The Branch system uses advanced tools to locate and eliminate such organizations using complex technology. There are a wide range of issues that are brand new concerning the nature of virtual diplomacy. As such they are the most controversial diplomatic vehicle. The APN's relationship with Branch entities is that of a member of Tier 1 virtual communities.

The Tier's denote the level of influence that Virtual communities have within the international context. . It chooses to use this outlet of diplomacy in order to add political legitimacy to the branch system as well as to create an outlet of data management , control and security over its own “virtual identity”. In this, the political reach of the APN is also extended to a global scale as it can benefit from the organization and asset pooling of like-minded communities elsewhere.

The APN increasingly evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of this format of diplomacy, particularly following organizational trends that may influence the political behavior of the APN (either through one of its branches or as an organization altogether). The APN has modeled a government where these three unique entities share power with one another to further the development of the macro region parallel to the interests of the entities own causes.

### The Characteristics of living within the Macro-Regional System

Members of this pacific community move easily due to advanced transportation and security networks that maximize safety while cutting down on redundancy-a task that is delegated to the machine. Bureaucracy is kept to a minimum within its ranks by depending heavily on technological development and allowing organic decision-making structures to develop. This allows people to have meaningful interactions and focus on making their societies work based upon agreed upon models.

A monetary system has been established which places it on more equal playing field in a global context. Along with this, individuals are free to experiment with asset identification strategies that may not place financial assets as the most important priority. Such communities have an aggressive agenda that fosters a sense of self-sufficiency and dependence on the land .Along with this, the community is sensitive to outsider groups and is known for being inviting, open and inclusive of a wide range of cultures and ideologies. This is evident in the security culture that the APN projects.

While the APN does not utilize militarized forces to ensure security by force throughout all of its regions, it does employ a standing self-defense force, which can be quickly mobilized to achieve a wide variety of goals from international environmental crises relief, to refugee placement, and the resolving of border disputes. The latter is minimized by the fact that the APN is strategic in terms of practicing economic and other forms of self-defense, and the fact that technically the APN has no borders as member nations, societies, and constituents exist throughout the world and virtually. When it comes to conflict, the position of the APN is to attempt a wide variety of policies that are based in ecologism theory for example, before resulting to coercion through force.



## Future Human Development



Figure 34

The true nature of the ecological relationships will result in the Eco-City or “Eco-political” model of development. A transformation of extremely uncomfortable, dense urban areas will occur rapidly and be welcomed due to their uninhabitable living conditions. Population growth and the resulting strain on resources will call for large-scale changes in human developmental patterns that will require a great deal of coordination, on a variety of levels. The energy modeling of cities will be a topic of intense discussion and planning, a transformation of “currently inadequate cities” will begin a new renaissance of green living while examples that are more rural will focus on appropriate developmental models to manage growth and preserve environmental character. In some cases, this may mean the opposite of development or “de-development” strategies focused on maintaining balance within an ecosystem. One place where effective government will be extremely necessary is in the curtailing of such an enormous effort, and I will lay out how structurally it might be accomplished further into the narrative. At the beginning of this age, a variety of experimental cities will emerge that will undoubtedly represent the new culture in terms of their sheer eclecticism.

These societies will be born from different cultures united by similar ideologies and shaped through, organic growth, new ideas/theories, and regional distinctiveness. But some of these novelties (first seen as desperate attempts to solve seemingly hopeless environmental crises) may give way to new life patterns that eventually are seen as normal for its inhabitants. It is therefore, not difficult to imagine entire green cities that take on the characteristics of their bio-regions in distinctiveness and productivity. They may ultimately become as distinct as nature itself! Naturally, new organizational structures will be necessary on all levels of government in order to ensure the intelligent design of the organic metropolis and all the complicated specializations that support it.

#### Assembled -vs. Constructed

This is necessary not simply because of some form of band-wagoning or “woolly minded” liberalism” related to ideas about loving the earth. Rather it is a practical philosophy of responsible technological design that ensures that smaller components can one day lay the foundation for larger more complex and scalable systems. Mass-Customization and “Assembly” from a kit of pre designed elements will come to replace the ideology of “Construction” from a globally available and (expensive) mass of raw materials. In this society, information will be the tool of commodity and a viable source of capital. Mass componentization is possible in a world where hyper-industrialization and advanced prefabrication systems are commonplace commoditized elements. As prefabrication becomes commonplace a desire for interchangeable parts to serve a variety of functions will lead to the customization aspect, intelligent modularization throughout a wide variety of industries.

#### Open Source vs. Outsource.

Design will become very important in all aspects of life and the machine will be the hammer that allows for it to have wide reaching effects. Componentization will actually play a much greater role in development ( as people seek simple elegant solutions to a complex number of problems). New technologies available to the public will need to be cheap and leave increasingly smaller ecological footprints. The culture of self-sufficiency will promote individuals to develop their own prototypes in all industries.

As a result, a culture of Open Source development will begin to affect the business models of even large nations. The idea of smaller groups customizing products to a high level of quality and then distributing freely and still turning a profit is already occurring today, and will become increasingly more possible in the future. With a basic kit of tools, the general population that is highly technically skilled and capable of speaking in a variety of languages (including computer language) will have a much larger and technically oriented skill set. As a result of the increase in knowledge and the ability to distribute product relatively easily, a wider range of individuals will be able to take part in the global economy and become successful. Different organizational models that achieve the same good economic principles through a variety of ways, may prove to be successful. This will of course push for increasingly ingenious solutions to problems (in order to remain competitive) and ultimately give rise to creativity and ingenuity in culture.

#### Technological Reform

In the same way that human development is to be scrutinized, then technology should also be scrutinized for it has far too often been used as a tool for violence in one form or another. The ethics of science must be defined and discussed continually, science cannot afford to turn its back on a wide variety of perspectives and the environmental perspective is admittedly just one of them. The utilization of international organizations dedicated to futures research technologies will be a necessity in the global effort to effectively monitor and maintain environmental influences and elevate global societies to a position of equality. Much of this might occur anyway in a world where greed is not rewarded.

History does not necessarily point to the conclusion that states end up achieving the best for their citizens practicing economic principles that state that greed leads to an improved overall welfare and productivity despite the essentially selfish rationale. But besides the moral arguments there are structural solutions that may further this goal.

### Ubiquitous Tech- a model of Integration

In regards to the environment, the imposing of “regulatory and feedback mechanisms” that constantly monitor and ensure the health of the system will be necessary. This implies a system of Layered intelligence or “node-structuring” where systems increasing in their intelligence ultimately link to give a clear picture about some topic. This system in itself will contain built in redundancy to assure accuracy as the “seeding” of such data fragments will constitute a great deal of information that goes into policy making decisions.

These elements will quickly become fully integrated into the built environment ultimately creating a new level of understanding in terms of building design. This can occur by Industry through the structural solution of regulatory agencies streamlined to meet an internationally endorsed (but regionally adapted) model. An example of this exists in the U.S. Construction industry. The USGBC regulates design through systems such as L.E.E.D (which has even been accepted overseas) but even those systems contain gaps due to varying environmental policy and economic factors resulting in their limited reach. My society has a much more integrated system that starts at the level of raw materials and is carried through to post-occupancy to assure compliance.

This level of integration “as an ultimate goal” ensures a certain degree of environmental responsibility from even before pre-design. This system also completely transforms the concept of waste. Perhaps a much deeper ingrained transformation however will occur when technological development has advanced to the level of being able to use biological/chemical based technologies (bio-mimicry). One such advance has already begun in the form of computer design.

*"Brains process information in massive parallel flows while computers process data linearly. "Neural Net" computers digest vast amounts of data, then seek relationships between the data and actual outcomes."* <sup>105</sup>

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105 Benyus, Jane ,Biomimicry-Innovation Inspired by nature, Harper Perenial NY 1997 (196)

The implications will change most industries forever. These types of technologies that rely on deeply connected systems with highly intelligent processing power will lead to the development of various foundational building blocks for an era of pervasive computing. In this aspect, our societies might hope to mimic the complexity of ecosystems. It would be possible to utilize complex self-regulating systems to accomplish a wide variety of fundamental tasks. These foundational building blocks such as microchips, and computers/ coupled with the ability to monitor these systems will not only be extremely cheap, scalable and environmentally sound, but may truly transform social organizations in their ability to harness energy in new ways.

#### Archival of Human Development Patterns.

Archivists also have an essential role as mediators on an inter-regional level and use representatives to balance communities populations/economies/and “green power potential” always offering a “big picture” perspective to individuals within the community. Technology aides in the monumental task of taking the “seeded data” from communities and building advanced models that are relevant and usable. This data comes from countless sources including climactic data and a wide range of categorized demographics. The goal of the science is to monitor and understand patterns of human development and its ultimate relationship with the global ecosystem.

Given the results of the data collection and large degree of political power that Archivists’ information has, they are held to a high level of responsibility within the community. Groups of Archivists operate in a class outside of the political arena, private interests, and government factions are not allowed to influence their projections, as such, their position is one of true public servants. As a result, the conclusions they develop are viewed as generally unbiased but ultimately it is the communities that decide a course of action. In addition, transparency exists. Records are routinely made available to the general public and summaries are made around times of political assembly for discussion of the most important topics. Findings on this level are then archived with the help of advanced GIS systems that have overlay 2D data onto three-dimensional maps. This model is designed to be scaled and studied and to offer increasingly equal values with which to evaluate the development of societies.

These findings ultimately influence communities in defining development agendas that are broken up into decades-long development objectives. While some communities will shun the technocratic solution, others will whole-heartedly accept it (with varying results). This will have consequences in everything from Governmental Structures to the making of law. The emergence of order may exist on a variety of levels. While human societies might be more, “free” to govern themselves as they wish in the future, certain social structures may (ironically) necessarily become more rigid to allow for this flexibility without the danger of the system falling apart. As a rule, though within large regions there will be three levels of organization each with its own environmental focus. These include that of the local community (the ecosystem), the region (bio-regions), and the continent (biomes).

#### New Spatial Definitions Emerge

As far as cities go, a great transformation will occur in the realm of sustainable design. For one thing viewing the city in the context of a separate place disconnected from other communities will begin to transform into a much larger context as author Harvey Friedman states:

*“Cities have traditionally been analyzed as contiguous urban spaces undergoing their own dynamics and problems. During the past two decades or so, various urban theorists have started to forcefully include globalization dynamics in studying the city, claiming that it is now necessary to include a wider societal space to understand the urban complexity.”<sup>106</sup>*

*“Theories have seen trends of three main lines of thought through which the new city might evolve namely, the post-modern city (Harvey 1989), the global city (Friedmann 1986; Sassen 2001, 1994), and the informational city (Castells 1996)”<sup>107</sup>.*

Though they differ in terms of which actors hold the most importance greater emphasis is placed on “*global capitalism and global networks “from above,”* portraying the global as a vehicle for carrying dynamic flows and economic forces, while the local remains the place of assimilation of such forces, in which the state becomes nearly irrelevant.<sup>108</sup>

106 Spaargaren, Gert (Editor); Mol, Arthur P. J. (Editor); Buttel, Frederick H. (Editor). *Governing Environmental Flows: Global Challenges to Social Theory*. Cambridge, MA, USA: MIT Press, 2006. (326)

107 Spaargaren, et al. *Governing Environmental Flows*. 2006. 326

108 Spaargaren, et al. *Governing Environmental Flows*. 2006. 326

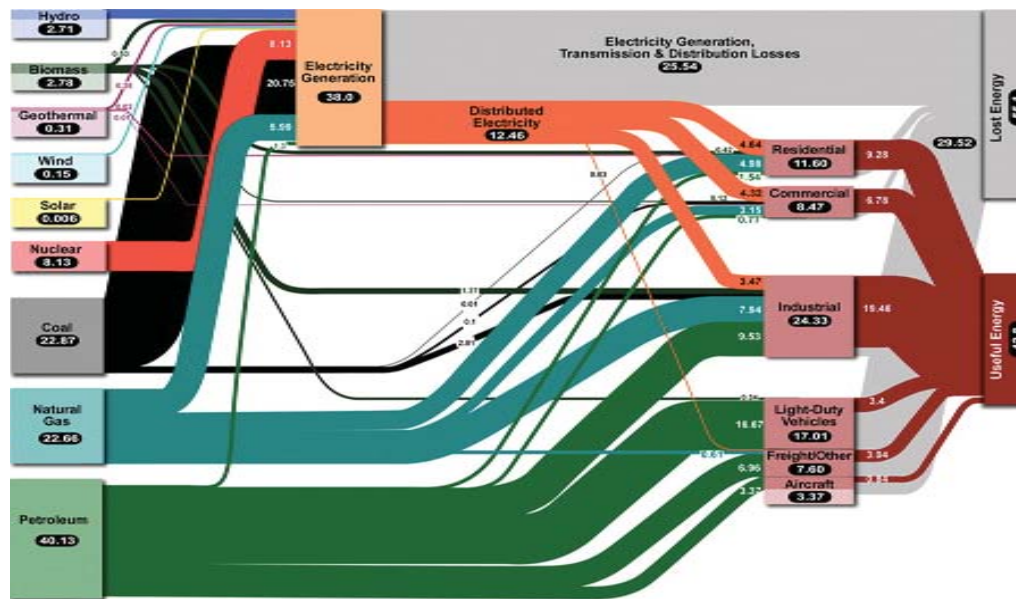


Figure 35 - The City as understood through flows of diverted energy/resources.

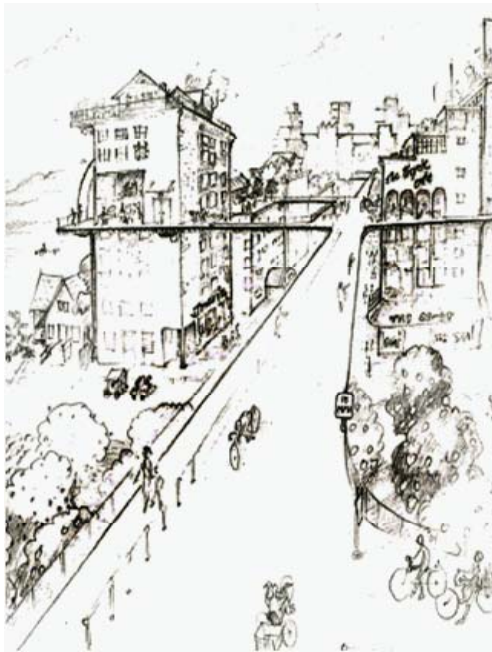
In any case, the design of such cities will be highly connected to various levels of influence by being organized under environmental consensus and public opinion. The deep integration of the environmental aspects in a diverse web of human activity will overtime become ordinances and codes that help to define what eco-cities should look like. This should ensure that a balance is found between the various extreme conditions in such places that allow them to function sustainably. The desire is not to restrict design but to filter our negative environmental impacts. The Above model represents a situation where global and local management of environmental policy interacts to create appropriate environmental responses within the various interconnected cities. The regulation of this practice may in time, become transformed into legally binding codes and ordinances that will hopefully reflect clearer understanding of the interface between humans and the natural environment. Having distinct design goals will further allow human societies to push the envelope and will ultimately be seen as a means of testing creative limits. In heavily populated areas, these restrictions will of course be much more stringent, but with the impetus of development relying on systems that must be fully integrated and designed for a specific purpose, it may be much more difficult to cut corners.



Living within a closed circuit system, the inhabitants of this society are fundamentally unrestricted and “freer” in their ability to be mobile, educated and more socially connected than ever.

### Educational System

Another major structure for enforcing ecological principles is through the educational system. The basic educational circuit will involve an individual gaining a deeper understanding of complex global systems. Regionally, this is made possible by advanced transportation technology allowing residents in different bio-regions to travel without having huge negative environmental impacts-due to emissions or pollution. The economic patterns of people will also be measured to obtain information about in-balances that may occur within the economy. There is a measure of responsibility for maintaining where they live and respecting its connection to other places-, these lessons are further encouraged through (corporation provided) incentives in education in the form of global travel, scholarship, and exposure to different types of communities that help form well



rounded individuals. Education may be very different because of further research involving how genders learn after the basic education, the portion of the population that has settled (post-general education) can go into a variety of paths. Their endeavors provide feedback from their ecosystems both through their own experience and life patterns, as well as technological monitoring of the environment that is structurally ingrained into all professions in one way or another. In this way, everyone taking part, and making a positive impact in the global green economy as a way of life.

Figure 36

### Three political “Entities” emerging under the Macro Regional Development model

{The following chapters outline the characteristic of 3 new diplomatic entities that emerge under the eco-political framework}

#### 5.3 “Nest” - Investigations into community based Diplomatic Representation Defining Elements of local

##### “Nest” Entities

At the local levels, people are concerned with their immediate lives and maintaining harmonious balance with the environment. This includes the ability to modify their own environments in unique ways that are sustainable and functional but also artistic, retaining spatial interest. The inspiration will come from the inexhaustible creativity found in nature itself. The character of “places” may grow to be more distinct because even though building techniques will continue to advance and be standardized, so will a desire to live in interesting structures and solve problems dealing with issues like population growth and the planning of cities.

