

Kandahar). Agricultural production may become more efficient, but in the process large numbers of young and untutored males are liberated from their jobs without alternatives being available – not only immediately, but in the foreseeable future. Extended families become economically dysfunctional and are broken up. Such developments in turn can have highly destructive consequences for the fabric of societies that in many respects are the very antithesis of the liberal world that we in this room know so well – a world where atomistic individualism is a core value and the mobility of labour an essential prerequisite for creating the material wealth to which we are so happily addicted.

This example, moreover, is a very simple one, with implications that we can all easily comprehend. In the world of societal change, it's a mere rain-shower. By contrast, the introduction of democratic institutions, or the enforcement of a liberal version of gender equality, can be a full-blown hurricane, with the potential to lay waste traditional power structures and familiar ways of doing things in so dramatic and comprehensive a fashion as to leave the locals completely disoriented – and very nervous. The nervousness may be particularly evident among the indigenous power elites. The intellectual ruminations of Karl Marx may have had some deficiencies, but he was surely right in observing that classes of folk who enjoy power and privilege are inclined to resist those who want to cut them down to size. Even in the liberal west, the process has rarely occurred without the help of violent revolution or military cataclysm, and not always successfully even then. The assumption underlying our social engineering model, however, is that most of those to whom we convey our message and our aid will soon see the light – the light we want them to see. And if they don't, their children will. But of course they may not. Or they may see it and not like it. And we are then left, not with an adaptive politics of compromise, but with a dug-in politics of animosity. The process of change itself, in such a case, will have defeated the predictions of the model, whose architects will be shown to have underestimated from the very beginning how tortuous, twisted and bumpy is the road from 'here' to 'there.'

*Problem 2* – *The Model calls for more than we are prepared to do.* Even if the road were straight, and smooth, and free of obstacles, however, there would be a second problem. For the programme of practical action to which the Comprehensive Social Engineering Model directs us is