

Finding Housing

Whether in an apartment complex, townhomes, rowhouse, or ranch, housing is managed collectively. When looking to move into an area, prospective tenants search for available living spaces similarly to how one would seek out housing today, but with a very different selection process.

High-demand living spaces are typically in **exclusive housing**, where incoming residents apply and are selected by an admissions process. The use of an admissions process requires everyone in the housing collective to pay a higher rate of land tax that is raised to whatever level keeps exclusive housing to a set fraction of the housing stock (typically less than 20%).

The remaining 80% of housing is called **fair access**. Fair access housing allows anyone who passes a background check to join a waitlist for the next available unit to become available. Units may become available when a tenant moves away or because a structure is modified to add new levels or subdivide existing units.

Of this 80%, about a third (which is a quarter of total housing) is what is often referred to as **pseudo-exclusive housing**. Pseudo-exclusive housing is any housing collective that is classified and taxed as “fair access”, but exercises an informal selection process through two common approaches.

- 1) **High qualification standards:** requiring a certain number of references and designating units for specific skill groups like caregivers is permissible, though may be challenged in front of a judge if they can be shown to be discriminatory. These challenges are commonly brought by **Relocation Advocacy Networks**, such as the Los Angeles Relocator’s Advocacy Association.
- 2) **Extended-stay preferencing:** most housing co-ops set aside a small number of units as guest units, which operate as short-term housing for visiting friends and family of the residents or business and recreational travelers when space is available. If a visiting friend or family member stays for a defined term (typically 8 weeks) without complaint then they can be sponsored by their host to be advanced to the first position in the wait list to become a new resident. This advantages people who are relocating to be close to friends or family in obtaining a unit in the same co-op, but co-ops in which half or more of new residents have used the extended-stay preferencing clause develop a reputation as pseudo-exclusive. If found to be abusing these terms, they may be forced to pay higher land taxes until behavior is corrected.

The remaining fraction of the housing stock – about 50% – is what is known as **genuine fair access housing**, in that units are made available readily to applicants and are easy to get into quickly. This category covers a wide range of housing situations, from comfortable family housing to lower-demand, high-turnover housing structures that are often the dwellings of college students, night-active young adults, recent divorcees, and general weirdos who prefer the privacy available from less social housing collectives.



Jacob Coffin

Wildlands Management

Designation of Wilded Areas

Wilded areas are designated by an organizational body responsible for stewardship of a given region of land. Stewardship is designated starting at the international level through intergovernmental negotiations, and the entities assigned stewardship are authorized to delegate that stewardship further, recursively. For example, the land along the western coast of North America is entrusted to the care of the nation of Pacifica under the consensus of the delegates representing the sapient creatures of Earth. As long as the nation of Pacifica does nothing to lose the trust of the planetary delegation, the democratic government of Pacifica holds the authority to delegate stewardship of tracts within its guardianship to provinces, which delegate stewardship to counties, cities, and so on. Any of these bodies can choose to designate an area under their stewardship as a wildland, park or ecological preserve (provided that their decision making is not so unpopular as to motivate the entity that delegated stewardship to them to revoke it).

Management of Wilded Areas

The same entity which designates land for a particular purpose is responsible for managing and enforcing its use under the agreed upon terms. The most common means of managing wilded areas is through a passive delegation of responsibility to communes within or along the periphery of the land. The performance of these communes is then regulated by a form of mild adversarial supervision by local visitors and community representatives.

This means that the province of Southern California may designate the Angeles Forest of the San Gabriel Mountains as a low density county, and require that the residents of the area maintain 95% forest cover on the land and designate 80% of the land as unallowed for any permanent construction. The local county is responsible for designating which areas can be developed and which ones cannot. Within or around these areas it is assumed that nomadic groups who prefer off-grid living will take up residence.

These residents are often (but not universally) [locumodos](#) – humans modified to live lightly and endure the natural elements. Some identify as sovereigns: isolationists seeking solitude from civilization and the connected world. Some identify as fae folk, and emulate the mythical denizens of the forests which guarded them from disrespectful mortals. Some eschew any fierce ideology, and define themselves simply as “pastoralists” or neo-primitivists.

