like to live here : if I could afford it/ when I retire/ if my mum could come too/ if they would let me stay/ ...".

And sometimes the urge to live elsewhere is actually a very noble, helpful one : "The lives of these people would be so much improved if only I could put in a decent water supply/ when my kids are older, it would be great to spend a couple of years here and fix up all their dreadful teeth/ if only they installed the simple computer system I developed, they could save half their costs and avoid so much misery".

In MT terms, tourism represents the same sort of valuable synenergy flow as does migration. The bringing-together of different forms of infocap allows them to breed, to give a result superior to the simple sum of the components. Like making a great thick soup, mixing the bits together gives a result nicer than any of the individual foods, and yet the result is not homogeneous, diversity is actually enhanced rather than diminished.

The Downside

If migration is so good, why are there so many restrictions on it? Why can't anyone just move to where they wish and live there?

There are many answers to this question. The MT analysis answer would be that these restrictions are a normal expression of SIOS, the excessive fear and dislike of systels who are different. And there is also the point that such restrictions continue to exist, because they can actually be enforced to some degree or other.

The point was made right back in Propositions 103C and 103D that what we might call the 'systonization of society' has accelerated enormously in recent history. Two hundred years ago, if you wanted to live on a different part of the globe, and could afford to get there, you just went. You might encounter many difficulties — hostile tribes in the wilder parts, vicious diseases or religious exclusion in more civilized areas — but your difficulties were generally not bureaucratic ones.

Nowadays the drums are a lot tighter than they were. Consider the following article.

Fig. 113.1. (West Australian, 1991 March 2)

Where the Gardener Went

My personal feeling is that the article in Fig. 113.1 was both very saddening, and a shocking reflection of the unpleasant face that Australia is currently presenting to the world. All the cruel and unfair practices which Australia was notorious for in the bad old days of the White Australia Policy, and which the officials assure us are long gone, are once again with us in force, in a more sophisticated and suave form.

Earlier this year I noticed that I hadn't seen the gardener around for some time at the place where I work. He was a nice, hard-working fellow with an English accent. When I asked around, I was told that two large gentlemen from the Immigration Police had removed him — apparently he had overstayed his visitor's visa.

Apparently he had been doing all the right things, like putting in his income tax return, and so on. In fact he had actually been tracked down through his tax return — a disquieting thought for those who believe in the privacy of such returns.

This was a quiet event which would not arouse any public comment. A far more public event, unresolved for many months, is the case of a group of 86 people who, in 1991, sailed from China to Australia in a small boat. They came to land at a remote spot on the Kimberley coast of WA. After weeks of trekking through the bush, clubbing crocodiles and snakes to death for food, the first of the party reached a remote Kimberley cattle station.

Then followed days of air searches for the remainder of the scattered party, some of whom were injured — the last two found were near death. The nation heaved a sigh of relief when the last were found, still alive.

At the time of writing, all these Chinese are still locked in a detention camp in the Northwest, more than a year after they got here. This is in spite of many impassioned pleas from church and social groups, and undertakings to support these people if released to the local community. In spite of numerous legal battles with Mr Hand's Ministry, with one court action stymied by Mr Hand enacting a change in the law to prevent it.

Look again at the news article, and the numbers involved. Mr Hand proudly notes that he has trebled the number of compliance officers to find and expel illegal migrants. Around 600 people, around one-third of a hundredth of one percent of the population, have been ejected.

Is the huge expense of such actions, and the devastating fall in Australia's reputation overseas, worth it to maintain Mr Hand's Will To Order? I think not. I think Mr Hand has looked at the gardener's belly, and cried "Look! He has No Star!".

This Syston IS an Island

The only nation which has a whole continent to itself, Australia prides itself on its secure boundaries. Of course, in a parallel to Proposition 113D, no nation-syston has completely impermeable boundaries, nor would MT suggest that it would be desirable if it were.

In fact, from the MT viewpoint the tightness of our boundaries is actually a disadvantage in enabling such a tight control on systel flow. Nowhere else is there the possibility of such rigid control, nor the will to enforce it.

Look now at the United States. From once being a land calling out "Give us your Poor ...",

the USA has since tightened up considerably, although it is still the Mecca of prospective migrants worldwide — we will look at this more in Chapter 115. And with far more open land and sea boundaries, the USA has taken in not thousands, but millions of 'illegal' migrants. It may not have done this enthusiastically, but its level of compassion and realism has been far ahead of that of Australia.

Of course, this has resulted in problems. More than half the population of Miami, in Florida, were born in Cuba. More than 40 percent of the population do not even speak English, only Spanish.

In Britain during the 1950s there was a huge influx of immigrants, particularly from the West Indies, India, and Pakistan. Naturally enough these various ethnic groups tended to settle in particular parts, and in some areas they came to form the majority of the population.

This did lead to problems, not overt discrimination matters necessarily, but strategic problems. For example, in some London suburbs close to where I lived, two-thirds of the young children entering primary school were recent migrants from India. Of course most adult Indians can speak English, but these were children who had learnt to speak an Indian language from their parents at home.