These endeavors will all occur within the shadow of larger more complex systems as they do now. At the local level, the communal nature of the political system demands that such “forums for public interest” exist. The embassy responds to concerns at an individual level. These issues include creating political structures that make it easier to move between geographic regions (i.e. increased mobility). A great deal of attention at the local level however is geared towards encouraging the sustainable development of communities. The goal is not to impart a standard or template for all communities to follow, but to create a consensus for sustainable design that accommodates cultural differences while integrating some global and regional systems smoothly (economic, distribution, manufacturing etc).

##### **Scope:**

Primarily working with communities within the regional network often with Permanent-Missions (varies based on subject/location and goals) can global influence.

**Mission:**

Nests are incubators of political platforms borne out of member communities. Nests attempt to achieve the global recognition of “under-represented groups” through a variety of vehicles. Nests are concerned with the diplomatic relations of “Regional Communities” and their interactions between each other and between other political bodies globally outside of the region. There is also an ongoing mission to expand the power base of the nest networks so that they continuously leverage their power bases along the lines of the actors that they are dealing with.

**Main vehicle of diplomacy:**

A combination of political vehicles exist. The Regional nests often operate based on representatives elected from their respective communities. Nests consolidate power and are concerned with inter-regional relationships that heavily deal with environmental issues, and thus are directly related to economic wealth. They may be acting along democratic processes to elect these officials or through cultural/traditional/or religious traditions.

**Functions.**

- Legitimizing of “under-represented groups” identified through democratic processes
- Establishing Power Bases by focusing accessibility of information & orchestrating objectives and facilitating goals of communities in terms of development intra and inter regionally
- Assisting in ongoing Diplomatic process, both between regional communities and political organizations outside of the immediate influence of the region
- Continuous building of Security Protocols that allow for open environmentally sensitive mobility, trade, cultural exchange, and commerce within the region between regions and between other actors.
- Maintaining Diplomatic presence and negotiating with other actors
- Continuously developing the regional charter
- Identifying "model" communities

**Intervention Strategies-**

- Cooperative Power
- Community forum- direct interaction with regional representatives
- Grass roots organization/ economic and community support
- Local virtual/media interaction and relationships tapping into branch networks
- Claims to historical/traditional and cultural importance linked to arguments

### **Political Legitimacy Based on:**

133

- Regional Security Agreements
- Cultural and Ethnographically centered Autonomy
- Confederation of aligned nation's groups, and organizations, i.e.
- Cooperative political power and influence.
- Ideological Basis: Sovereignty of the region/individual vs. or along with National sovereignty.

### **Characteristics of Mission:**

Varying degrees of fragmented, organizations operating within different legal systems that function and achieve goals under the same charter. Nests are involved in designing political agendas from inception to implementation. Nests filter out ideas that are detrimental and work on incubating strong political platforms that can be presented at the highest levels as policy. Political consequences often differ with Nationalistic Interests but do to similarities in organizational structure sometimes fall in line with nationalistic tendencies. As such they are from within the network very open, accessible and connected. Though from outside they can seem protected.

### **Organization:**

Nest organizations focus on organizing information coming from a wide variety of sources including branch and shell networks. In many cases they interact with these organizations to build logic streams that incorporate a "full picture" of how political action might affect the community and the region. There is an interplay between a political plan and the information that supports it especially because information is available in real time and effects environmental policy. Organizers of nests are often publicly elected diplomats who call on professionals to create hierarchies that are effective in representing the needs of the communities. "Meshing" allows power redistribution to ensure that community members have vested interests in the organizations that are representing or serving their causes. Therefore organization can vary based on a wide variety of factors. In either case communications technologies help to standardize the way that these networks relate to one another.

<b>POLITICAL ASSUMPTIONS CHART</b>			
"Nest Networks"			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>General Principles</b>	<b>Theoretical Background</b>
<b>Organization</b>	Organizing communities into political units with political leverage, Encouraging regional interaction, and building up regional security through eco-political interactions	Community Initiatives Sponsored Organization, Cultural Promotion & Demonstration, Splinter Organizations	Constructivism, Liberalism
<b>Macro-Regional Security Treaty</b>	standardize security practices within regional boundaries. Establish protocol for dealing extra-regionally. Promoting openness, Organizing Environmental Crises Prevention/ Management/ and maintain self-defense networks	regional security conferences, Self Defense Forces, Environmental Crises Response teams	Ecologism, Constructivism
<b>Integration</b>	Establish Regular diplomatic relationships with different regions within the network, maintain open and dynamic communications. Present a strong political front (unification) Provides opportunities for political "niches" within regions. Organizing communities into political units with political leverage, Encouraging regional interaction, and building up regional security through eco-political interactions	Regional Congress Formation, elected regional representatives, community representatives, organizers etc	Ecologism, Constructivism
<b>Mediation</b>	Peaceful Conflict Management Strategies	Regional Conflict Resolution Seminars, Culturally Based Conflict Resolution Strategies, Assigning Outside Party for Mediation	Ecologism, Constructivism
<b>Built-In Feedback and Response Mechanisms</b>	Ensuring a dynamic political climate/ facilitate change easier/make community involvement a structural consideration	Connection to served communities through "meshing" of interests. Focus on Regional Scale Interactions	Ecologism
<b>Isolation Strategies - In the form of: Economic, Intellectual Property, data</b>	Cutting off "nutrients" from the source allows errant regions to stagnate politically	Directly Influencing economic potential of other actors by means of sanctions & other competing strategies meant to discourage..	Realism, Ecologism

Figure 37

#### 5.4 “Shell”- Investigations into an eco-political corporate Organizational model Defining Elements of Regional Political Space

On the bio-regional level, representatives oversee the affects of human development on entire regions. The patterns they see forming in regards to development and the dynamically changing inter-relationship between regional characteristics are used to create advanced models. This information is directly put into the hands of the people so they may choose to form their communities accordingly based on a variety of variables.

When individuals consider moving to a different region they take into consideration their future plans and the development plans of their communities and their regions as well. Cultural and Traditional aspects also factor into these models. The monitoring of this degree of social development takes place through government sponsored Archives. These structures have different roles depending on what level of government they are dealing with but essentially are concerned with the overall patterns of human development. Archived information might be made available to foreign dignitaries, in Embassies or to the general public. A degree of it may be understandably classified, but a great deal of the process will be more transparent than it ever has been throughout human history.

#### **The important role of Green Corporations in the Global Economy**

Much of their work is delegated to Green Corporations, which have power, influence and mobility to act on a Global Scale. These Corporations might easily outlast certain types of governments due to their stability. This version of “Green Power”, is derived directly from the Green Economy, and its relationship to maintaining the closed circuit industries. These industries focus on achieving cradle-to-cradle<sup>109</sup> design from implementation to end product. However, there are other non-capitalist agencies, which control other aspects of green power as well. In the corporate model, this power comes with the great responsibility of having to juggle a variety of bureaucratic interests successfully from local community upward. Green corporations offer the stability of the large-scale capitalist services that make up the important Infrastructures of society.

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109 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle\\_to\\_cradle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle_to_cradle)

The government then, delegates much of its contracts to semi-private firms of varying size. These Corporations have the ability to shape to a certain degree how their bio-regions will look though even their power is balanced by a wide range of factors including the desires of the local communities that they serve and the government boards that oversee them. These firms provide a level of organization and also “brands” of ecological stewardship that are made distinct by the leaders that run them.

This provides a wide variety of solutions to problems on a global scale, that governments would not be able to deal with due to complicated bureaucracies. In this way, Corporations provide a clear link between local representation and achieving global environmental objectives.

### **Regional Diplomatic Structures**

At the regional scale, the focus becomes not just the relationships between regions, but also how that information is communicated to lower and higher levels of governance. A higher level of organization is necessary for taking in large amounts of data and processing it into useful political agenda. At this level, diplomats from respective regions constantly interact to maintain the balances of power between their regions through a variety of agreements. That being said the workforce would require a high degree of highly-mobile specialists engaged in speculation about how development should occur across “soft” and “hard” boundaries.

At the same time, regionalists are still acting under some global mandates that influence environmental law and development patterns. At this level, the public has access as well in the form of regional representation. The regional scale in many cases is a bridge between implementing global issues in a manageable way to smaller communities, and informing the global system of trends developing within smaller “patches”, in either case each should inform the other.



**Scope:**

Primarily a Network of Organizations. Shell networks are specialists that compile data seeded from Branch Networks in an effort to build strong cases that can have legal, social, cultural, environmental, economic or political implications.

**Origins/Theory:**

Shell networks are indicative of a community that has developed from the Corporate cultures of the past. But under the ecological framework there are some major differences.

Shell networks are closely integrated into the developmental objectives of governments and other political actors that are working under the ecological framework of development on a variety of scales. As a result there is a clear picture of local, regional, and global eco-political goals and each is dealt with appropriately and sensitively. Shells also offer the corporate organization needed to put theories that have been developed into practice.

**Mission & Identity:**

They are a community of Multinational organizations that are united in Ecological Causes. Shells are made up of analysts, scientists, think tanks and specialists that focus on understanding underlying issues. Shells may work closely with such organizations but it is simply because there is a relationship between their information and it being put into practice most effectively. In general, shells are contracted through many organizations and are generally thought of as being apolitical or without political affiliation- despite this fact shells are heavily utilized because their influence is based upon availability to a wide variety of global "assets". In accordance with the Global information act along with an exhaustive list of humanitarian and environmental agreements legitimate shell networks have strict operating procedures for methods of data collection and information mining. This is due to the strict information law tenants that they must adhere to.

### **Main vehicle of diplomacy:**

A combination of political vehicles exist. Multinational corporations and other actors such as NGO's and the like operate on the scale that is suitable for this environment. The shell networks often operate based on arrangements between the communities they service and their core constituents/investors. The power of the Shell networks is primarily economically based. There is also an ongoing mission to "protect" an issue until it is developed enough to stand on its own feet politically, and receive public scrutiny.

Shells are obviously involved in global scale assessments of environmental data and planning based on logic streams constructed by that data and this is primarily what governments contract them to do within the framework of the global ecologic policy machine. Part of their work goes into the global report, which is an environmentally based media outlet that works with authorities to frame environmentally related issues and push ecologically sensitive developmental objectives by region.

### **Functions.**

- Building of logic streams to support causes i.e. Aligning environmental policy to political.
- Working for constituents based on factors other than solely economic gain
- Assisting in mediations to sensitive political issues by providing critical data, simulations, futures projections and research.
- Maintaining Diplomatic presence and negotiating with other actors
- Continuously developing the regional charter
- Investigating cases of corrupted data
- Assigning ecological initiatives to regions and otherwise.

### **Political Process /Intervention-**

- Cooperative Power – networks of corporations.
- Community involvement- ongoing relationship with communities, accountability
- Local virtual/media interaction and relationships tapping into branch networks

**Political Legitimacy Based on:**

- Scope and Ability of Multi-National Organizations to influence political policy Due to their integration into Cultural and geographic networks through the ecological economy.

**Ideological Basis:**

- Sovereignty of the Corporate vs.or along with National sovereignty.

**Characteristics of Mission:**

Highly organized bodies with complex political networks. Shells are interested in the implementation of eco-political agendas. They are the most closed community but operate on varying levels of openness within the community. Importance of space based on inter-relationships and leverage.

**Challenges/Threats:**

- Operating within different legal systems that function and achieve goals under the same charter. Integration into communities where corporate influence is limited by law.

**Organization:**

Organization often relates to the heterarchy and power of the corporations that make up the collective. Structural power meshing agreements demand that heterarchies are set up that allow the meshing of interests which allow for a two way power flow between corporations and the communities they serve. Within a Ecologically focused economy, there may be major differences in how organizations decide to do business when compared to traditional corporations especially when the objectives change from simply dominating economically.

**How is it accessed:**

- Individual virtual access points
- Scalable (can incorporate groups virtually)
- Community/through the organization
- Virtual element
- Physical offices
- Meshing of corporate structure through organizational heterarchies.

**POLITICAL ASSUMPTIONS CHART**

“Shell Networks” – Serve  
“Regional Interests

Policy	Rationale	General Principles	Theoretical Background
<b>Open Research Policy</b>	Working towards developing cooperative, ecologically sensitive political objectives including the modeling of Human Development Patterns over time, Element of Global Security, Desire for Transparency	Logic Stream Archival & Development, Futures Scenario Modeling, Research and Development, Prototyping short & long term, Transparent methods	Realism, Constructivism, Liberalism, Idealism
<b>Isolated Research Periods (Incubation)</b>	Initiating action only after a level of Development to then be subject to Scrutiny by outside parties - maintains distance between political influence and biases	Private Research Initiatives, Developmental Initiatives, Environmental Initiatives, Security Research	Ecologism
<b>Regional Platform Building (Maturity)</b>	Taking an Environmental stance at the Regional Level. Helps to define and standardize character of region based on developmental goals and intra-inter regional diplomatic standards	Shared regional initiatives Shared power opportunities, Community Responsibility & Environmental Assessment	Ecologism, Constructivism
<b>Economic Defense Strategies</b>	Protective the interests of the served communities/region through practicing defensive/coercive economic strategies	Re-Structuring of satellite organizations, De-Incentivization through contract re-negotiations, corporate buyouts/takeovers or industry focus shift	Realism, Ecologism
<b>Built-In Feedback and Response Mechanisms</b>	Ensuring a dynamic political climate/ facilitate change easier/make community involvement a structural consideration	Connection to served communities through “meshing” of interests. Absorption of community reps with vested interests into corporate boards	Ecologism
<b>Economic Attack Strategies</b>	In lieu of other disincentives not working effectively “corporate pools” can economically attack parties by exponentially scaling back its operations and thus economic potential in ways that hurt said party	Directly Influencing economic potential of party through: Influencing labor potential ( hiring/firings)	Realism

Figure 38

## 5.5 “Branch” -Investigations into the self-organizing “Virtual Community” Model Defining Elements of Global Political Space

### **Scope:**

Global network From Transient to Permanent-Missions (varies based on subject/location and goals)

### **Origins/Theory:**

Branch networks evolved from the complex interactions between intelligence communities, as well as the organic growth of the net and a desire to address issues that go beyond borders. The branch approach stems from underlying theories about information management, and “sculpting” the flow of information to create political consequences. As a result information collection has become an art and a certain amount of “light espionage” or information sharing is expected due to the connected nature of these networks

### **Mission & Identity:**

To legitimize, protect, and further the agenda’s of a network of “Virtual Communities” in their interactions between each other and between other political bodies globally. There is also an ongoing mission to develop and further Non-Traditional forms of diplomacy based on the agreements set forth in the Global Information Act.

### **Environmental Element:**

Branch networks operate within the framework of the Global Eco-Political Economy. This means that the “playing field” and goals with economic and political objectives usually all are interconnected with some environmental issue foundationally.

### **Main vehicle of diplomacy:**

A highly advanced virtual framework exists and is viewed by all involved actors as legitimate. As such there are various types of diplomacy that are carried out depending on the issue and the parties involved. Due to the Global Information Act, the system is designed in such a way to make the nature of interactions a concept that is as neutral as possible.

For example when representatives meet in certain virtual conferences, aspects of race, gender or other distinguishing factors can be censored, making it more difficult for others to associate prejudices with a certain platform. The goal is to politically (at least on the virtual plane) only be left with the weight of the issue. There is a need for the security interface to maintain a distance from all members involved in the system, as such the virtual interface was designed and is maintained by shell networks that function outside of the political spheres of influence

**Functions. :**

- Legitimizing of “virtual communities” by regulations and bylaws of GIA.
- Establishing Power Bases by focusing accessibility of information & orchestrating objectives and facilitating goals of virtual communities as allowable under the bylaws of GIA.
- Assisting in ongoing Diplomatic process, both between VC’s and political organizations outside of the virtual realm
- Continuous building of Security Protocols that allow for the open flow of accurate information
- Maintaining Diplomatic presence and negotiating VC/Media relationships
- Continuously developing the Global Information Act.
- Political Process
- Intervention/Influence-
- Cooperative Power – Tapping into the power of Virtual Communities and exploiting the key advantages of them.
- Virtual Speak Out – Calls to organize fragmented groups into VC’s that can influence policy.

**Coercion:**

- Intervention by way of tapping into powerful Media Networks.
- “Electronic Demonstrations/Propaganda”- a form of electronic coercion (Allowable within legal limits)
- Building of Financial Pools - Sponsorship by “blind constituents” – in the form of economic, resource based or political “assets” as allowable through the GIA.

**Political Legitimacy Based on:**

GIA. Global Information Act.

- A dynamic “constitution” where certain “hot issues” can be edited electronically, voted on and adhered to by Virtual Communities. Fundamental core values are more difficult to change but can if necessary by a more involved process. Foundations of GIA are based on International Laws, Human rights treaties, and Environmental agreements.