Whatever their identification, they may establish their own communities with insular or unusual practices, but so long as the land is well-stewarded, they are usually let be. The ecological health of the area and the availability of the land to visitors is monitored by those visitors, who may record their experiences in a public database. The visitors know that if they break park rules or anger the residents of these communes, they risk whatever response comes, and there is little formal authority to intercede. Conversely, the fae folk, sovereigns, and pastoralists know that as long as the land is well cared for and they do not inspire broad disapproval of their methods, the county will leave them be.

Housing

All land belongs to all things, and cannot be owned as a property asset. Primary agency over the use and access to land is instead held by land holders/stewards. This access is based on use criteria defined by local government. Habitation and responsible stewardship are the most influential criteria. In this way, everyone has a measure of the power currently held by land owners. To move into a space is to assume the rights and responsibilities similar to current land owners. The use of land is determined by the collective stakeholders over land.

As an example, the occupants of a mixed-use building have broad leeway to determine how to divide space, set the application and selection process for joining the building, and outline the permitted uses for the space. These decisions can be superseded by the local government if the rest of a larger community concludes a building is engaging in behavior that doesn't serve the interests of that broader community, such as discriminatory practices. The local government also sets land taxes for areas, which are meant to require the people and organizations which make use of the most high-demand parcels to contribute sufficiently to the broader population to justify their presence.

Occupancy opens when a current occupant vacates an existing domicile or when a new domicile is created. In a building, this could be due to the conversion of a storage area, subdivision of an apartment, or addition of a new story. On larger parcels, this could mean the construction of a new accessory dwelling unit.

Compelled Rehoming & Downsizing

Eviction is uncommon. No one is evicted from their home due to an inability to fulfill a financial commitment to pay their land taxes or upkeep costs. However, a resident whose living situation becomes a burden on their neighbors or consumes more space or resources than they can justify may be compelled to make accommodations to their neighbors. A common example includes building co-ops seeking to convince or compel empty-nesters or residents who under-contribute to their building to downsize by moving to a smaller apartment in the building or accepting a remodel that moves a wall to reduce the size of their current apartment.

Well-liked neighbors are usually given a pass on low occupancy issues. Many will regularly host guests for neighbors to maintain favor. In cases where a resident becomes unwanted, they're often pressured into the least desirable apartment, sometimes with a warning of conditions that would justify rehoming. If a resident truly acts to spite their neighbors with actions that are destructive to the building or unsafe for neighbors and all attempts at mediation have failed, a neighborhood resident's union will assist the resident with finding representation, and the building co-op will take the resident to rehoming court to propose an alternative residence elsewhere and compel them to move to vacate a home or business.

and are laced with thoroughfares. Rights and responsibilities will look very different in these spaces than in a rural location where one person or family may be responsible for a large space.

Just the same, the use of land and the rights and obligations of stewardship – from waterways & floodways, to new construction sites, to transportation easements – can be a major point of conflict. There's no landlords, but there are still plenty of disputes.



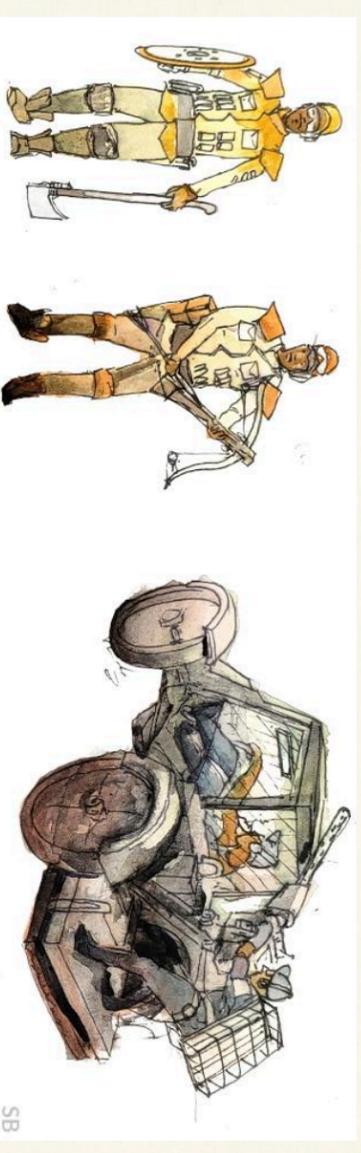
Sean Bodley

Militaries

Military organizations exist, but are organized on the principle of anti-imperialism. They exist for defense and the protection of life and light only.