Now these children had to learn to read, to read English, a language they did not even know. It could be an immense problem. Of course the authorities could bring resources to bear on the problem, say by taking on Indian-speaking teachers to bring the children's English up to speed, and they did what they could. But what were the lost one-third, the local English children, to do in the same class at the time?

There were also moral dilemmas. When I was about to migrate to Australia in 1964, the house I had been buying was in a suburb in which Indian migrants had started to buy and live. There were none in my street. There was the normal anti-migrant bias in the area, and my neighbour pleaded with me not to sell my house to an Indian — it would lower house values, and he would have to put up with the results of cramming perhaps three Indian families into the house, while I was well clear.

I did my best to satisfy him. The problem was, no English person would consider buying a house in that suburb then, because it was considered in the process of being 'taken over by the Indians'. Instead, they would look in another suburb — that was free choice. In the end, the house went to an Indian buyer — there were no others in the market, and I needed to sell.

All Things Pass

But all things pass. A generation on, most of the population speak the same London accent, only old Grannie in the back room reminding them of the difficulties of those from another culture, another time and place. Those poor children trying to learn to read a language they could not speak are now running banks and businesses, or treating patients of all the skin colours going. When the old Indian fellow with rheumatism problems is brought in, the local doctor feels grateful he can grope back into his ethnic past to find the words to console him with.

At home, his English-born wife has been shopping and bought sweet potatoes at the local supermarket to eat with the evening meal. His sons are on the way home from the local basketball match, they have bought some curry puffs from the local fish-and-chip shop, and are gazing uneasily at some dark old gentleman who is asking them directions in a language they know not one word of.

And so the last Proposition of this chapter:

Proposition 113F***. A syston will be advantaged by the highest possible immigration rate it can cope with

Think about it, Mr Hand.

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Chapter 114
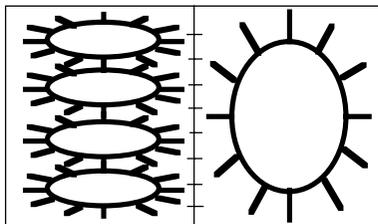
WHAT'S GOOD FOR GENERAL MOTORS —
Matrix Additivity and Conservation

What's Good for General Motors
Is Good for the U-S-A.
— Charles E Wilson, to Congressional Committee, 1952

Counting on Our Fingers

No detailed understanding of the components of a complex system seems possible unless numbers or quantities can be applied to give an idea of the scale of its differerent parts. We need to be able to count the things we are dealing with.

In the human world, our normal numbering system is based on the number ten. We are still counting on our fingers — in an alien world where the inhabitants had six fingers on each of two hands, their base number would probably be twelve. Even our word for the symbols involved, the digits, actually means fingers.

If we now try to apply conventional counting and measurement procedures to the sort of topics we have looked at in Matrix Thinking, we must do so with caution. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, some of the assumptions which are imbedded in the ordinary sort of counting we do in daily life may not apply in the Matrix area. In chapter 105, I suggested (Proposition 105I) that matrix qualities may not be subject to the same laws as linear qualities. When we move, as now, to try and handle matrix *quantities*, it would be wise to check whether our ordinary counting procedures still apply. Often they will not.

It Just Doesn't Add Up

Adding ordinary numbers is 'commutative'. If we have 3 bananas and add 2 bananas, we end up with 5 bananas. If we start with 2 and add 3, going in the reverse order, the answer is the same.

This seems absolutely simple and obvious. That it is not so, is shown by dividing instead of adding. If we divide 3 by 2, we get a different result than we would if we divided 2 by 3.

And of course the additive principle assumes that the items added are identical in nature. Often, in a real as opposed to an abstract world, they are not. In a New Guinea market, the 5 bananas you buy may be intended only for cooking, and quite unsuitable to add towards the fruit salad you want to make.

Suppose you want to see how many job vacancies there are in Australia. You add together the figures for the different states and territories, 100,000 in New South Wales, 20,000 in Western Australia, and end up with a total of, say, 400,000. Is that an accurate procedure?

The answer is no. Some of the vacancies will be counted more than once, they are the same vacancy, 'offering itself' in more than one state at the same time. Other will be very localized, existing only in a very restricted locality, say a distant mine in outback WA. These will be of no relevance to someone seeking work in Sydney. And obviously each vacancy will have its own requirements for filling, the unemployed accountant just cannot take up the plumbing vacancy and go from there.

The deduction from this is that we cannot just add together matrix quantities and necessarily expect the simple total to make any sort of sense.

Proposition 114A**. Matrix quantities are not necessarily additive

Moving Across Systons

The second cautionary aspects concerns adding up things which lie in different areas. Simple mathematical addition embraces a second assumption: a single, continous range along which numbers are added. If we add 26 and 3 and get 29, we automatically assume that if we add 1026 and 3 we will get 1029 — the numbers are all living on the same linear scale, and working at a point further along the scale should only displace the answer, not alter it.

In the real world, things are not so simple. If a man is walking along at 5 kilometres per hour in a town, roughly how many houses will he pass in a minute? The answer obviously depends on the building pattern, but with a typical Australian street frontage of 10m, with houses both sides, the answer is about 17.

