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Throughout jf.pdf refers to Just Freedom: an introduction to social, political and economic theory and a manifesto for a just global freedom. jf.pdf.

INTRODUCTION

In 2004 we live in a world in which real freedom for all is within our grasp. Science has created a world (jf.pdf: 18-19) in which the need to work is ever decreasing (jf.pdf: 25-26), a world in which manufacturing and agriculture are ever more efficient and effective. We live in a world in which the proportion of us working in factories and fields is in constant decline. We live in a world in which new and better products are constantly produced, in health, education, care, leisure, entertainment and communication (jf.pdf: 18-22). But it is also a world in which billions live in fear and poverty (jf.pdf: 27) and billions more sacrifice their time in unsatisfying, unproductive employment in order to deliver the profits that a capitalist, work-based world demands.

ENDING GLOBAL POVERTY

Our world does not have to be one of poverty, inequality, famine, disease, ignorance and conflict. The investment required to eliminate poverty could be funded by the billions spent on the military, \$900 billion each year, on agriculture, \$300 to \$350 billion, and aid, \$50 to \$60 billion. Spending this on basic education, housing, health, power, telecommunications and transport instead would liberate billions (jf.pdf: 15-16). This is investment that can and must be targeted to promote human rights, good governance, democracy, choice and the rule of law, to promote additional investment and enterprise; domestic, public, private and international, increasing development aid, embracing fair-trade and using private investment to transform our world (jf.pdf: 30-31).

If we choose we can end poverty, undermine terrorism and conflict, and promote trade and understanding, isolating dictators and rewarding good government. With the prospect of freedom and justice, of free time, rights and resources, the sacrifice of terrorism becomes unthinkable. With democracy, law and order, stability, peace and a decent quality of life, enterprise, choice and innovation grow (jf.pdf: 30-31). It is up to us to insist on change. The transfer of the expertise, technology and resources that freedom depends upon is such a simple, effective and cheap policy option, that it demands our support. Not only does a just global freedom attack the cause of terrorism, providing direct and immediate benefit, it also creates goodwill, that can only benefit those politicians, states and groups of states that make it happen.

AUTOMATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

The challenges of global development and the advance in technology that has produced, more, better, with less, cannot be separated (jf.pdf: 31). The ability to grow more and better food, mine more minerals, produce more power and use it better, build more and better homes, make more and better tools, machines, roads, with less labour, less work, creates the real possibility of more free-time. It creates the possibility, through investment, of an end to poverty and an end to work. Even if we cannot abolish poverty or work it is clear that poverty and work are out of step with the potential created by technology (jf.pdf: 14). We must demand that automation is used to free us instead of being used only to free us to produce in new industries.

Robots in factories have not abolished work, new crops, automated farms, have not put an end to it, computers, the internet, genetic engineering, power-tools, automated production, have not ended work. These new technologies have allowed us to do more and better with less but instead of less work we now do new jobs that produce nothing new, in a consumption culture of

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retail, hospitality, advertising and finance. Billions of lives spent selling what is produced; clothes, music insurance, debt. Employment and consumption for the sake of profit at a time when the internet, e-business, the retail warehouse and our own choices can avoid the cost and waste of unproductive employment. We must create institutions that let us work less in a work-based world.

The conscious choice (jf.pdf: 5-6) to consume less and work less is a real option that would not only free us but also save an environment fit for us to be free in.

INNOVATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND FREEDOM

The impact of automation shows the power of science to change the world for the better. In health, education, industry and entertainment new discoveries are creating new products that transform lives (jf.pdf: 18-22). We need to make sure this continues, funding basic and applied research, providing access to the results and encouraging innovators to use them to make a real difference. We need to strike a better balance between the benefits the company, university or individual that discovers, innovates, creates or performs and the cost of access or use for the rest of us.

Today the pace of innovation is rapid but it is focused on private consumption that often ignores social concerns. The potential for innovation to help those in most need is huge. Genetic modification has produced crops with improved yields and nutrition. Green power is ever more efficient and effective. Drugs, treatments and health-checks are continuously developed. New products help those facing physical and mental challenges. Mobile phones and the internet transform communication, education and entertainment.

Unfortunately this often does not translate into a better quality of life for rich or poor. We have starvation and obesity, congestion, commuting and the internet, pollution, disease and ignorance. It is possible and important to develop collective solutions to these problems. Creating opportunity through service provision and informed choice through routine health-checks, drugs and treatments, education and e-learning. We need a state sector that funds discovery, directing science to social concerns, that regulates and manages innovation, that demands best practice and delivers innovative solutions (jf.pdf: 22).

There is, at the moment, too little competition, too much profit and too high a price for innovation and entertainment (jf.pdf: 20-22). The pace of technology transfer and adoption is too slow. This stops us building on the innovations and discoveries of others, stops the creation of products and limits the products we can afford to use. Billions are priced out of the computer revolution, of sport and education, for the profits of the few. Information and communication technologies create the opportunity, through virtual no cost copies and communication, for all of us to enjoy access to the knowledge and entertainment, that at present generates billions of dollars, not for creators but for distributors.

EDUCATION, WORK AND JUSTICE

Innovation has become a routine process of creation, a routine of research and development, of exploitation of the advances and discoveries of the past to create those of the future. The contribution of education cannot be understated (f.pdf: 22-23), education not only improves innovation: it allows us to better understand, our health, communities, behaviour, responsibilities: it allows us to earn and create. Education should reduce inequality but it does not (jf.pdf: 23-24).