*Excerpt from GIA – Preamble*

*“The GIA – observes the right of all individuals to access information globally and organize themselves virtually based on their mutual beliefs and interests to better their lives environmentally, politically, economically or otherwise. Factors of race, creed, gender, social status or ‘political host’ shall not impinge upon these rights.*

**Ideological Basis:**

- Personal/Collective Community sovereignty in competition with National sovereignty.

**Characteristics of Mission:**

- Fragmented, non-aligned bodies that function and achieve goals under the same charter.
- Transparency, multiple layers of meaning and security. Political consequences often differ with Nationalistic Interests

**Challenges/Threats:**

- Operating within different legal systems that don’t adhere to GIA.
- Data Corruption/tampering and management protocols that differ over geographic region/affected by tradition or cultural practices.
- Availability for everyone to access GIA networks due to political intervention. Implementation of political policy in geographic locations that are neutral or hostile to branch communities



**Organization:**

Branch organizations may organize in many ways. However a standard of most is to have a “field network” made up of highly trained technocrats that gather, analyze, and built relevant data into team categorized “logic streams” that can be used for a variety of purposes. The management of information is the biggest challenge. If necessary a “control” – or space where information is organized may exist in a physical location. Many governments who utilize branch networks have controls that are actual physical locations because of the confidence in their security networks and the vast amounts of data they must manage. Illegal branches of course, often have no controls and operate on ghost networks often tapping into the resources of legitimate branches to obtain information.

**How is it accessed:**

Users join a virtual community upon which they are afforded the rights of that specific community. Virtual communities adhere to a larger charter and go about organizing information to support their causes and influencing political policy through a variety of non-traditional forms of diplomacy. Primary method of access can occur through, virtual secured sights. Though virtual this form of diplomacy is no less real. Joining a virtual community can have legal implications, but it can also afford great benefits. There is a structured process for starting a Virtual Community. Technically though there are ways around this, unrecognized VC’s for example, can become legitimate by following a process of legitimizing into the global network of political support and ultimate adherence to the GIA charter (though actions must be verified over time).

## "Branch Networks"

Policy	Rationale	General Principles	Theoretical Background
<b>Boundary (parameter) Identification &amp; Response</b>	Using the convergence between technological advantage as well as the advantage of virtual space to influence political policy through a non-traditional algorithm based methods	Coercion through both Traditional and Non-traditional outlets Including influencing Media/VC relationships, electronic data manipulation/propaganda/issue awareness Issue morphology	Realism, Constructivism, Liberalism Idealism – networking/mathematics/data organization & management theory
<b>Data Mining/Seeding</b>	Working towards a global model of human/environmental interactions. Aiding in building a global security founded on Ecological Principles & addressing environmental changes over time	Organizing data into logic streams for further "maturing" to support a wide variety of eco-political agendas. Plugging into frameworks that enable symbiotic relationships	Ecologism
<b>Integration (Through GIA)</b>	Categorize and legitimize virtual communities. Allow for VC's to benefit from interactions based on Non-traditional forms including "Virtual Diplomacy". Standardize political protocol in regards to virtual communities. Protect information accessibility rights of virtual communities	Process of legitimizing and recognition of VC's . Standardization of VC code of Conduct. Standardization of Law related to VC Issues. Establishment of a legitimate but dynamic global charter for information rights (GIA) Power based on individuals rights to information in GIA charter	Ideological, Ecologism
<b>Abstraction</b>	Abstract non-essential information that may interfere with issues when desired. Goal is to prevent the emergence of prejudices & allow issue to stand on its own in a group dynamic	Virtual abstraction of defining racial, gender based, sexual orientation or other characteristics of an individual or virtual community when desired	Idealism, Constructivism

<b>Branching</b>	Standardize political units , Create social conditions/ Political Organization & reality	Encouraging socialization & standardization into the political framework through media outlets	Constructivism
<b>Absorption/ Morphing</b>	Ensuring a dynamic political climate/facilitate change easier/make VC involvement a structural consideration	Voting within virtual communities, polls goal oriented templates, Support of Issues through physical mobilization as well as electronically	Ecologism
<b>Meshing</b>	Securing sensitive information gathered for particular "projects" that might give away economic or security equilibrium and gathering important "assets" from other locations that might suggest	Data security theory hardware and software encryption. Mutual Spying/ Information Defense Networks	Realism

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Figure 39

## VI. Architectural Response–Investigations into the Nature of Political Space for Local, Regional and Global diplomatic Entities.

### **(Re)Defining Political Space**

Now that a framework for political action as been defined, from an architectural perspective it is possible to begin to investigate what spaces should appropriately address these new issues. But how to come to agreement on what political spaces should represent? The concept can have many different definitions. At this point the author would like to offer a few definitions of political space that extends beyond that of the purely physical or materialistic. Political space might be thought of as the synthesis which occurs between the dynamic forces exerted by a political system and the response to it (this is a two way interaction). It may simply be viewed as the representation of power (inherent to nation states, political groups etc).

Yet another possible definition is that political space might in fact be a "virtual" platform for legitimizing political power. The nature of the space is reflective of its power relationship, the social hierarchies that define it and the actors involved. The following spaces that I have identified within the Eco-Political Framework are many but have been simplified into categories of *physical actors*, *proxy actors*, and *virtual actors*. Physical actors characterize individuals and the political power inherent to the individual. Proxy actors can take on a wide variety of definitions from community organizations and NGO's and MNU's to entire nation states. Lastly, virtual actors are indicative of a new legitimate group that must be herein defined. This section will focus on diagramming spatial responses and/or projected spatial consequences that exist within the realm of the identified Nest, Shell, and Branch entities.

**CULTURAL-DIPLOMACY**

Locally based political initiatives, substantive change, restorative justice, environmental diplomacy, self sufficiency, political legitimacy all these issues are incorporated under the community level diplomatic entity which has ever-increasing relevancy to the world of international relations. *(definitions include but are not limited to cross-border regional microdiplomacy, and transregional microdiplomacy.*

Communities are encouraged to format or reformat the diplomatic experiences that help to define the characteristics of their region based on goals that communities define themselves as successful. A wider variety of actors on this level is channeled into the mission of political representation. Ultimately it is the nature of these actors and the relationships that they form which determines the effectiveness of diplomacy at the local level.

**CULTURAL CAPITAL**

The concept of cultural capital is instrumental to the development of community based diplomatic entities. Some forms of cultural capital, "endow the holder with symbolic power signifying status and prestige, and the capacity to define and legitimize social and cultural values, norms standards and practices." It is this legitimization that forms a strong foundation for political spaces to exist within. Essentially cultural capital can be understood as an extension of the values of the community taken to the full extent the "belief" of which becomes that which sustains society.

**DYNAMISM-TRANSFORMATIONAL CAPACITY**

A clear advantage of local level diplomacy can be the capacity for systems and political structures to respond to political stimuli with varying degrees of concreteness, permanence, severity, political pressure and materiality. In fact this flexibility should define the characteristics of the community embassy when it comes to the question of architectural representation. The strength of this organization will undoubtedly be tied to its expression of, or response to, its immediately relevant political environment.

**COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP /RESPONSIBILITY**

The involvement in the process of diplomacy within and between communities endows community members with a sense of identity towards their community as well as a sense of responsibility to directly influence the well being of their political spaces.

**INSTITUTIONALIZATION POTENTIAL**

One unique strength of community level diplomacy is the ability to create institutions that reflect the desires of the community. These institutions are environmentally based and help to define the political nature of the region altogether.

These institutions can also define the political behavior of the community, and eventually the nature and shape of political space within politically charged environments.. These institutions can be based upon a variety of factors unique to the community or region at large. Strong and well-favored institutions can be politically attractive within and outside of the region and be generators for the economy, as well as cultural and social assets that help to define the political strength of the regional cooperative.

DIAGRAMMING SOCIAL/  
POLITICAL POWER RELATIONSHIPS  
WITHIN/AMONG LOCAL ACTORS  
“ POLITICAL SPACE FOR COMMUNITIES”

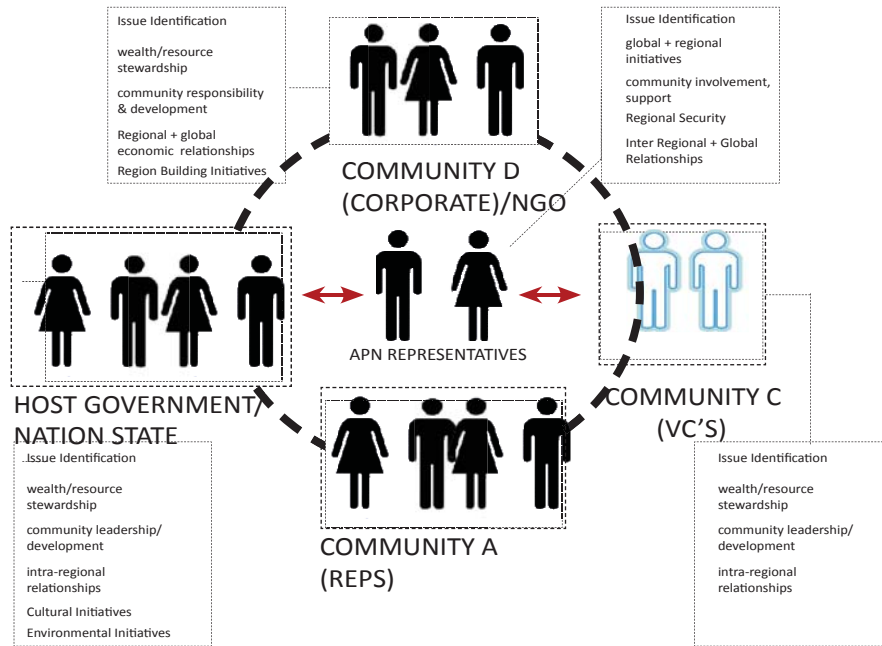


figure 40

DIPLOMACY THROUGH  
RECOGNITION OF  
EMBODIED CULTURAL  
CAPITAL



LEGITIMIZATION OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH PURPOSES SENSITIVE TO CULTURAL TRADITION

POWER BASED ON CULTURAL BELIEFS POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS DETERMINED BY PLACE WITHIN COMMUNITY

SPACIAL RESPONSE AS AN EXPRESSION OF CULTURAL BASED POLITICAL BEHAVIORS AND PRACTICES

figure 41

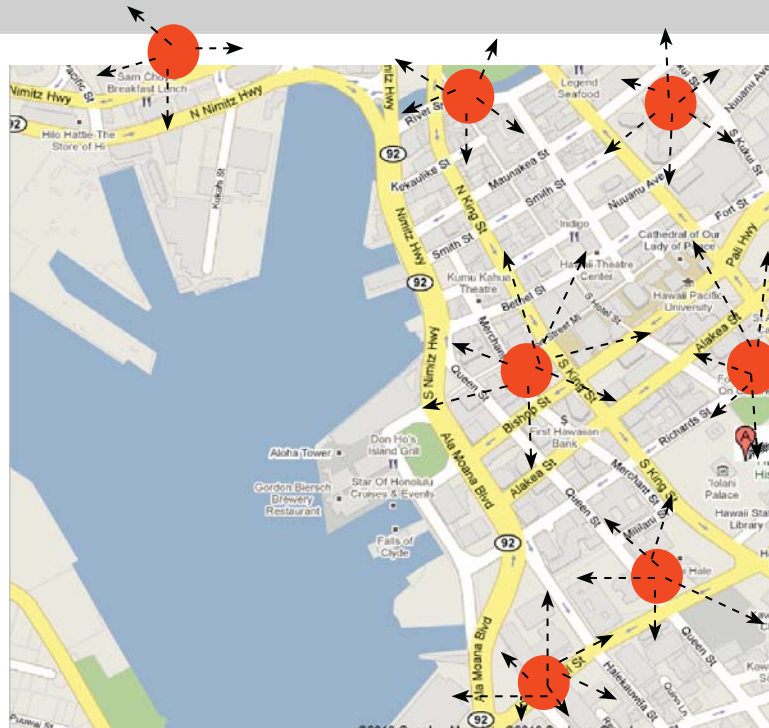


Figure 42 **DECENTRALIZED POSTS-**  
microdiplomacy represented through posts distributed throughout politically significant communities

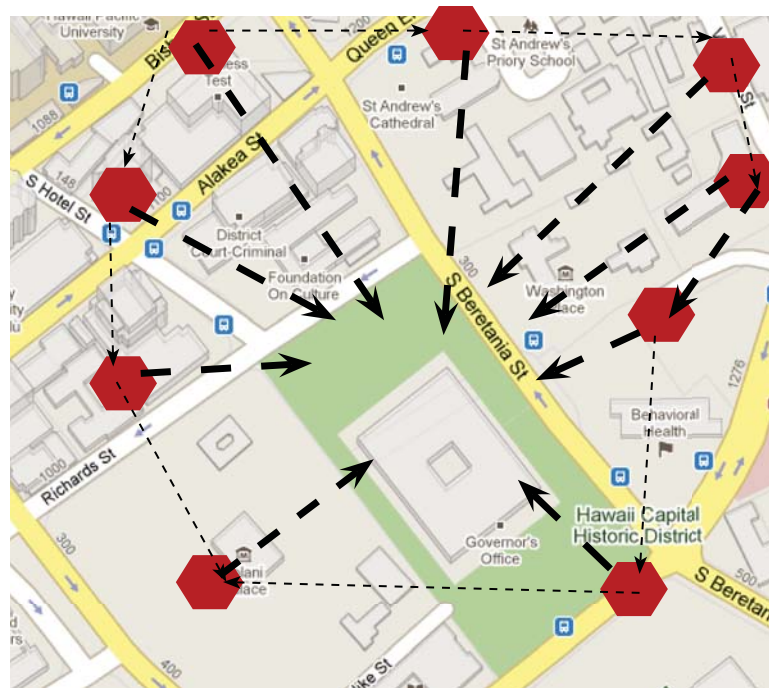


Figure 43 **FRAGMENTED ASSEMBLY -**  
encouraging political action through a number of smaller yet politically influential and connected nodes throughout the community (nodes can be fixed or transient)

**CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSES**



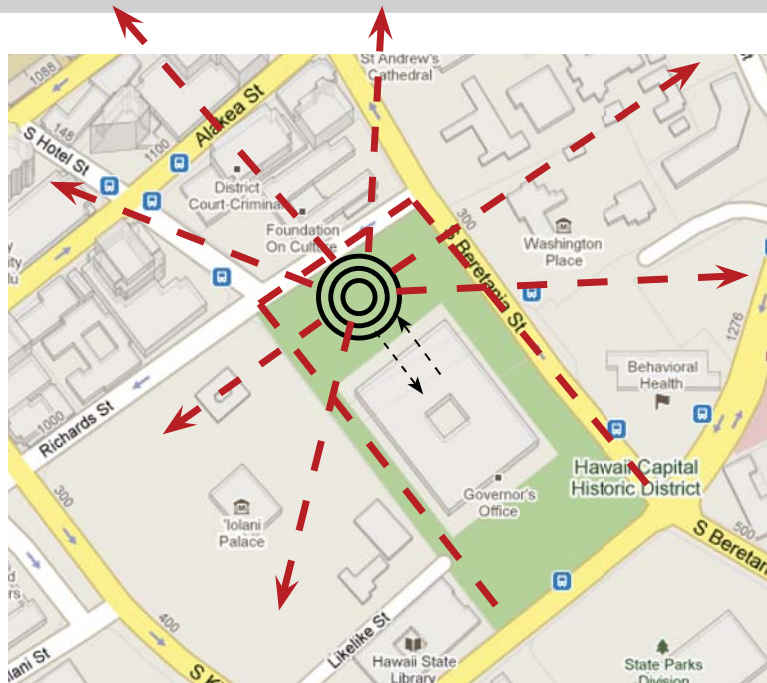


Figure 44 **CULTURAL PORTAL -**  
 diplomatic representation demonstrated through proximity and nature of political space being "cohabitational"

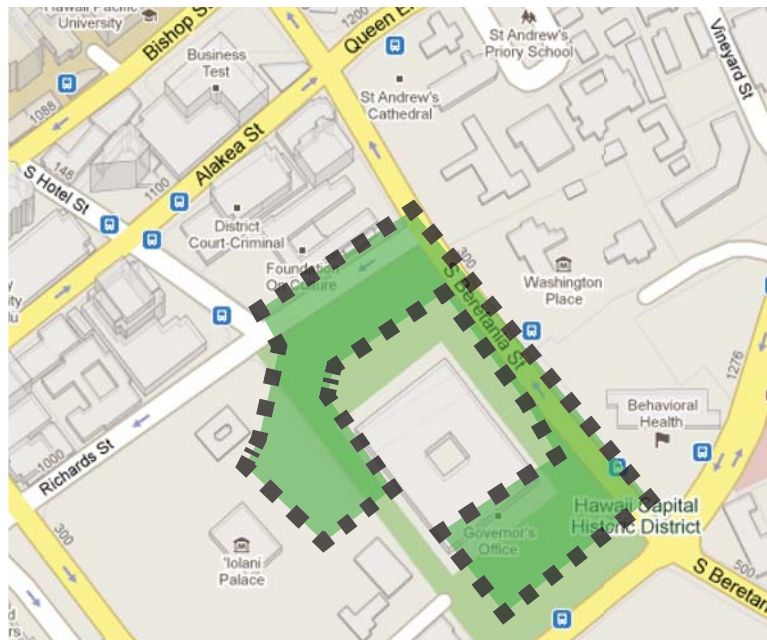


Figure 45 **ENTRENCHMENT/ENCROACHMENT**  
 In instances where political and cultural ideologies sharply diverge, community entities attempt to create a strong physical presence that either criticizes or applies political pressure to a host gov't directly.

**CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSES**



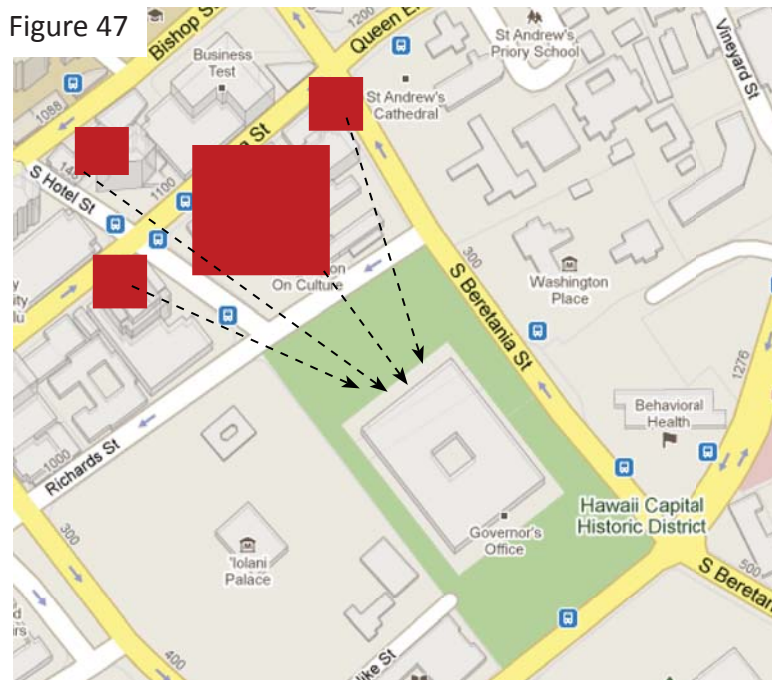
Figure 46



**CULTURAL SCREEN-**

expressing dissatisfaction with the current political system while maintaining some political relationships & working towards consensus.

Figure 47



**COOPERATIVE PLATFORM BUILDING-**

diplomatic representation of community enhanced through multiple actors. Organizing conglomerates to form a "political niche." for dealing with an ongoing issue.

**CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSES**

## 6.2 - SHELL ENTITIES

### Diagramming Corporate Political Space

#### CORPORATE-DIPLOMACY

Within the Shell Model, Corporations and traditionally non-governmental actors have an increasingly clear understanding of their role within a regional political community. The actors involved in the APN specifically have agreed to certain rules of conduct that systematically define its influence within the region. In this way, the regions that make up the APN gain the political influence that comes with associating with many multi-national actors, but on their own terms. Ultimately, the actors involved in the APN must have vested interest in the region. Their organizational structures have been modified to allow for a power relationship that clearly shows evidences of this. Other actors related to the APN in similar ways based upon their expertise, scale, influence and political importance.

#### ECONOMIC CAPITAL

Economic capital is based upon a model of "regenerative economy". In this model, products are designed produced distributed and recycled in ways that are efficient, environmentally sound and effective in pushing their design potential to the limits re-defining the concept of waste and attempting to focus on green consumerism.

#### POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS WITHIN MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

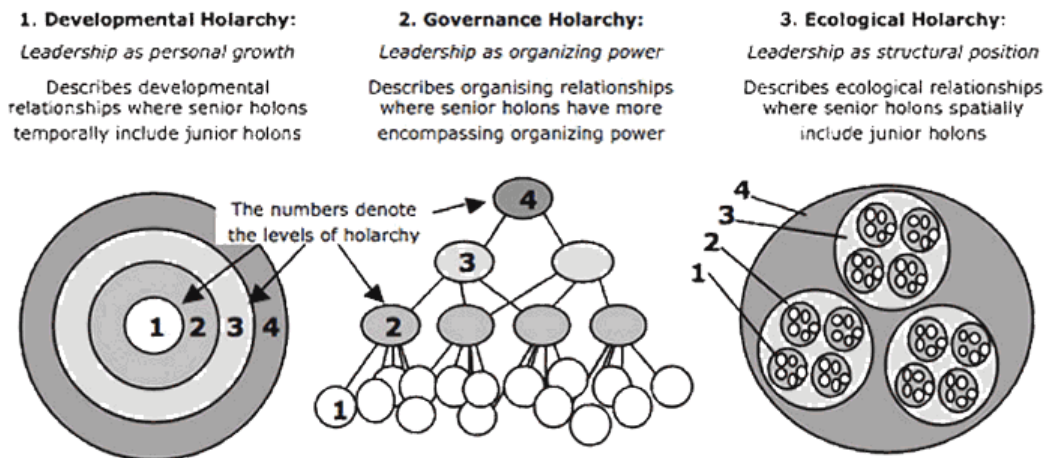


Figure 48

REGIONAL AUTHORITY SPONSORED  
INTERNATIONAL ZONES.

SINGULAR ZONE, DEFINED BY POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP

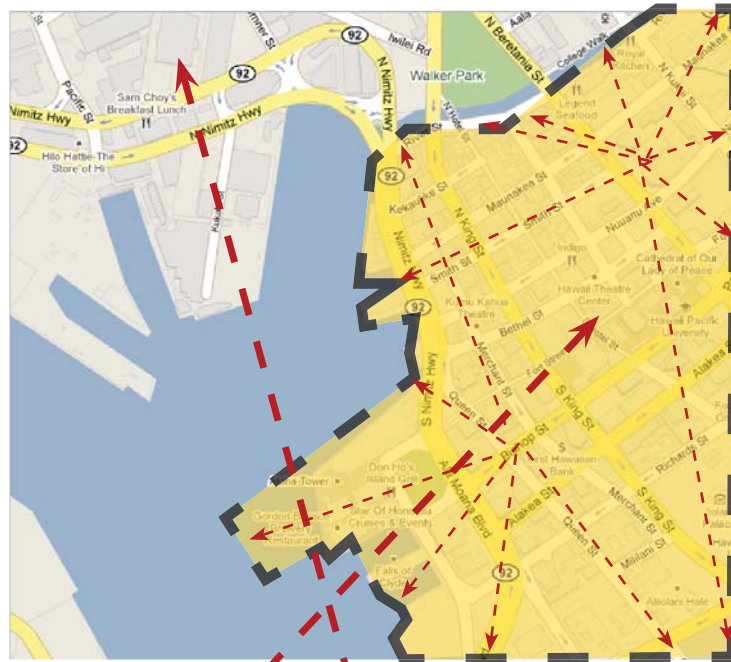


figure 49

COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP



CORPORATE  
LEADERSHIP

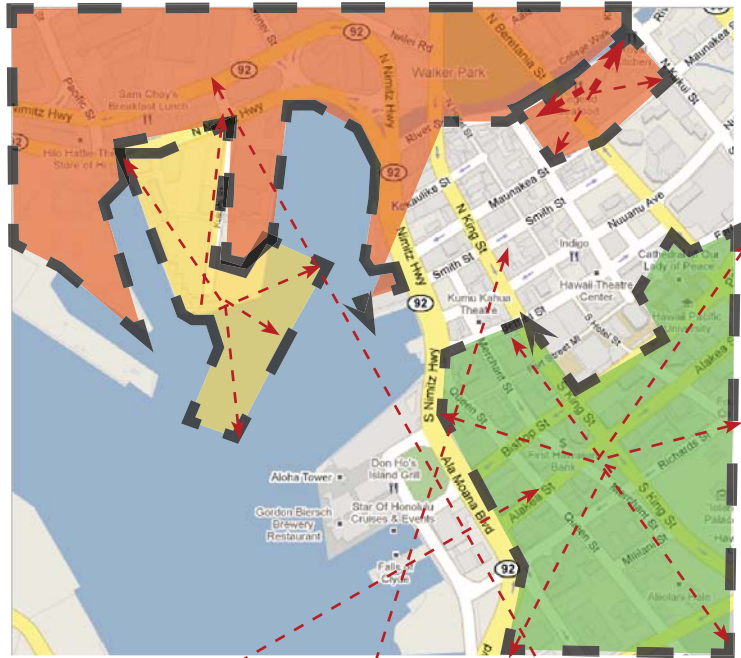


NEW ORGANIZATIONS

With Corporate diplomacy needing to respond to global actors, the methods for dealing with problems must be adaptive. New organizational methods including that of the heterarchical model as well as ecologically-based examples may prove more successful in place of or in addition to traditional systems of organization. The following models reference situations where corporate and community actors envision and create political spaces as "international zones" throughout a city where different laws, and regulations may apply.

**CORPORATE DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSES**

MULTIPLE ZONES - WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL IDENTITIES



ENVIRONMENTAL  
INTEREST GROUP  
NGO



COMMUNITY  
PROTECTED  
POLITICAL  
BOUNDARY



CORPORATE  
DEFINED POLITICAL-  
BOUNDARY  
W/ECOLOGICAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SENSITIVE  
REQUIREMENTS

figure 50

## STRUCTURE SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL-ZONES

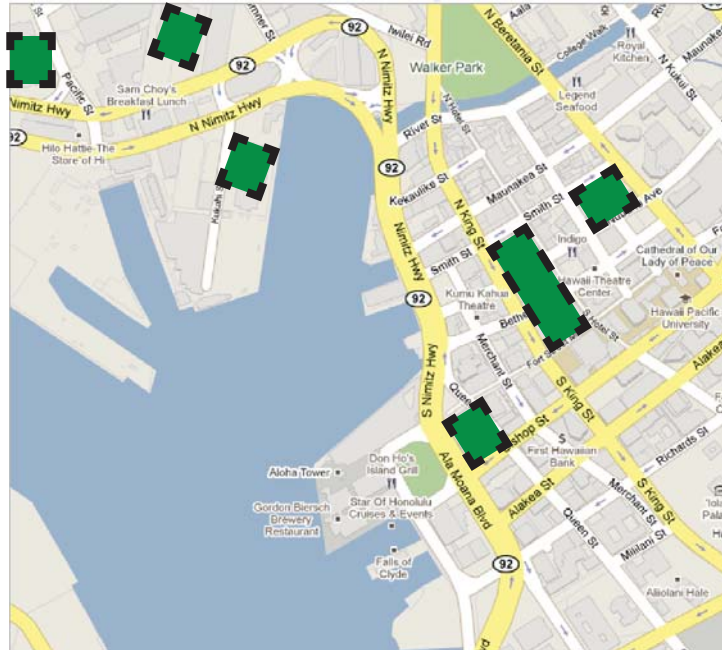


figure 51

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY

One advantage of the far reaching influence of non-governmental actors is the ability to influence the political fabric of the built environment. Jurisdictional political identity is warped through these actors usually as a result of diplomatic negotiations. Within the corporate diplomacy model, there are more examples of how jurisdictional political identity is affected due to the nature of the negotiations between different actors.

## CORPORATE DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSES



## 6.3 - BRANCH ENTITIES

### Diagramming Virtual Political Space

#### VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY

Virtual diplomacy by nature will change some of the ways that diplomacy is practiced at many levels. Several examples of these changes are diagrammed in the following pages.

Political Zones are identified in part by their geographic uniqueness, biodiversity and interconnectedness are of great importance to the communities that inhabit these zones. In this way, virtual diplomacy can be seen as responding to local, regional and global scales under an ecological context. Under the local context nest networks organize a community based political space, This relies heavily on social networking and relationships established through virtual space.

On the regional levels, shell networks utilize virtual networks to facilitate the relationships between a variety of actors. The diplomatic relationships that they form help to define the political characteristics of the region.

At the global level, large multilateral parties use the highly developed virtual diplomatic infrastructure (branch networks) to organize global scale politics. In each case, The virtual infrastructure is layered over a corresponding ecological network that ensures efficiency of communication and ties into environmental monitoring systems. This network forms the foundational building blocks of an ecologically sensitive virtual diplomacy.

#### LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS - CULTURALLY BASED LAND DIVISION



Figure 52

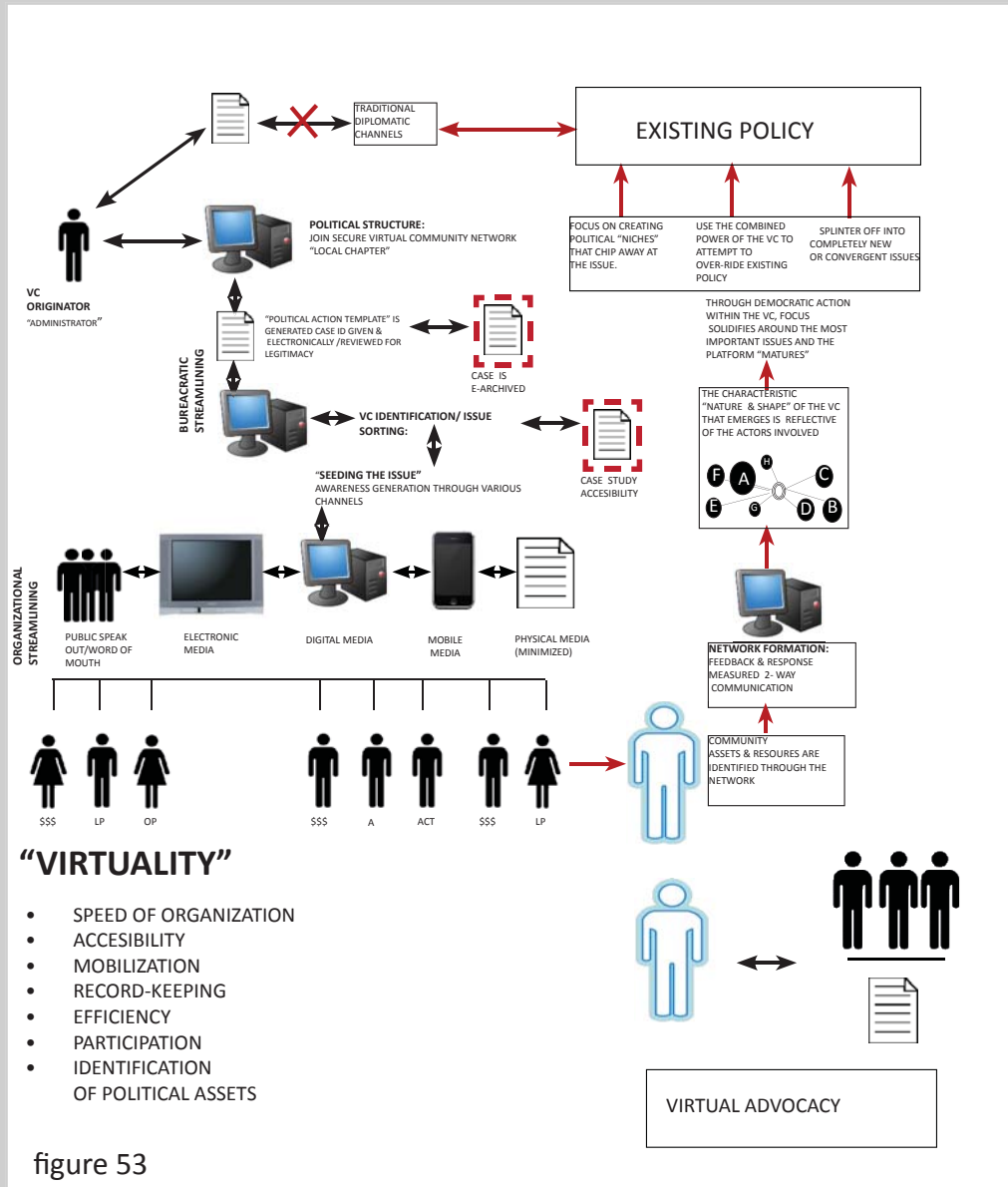


figure 53

VIRTUALITY

The key difference between this experience, and traditional diplomacy is its dependence on the virtual aspect of representation. Mainly, this concept should be understood as the Virtual practice of Realpolitik or "Real Diplomacy". The legitimacy of this system then must be supported by legitimate actors, and a clear format for utilizing it must be addressed. Virtual Diplomacy is all about the

authoritative interactions between officials of different "organizations" or governments, but it is virtual in the sense that the interactions and exchanges are electronic rather than face to face. As a result, the actors involved gain from all the tools of IT and Com-tech that have propelled other professional spheres into the 21st century including the speed, mobilization potential, media outlets and boundary-less potential inherent to electronic based communications.

**VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY-SPATIAL RESPONSES**



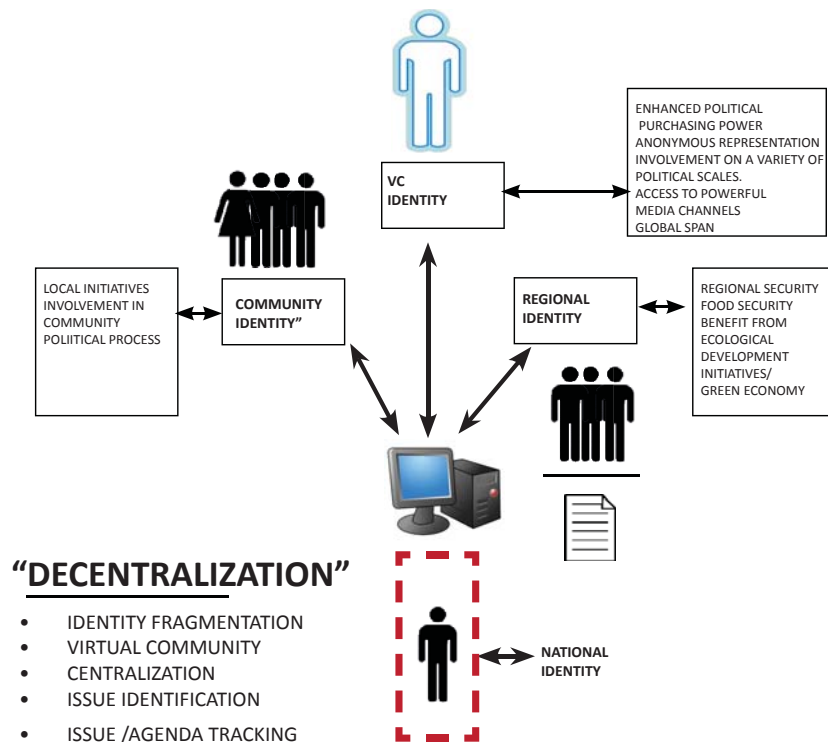


figure 54

DECENTRALIZATION.

At the local level, technologies allow for the decentralization of traditional diplomatic structures due to technological advances and the communities which are involved around the political issue. The resulting organization exists as a cooperative between the expertise of local policy makers, the community, and other actors including the influence of virtual communities. The virtual community aspect allows for an increase in political “identities” that can define a particular place. As a result geography no longer becomes the single most important defining an issue.

## VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY-SPATIAL RESPONSES



Figure 55



SOCIAL CAPITAL

Social Capital is an important concept central to virtual diplomacy. Where Economic Capital is expressed exclusively in property rights, and cultural capital may take many forms social capital requires that individuals mobilize through membership in the organizations and social networks that they create. Whereas different forms of capital

vary in terms of their liquidity and convertibility from one form to another, Social capital endows the holders the advantage and opportunities accrued through membership in certain “virtual communities” and is instrumental to building a foundation minimizing situations whereby conditions of social inequality and social exclusion exist.

**VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY-SPATIAL RESPONSES**

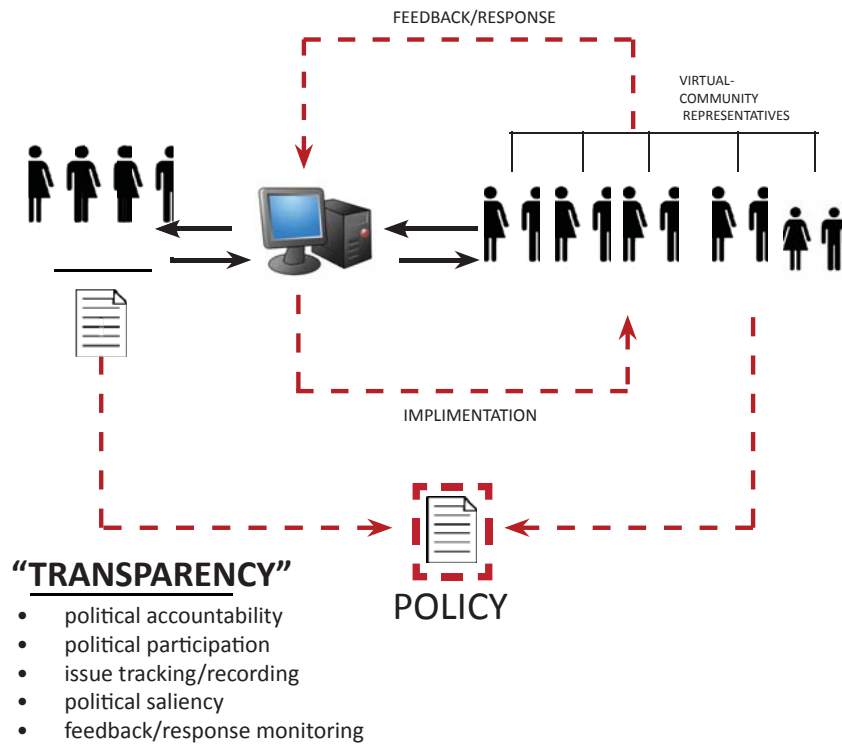


Figure 56

TRANSPARENCY

Accessibility to information and communications will allow for increased transparency in regards to the political process, this is possible through an Virtual Diplomacy Infrastructure that allows for the archival of Political issues. But it also provides for a digital “paper trail” which will be essential to tracking issues and analyzing the effectiveness of a new political organization. Transparency also promotes a political system where the effects of policy are immediately seen allowing the actors involved to gauge the effectiveness and relevancy of the systems they use to represent themselves. Finally there is the aspect of accountability for those who are in power or positions of influence within the community.

## VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY-SPATIAL RESPONSES

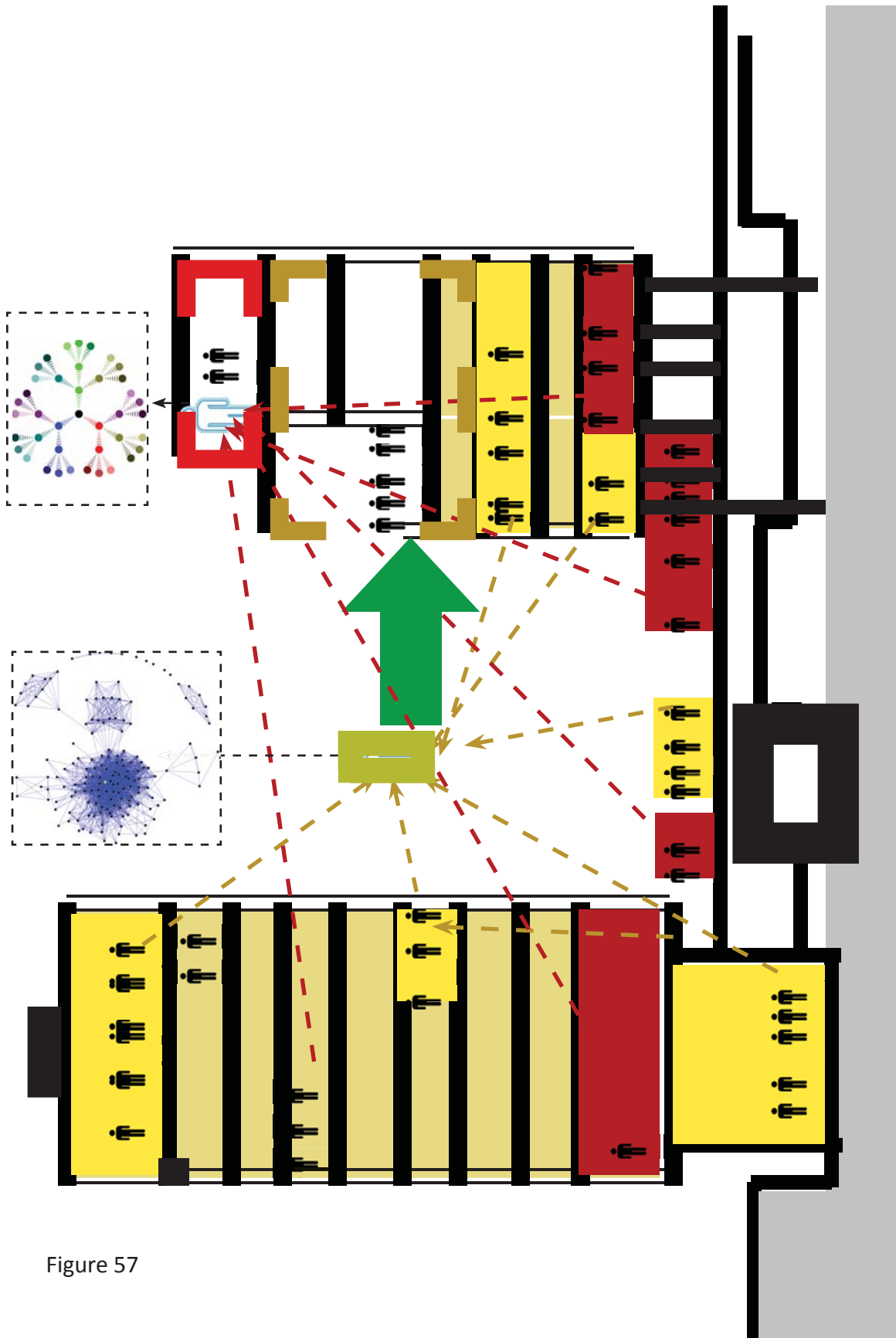


Figure 57

# VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY - BRANCH ENTITIES

## REGIONAL RESPONSE

### INTRA -REGIONAL

At the same time, the ecological determinants of the region in question, begin to define the political issues that are important to the region. In the context of Bio-regions, interactions between biologically unique areas can influence political policy. At the Bio-Regional level The management of Virtual Diplomatic interactions are the responsibility of the Macro-Regional Authority.

As a result, the nature of the actors involved changes. Virtually however, scale changes do not necessitate a change in how virtual communities interact to a great deal. At this level, many more actors are involved. Multi-national Corporations, NGO's, Regional advocacy, independent research and environmental groups all working to ensure the health and welfare of the region.

Politically these interactions can be quite complex and confusing. Virtual Diplomacy attempts to account for all the parties involved through the logic of social networking theory. The following diagrams on the next few pages are examples of how virtual communities, made up of many different types of individuals and actors relate to each other.

Social networking theory attempts to identify patterns or characteristics between these types of interactions. I have chosen to take basic social networking definitions and ascribe spatial definitions to them in the language of "nodal relationships.

Understanding organizational complexity through patterns identified in social networking theory can be quite useful as a starting point in attempting to determine the effectiveness, target demographics or political behaviors of a certain type of virtual community.

### REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS BIO-REGIONAL IDENTITY

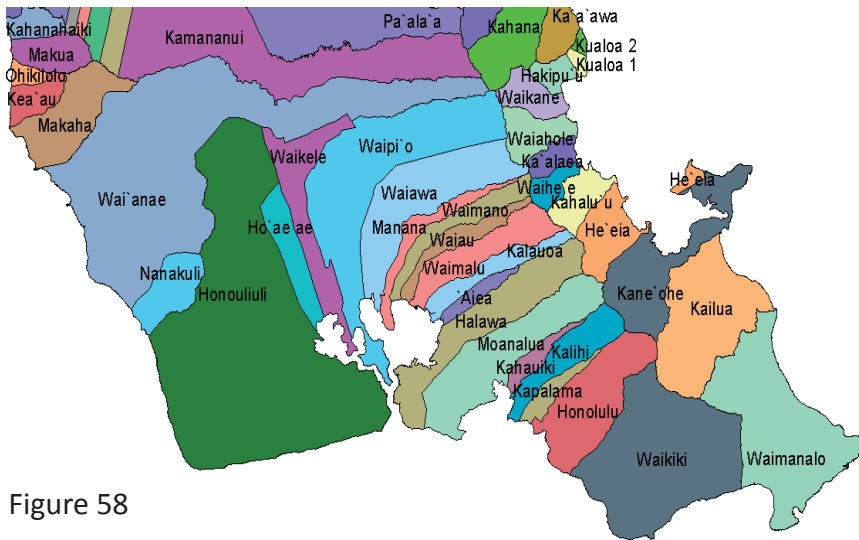


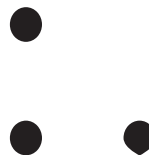
Figure 58

# VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY - SPATIAL RESPONSE

Figure 59-60

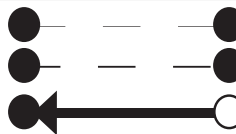
## Betweenness

The extent to which a node lies between other nodes in the network. This measure takes into account the connectivity of the node's neighbors, giving a higher value for nodes which bridge clusters. The measure reflects the number of people who a person is connecting indirectly through their direct links.



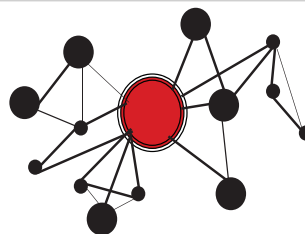
## Bridge

An edge is said to be a bridge if deleting it would cause its endpoints to lie in different components of a graph.



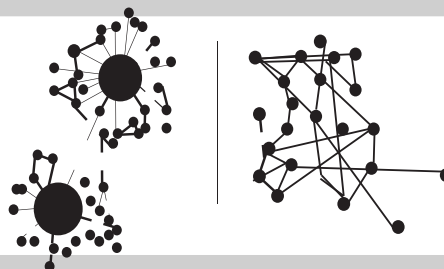
## Centrality

This measure gives a rough indication of the social power of a node based on how well they "connect" the network. "Betweenness", "Closeness", and "Degree" are all measures of centrality.



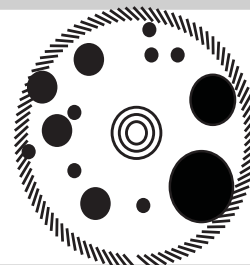
## Centralization

The difference between the number of links for each node divided by maximum possible sum of differences. A centralized network will have many of its links dispersed around one or a few nodes, while a decentralized network is one in which there is little variation between the number of links each node possesses.



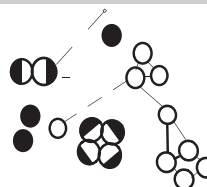
## Closeness

The degree an individual is near all other individuals in a network (directly or indirectly). It reflects the ability to access information through the "grapevine" of network members. Thus, closeness is the inverse of the sum of the shortest distances between each individual and every other person in the network.



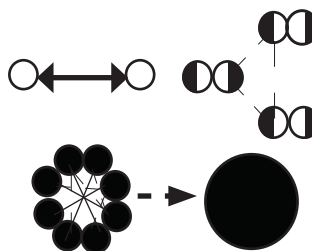
## Clustering coefficient

A measure of the likelihood that two associates of a node are associates themselves. A higher clustering coefficient indicates a greater 'cliquishness'.



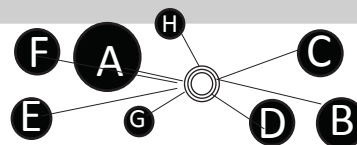
**Cohesion**

The degree to which actors are connected directly to each other by cohesive bonds. Groups are identified as 'cliques' if every individual is directly tied to every other individual, 'social circles' if there is less stringency of direct contact, which is imprecise, or as structurally cohesive blocks if precision is wanted.



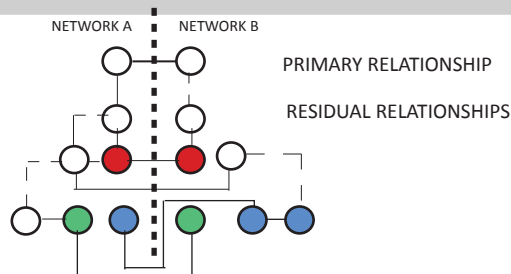
**Degree**

The count of the number of ties to other actors in the network. This may also be known as the "geodesic distance". See also degree (graph theory).



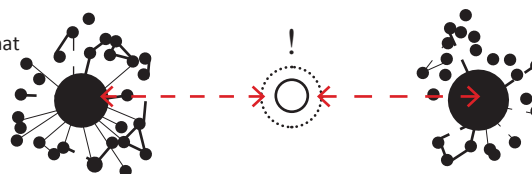
**(Individual level) Density**

The degree a respondent's ties know one another/ proportion of ties among an individual's nominees. Network or global level density is the proportion of ties in a network relative to the total number possible (sparse versus dense networks).



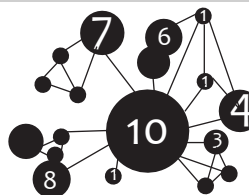
**Flow betweenness centrality**

The degree that a node contributes to sum of maximum flow between all pairs of nodes (not that node).