All right, but suppose the surface the man was walking on was the corridor of a train moving at 60 km/h? Obviously the number of houses passed would be far more. And even on the same house spacings, the detailed number would depend on whether he was walking in the direction the train was going or the opposite way.

That is not an example of a second facet of matrix quantities, it is only a parallel. What that facet actually involves is the realization that matrix quantities are not necessarily additive across or over systons.

Proposition 114B**. Matrix quantities are not necessarily additive across or over systons

Take, as another parallel, the population of a shire or county. A local authority may

conceivably have a record of how many people live in each of its rateable properties — it may operate under a poll tax system, for example. If it adds all those numbers together, it will get a total which represents the number of people living in the shire.

Now that is a procedure which is obviously not watertight — it omits people living in non-rateable properties, for example. But that is a Proposition 114A limitation.

The Proposition 114B limitation comes in when you try to calculate the population of the State, and do this by adding together the populations of its constituent shires. Here, even if the shire counting method was exact, the State count would not be, because some of the population will have houses in more than shire — perhaps a holiday home, or a farm property managed by someone not living in the farmhouse.

When you move into the more subtle areas of syston makeup, the limitation becomes more apparent. Calculating the number of sports club supporters in a State by adding up the individual club numbers would obviously be useless — many of those involved will support more than one club, cricket *and* football, for example.

What's Sauce for the Goose: The Goose's View

Finally, the matter raised in the quotation at the head of this chapter. I have put this quotation in, not because I believe it is true, but because I think it is a readily-assumed principle which is often completely false. Here is my view:

Proposition 114C***. Things which advantage a particular syston will usually disadvantage a wider syston which contains it

What this Proposition is saying, in effect, is "What's good for General Motors is *bad* for the USA". At first sight this assertion seems most unlikely to be valid. But let us apply a little linear thinking to it, and then move on to MT analysis.

On the standard view, many of the things which go to make up society — jobs, money, resources, and the like — are assumed to be 'conserved'. Here, 'conserved' is used in the scientific sense, that is, the total amount of a given resource is assumed to remain the same, although it may be changed in form.

If we have a resource of 100 million tonnes of coal in the ground at some place, it will stay there unless we use it. If we use it up at a rate of 1 million tonnes a year, by changing it into heat or some or other form of energy, it will last 100 years. All very straightforward.

If the Government lets in 100,000 migrants, that means there will be 100,000 less jobs for Australians. If overtime was banned, that would create huge numbers of new jobs for those at present unemployed. If the Government didn't spend a billion dollars on armaments, it could put the money into the health or education systems.

These last things are not so straightforward. Nevertheless, they are the sort of assumptions which are at the base of much linear thinking.

Of course such assumptions also underlie one of the fundamental feelings in society — the idea of equity, of Fair Shares for All. This is an aspect of what, in Chapter 109, I referred to as 'tight-banding'. It applies in both directions, down and up.

The Tall Green-Eyed Poppy

Australia is notorious for what is called the 'Tall-Poppy Syndrome', the urge to drag down those who make a lot of money or become very prominent in some area. It is a sort of envy. When it is an expression from a complex syston, rather than an individual — and usually there will be syston equivalents to all individual urges — we can call it syston-envy, in MT terms.

Envy at any level is usually reckoned as Bad. Particular instances in the past have been justified on the grounds of another urge, usually reckoned as Good — the idea that things should be shared out fairly, that is evenly.

There is nothing in the Matrix Thinking approach to support this view. In fact, MT would regard it, like any other instance of tight-banding, as leading to a reduction of infocap, normally associated with a disadvantage to wider society.

Proposition 114D**. A syston is not advantaged by attempting to share its resources equally among its systels

How about the other direction, that is, how about somebody who is very rich sharing out his wealth with lots of others? The Proposition just stated applies equally here, too. But, how about the very poor, doesn't this principle imply that it would be a mistake to top up their resources and bring them closer to the average?

It is not the intention of Proposition 114D to suggest that those who have very little should not be helped to improve their lot. But, it must be admitted that we have arrived at a sticking point in our MT analysis. We will not be able to achieve more clarification of the situation until we arrive at the concept of Threshold Levels, as in Chapter 116 and beyond.

Readers will have noted the relation between the last two Propositions and Proposition 113A, which suggested that a syston is disadvantaged by discrimination between its systels. At first glance, the various principles suggested might seem in conflict. The conflict disappears, however, when the clear distinction is made between discrimination, applying to inequality of opportunity or treatment, and sharing-out, applying basically to physical possessions.

But this chapter was to look at the nature of matrix quantities. Before we end it, and go on to look at attempting to measure these quantities in the next chapter, we should formally put forward a basic facet of matrix quantities, as a reminder of one aspect of Proposition 106D.

Proposition 114E***. Matrix quantities are not conserved

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Chapter 115
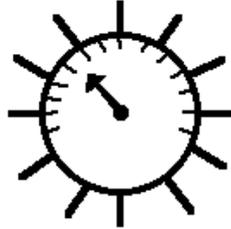
STOP THE WORLD, I WANT TO CHANGE SEATS —
Synenergy and Infocap Measuring

"In everything there lieth measure"

— Geoffrey Chaucer (1375)

Top Down or Bottom Up?