This tends to manifest in the configuration of most countries' forces; building largely around defense within their own territory, rather than in creating highly mobile forces and long supply chains meant to project force around the world.

In Pacifica, the armed forces trace their lineage to the American military, but have been pared down almost beyond recognition to prioritize local defense and disaster response.



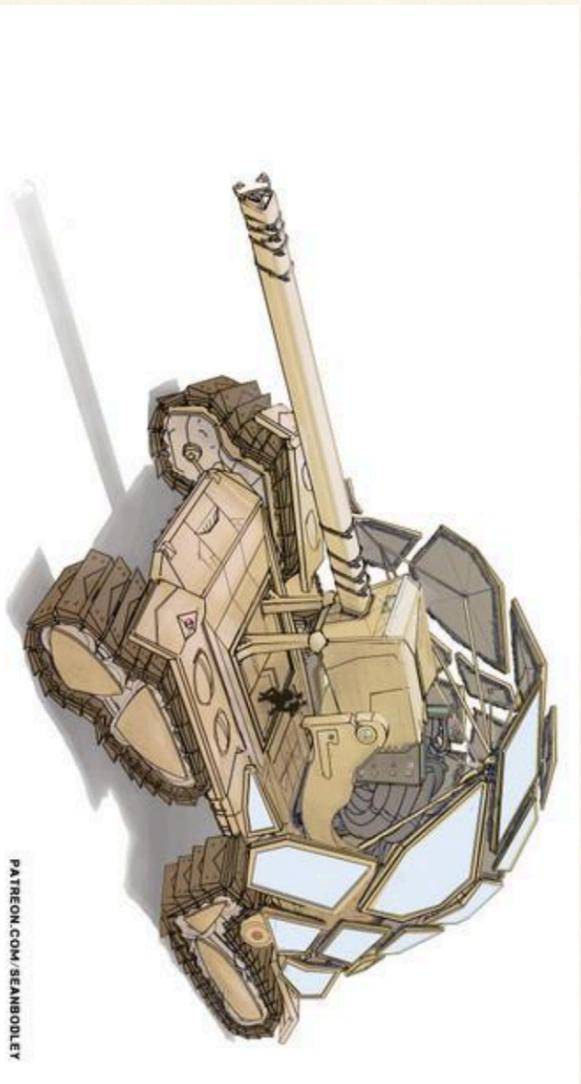
SB

The National Guard

The most traditional military organization and its primary land services branch is the Pacifica National Guard. This branch descends primarily from the National Guard of various west coast American states, and operates in much the same way. The majority of its soldiers and airmen hold civilian jobs full-time while serving part-time as National Guard members. They respond both to land and air threats, as well as natural disasters, and operate primarily inside Pacifican territory unless called in to assist with disasters overseas. The Guard does maintain a smaller corps of full-time professional soldiers, responsible for national defense, strategic planning, and training within the organization. Members of this branch often hold that their organization descends directly from the United States Army. The National Guard is distinct from other Pacifican branches in that it cannot serve in a law-enforcement capacity.

The Coast Guard

The Pacifican Coast Guard descends more from the United States Coast Guard than the United States Navy, but essentially serves both functions. Its role is to protect territorial waters, to conduct search and rescue operations, and to conduct law enforcement activities, primarily on the ocean.



The Civil Defense

The Pacifican Civil Defense is a civilian, volunteer organization charged with responding to human-made and natural disasters. It traces its lineage to similar organizations in dozens of countries, dating back as far as the 1920s, including the American Civil Defense, and has sibling organizations in most nations around the modern world. Somewhat anachronistically, its modern members take pride in being part of a class of organization with a long history of service and sacrifice, which once dug people out of rubble in the Blitz, which cleared radioactive debris in Chernobyl, and which has since responded to every class of natural disaster. Its chapters are organized at the town- or county-level depending on population, territory, and scope of responsibilities. In major cities, chapters often operate at the neighborhood-level. This ensures that its members know the area, its resources and requirements, and the people they are responsible for.

