

The world's economy is an eternally morphing entity that shifts with the changing societies of new generations. It's hard to predict the nature of the economy in the coming years but not so difficult to foresee some of the bigger issues that the next era will face. Each generation of individuals faces unique challenges. The Baby-Boomers faced problems related to the vast amounts of people entering the workforce at the same time. The generation before that encountered difficulties due to the cycles of war and peace in America. Based on the current political, societal, and ecological climate, the youngest generation will have many issues to overcome that their parents never dreamed of facing. We will have to deal with the problem of the rapidly changing climate and the conversion from an oil-reliant society to one driven by renewable energy. We will also deal with the globalization of our markets as the world becomes more connected and the progression of technologies that will bring as many complications as it eases.

Renewable energy has been front and center in the debate concerning climate change. It is clear that fossil fuels will no longer be a viable solution to humanity's energy needs. It is becoming too expensive and too dangerous to extract it from earth's deep recesses. For decades, humans have relied on fossil fuels for almost everything we do. We use it to drive our cars and ship our supplies and create various products. As society begins to transition towards cleaner energy sources, we will have to learn how to function without oil and gas. It'll be a hard, slow transition that will destabilize the economy for a period. It'll be my generation's responsibility to ensure this change is as smooth as possible. It will involve retraining millions of people so they aren't left without jobs and developing new technology to make renewable energy affordable and efficient. This evolution is important to face head-on. If we don't, the planet will continue to

warm which will result in massive fluctuations in weather that would devastate agriculture and other aspects of society all over the world.

Millennials and Gen X individuals have embraced the technological advancements of the generation before them and are now taking it to the next level. With a few clicks and buttons, one can now interact with anyone in the world, transfer millions of dollars, or unleash death for thousands. Different cultures around the planet have been able to connect in one way or another to form a large global network which extends to the economy as well. Economic catastrophes are no longer contained to the country where they occur. A recent example is Greece's economic collapse which has pulled down Europe and affected the rest of the world. As the globe becomes more connected, this process will continue. A future time could see a unified global market instead of individual national economic systems. Whether this happens or not, generations of the future will have to learn to cooperate with those of other nationalities. This starts with my generation. It's important to recognize that we no longer live in bubbles and we can no longer shut out those who are different than us. A stable global economy starts with a stable world-wide society.

My generation has been defined by our technology and it's incredible to speculate about the things that are possible with our new abilities. Traveling to outer space could become as common as flying an airplane today. Cars could drive themselves. Humans could live as long as they wanted. These are only a couple of the exciting prospects of the future. The technology that creates a global economy also poses a threat to it. People now have ways to commit crimes without ever leaving their homes. This prospect has forced us to invent ways to combat these criminals but the ever-advancing march of progress still comes with the threat of an attack caused by someone sitting at their kitchen table. This is a threat to the economy as well. Thieves

can steal millions of dollars by breaking through firewalls and there are now many more ways to manipulate markets in one's favor. These threats are real and need to be addressed but we can't let them deter us from pushing even further into the unknown.

The issues my generation will have to face will be numerous. Some individuals are prone to place blame on previous eras but the truth is that every generation has its mountains to overcome. What is important is that we come together as a society to solve them. The world's problems can only be fixed with collaboration and understanding.

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