In Chapter 114 we looked at the matter of adding up matrix quantities, and I suggested that the ordinary rules of addition did not apply. In thus throwing away a universally-applied technique, I perhaps have an obligation to submit an alternative.

Adding together the bits — what might be called the Accounting Technique — is one which operates from the bottom up. Add together all the little bits at the bottom, say all the people in a city, and you end up with a 'top' figure, the municipal population.

There is another way. It avoids deficiencies in accounting-technique formulas by dispensing with them. Instead, quite a different technique is used, one which operates from the top down.

As an example, it would be possible to measure a city population by going to the local stadium at the time of the annual North-of-the-River v. South-of-the-River football match, which everyone attends, and estimating how full it is. If the stadium holds 100,000 and it is 75% full, the city population is 75,000.

Now obviously that approach is very simplified. It could be made more exact by estimating the fraction of population who did not actually attend, say by local water consumption from flushing toilets, and the number actually at the match could be estimated more precisely, say from peak noise levels, body heat emitted from the whole stadium, or change in light absorption determined from a satellite photo. And just as obviously, any such approach cannot be exact.

Top-down methods of measurement are intrinsically open to the criticism that they are inexact. If the quantity being measured is not a matrix one, it may well be that an 'accounting'

technique is available which does appear exact. Even here, though, it is possible to confuse an exact method of counting with an exact method of measuring — there may be a discrepancy between what is actually counted and what is intended to be measured.

For the football match, a turnstile count will be one which is close to exact. But remember, it was the *city* population we were trying to measure. Even if the quantity we are measuring is an additive one, it does not follow that methods are available which truly perform the desired summation accurately.

For a non-additive quantity, for example matrix quantities like infocap, we can only use an alternative approach. Let us now look for one.

The Synenergy Meter

Back in Chapter 102 we sketched a picture of a country represented as a black box, with a dial on the front marked 'Infocap'. That concept was a purely mental one. Let us now try to devise a real technique, one capable of measuring how much synenergy a country contains.

In previous chapters we have referred to synenergy as based on infocap in motion, or as infocap 'quickened' by addition of some other factor in syston makeup. Infocap itself can be regarded as the substance which makes up the 'worth' of a syston. One aspect of infocap is money.

Of course procedures already exist to estimate the money ranking of a country, such as the Gross National Product per capita mentioned in Chapter 109. Now GNP is worked out on additive, 'accounting' principles — a typical example of bottom-up methods. Note also that, in common with 'bottom-up' methods, the result is measured in familiar units — say in US dollars per person per year.

Matrix Thinking by definition looks at a situation from the outside, and to measure a matrix quantity we necessarily need to work top-down, from the broadest aspect. Look now at the advert in Figure 115.1.

This advert appeared in, and was repeated in, an Australian newspaper in 1991. It is an interesting item in itself, with its reference to 'Green Card Lotteries', and the offer of advice on filling out forms with 'winning answers', getting U.S. citizenship, and avoiding deportation.

It is also interesting in the ordering format offered, with the facility for making a free international telephone call and charging the book to a credit card. This advert was the first reference

Fig. 115.1. Advertisement from the 'Weekend Australian', 1991 April 6-7

I had seen in Australia to the existence of an 0014 Overseas Freephone service; Australia's established telephone utility, Telstra, does not mention it, although they do describe the free-to-caller internal 1800 service.

But the real impact and relevance of this advert is that it should appear at all. For it to be worth someone's while to pay for such an ad, and repeat it later, it can be assumed that a response was expected and obtained. The existence of the ad implies that readers in Australia will be interested in migrating to the USA.

The Grass is Greener . . .

The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, and there will always be people who have a desire to live somewhere else. What we need to do in the current aim of constructing a Synergy Meter is to *quantify* the urges involved in the desire to move. Consider the following news item.

Australian life polls well

NEW YORK: A 16-nation poll found that Australia was the second most preferred alternative country to live.

Canadian pollsters Angus Reid asked 4510 people in 80 cities where they would choose to live if they were to leave their homelands today.

Australia (22 per cent) ranked second behind the US (27 per cent).

Japanese would be the most eager to migrate to Australia — 56 per cent of Japanese people polled said, if they were given the choice, they would move to Australia. South Koreans and

Britons (34 per cent) rank second in their desire to move to Australia.

If Australians were to move away from home, the most popular relocation spot would be Britain, with 30 per cent wanting to live there.

The US (22 per cent), Canada (22 per cent) and New Zealand (20 per cent) were the next most popular relocation sites for Australians.

The poll was conducted in the US, Canada, Mexico, France, Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy, Russia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, India and Australia.

Fig. 115.2. Item from the 'West Australian', 1992 May 23

Now of course these polls will not necessarily reflect migration movements which are in progress or may occur in the future. When it comes down to the actual process (or trial) of migrating, and all the hidden bureaucratic and discrimination rebuffs are met with head-on, a rosy view of a particular migration target might quickly vanish.