Civil Defense chapter responsibilities are broad, and often specialized to local conditions, but broadly scoped around prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, or emergency evacuation and recovery. In some regions that may mean responding to wildfires, or assisting paramedics, searching damaged structures for survivors, building levees in a flood, or distributing and building tornado shelters. They often provide training and education.

Unlike some of its sibling organizations overseas, the Pacifican Civil Defense is technically paramilitary, in that it is an auxiliary of the National Guard, and can be called into wartime service, though this would mostly be conducted in the operation of emergency shelters, the moving of supplies, search and rescue, and other non-combat roles. Just the same, because it once functioned as a catch-all and oversight for local militias, granting them formal legitimacy while providing gradual retraining and rescopeing, some chapters still drill combat preparedness. The GM and players can determine just what kind of Civil Defense their local chapter is.

Land Rights

In the 22nd century it's well understood that the ground we walk on is a universal inheritance, not just to all humans, but to all creatures this generation and onward. It is unjust for any individual to be born into a state of dominion over something created by the divine. However, we obviously accept that land has a precious connection to the people who live on it, especially the people who came into the world in that place. Those to whom a place is home deserve a greater degree of oversight beyond any random person who has never been there. To reconcile this, the land of the earth is divided up into parcels starting at the global level and then delegated to smaller and smaller organizational bodies, all the way down to groups and individuals. These groups and individuals are recognized as the "land holders" or "stewards" rather than "owners", as they "hold" or "steward" land rather than possess it. Players and GMs can still use the term "own" as they see fit, so long as it's clear that right to direct the use of a parcel carries far greater responsibilities than the word "own" currently conveys.

The Global Congress agrees to national boundaries, and in doing so charges nations with responsibility for the land under their stewardship. Each nation then delegates oversight and responsibility to states or provinces, who then do the same on down the line. This is how countries receive the authority to democratically decide how to draw parcel boundaries and set the values which may determine tax obligations for the right to hold/steward land in perpetuity. Depending on its population density, they may grant a parcel as the ongoing holding to a family with the accompanying rights and responsibilities to live and tend that area. Or perhaps they may delegate those parcels to a city that breaks them into city blocks, which are delegated to building co-ops under the supervision of neighborhood councils. In both town and country, ample spaces are held by the commons for habitat preservation, water capture, recreation, permaculture, education, hunting, fishing, and other social benefits.

The actual legal practices around land use will vary by location, but in general, stewardship of land may often look somewhat similar to modern day ownership, except that land is never under the control of disinterested parties. Its control may be divided among people who reside on it, work on it, or live adjacent to it, but never a distant investor. The surrounding community has a say, and it can't be transferred at a profit.

Legally, this may look similar to owning land with broad conservation easements on it with active enforcement in a world where much more land has been zoned for conservation/rewilding. The details of this arrangement will vary by location, but generally land is something you care for, rather than an investment. Land value taxes are rated on the value of the land based on its current use, rather than as part of a money making scheme.

These details will manifest differently in the lived experiences of characters from different places. The urban-rural divide is much narrower, due to high speed train networks, cyberspace, and flexible work and living arrangements. Even still, relationships to space vary with density and distance from urban centers. In cities, building holdings are almost always highly communal. Buildings frequently connect to their neighbors above and below ground,

The products of the food system make their way to their recipients primarily through grocery co-ops. These operate similarly to grocery stores, except often without a point of sale. Most utilize a membership system which entitles members to take what they wish in exchange for fulfilling a set commitment monthly. That commitment may be in hours of on-site labor, management and ordering, the payment of other members to fulfill a member's commitment, or nothing at all. As in the present day, different grocery stores reflect the tastes of different clientele. Some specialize in providing gourmet prepared meals. Others are nothing more than bulk-supply warehouses of staples. Many have attached restaurants, cafes, and community kitchens. Additionally, many restaurants have an associated grocery.

The purchase of groceries and in-restaurant dining with cash is still commonplace, but in addition to conventional exchange of currency, many accept credits from various co-ops or social media reactions (likes, hearts, clout, etc.). Regular travelers, for instance, will often join a travelers dining cooperative to gain access to meals at participating partners around the system in exchange for fulfilling similar commitments to a local co-op.

Types of Common Grocery Stores

Food is distributed at a variety of different styles of distribution centers. The most common general stores are granaries, groceries, and boutique groceries.