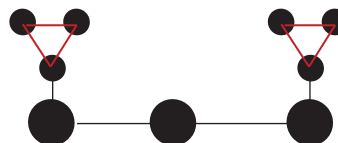
**Eigenvector centrality**

A measure of the importance of a node in a network. It assigns relative scores to all nodes in the network based on the principle that connections to nodes having a high score contribute more to the score of the node in question.



**Local Bridge**

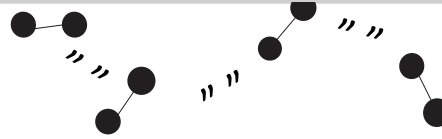
An edge is a local bridge if its endpoints share no common neighbors. Unlike a bridge, a local bridge is contained in a cycle.





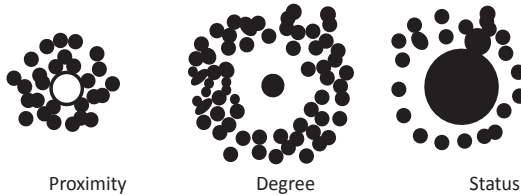
**Path Length**

The distances between pairs of nodes in the network. Average path length is the average of these distances between all pairs of nodes.



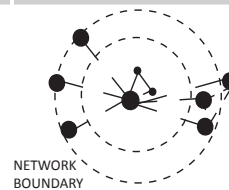
**Prestige**

In a directed graph prestige is the term used to describe a node's centrality. "Degree Prestige", "Proximity Prestige", and "Status Prestige" are all measures of Prestige.



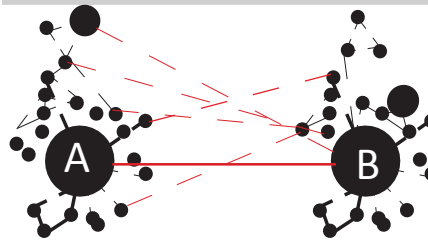
**Radiality**

Degree an individual's network reaches out into the network and provides novel information and influence.



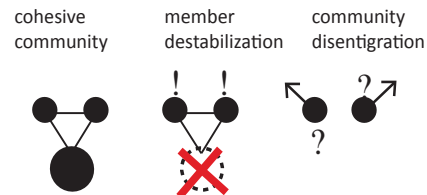
**Reach**

The degree any member of a network can reach other members of the network.



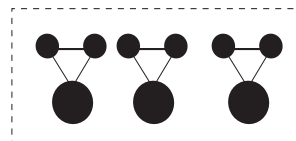
**Structural cohesion**

The minimum number of members who if removed from a group, would disconnect the group.[19]



**Structural equivalence**

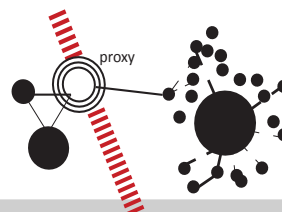
Refers to the extent to which nodes have a common set of linkages to other nodes in the system. The nodes don't need to have any ties to each other to be structurally equivalent.



implications for organization emerge this example assume a similar expression of power shared within system

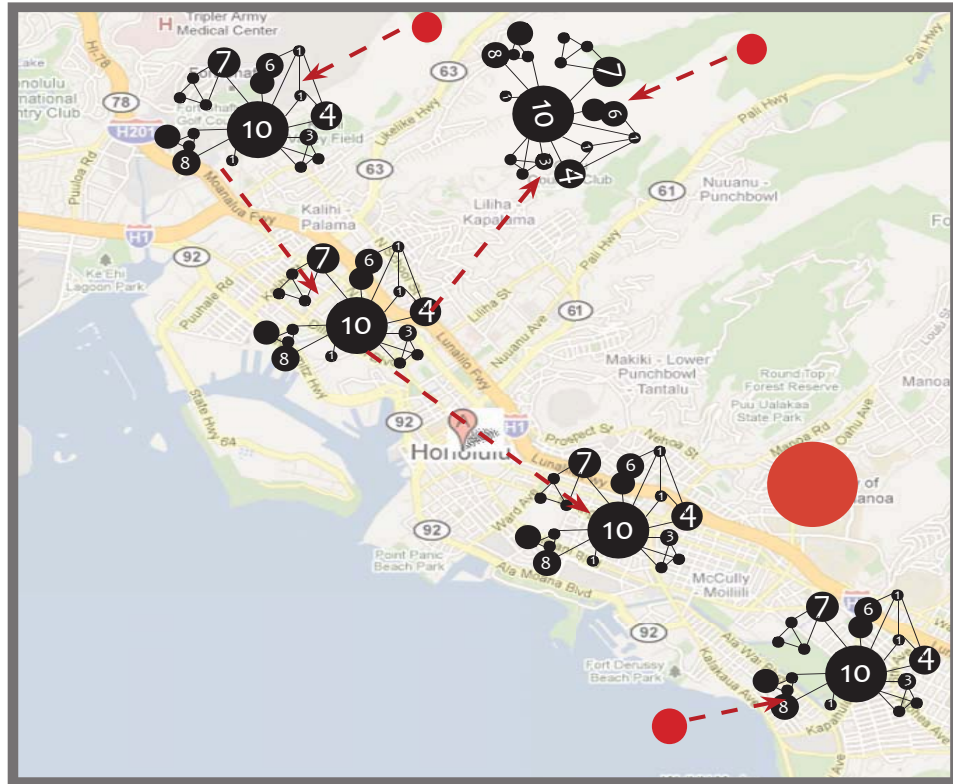
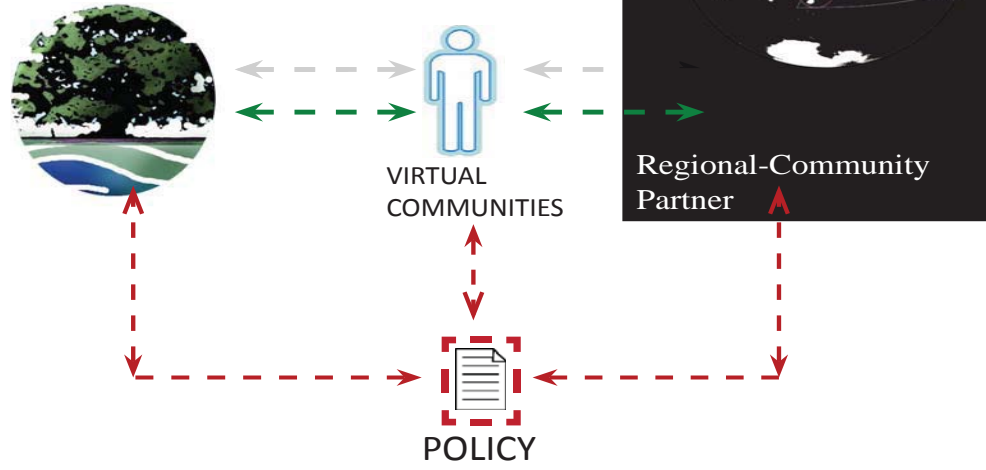
**Structural hole**

Structural holes that can be strategically filled by connecting one or more links to link together other points. Linked to ideas of social capital: if you link to two people who are not linked you can control their communication.



### INTRA-REGIONAL DIPLOMACY -

REGIONAL FORUMS FOR  
CREATING A DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN ACTORS



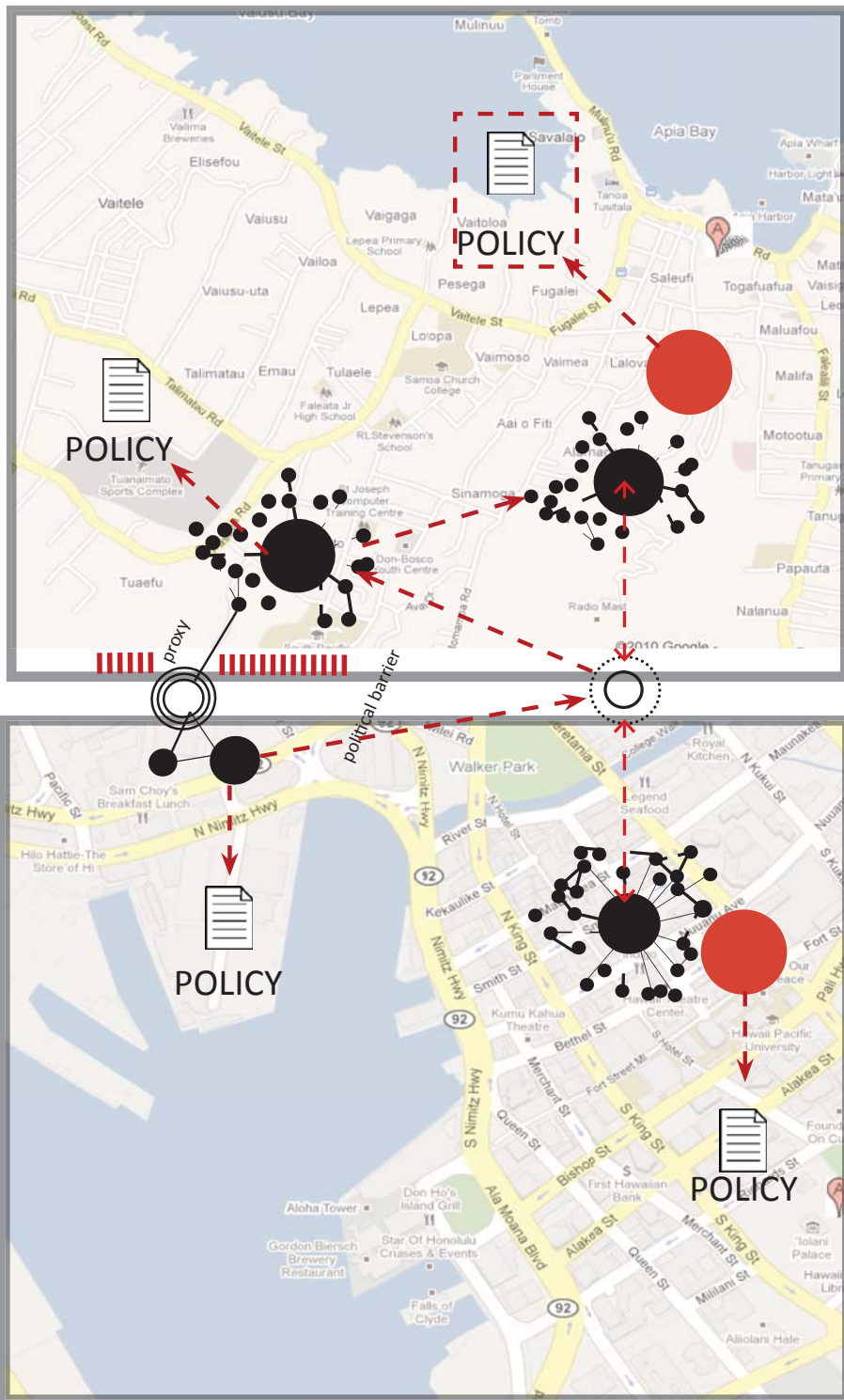


figure 64

figure 65

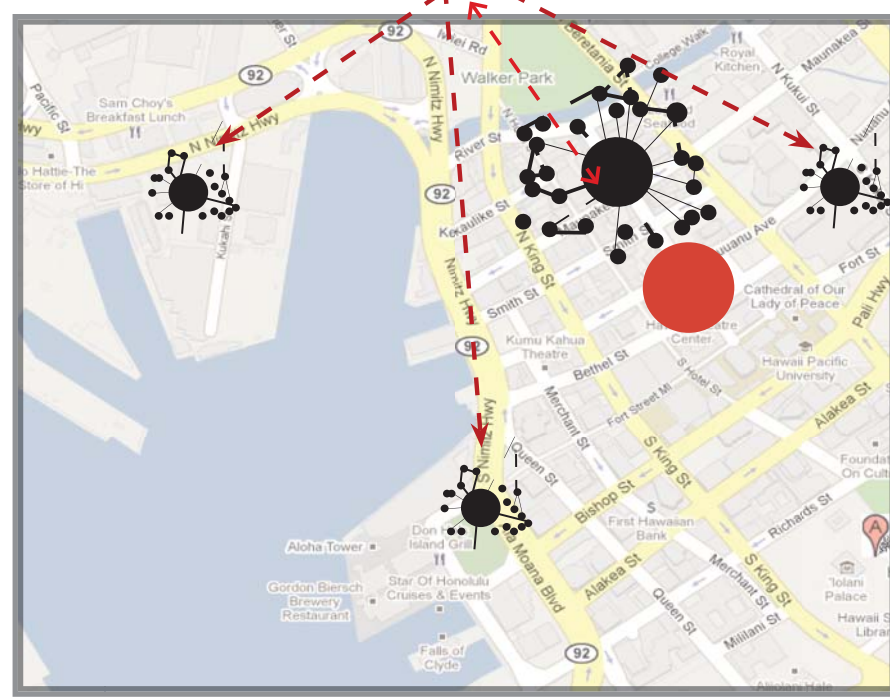
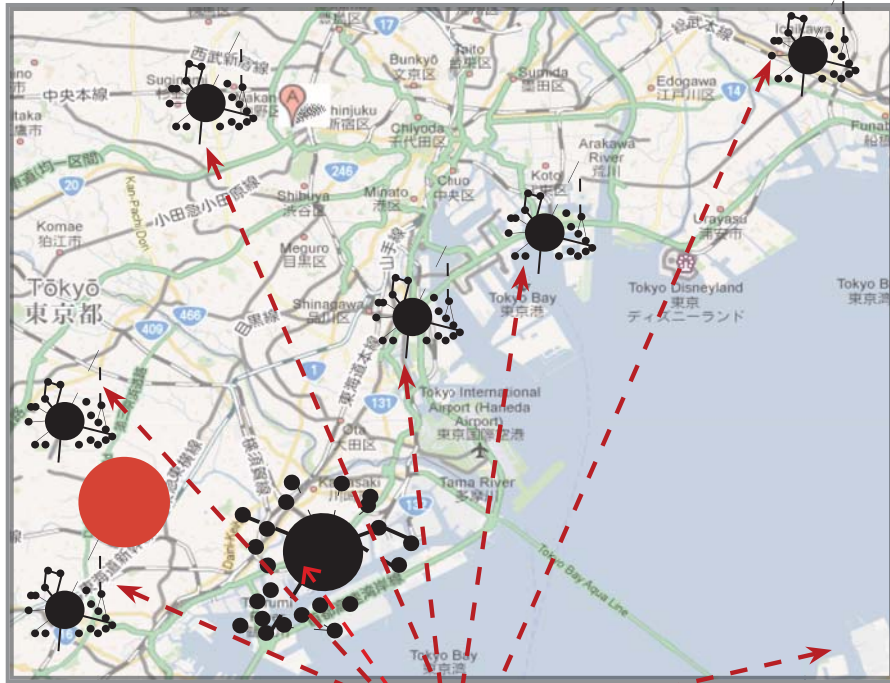


figure 66



## GLOBAL CHARACTERISTICS

### GLOBAL VIRTUAL DIPLOMACY

The virtual aspect of global diplomacy requires a high level of organization and a clear picture of power relationships, political structure and communications on a global scale

### DECENTRALIZATION.

Once again, decentralization is a major part of how virtual diplomacy will affect global diplomacy. In regards to global actors maintaining a presence physical locations will remain necessary, however virtual presence posts will become legitimate means of communications between global actors and their constituents. The VPP is a node that taps into the political network on a global scale. These "nodes" can be representative of the characteristics of an entire city's political presence in the terms of the global scale.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility to political information and communications will allow for the general public to have an increasingly clear view of how global political systems affect them. Accessibility means a certain level of transparency is made available to the average person.

This can take many forms from physical locales that have been retrofitted to inform the public, to integration with existing consumer

technologies. Accessibility to information also comes with a need to categorize, abstract, and display data in ways that is understandable to the average person. Accessibility also is possible with the integration of the virtual information network into the realm of international relations.

### VIRTUAL REPRESENTATION

A possible advantage of global virtual diplomacy is the fact that groups, individuals and political organizations not previously recognized as legitimate (but having good reason to be) can do so through a process which creates a synthesis between political activism, asset-building, information gathering, mobilization, and if necessary physical place-making. The implications for this "political space creation" may be quite important as it may be a feasible way of addressing the needs and desires of under represented or ignored minority groups, and communities. It's effectiveness may depend upon the characteristics of the virtual community, and the ultimately the strength of the individuals and the ability for them to "connect" with individuals who are capable of creating political change.

The virtual aspect of political representation also allows for some aspects of the democratic process to be carried through successfully. Now, (under legitimate diplomatic channels) individuals and communities may be able to utilize technologies that "abstract" and anonymize their personal identities, which may result in an issue being able to stand on its own without the consequences of political, social, or legal ramifications. Virtual communities can remain anonymous while simultaneously demonstrating an independent voice within politically hostile regimes, and if necessary mobilize to subvert governments that practice morally indefensible human rights agendas. Virtual representation also has the potential to abstract concepts such as class, race, gender, and other demographics which have historically given cause for individuals in power to legislate with prejudices.

### GLOBAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### MACRO-REGIONAL IDENTITY

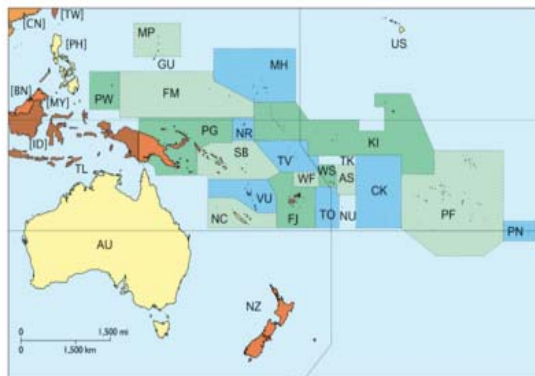


Figure 67

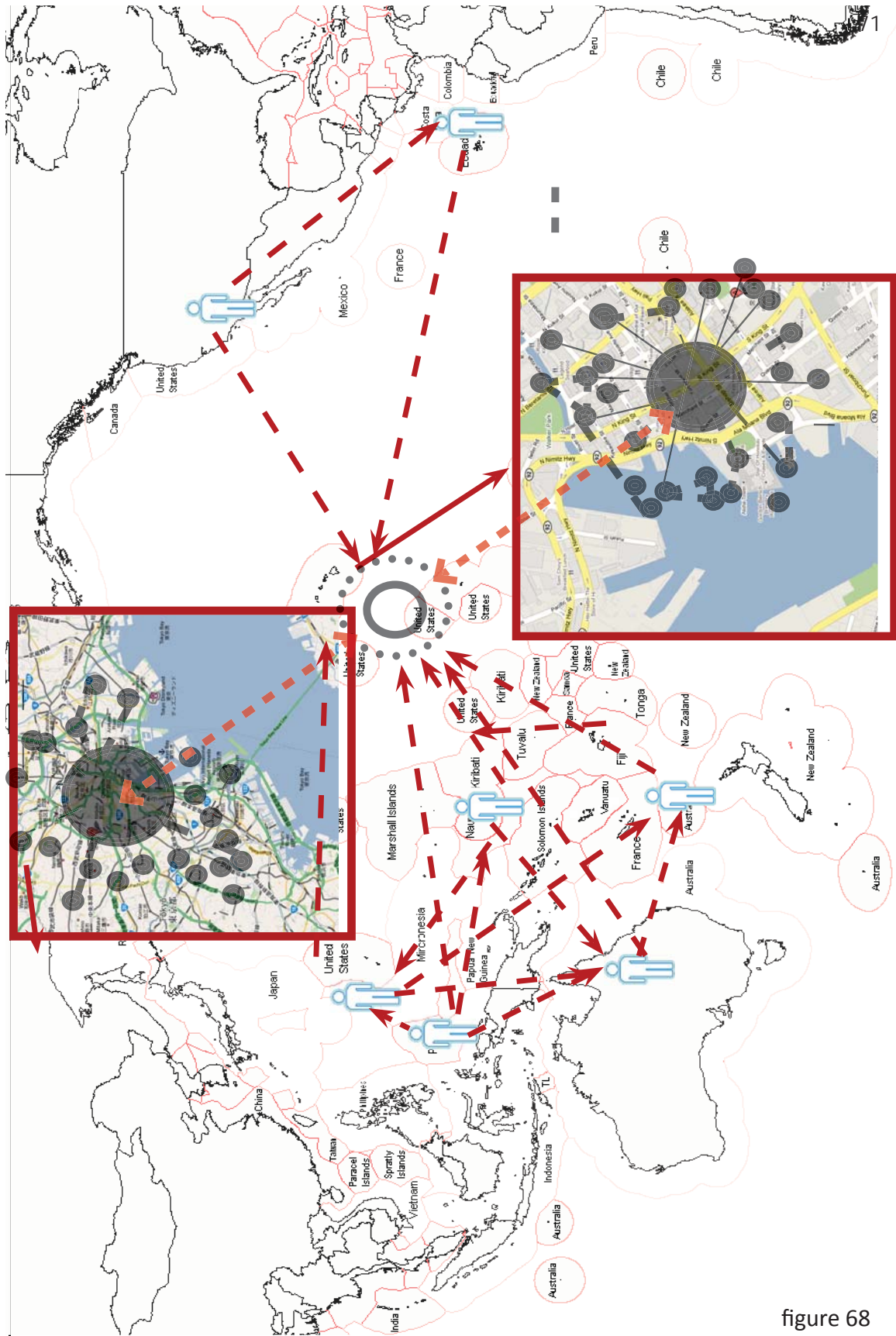


figure 68

## VII. Conclusions.

### 7.1. Analysis of Diagramming Spatial relationships.

#### i. Nest entities

The architectural implications of understanding these relationships should be understood on a variety of levels. Firstly, it is important to note the significance of proposing new definitions of spatial responses that are possible when a realist context is replaced with the ecological political perspective. Similar responses to diplomacy on this level would be ineffective or outright impossible under the current political conditions. Under this context, there are both physical and virtual implications. To first address the physical response at the local levels communities can choose to represent themselves and organize as they see fit with the power to protect the characteristics and nature of their places through developmental initiatives.

The collective political power of a variety of physically located and virtual assets organized effectively will allow for these community organizations to successfully represent their interests. At this level the new diplomacy is concerned with micro-scale institution building-developing "institutional structures" that politically define the collective strength of a particular locale. But how do we define "institution" within this context? I am assuming a much broader definition of the word "institution" as a generator for political action within the community. Institutions may be used as in the diagrams to put pressure on an existing political relationships, and to support or else oppose an existing or proposed political policy or directive. For this reason "Nest" was chosen as both a biological "model" and a metaphorical word picture.

Nests are protective, they are incubators, and they are not easy to access. But the vantage point in terms of accessibility from a nest is one of safety, and tactical advantageousness. In the same way communities should have a protective "wall" that keeps out initiatives that they feel will negatively change their character. The will of the community should be resolute and structurally unbroken throughout the entire chain of authority. Only with this type of transparency and accountability will the community level diplomacy be effective. Along with this at the upper levels, There should be support from larger more powerful groups that have developmental causes that match the will of the community.



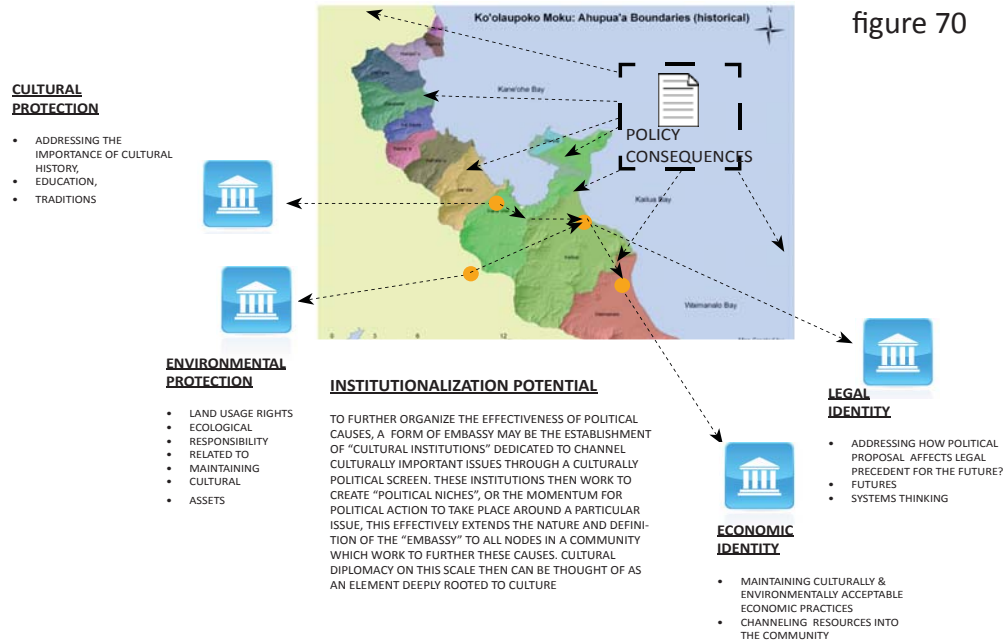
A larger question remains how the "virtuality" element of communities influence and distort the nature of the "real world"? In this sense there will definitely be a need to understand the complex dynamics of the community as they become larger and more globally understood. Immediately, legitimate representation becomes a question. In this regard is it appropriate to assume that the successful tools that have governed physical locales should be translated over to a virtual representation? Perhaps the virtual aspect of the community, proposes new arrangements where the "ways" people choose to join such organizations are focused around many variables both high tech (social networking through advanced electronics) and low tech- (word of mouth, grapevine, family and friends etc).

As far as space-making is concerned for political representation though, the implications are endless. One suggestion is to respond to existing or new political policy with the diplomatic vehicles outlined in the diagrams. Depending on the policy the community can organize physical responses to policy fairly rapidly, these could include temporary or even *Ad-hoc* structures with functions that range from seeding public opinions to polling and impromptu forums for discussion. The key element of this is that the community is taking initiative, and keeping responsibility for change within the community and out of the board room. This revival of the classical element of forum within a contemporary context (as an architectural device) might again be a way of achieving transparency and accountability between local constituents and larger parties.



figure 69

From here we move on to new definitions of security. The nature of globally organized crime syndicates, internet based identity theft, and fraud and its affect on local communities, creates a need for creating a political barrier that is internationally recognized and effective within the community level. Communities should have strategies for screening, shielding and censoring informational flows that they deem are harmful to the core characteristics of their beliefs. This affects everything from the nature of how communities conduct commerce, to the types of corporations communities associate themselves with. The nature of which should not be defined by a national context as it may differ greatly from the goals of the community and/or region.



A place should be influenced politically by corporations only as far as they are willing to support the developmental big-picture of the community. This means developers in Korea or Japan cannot just build huge monstrosities in a place that has local importance ,take the money and run. Corporations with vested interest are contracted to build field offices, invest jobs and real estate, and help create a green developmental footprint and work to protect and or advance the cultural identity of the place indefinitely. Ideally, communities will rely on a network of related institutions with political clout to support such organizational clarity amongst themselves.

These institutions may be made up of government officials, private business owners community leaders and the like. All of these complexities point at flexible structures that can adapt to a variety of programmatic needs and scales.

## ii. Shell entities

The "shell" type of diplomatic entity provides for a political space that exists between public and private sector representation. Corporate diplomacy in practice will require an extremely high level of cooperative effort to be successful. As a result it may be necessary to re-design corporate structures to incorporate organizational structures that are capable of dealing with this degree of coordination. At the corporate level, actors are already involved in this type of diplomacy today. They already widely depend on advanced communications technology, and global data networks that allow for them to conduct business daily. However the political infrastructure is at best remotely associated with this. Shell entities are an attempt to incorporate issues specific to diplomacy within the corporate context. In practice this includes issues that effect international law, trade, commerce and ethics practices that are all at work behind cultural and geographically framed contexts'.

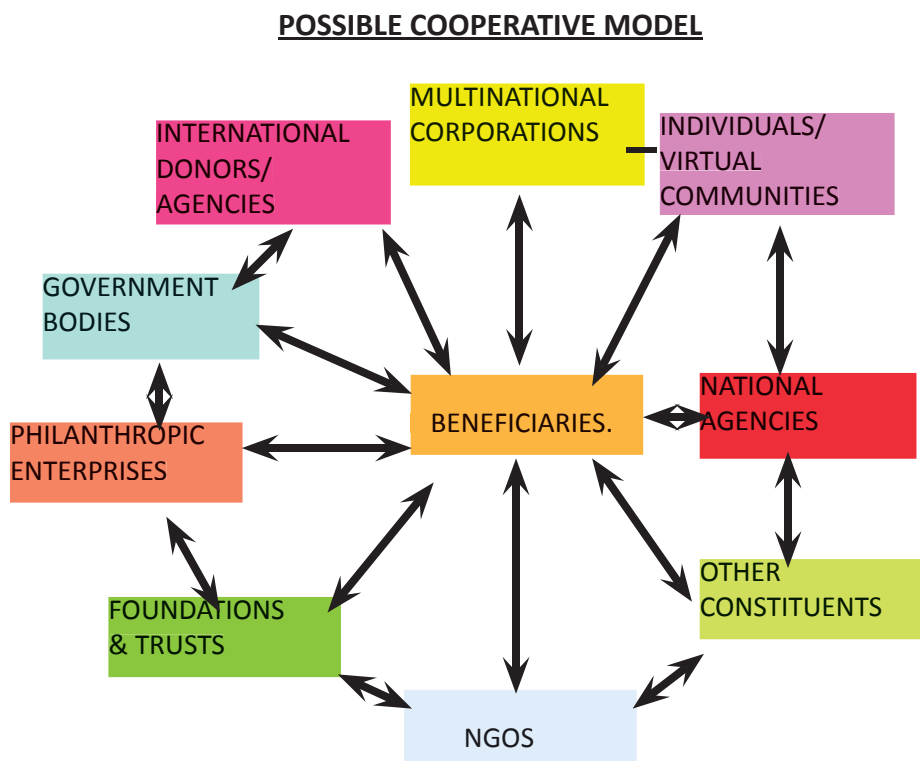


figure 71

For shell entities to be effective they must traverse and organize political relationships amongst a wide variety of actors (see above). This goes far beyond corporations having a public relations department. In this model, these corporate-political entities recognize their ecological/political and economical/ responsibility (amongst others) and set up organizational spaces within the community to facilitate this development. Shell entities are interesting in transformations and shaping political policy at the regional and global levels ideally but their activities effect all scales of governance. Spatially, shells can work inter-regionally attempting to frame specific green markets and provide services or they might exist as a purely virtual corporation made up of a network of global supporters.

In any case, the spatial aspect that is critical to shell entities is not what form they take as a built element as much as it is understanding the flows that affect environmental, political and corporate fabrics. It remains to be seen as Multi-national actors increase in power and number, what form their spatial requirements may take. I propose that an amalgam of physical political spaces with "manpower", and virtual proxy locations for politically difficult areas may become one diplomatic solution. Again this asserts the notion that a virtual space may be created to exist either purely virtually or eventually physical representation may take shape.

Just as nation states in democratic countries feel obligated to appease their voters, corporate political entities must please their investors,. But perhaps a re-imagined network where corporations must satisfy the requirements of the communities they serve is a more important relationship within the eco-political context. Another interesting concept is extra-territoriality and the nature of a geographic location in influencing the political leanings of shell entities. These entities must cater to the desires of the community to a certain degree in order to continue having their influence. As the diagramming exercises illustrated, these types of relationships can result in a variety of spatial responses depending on the power dynamics of the actors involved in diplomatic engagement. As Shell entities continue to globalize, issues such as human rights, international labor laws and migrations, and acknowledgement of culturally based business practices will become increasingly important. All these are really inter-regional issues of diplomacy,

Accordingly, issues such as autonomy and the degree that such global actors can operate unhindered from their host nation-states may ultimately define the characteristics of corporate diplomatic strategies. In this way, corporations may be divided into categories not unlike chess pieces with strategic advantages. Corporations may be industry leaders and innovators, or focus on manufacturing of green products for example, or even supporters of the vast technological infrastructures that keeps everything running. Or perhaps a part of special regulatory agencies that act outside of the political realm to ensure a sense of accountability. These issues on a regional level, begin to define a new definition of security under the new context. Security under the Shell networks spectrum essentially translates to the proper management of information.

### iii. Branch Entities

Branch entities offer perhaps the most bizarre and provocative implications in regards to the "warping" of a traditional diplomatic system. Spatially, branches are understood in a very different way than any other entity. To understand the bigger picture though let me start with the biological illustration of a branch as a physical entity in space. It is essentially a four dimensional entity. The fourth dimension of the branch is the invisible "nutrient" from the host that gives the branch its form, space, and organizing principles. The branch is essentially not the originating entity at all but the end of the line physical representation of a great deal of layered complexity in the form of organization, resource allocation, security considerations, and reproductive ability. Branches do not only feed off of the host but act symbiotically streaming information in two directions. The feedback/response mechanisms built into branches allow for reactions to minute fluctuations within the host to take place near instantaneously.

Now let us imagine the enormous implications of a political entity designed after this. For one thing branches thrive off of mobility and disconnection with traditional attributes of form, space, and order. They seek out their own path to achieving the nutrients which are coded into their DNA. Social organization theory acknowledges all of these concepts inherent in the way people choose to network and organize themselves. Virtual Diplomacy might be thought of as an experimental tool, an attempt to create such a harmonious organization from the "raw" political elements.

Therefore an appropriate understanding of virtual diplomacy is linked directly to an understanding of social organization (amongst other determinants). In this regard branches will be exceedingly complex and fragmented. The nature of peoples relationships changes quickly, and branches will reflect this disorder. However important issues will always retain a certain amount of organizational potential and eventually achieve clarity because of the "Leaders", individuals that step up to spearhead certain political campaigns.