But that does not matter in the present case. The basis for the proposed Synergy Meter is the idea that the perceived attractiveness of a particular country as a migration target does give a measure of some attribute that country possesses, and that attribute is the same thing as what has been called the 'synergy' of the country in this book.

Proposition 115A**. The synergy of a syston is reflected in the urges of systels outside the syston to enter it

We should look carefully at what this suggestion really means. It is not just saying that a country with a lot of synergy will be likely to attract visitors and migrants, although this is implicit. What it is saying, is that the 'attractiveness' of a country as a place to visit or live in

reflects the basic quantity of a substance that country possesses, a quantity which we have called synenergy. The synenergy content is fundamental, measuring its attractiveness accurately is a way to measure its synenergy.

In fact at present we cannot make such a measurement very accurately. But we can make progress towards this.

The Message in the Rocks

In the early development of the modern science of geology, ways of measuring the *absolute* ages (ages in years) of different rock strata had not been worked out, but it was possible to work out their *relative* ages.

For example, in many parts of the world it is possible to find good exposures of long successions of rock strata. Within these successions, there may be layer after layer of rock, all essentially horizontal, and showing no sign of any dramatic event such as overturning in a mountain-building event. With drill-holes, some of these undisturbed rock sequences may be traced to very considerable depths, measured in kilometres.

Of course it is only logical that in an undisturbed sequence of rock deposition, the younger rocks will be on top of the older ones. Moreover, because all forms of life are continually evolving, fossils found in the different strata identify their relative ages and connection with similar strata elsewhere in the world. And of course some creatures had a long geological record, some short ones, and with a given assembly of different fossils from the same stratum it is possible to pin down the relative ages of the rocks involved quite well.

Sometimes the boundaries are remarkably precise. Once, in my youth, I climbed up one of the cliffs at the side of the Severn Gorge in England, to view the Triassic-Jurassic boundary, the division between two of the 16 major age divisions into which the Earth's rocks are usually classed.

Reaching almost to the top, with my arm over the edge, I lost my footing and fell. As I flashed by the Tea-Green Marls just below the classic boundary, and fell through millions of years of deposition in a few seconds, I realized that my geological hammer was still at the top.

Luckily I wasn't badly hurt. I climbed up the face again, reached the top, and fell again — but this time my hammer came down with me. And I had a piece of the Rhaetic Unconformity, a slice of history around 198 million years old, and only a centimetre or so thick.

A Crude Beginning

When we come now to our synenergy measurement, we are in a similar position to that of the early geologists. Using data such as that mentioned in Figure 115.2, we can place countries on a scale of migration attractiveness, and call their rating on the scale their synenergy content. And we can get not only a relative rating — Australia above Canada, say — but also a quantitative measure, perhaps with Australia 5 notches above Canada but 10 notches below the USA.

Note, however, that we have no absolute units to state the synenergy content in, we cannot say that Australia has a content of 198 million megasynergs or some such. For that we will

need to develop analogues of the potassium-argon dating of rocks. Note also that the synenergy measuring technique is a top-down one, we don't sum up any smaller bits, only sample from a large continuum.

More importantly, note that Synenergy Rating has no necessary connection with conventional measures of a country's worth, such as GNP, Gross National Product. GNP does attempt to measure assets in monetary terms, and money is one form of infocap, true enough. The point is that synenergy embraces far, far more than this one money component.

And so, while the United States may be at the top of both the GNP and Synergy scales, there is no general relationship. Japan, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries — these all have high GNP values, but is there a big rush to migrate there? I would be surprised if they were even mentioned as migration targets in a Fig. 115.2 poll. While Brazil or Indonesia — certainly not rich countries in conventional terms — could well be places where people might want to 'make a fresh commitment'.

Small Towns in Nebraska

We have looked at the attractiveness of countries as migration targets, and derived a technique for measuring their synenergy. With systons of other sizes or natures, we could look at other measurement techniques which might be applicable. To measure the ages of comparatively young fossils, we might need to switch from potassium-argon to carbon dating.

In a recent article in *Research Nebraska* [Miller, 1991], a study is reported of changes in the attractiveness of variously-sized Nebraska towns as retailing centres. Economist Bruce Johnson worked out a technique called 'pull factor analysis' to reflect these changes.

Pull factor is the 'per capita retail sales of a county or town divided by the state per capita retail sales for the same period'. What this means is, that if a retail centre has a pull factor greater than 1.00, it is holding its share of retail trade, while if it has a factor below 1.00, it is losing out to other centres.

Johnson found that the smallest centres were the greatest sufferers. In the period 1970 to 1988, the average pull factor for towns under 500 population fell from 1.08 to 0.60. For towns in the 500 to 1,000 population range, the factor fell, on average, from 1.02 to 0.74. Towns with between 1,000 and 10,000 population also declined somewhat, while those with more than 20,000 inhabitants were the winners.