Granaries are typically no-fills co-ops which may have minimal commitments or no commitments at all. Bulk foods and vegetables are placed in a warehouse floor in the barrels, bushels, and pallets they arrived on, and any visitor can take whatever they need. There is no guarantee one will find a specific item, unless you were to know when something regularly comes in. Granaries are popular because of the simplicity and lack of commitment. Regular visitors are asked to register as members and donate based on ability to pay for land taxes and support the administration team, but any visitor can walk into a granary and help themselves to provisions.

Groceries are food distribution centers that provide greater selection in exchange for more complex bookkeeping. Though members do not always pay at the point of access, members have accounts and their consumption is tracked as they collect their things in order to identify what stock should be expanded and what should be reduced. Groceries typically have staples like bulk grains and vegetables as well as a section for premium and prepared items. These more closely resemble the modern grocery store, though without a clear delineation between customers and employees.

Boutique groceries are groceries which specialize in luxury products, like small-batch lab-grown meats and wild-caught, spear-hunted fish. These often consist of a marketplace or food court of independent bakers, wine sellers, and fromageries that sell goods for direct payment (either currency or clout) at the point of sale or by keeping a monthly tab.



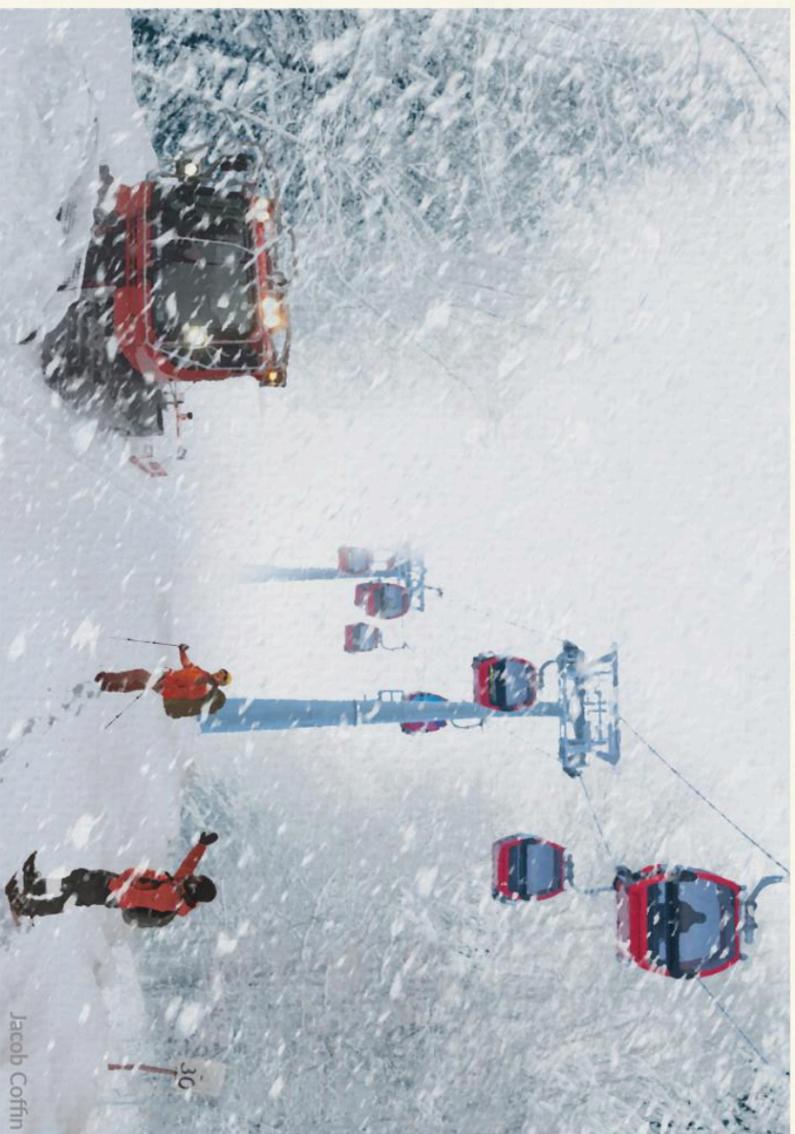
Jacob Coffin

Crisis Agencies

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from a local extinction event in waiting. While emergency responders train for a variety of situations, Crisis Agencies have a mixture of full time members and part-time reservists who take part in training, scenarios tests and a lot of VR simulations with the aim of providing specialized support when specific types of crises occur. These may include situations such as:

- Earthquakes
- Search and Rescue
- Fire and Flood
- Plague / gene spliced microbe escape
- Cyber collapse
- Cyber Hijack

While the Civil Defense would also fall into this category of organizations as the largest single example, there are many smaller agencies with different specializations which would likely find themselves taking the lead in their areas of expertise, once responding to a crisis.