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In an era of mass education inequality has increased. Labour markets that have not responded to supply and demand that continue to reward an elite of executives with millions and millions of graduates with dead-end jobs must be reformed. We must reform the world of work to reduce inequality and unjust hierarchy.

Automation in a work-based world only compounds the situation. Automated research and development reduces the demand for educated labour while a work-based world demands that new jobs be created. In a free society we could work less and live more but to enable us to do so we need to break the link between work and income (jf.pdf: 31-32). We must create a global citizens' income to break the work-income link.

Justice also demands redistribution of income and wealth to redress the unjust effect of inheritance; of nation, capital, knowledge, education, wealth, environment, behaviour and attitudes. A redistribution that could provide the basis for the end of the work-based world, in the form of a global citizens' income. We must create a global citizens' income to redress the injustice of inheritance..

A global citizens' income must overcome huge challenges including the impact on our decision to work, study and create, funding and level and local variation, in a context of IPR and labour-market reform. These challenges mean not that we should abandon the idea, but that we should experiment and innovate. There is good reason to test the idea in those parts of the world where labour is most underemployed, poverty rampant and infrastructure scarce. Small direct payments could unleash creativity and produce the institutions of a sustainable growth.

CHOICE AND FREEDOM

The reforms described above will deliver huge progress but we need to make sure we don't lose the choice and competition that drive progress and given us freedom (jf.pdf: 16-18). Left to our own devices we choose the homes, clothes, music, food we want. Our choices force suppliers to improve quality and cost. We must create choice for rich and poor, ensuring that infrastructure creates opportunities, that it is easy to create enterprises that increase freedom, that regulation is easy to comply with, using the internet to automate and streamline the process.

There is no reason why reform should destroy enterprise, on the contrary, local citizens' incomes in low-income areas should boost local enterprise. Investment can promote local production, local consumption and local choice. Trade, choice, enterprise and competition are both inevitable and to our benefit, it is our nature to create and trade, for profit, for the benefit of others and for our own satisfaction (jf.pdf: 32).

Competition, however, is not without problems, it can generate huge waste, it can lead to a focus on brand, promotion and image, the growth of retail, duplication and production without a basis in demand, boom and slump (jf.pdf 18). And yet, with the right information we can choose products that reduce waste. With information on fair-trade, product quality, labour-standards, production, energy efficiency, price and more, we can influence the structure of the economy. We must demand access to facts about our world. On health, education, income, cost of living, housing, crime and conflict, at local, national and global levels.

We must understand that markets fail, that they do not guarantee equal opportunities and access to services, that private effort is not always enough. Markets can produce inflation; housing can be unaffordable and inaccessible, so can health, education, transport and food. We need better

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information to inform debate and consultation, to create accountability, to intervene when need be. We need information at a local, national and global level on health, education, income, cost of living, housing, crime and conflict. We need regulation to improve choice, to collect information and communicate it to us, whether that be on housing, employment or anything else. We must regulate and intervene in failing markets to ensure equal opportunity and access and control inflation.

We must never forget that we have the ability to understand our interests (jf.pdf: 6) and work out the best way to be free and to create a just global freedom (jf.pdf: 4-5). We can overcome perceptions and identities that mislead and choose the behaviour and actions needed to define our lives and the world in which we live (jf.pdf: 10-12).

ACTION AND CHANGE

Fortunately, some of us do not need a global citizens' income to enjoy our freedom. Even today we can reduce our consumption, own our homes and generate sufficient income from work and savings to free ourselves. And our decisions can change the world. We can choose to produce and consume locally. Consuming less. Choosing to live (jf.pdf 9).

For the rest of us the quest for a just freedom demands political change. Rights are the product of struggle, not a gift from the gods (jf.pdf 10). Transformation requires not only an awareness of interests, it demands the creation of identities of struggle, the destruction of routine and habit and a commitment to change (jf.pdf 11). The costs of conflict can only be avoided when democracy is real and meaningful. Democracy demands debate and decision (jf.pdf 12). Global direct democracy is a goal we should all support.

The potential of information and communication technology only makes the deepening of democracy all the more possible. The time has come to create a global democracy using all channels of communication to the full.

TEN STEPS TO JUST FREEDOM

1. Infrastructure investment to create global access to services and equal opportunity. Redirection of military spending and agricultural subsidy. Promotion of additional investment and enterprise; domestic, public, private and international.
2. Just negotiated global peace. Human rights including the right to liberty.
3. Institutions to let us work less in an automated world.
4. Research and development to provide a global stock of knowledge. Promotion of sustainable local solutions and competition.
5. Use of the most efficient and effective products and processes. Pursuit of excellence.
6. Reform of intellectual property rights to reduce the cost of innovation, medicine, sport and entertainment and guarantee creators just reward for their work.
7. Reform of the world of work to reduce inequality and unjust hierarchy.
8. A global citizens' income to break the work-income link, address unjust inheritance and create freedom. Introduced in a process of experimentation and innovation.
9. Institutions to address failed markets; inflation, access to services and environmental damage and yet protect choice and competition.
10. Informed direct democracy and consumption. National, local and global statistics and product and producer information.