Such figures may be saddening, but they are not surprising. The 'Magnet of the City', the 'Depopulation of the Countryside', these are common features of modern life all over the world. In MT terms, they are normal reflections of the tendency of infocap to aggregate and build up synenergy focussing and breeding nodes.

What this last study provides is another instance of a way of measuring synenergy content. It may not be exact, and it is still only relative, but it is a start. Let us now leave this topic and move to a completely different area — the study of syston governments, the overt managers of syston operations.

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Chapter 116
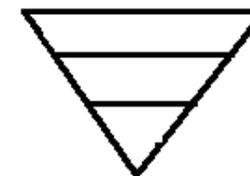
IT JUST DOESN'T FOLLOW —
Syston Government

"A new idea has come to dominate thought about government — the idea that the resources of the nation can be made to produce a far higher standard of living for the masses if only government is intelligent and energetic in giving the right directions to economic life"
— Franklin D. Roosevelt

Logic and Government

A friend who read my previous book, *Nuteeriat*, admitted he was impressed by it. But, he commented, it did contain a number of non-sequiturs.

He was right. And the reason why that book contained numerous suggestions which did not follow from what had gone previously was that the book was the product of what is here called Matrix Thinking.

Following a line of reasoning is, by definition, linear thinking. The present book is an attempt to bring out a different approach, whereby results are drawn out from the whole Matrix using any methods at all. These results can then be *tested* for applicability ('truth'?) by reasoning and logic, including completely linear logic, and compared with data from the real world to see how well it matches.

In this chapter we will plunge deep inside the Syston, and start to examine some of its specific elements — its vital organs, as it were. The first of these is an organ which we will call its Government. For a country-syston like Australia, its Syston Government will coincide in many, but not all, respects with Australia's Federal Government in Canberra.

In other systons, Government systels may have other names. In the human individual, this element is usually called the Mind or the Brain. In a business firm, the element may reside mostly in the Board of Directors, and in a voluntary organization, it may be represented in an Executive Committee.

Where the syston occupies a specific piece of land, as in a local authority, state, country,

or empire, the term Government is normally used, and that is why I have used it in this sense here, as a familiar term which is easily grasped. But, as always, the sense is extended and generalized, to cover elements with a particular function which are active in systons of every sort.

The Power of Symbols

Many people find it easier to accept a concept if it can be represented by a symbol. In this book, I will use an inverted triangle with two horizontal lines across it to represent a Government systel. And to start off with, I will place this symbol at the centre of the whole syston (Figure 116.1).
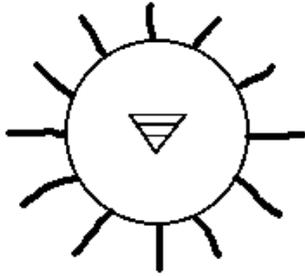

Fig. 116.1. A Government-systel symbol in its syston

Is the Government a Syston Itself?

An interesting question immediately arises as to whether a Government is itself a syston. Everyone will be familiar with times when a country's government seems to be careering along some independent path, perhaps obsessed with party politics, and seemingly oblivious to its alleged task of steering the country for its people. A measure of autonomy and self-continuity is, of course, a basic characteristic of a syston.

When looked at closely, however, the answer to this question seems to be "No". Defined as one of the vital components of a syston, a government cannot logically be a whole syston of itself, in its function as a government. What is perhaps a better description of the situation is to say that a government systel is in practice run by one or more systons, which change from time to time.

It is rather like the status of an incorporated company in business. Such a company has the legal status of a person, a person who can buy and sell goods and property, represent itself in court in suing and taking out writs, and so on. This 'person' has its own accepted signature (the 'common seal' of the company), it can die (be liquidated), and new ones can appear (be formed and registered).

In practice, however, no incorporated company, no corporate person, has enough consciousness to be able to sign its own cheques. This may not always be the case. But for the present, official corporate documents must still be signed and stamped by individual directors or officers of the company, acting under prescribed sets of rules as agents of the

company-government systel.

Similarly, in a national or state government, political parties usually act as the enabling systons which actually run the government on a day-to-day basis, and of course these parties are themselves often corporate bodies which have a legal existence of their own.

A History of Governing

The situation just described for governments is typical of many countries throughout the world at the present day. But it is clearly by no means universal.

As we look round the world, we can see that the Absolute Monarch has more or less disappeared from the scene. The Supreme Dictator is still with us — as currently in Iraq — he (it always is 'he') is perhaps a less developed absolute monarch, without the respectability of sanction by usage and family inheritance. And we still have, if a diminishing number, some Presidents-for-Life.

Above this level are governments where some non-individual syston is holding on to power. These include governments controlled by the military, as in Burma, race- and sex-discriminatory governments as in parts of Africa and the Middle East, and one-party governments, as in China and, effectively, Indonesia.

Above these are the newer and more shaky democracies, as in the emerging former Soviet republics, through firmer-based but perhaps still vulnerable democracies such as Ecuador, right up to older Westminster-style governments as in Britain and Australia.

Are these the peak of current development? No, they are not. There is a further, large, familiar form of government which is a complete step further on. It is that of the United States.