Food Production

In temperate locations, food is produced in a variety of ways, but the typical ones include farms and gardens. Large farms typically consist of permaculture food forests. These are cultivated lands that house fruit and nut-bearing trees among fields of cereal crops, vegetables, and legumes chosen for their ability to yield productive harvests on an efficient schedule while balancing out their impacts on the soil. These farms are typically worker-owned collectives that make use of automation and mechanical assistance to substantially lighten the workload.

In addition to farms, most residential areas cultivate extensive gardens. These are often in greenhouses on the roofs and terraces of apartments and mixed-use buildings, but also include everything from window boxes to hydroponic subterranean grow rooms. City greenspaces frequently contain fruit-bearing trees and shrubs with foraging-safe examples marked for passersby.

A large volume of food is also produced through insect farming and bioreactors. These categories of production provide the majority of synthetic meats. The size and methodology of these operations varies widely, including the culturing of diverse animal cells, algae, and fungi. These systems makeup a particularly vital component of infrastructure, as they are rapidly responsive, and are relied upon to ensure the nutrition of as many organic creatures as necessary in the face of a disaster or catastrophic event.

Social Struggles

Most of the obvious social struggles of the twentieth century have been largely resolved. Gender and racial conflict is extremely rare, though regional conflict - between countries, continents, and planetary bodies - stubbornly persists. There are new struggles as well:

- **Machine rights:** General AI (now referred to as 'Synthetic Intelligence') produced sentient machines. These machines populate the technosphere in great numbers, constantly coming into and out of operation at various levels of sapience. They resemble the sprawling flora and fauna of the biosphere in that their treatment is governed by rights which can be complex at the best of times and deliberately violated at the worst.
- **Parahuman Animal rights:** Non-human animals (known as parahuman animals or parahumans) are recognized to have far more right to exist than in the previous century. This includes:
 - Natural wildlife
 - Domestic and companion animals
 - Enhanced animals, such as chimps and crows capable of speech and human-level intelligence, and whales and dolphins capable of speech through translators.

The existence of chimps, apes, and birds with levels of intelligence and communication that matches that of humans creates a complicated and often fraught social structure for both enhanced and heirloom animals. For more information, see [Animal Enhancement](#).

- **Class conflict:** The historical divide between owners of means of production and laborers has dissolved, but [social classes](#) between those with greater levels of cultural influence and prestige and those with less still create friction.
- **Data protections & other consumer protections**
- **Land and resource use disputes**
- **Philosophical debates** both over purpose, rights, responsibilities, and values (both collective and individual).
 - These produce countless constituencies ranging from social activists defending their ability to practice a harmless niche belief system to violent revolutionaries that seek to replace existing orders with supremacy of a preferred worldview.

Summary of Major Historical Events

This game world is meant to be a flexible substrate onto which readers tell interesting stories. The following world events are deliberately open-ended in many details, as they're supposed to inspire possible stories and create an outline rather than a strict lore.

2038 - A changing of the guard begins the African Ascension

Like any epochal change, it is impossible to pin the African Ascension to a specific year. But the wave of political and labor union elections of 2038 marked as tangible a turning point across the mother continent as can be found. In the midst of runaway climate catastrophe, a brother & sisterhood of writers and labor leaders emerged carrying a new vision of autonomy that spread like wildfire among a populace well aware of their problems and desperate for new and credible prescriptions for change. After a few years of near-wins and close losses, 2038 was the year that many bearers of this vision swept into power in multiple roles across multiple nations across central Africa. This bold new vision came to be known as the "African model". Rejecting the economic subjugation of the global north, they implemented a radical set of organized, localized policies to focus on providing basic healthcare, education, and safety through hyperlocal networks of aid. Overnight, they crashed their nations economies as their foreign investors punished them with a near complete pull out of funds, but to the astonishment of the watching world they moved forward undeterred. Having foreseen this consequence they proceeded anyway in order to break free of the unwinnable forced dependence that had been engineered to bind them in perpetuity in service to the global north.