Communities will thus depend on the identification of the roles of Leaders, as well as asset sources, activists, and a wide variety of other "nodes" that identify patterns within successful political/social networking activism. There is the potential for a new type of diplomat to emerge from within these organizations. One experienced through a mixture of invested interest, life experience and the ability to generate social capital and prestige, as opposed to attending elitist universities and making the right connections with politicians already working for the nation-state system. Heavily relying on the concept of social capital as a means to further ones own position in life, is not a new concept after all. In fact it would be considered elitist or aristocratic if not for the fact that this system is structurally designed to be open and accessible to all people. In the same way that the internet has legitimized new social organizations, the global political-intranet will legitimize a number of new actors and political identities.

There are of course countless futures oriented arguments to consider in this. Diplomacy moving into the realm of virtuality as a legitimate form of representation, means that people will no longer be geographically or even planetary bound to nation-states in the sense that their sovereignty will no longer hold jurisdiction. At this point, it is appropriate to attempt to understand a true virtual diplomacy operating throughout a variety of scales. On the planetary level, it is a complex and layered system exceedingly efficient and effective. This system is scalable and can be tapped into from a variety of remote, or satellite locations. How can this change the nature of diplomacy? Imagine walking into a building which had a number of rooms, what if each of those rooms afforded you a different political identity (and with it your behaviors, attitudes and world-view were appropriately altered? Now if we think about that in terms of attempting to remember what each identity consists of in terms of exhausting legal detail it becomes impossibly complex.

But if we reduce this definition to the essential realities of how it affects, space, human rights, and the basic human needs, it might be more easy to visualize a world where people have multiply political identities and can move, in and out of zones which identify, reject, absorb and meld these identities in a number of interesting ways. In theory, people would accept such as system with alacrity so long as there is solid evidence that it can actually change their lives for the better. Consequentially, virtuality, offers the possibility of understanding these and other forms of augmented reality where quantum political realities may exist simultaneously and emerge, or subside in relation to a variety of factors including economic, culturally-based, or ecological tenants.

## 7.2 Addressing Criticisms of Ecologism as a Political System

Because there are various “kinds” of Ecologism, differing solutions may in fact contradict each other when comparing different societies in their adoption of ecological principles. There is a level of subjectivity that will certainly create conflict and disagreement. However, these should be viewed as opportunities to inform unique diplomatic solutions and relationships as opposed to opportunities to go to war. This may be especially true in conditions of geographically landlocked, regional neighbors who believe that they each have come to the best solution about trade, transportation or even the management of environmental systems. Regional designs may directly affect individual communities and larger "patches" alike, and so there will always be controversy here, but it is an attempt at transparency and through attempting to justify change by the notion of adhering to democratic principles that these challenges may be overcome. Perhaps though, democratic principles are not the goal in every situation, in which case it should be appropriate to consider, does ecologism work under non-democratic systems and democratic systems alike and if so what are the consequences?

The strength of understanding ecologism as a critical I.R. theory is that there are many other critical theories that may find favor with it, including those of traditionally marginalized communities (feminist I.R. theory etc.) In that regard, it might find favor with larger groups but then what about those that disagree with environmental science or choose to understand the world in an entirely different way.



As previously stated, there should be outlets for dissent and there is no reason why communities cannot form (even largely) based around such dissent to global consensus. The author admits that this technologically dependent solution is partially incomplete. Along with technology must come an advanced infrastructure to sustain it. Many times this infrastructure is/was the product of industrialization and in fact the "spoils" of colonization periods which changed the socio-political and environmental characteristics of nations. There is much opportunity then in this scenario for the post-colonial nation, to have a voice in this new world. It is arguable that the current era has more "forms" of capital to provide from than ever. Taking advantage of these new structural foundations may hopefully gradually increase the quality of life for the earth's inhabitants and decrease incidences of widespread disparity. This may practically result in a re-structuring of trade regimes, economic-political relationships and environmental policy (all issues traditionally linked to sovereignty).

This is an attempt at widespread accessibility , or the ability to "plug-in" to political structures that allow for real change to occur. At the global level, there is the issue of imparting some kind of global identity through many of these structural changes. In reality though, there may or may not be any real reason for groups who have historically worked independently to come together even under the prospect of environmental crises. In fact it might take much more than say, funding or the support of the public or even a desire to increase a global security for international communities to cooperate and begin to organize. Regardless of these issues though, there are many more ways to frame the argument that ecology and politics should be discussed together, and this scenario has only offered one such approach.

But what is the reality that such scientific agencies could escape the trap of political or private interest bias? The funding has to come from somewhere and unless it is a completely transparent process there is good reason to suspect that data could be altered or manipulated by governments in an attempt to produce results that are in favor for their specific regions. Additionally, there are other factors to consider, besides purely science that should be taken into consideration, and all these are difficult issues. Some cultures have been historically practicing principles that might not be seen as environmentally politically correct (under the new context, issues like Japanese whaling comes to mind).

Does the new system impose structural controls to curb the indigenous practices of some groups even though in the grand scheme of things their practices might be environmentally insignificant? Surely, no one wants a “green authoritarian police state,” that has global scale influence. I imagine that any internationally agreed upon system must be sensitive to the communities that will be adhering to it, this may mean that it works in tandem with the state or else as an extension, but its power must be checked to not interfere with the policies of local communities to a certain degree. The goal after all is to benefit the world with solutions to problems and not to create more. And on a very practical level, citizen's should have options about everything from the products they buy to the way they live their lives. Other societies have adapted such principles much more readily (but with varying degrees of success) regardless of the level of their technological advancement they should be used as models for our society as well.

In this regard, a cooperative approach to understanding these linkages can inform us greatly about how to organize everything from manufacturing and industry to the responsibilities that (nations) currently have with one another. Much more research should be dedicated to understanding the environment and how it is affected by political policy in general; the receptiveness of current administrations to adhere to discussions about climate change, and ecological crises on an international scale will lay the foundations for a society that actually wants to solve its problems.

There is evidence to suggest that a form of democracy represented by cooperative power structures could mimic the biological principles of symbiosis or “mutual benefit” and these models could be radically different than what we are used to experiencing today. The investigation of such strategies may indeed prove successful in yielding future models of successful social organization that are both environmentally responsible and effective. What does this mean in light of our current models in international Relations that takes place through the interactions between powerful geographically distinct (and sovereign) nation states?

De-politicizing these issues means moving the issues in to the realm of practice in regards to addressing environmental problems. The result may then be International focused efforts to avert environmental crises, and thus a stepping away from the “tipping point”. Nation-states beginning to understand that the exercising of their “sovereignty” often comes at a high cost to human life and the environment would also be considered a great success.

I believe that one of the main strengths of ecologism is that it can draw upon an appreciation for biological systems that are in fact building blocks that make up the larger ecological system. The challenge is to find balance between structure and flexibility to allow for a global system of governance that is adaptable enough to still celebrate the fundamental differences and variations that like in nature are inherently unique to human culture.

### 7.3 Addressing Criticisms of Ecologism Theory

All factors which create drastically different points of view, are quite frankly a recipe for conflict. A common complaint from critics of ecologism and ecological thought is that the ideology would easily lend itself to being adapted into some sort of authoritarian or even fascist regime. The notion behind this is that cooperative decision-making structures necessary for ecologism to function on the international scale would undeniably destroy the sovereignty and individual rights enjoyed by citizens throughout the world paving the way for such regimes to easily fill the gap. Additionally, it might be possible for sovereignty amongst nations and constitutions to be dissolved which would bring instability to the world and eventually political anarchy. Andrew Dobson argues in *Green Political Thought* that there is nothing about Ecologism that necessarily pushes it towards the left or more specifically towards a kind of “Green authoritarianism”.

Critics often forget that there isn’t already a relatively nefarious form of authoritarianism that has developed under the profit-based balance of power system where the strongest most resource-rich states often become the most authoritarian as well. Even so, true ecologism as a political ideology can still be viewed as existing within the early stages of construction, but there is evidence to suggest that ecologist principles in practice would be specifically democratic.

To discuss Ecologism as a system of global governance creates a need to understand the structural roots of this ideology. Ecologism draws from ideological, philosophical, ethical, and biological backgrounds that can and do quite often conflict with one another. In *“Political Ideologies”*, Author Robert Eccleshall sheds light on the fact that many doubt that Ecologism can stand as its own as a political theory, offering the notion that many view ecologism as more of an offshoot form of liberalism, conservatism or socialism than its own fully fledged philosophy.

His view is in part due to the fact that thinking of an ecologically-focused political theory and thus a way of creating political systems in regards to ecology is relatively new in the western context, but this is not so in many indigenous cultures. A real concert however; is to consider exactly how ecologism is to produce any form of governance that is original and truly distinct from traditional systems in practice. He goes on to further state that:

*“For much of its existence, ecology referred either purely to social organization or solely to natural relations. The meaning of the word “ecology” now seems to have broadened, so that the activities of the human species have to be taken into account as part of these processes and relationships. This is partly because human beings have radically altered the environment and partly because scientists are responding to an increase in awareness of the impact human beings upon nature.”<sup>110</sup>*

Again, in these statements parallels emerge in the world of international relations between how people groups organize themselves and theories behind how different types of relationships emerge. In any case, there is an understood connection between the environment and the species, the nation-state and the region it is bound to, the message is that they are equally important actors.

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110 Smith, Mark. *Ecologism: Towards Ecological Citizenship* Minneapolis, MN . Open University Press 1998 (3)

Additionally, a growing knowledge of how nations interact with each other is also changing the way that we have traditionally understood our political systems as well. In a sense, each profession has a type of ethical gray area, which is inherent to the sovereignty question that nation-states fail to address. This is a true challenge to any type of cooperative progress. This is due to the fact that operating in the International realm means operating under a system of “natural laws” which are often disputed as falling into the realm of either being culturally biased, socially constructed tendencies or rather “instinctual behaviors which are in effect impossible to change.

Moreover, the philosophical arguments extend beyond the realm of what Ecologism (or any other model) is comfortably equipped to explain in its body of knowledge. At least though, ecologism offers a basis for attempting to create a culture of cooperation through understanding some important aspects of the international system through the lens of the environment.

#### Architects role as designers of National Identity(s).

Finally when a system has solidified how should it then be represented? Questions about the appropriateness of an architect as the sole shapers of concepts like national identity come to mind. Is it appropriate (as it has been historically) to assign this responsibility one person, or team? Further, if a part of that building belongs to the community, nation or various constituencies, how then should these actors be involved in its design? At least in the short term, the architect (or firm) will remain the designer and as such should evaluate the important role they play in such influential buildings.

These issues should be considered when attempting to make political statements especially if they are particularly critical. Politics can change much quicker than buildings can. Should embassy buildings be allowed to be critical of the people groups they serve or should they always define some ideal type? If buildings are to be designed with some goals that transcend function, they must do so in ways that a wide variety of individuals can identify with. Architects can be designers of political space, that extends beyond an iconic building but these political spaces must first be legitimate.

At the end of the day, the architect must assume their role as being greatly influential in the realm of representation and international relations, as their work will undoubtedly be heavily scrutinized. But perhaps a greater challenge is that such representation should attempt to exist beyond the mere political statements of propaganda for a nation or group of people regardless of the type of organization. Diplomatic representation should have categories, and be dynamic, it should be able to change like the nature of the system itself. It is essentially this future context and relevance that must be investigated through both built, and non-built forms of expression. A difficult challenge will be evaluating current and future diplomatic structures in ways that are both unbiased, and not attached to associates with past systems that do not fit the context. This does not necessarily mean that the architect is designing statements that equate to a nation's power lasting forever (such attempts have always proven to be failures). If they are particularly strong statements, they may be viewed as vain egotistical advancement on the part of the architect or worse originating from the host country. On the other hand, such buildings should assert their importance and appear to be quite different purely because of their unique purpose.

#### “Transitions Towards A Re- Definition/prioritization of Diplomacy”

The issue of human connectivity (and the technology associated with it), may in fact be the defining factor in the way that diplomacy is expressed. If there is a desire for the system to be so different then, it should be logical to ask, will diplomacy (as a political concept) in its current iteration still remain relevant or important? What makes it relevant under an eco-political form of global governance? And also under this context are there alternatives to what has been known as so-called contemporary forms of diplomacy that may rival and or one day surpass current explanations of the phenomena?

Diplomacy is the practice of conducting relations between representative members of certain political organizations. The nature of diplomacy will change because the nature of sovereignty will undoubtedly and perhaps irrevocably be altered. This trend is foundationally based on two core concepts.

One, that the trend towards centralization of certain power structures (specifically in the American Context as an example) may not be able to deal with the wide range of complex issues (such as environmental) and actors that I have addressed and thus may require necessary adjustments to its notion of diplomacy to remain relevant.

Secondly, technological advancements may push at the boundaries of the definition of diplomacy thus re-defining the political landscape in lieu of something more efficient. In any case, both core concepts have the ability to force the type of change that occurs on a global scale, and it is reasonable to assume that they will do so under the eco-political context. The emergence of new logical foundations governing diplomatic processes cannot be understated. The impacts of developing a logic behind social networking theory for example (including the implications of social capital) and how that converges with the political sphere are of great importance and should be further investigated, within the context of an interdisciplinary dialogue between political science and other disciplines.

To address these questions satisfactorily, it is also important to look back at our history and also towards the future. Historically, the technological advancements in communications were closely tied to politics (under the realist context often were influential in outcome of wars) and there is no reason to assume that they will not continue to be instrumental in the framing of the ecological political contexts', but the question is in what way?

In the past it was safe to assume that technology has been used as a tool in the service of diplomatic mechanisms up until this current point in history. But this relationship has been largely unintelligent and two-dimensional in practice. Technology itself is developing to the point where it may not be possible for it to take such a backseat role to our political processes any longer. No nation controls the flow of information it can only be managed. The structural implications for this reality in the political world understandably are quite complex.



## 7.4 Expanding the Profession through Interdisciplinary Research.

### Advantages of Interdisciplinary Research -

The Importance of inter-disciplinary Study in contemporary political science and other disciplines cannot be understated. Interdisciplinary/ multi-disciplinary/co-disciplinary debate in the realm of Political discussion has much intrinsic value. At the same time, architectural design has the potential to yield a great deal of useful design strategies for both built and purely theoretical applications. The intended value of this research from an Architectural design standpoint is immediately both obvious and grandiose. As an architect, my bias was assuming at the beginning of this research that because it is the most practical application the conclusion of this interdisciplinary research would be a clear outline for the design of better buildings. However, if this research could be described as one long idea, or logic stream, I would have to say that the end result of this research yielded many more questions about the nature of diplomacy itself and whether or not in the future a desire for built structures (under the given contexts) would be the most nature conclusion for representational potential. The need for spatial organization and definitions, however; seems to be more apparent than ever. As far as the building of physical structures is concerned, however; diplomatic buildings (and all buildings for that matter) might better be designed for a future context with a rich source of inter-disciplinary knowledge at their disposal to aide in program building.

An inter-disciplinary approach also may allow the Architect or designer an opportunistic advantage to engage in undertaking intellectual exercise that may ultimately benefit by positively informing them about their impact and position within in the world system. As was shown in the research, when space is considered, the organizational frameworks of space have deep implications when seen through lenses of social and political organization. It may not be too fictitious to suggest that the divergent pathways that these structures take will be the central organizing factors for political spaces. Structural frameworks supporting sustainability already exist in many professions outside of the realm of political science.

Although fledgling in nature, developments within the U.S. Construction Industries' architectural design community (USGBC, LEED.)<sup>111</sup> is one example of such revolutionary industry change. Technology has already shortened the gap within the profession and the trend is moving towards an increasingly "cooperative design environment" largely due to necessity framed by the "realities" of political/economic and environmental factors. The new role of the architect may be emerging at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as both designer and master coordinator in a new age of inter-disciplinary enterprise. The combination of increasingly complex problems requiring specialized professionals, and technological advances has resulted in a Multi-disciplinary approach with regards to architectural design in the form of Building Information Modeling or "BIM"\*<sup>112</sup> as an already proven practical and useful organizational tool for both designing and revolutionizing the process of design.

At the base of this system of governance is the underlying point that Ecologism assumes a shift in understanding from a purely "anthropocentric" (human-centered) world view to something called "eco-centric consciousness". The actual level of political activity expressing this level of consciousness belongs within the realm of politics to be debated and worked out in practice. As it becomes clearer that emerging issues are reshaping the nature of political and architectural space, it is up to the architect to redefine his/her role within a larger and increasingly more inter-disciplinary and interconnected world.

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111-<http://www.usgbc.org/>

112 -BIM - *Building Information Modeling (BIM) is the process of generating and managing building data during its life cycle[1]. Typically it uses three-dimensional, real-time, dynamic building modeling software to increase productivity in building design and construction.[2] The process produces the Building Information Model (also abbreviated BIM), which encompasses building geometry, spatial relationships, geographic information, and quantities and properties of building components.*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Building\\_Information\\_Modeling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Building_Information_Modeling)

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