America, America

People who live in one of the Western democracies outside the United States just do not realise how fundamentally different the system of government is there compared to that in their own country. And in the US, the inhabitants, while proud of their system, often do not realize the fundamental differences either.

The US government system came into existence in a unique way. It can be said that it was 'scientifically' designed. The story is an interesting one, and to appreciate its force and implications, it is necessary first to know a bit about the 'spirit of the times' in the circumstances of its creation.

Nowadays we expect the laws and constitutions of a country to be put together by politicians and legal experts. Benjamin Franklin, often regarded as the Father of the US Constitution, did indeed act as a prominent figure in the new country's affairs, but of the different reasons for his fame during his own lifetime, the major one was his reputation as a scientist.

Franklin's standing in other fields has perhaps tended to obscure this fact. Nevertheless, in J.G. Crowther's *Famous American Men of Science* [1944], Franklin's activities take up more of this review than those of any other scientist. Crowther states quite unequivocally that "Franklin was the most important scientist of the eighteenth century". In reviewing the whole scope of Franklin's work, Crowther says "he had the most advanced mind of the eighteenth

century".

And yet if there is an outstanding feature of Franklin's personality, it is its breadth, with fingers in every pie. In contrast with the sober and socially inept bachelor Isaac Newton, who spent the greater part of his life running the Royal Mint in London, Franklin was a randy, mischievious person who combined great intellect with a love and enjoyment of life. In Proposition 105L, I have suggested that a genius in one area may have marked lacks in others — I would have to admit that Franklin would be the exception to this. Perhaps he demonstrates Proposition 105J better!

Crowther traces how the attitudes of Franklin and his colleagues in designing the US Constitution were influenced by the basic contributions to science made in the previous century by Isaac Newton. Newton was, of course, a giant of the scientific world, with his basic propositions on gravity and light, and his development of the mathematical calculus. But from these very major advances came another, more incidental one.

That advance was the realization that rules could be logically constructed for the organization and betterment of a country, as in the form of a constitution. This may seem very obvious, but in actual fact most changes to a country's jurisdiction are reactive, after the event. Newton had shown how an understanding of the basics of the physical universe (rather than the accumulation of rules-of-thumb) enabled a number of major practical advances to be designed and realized. It was a logical extension of this concept for Franklin and his colleagues to try and design a constitution 'from the ground up'.

This approach was in accord with the 'spirit of the times', not a Franklin innovation, and does demonstrate that the current sharp division between, say, science and politics, did not exist then. Voltaire was one of the first to popularise Newton's ideas; these ideas also fascinated dominant American political thinkers, such as John Adams. Crowther states that the "introduction into political philosophy of the attitudes of Newtonian scientific thought was due especially to John Locke [the philosopher]. The natural rights philosophy of the Declaration of Independence was acquired by Thomas Jefferson largely from Locke".

So an important point about the way the US Constitution was created is, that the design approach used was essentially pro-active rather than re-active. Once a given aim had been worked out, the attempt could be made to devise laws which would work towards achieving this aim. Instead of looking at the world as it existed, and forming laws to control abuses and maintain the operation of existing organizations, this technique allowed a different sort of world to be visualized, and steps taken to implement societal mechanisms to move towards such an 'improved' state.

The reader will have realized that what has just been discussed is, in fact, the nucleus of Matrix Thinking. The concept of *pro-active* laws has characterized United States society ever since Franklin's time; a modern example is that of the de-regulation of the air travel industry. In this, the US-syston concluded that such deregulation would be of benefit, and put in place laws to accomplish it. In contrast, other countries acted *reactively*, to bring in similar mechanisms, in order to try and keep up with the US. Another example can be found in anti-monopoly legislation.

Echoes of this section will appear in many places later in this book. But before passing on

to a deeper probe into mechanisms of government, we can dwell briefly on a major result of Franklin's thinking as it affects the US today.

A Law to Limit Law

In the introduction to a modern reprint of John Taylor's 1818 agricultural classic *Arator* [Taylor, 1977], editor M.E. Bradford describes how Taylor classed the federal Constitution as political law (as opposed to local, civil, and other law, which was "designed to restrain the citizen in his own community"). Instead, "the Constitution was basically a law to restrict the conduct of legislators and other public servants — a law to limit law — and therefore a means of preventing ... a recurrence of those abuses that had brought Americans to revolution in the first place".

The idea of limitations on what laws can be based, is one which does not figure in most parliamentary democracies outside the US. Another fundamental difference in the US is the 'separation of powers', where the President is the head of the Executive branch of government, responsible for all the government agencies actually implementing the laws, and is quite separate from the Legislature, which sets up the laws. In a country such as Australia, the Prime Minister oversees both the operation of government and the adoption and amendment of laws in the country's Parliament.

In Australia, government departments are run by Ministers, elected members of the ruling political party sitting in Parliament by virtue of their election. In the US, the equivalent to government departments are usually called Bureaus or Offices, and their heads, usually called Secretaries, are appointed directly by the President. The President is elected quite separately from the members of the Legislature, so both the President and the Secretaries need not be members of the majority political party in the Legislature, and often are not.