Contemporarily, the next decade looked to outsiders like a house of cards always about to crumble. But the jailbreak worked. A decade later, it had become obvious to all that the "developed world" had followed global capital off a cliff. Only when every idea had been exhausted did foreign press begin to notice that what looked like poverty from far away was a successful program of degrowth and resiliency that was yielding longer lives, healthier ecosystems, and happier people in a society with none of the internationally valued currencies.

Along with new models grown and tested in orbit and in the cracks of neglected working-class barrios, cities, states, and countries began to find a new footing.

2039 - Gareth Domingo becomes the first talking Chimpanzee

At four years old, Gareth stunned the world by speaking with a vocabulary of twenty words. The tangible evidence of the success of the field of cognitive enhancement set off a research boom that created the first few thousand u-chimps within the next few years.

The goal of applying these techniques to create "ultrahumans" was never realized. Cross-disciplinary research concluded that enhanced human sapience was inherently

unstable. The principle – known as the Goddard-Lei principle – found an unavoidable linkage between heightened cognition and depression, anxiety, communication difficulties, and personality disorders, with minimal practical benefits to individuals or society. Consequently, efforts at enhancing human potential moved on to the fields of cybernetics and psionics. But the boom produced the first generation of communicative parhuman apes.

As one of the earliest enhanced chimpanzees, Gareth's intelligence in adulthood was noticeably lower than the average human. Even so, Gareth became known for his sense of humor, curiosity, and humility. He remained a presence in the movement for parhuman civil rights all the way up to his death in 2095 at the age of fifty-eight.

2040 - Discovery of the Eden Caves

The discovery in 2040 of caves on Mars carved into deliberate structures conclusively revealed the ancient presence of an alien intelligence. Little has yet been discovered about them, but their existence generated a new faith called Seekerism that inspires a life of searching for purpose through the lens of our newfound awareness. There are many theories around the Eden intelligence. Some say they visited Earth millennia ago. Others believe they had a thriving civilization on Mars that was eradicated by itself or by an external adversary. Some believe they were travelers occupying Mars briefly, and that they are out among the stars waiting to be met. In any case, it has motivated millions to immigrate to a rough frontier life on Mars.