Another fundamental limitation in the US is that the elected President may not serve more than two terms — eight years — consecutively. After no more than eight years there must be a new President, and he or she will inevitably make their own choices of Secretaries. This obviously can result in changes in the Bureaus, and in examination of what the previous head did — a limitation on entrenchment.

It is worthwhile for anyone living in a parliamentary democracy like Australia to look at news reports of the activities of this or that government minister, and of this or that instance of blunder or corruption in government, and ask whether such could occur in a separation-of-powers democracy. Often it could not — just try it out a few times with real news items.

The American political system is admittedly most complex, with the three branches of government (the third being the Courts) not being completely separate, but instead operating at arm's length from each other, with well-defined and purposely-designed checks and limitations on their interaction. The US electoral system is also very complicated. From the MT viewpoint, this compexity is an asset — it implies a high infocap content, which itself leads to a more stable and resilient syston.

All these matters will figure later when we come to Chapter 205, on Politics and Nationality. Now we will turn aside from the particular instance of the US government and its differences from others, and tackle the basic requirements of governments generally.

Four Fundamental Government Axioms

According to the Macquarie Dictionary, an axiom is "a proposition which is assumed without proof for the sake of studying the consequences that follow from it". In dealing with the topic of syston governments, I will present four axioms for their operation, axioms extracted from the Matrix without prior reasoning quoted. We can then, in the spirit of axioms, examine the consequences of their application and try and judge their validity in the real world.

Axiom One. The only valid Tier One activities of Government are those designed to directly maintain threshold levels of health and safety within the syston.

Axiom Two. The only valid Tier Two activities of Government are those designed to directly raise the level of infocap within the syston.

Axiom Three. The only valid Tier Three activities of Government involve the minimum taxing of syston synenergy needed to carry out Tier One and Tier Two activities.

Axiom Four. The synenergy taxation needed is at a minimum where government activities are moved into the narrowest possible syston government.

In what follows in this book, I will often present the tests of these axioms for given scenarios in the form of questions — for example, I will say, now we can 'Ask Question One'. The Four Questions are just the four axioms just given, presented in the form of questions:-

Question One. Is the activity designed to directly achieve a threshold level of health or safety in the syston?

Question Two. Is the activity designed to directly raise the level of infocap in the syston?

Question Three. Is the activity a minimum taxing of syston synenergy needed to carry out Tier One or Tier Two activities by the syston?

Question Four. Is the activity being organized in the narrowest possible syston government?

In practice, the technique for analysing or designing a particular scenario will be, first to Ask Question One. If the answer is 'Yes', it defines the activity as a Tier One activity, and if Axiom One is valid, the activity can be reckoned as desirable for the good of the syston. The analysis stops there.

If the answer is 'No', then the next step is to Ask Question Two.

A 'Yes' answer to Question Two again ends the examination, it gives a second-tier green light to the activity. If the answer is 'No', then the examination passes to Question Three, and

so on.

If the examination passes down through all four questions with negative answers, then the implications of the Four Axioms, if these are valid, are that the activity is either not desirable for the syston, or is irrelevant or neutral.

Take it Slowly, Now . . .

In this book, I will be making no attempt to logically *justify* these Axioms through reasoning. Instead, we will look at applying these axioms to many different situations, and seeing what the results look like. That will give some handle on the applicability or 'truth' of the Axioms in the real world.

But I will dwell for a little on the forms of words used in the Four Axioms and their Four Question counterparts. I have tried to formulate these as succinctly as possible, and so a little expansion of what I intended them to mean may not be out of place.

Axiom One. The only valid Tier One activities of Government are those designed to directly maintain threshold levels of health and safety within the syston.

This axiom means that the government of any syston has only one group of activities which rank with first importance, that is, taking precedence over all others. These are activities which are directly intended to maintain defined threshold or 'floor' conditions of health or safety for all members of the syston.

Note that the threshold levels each represent a defined minimum, and not, say, an optimum or 'best possible' level. While it may well be to a syston's long-term advantage to gradually raise its threshold levels, this axiom implies the need to set a threshold, not to change it.

Note also that the threshold level of a narrower syston must be equal to or higher than the equivalent threshold level of a wider syston which contains it. Within Australia, for example, the state of Victoria could not set a threshold for the control of contagious diseases which was lower than that set by the Australian Federal government, because Victoria is currently part of Australia. Logically (not legislatively) the minimum for a part could not less than that for the whole.

As an example, let us take some de-facto thresholds, those for nutrition. In Australia and in other developed countries, individual State Health Departments or their equivalents will strive to maintain nutritional standards in the food available to their populations. A federal government will also monitor this question, but logically cannot set standards higher than those in individual States.

Beyond national boundaries, another lower de-facto level applies. Most nation-systons would see it as an obligation to try and eliminate actual starvation through non-availability of food in other less fortunate countries — this is the bottom line as far as the world-syston threshold is concerned.

Finally, note the use of the word 'directly'. It excludes actions which are one step removed, say setting minimum wage levels on the grounds that they will permit buying of sufficient good food, or minimum air fares on the grounds that they are needed for safe aircraft operation.