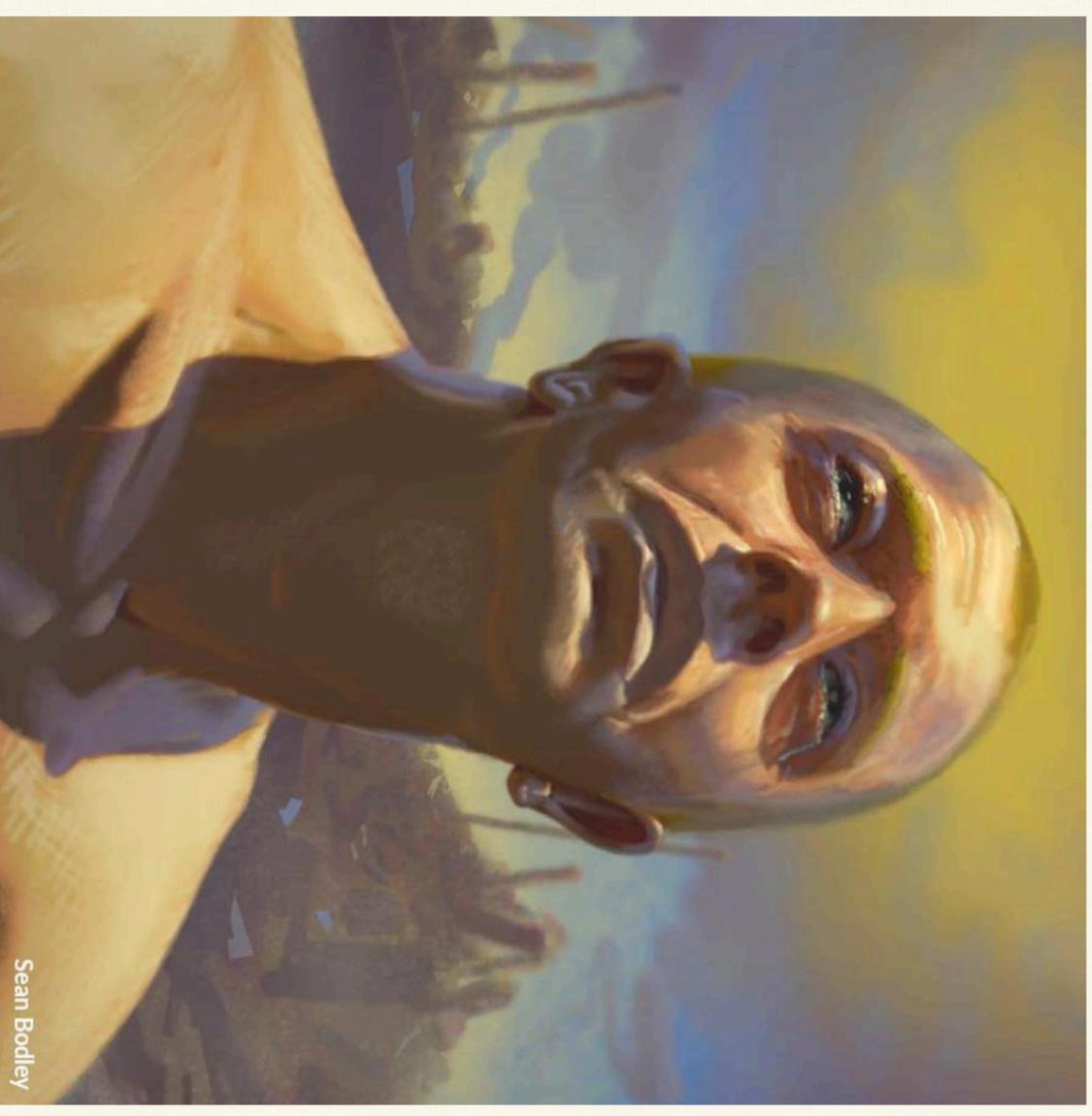
2042 - The Yurok People v. The Bureau of Land Management

In 2028, congress passed the Federal Ordinance for Restoration of Environments for Sustainable Territories (or FOREST) Act. The FOREST Act was a massive compromise legislation which created new programs to encourage forestry management. It included terms to make preserving and expanding forests as carbon sinks financially competitive with logging and mineral extraction by allowing companies to sell carbon offsets; funded construction of new parks; relaxed limits on hunting; and provided dozens of other favors for the various stakeholders needed to secure passage. One of its 35 sections even contained a largely symbolic gesture to American Indian tribes which would return neglected land to them under conditions which were believed unlikely to ever be exercised.

The effects were mixed. By 2038, millions of additional acres of land had been set aside as protected reserves. Many policy experts believed that the reduction in drilling and fracking that occurred was driven more by local bans and a rapid decline in financing as the banking sector began to recognize that new carbon infrastructure had become such frequent targets of sabotage that their risk wasn't worth the declining returns. Eventually, the carbon offsets market crashed in 2041 following the Second Paradise Fire. A lawsuit followed. During *Our Children's Trust v. Green Growth Climate Solutions*, the climate advocacy group Our Children's Trust showed that Green Growth Climate Solutions had purchased hundreds of square miles and contracted with the Federal Bureau of Land Management to be responsible for forestry management of thousands more of federally held land in order to sell worthless

Agreement Agencies

If a practice or enterprise impacts others (such as a large, noisy concert), or is so large that it represents a temporary opportunity cost for other people (such as commissioning a rocketship or major infrastructure) then agreement agencies provide assistance in mediating negotiations among stakeholders. These agencies often loan members to other agencies to provide technical expertise to all sides or help de-escalate or settle disagreements. Members often specialize in ecological framing, estimation, surveying, contract wording, body language, history, and most of all approaches to consensus building. They provide a kind of legal service, except that because the legal tools to dominate or force conditions on people or groups are rare, these entities rely on persuasion and deal making.



Sean Bodley