

**TECHNOLOGICAL DRIVERS OF (R)EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE
IN MODERN SOCIETIES AND HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
MIGHT PRODUCTIVELY RESPOND TO THEM VIA INTENTIONAL,
THOUGHTFUL “LEAPFROGGING”***

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Abstract. Over the time since he was a fresh graduate student in the early 1980s till now, this academic has seen the world being totally transformed from an analogue into a digital “format”. It all started innocently enough with large computers in rooms doing tedious counting and data-tabulating tasks on Hollerith cards while we humans carried on our analogue lives in relative peace. From 1985-1995, the world *did* change from an (largely) unseen tsunami begun from the small waves made by these nascent digital technologies. By 1995, the CD, audio digital recorders and DVD player had replaced earlier technologies. Computers (of a second or third generation) had replaced the typewriter; the Soviet bloc and its (long-decaying) governance models were only a bad memory (its economic model undone by technologies and demands of the new “third wave” post-industrial knowledge society). Finally, the worldwide web Internet 2.0 was arriving, which would surely change the means and modes of the communicative acts, affecting the economic, political and social/cultural spheres in turn. Using Kenneth Boulding, Marshall McLuhan and Johan Galtung as sage guides, the paper will outline the transformations these technical inventions wrought in the economic, political and cultural spheres in rapid order over the noted decade, considering how the “developed” world has been affected by these changes, both negatively and positively. Following this, it will briefly consider how the disruptive effects of the digital revolution experienced can be counter-balanced by looking at how “developing” communities and economies have been able to “leap-frog” barriers in how they use digital technologies for both individual and collective humanistic gain.

Keywords: Analogue to digital transition; Social change (appreciating or deteriorating); Developed/ Developing countries; Utopia/Dystopia.

1. Introduction: The Dodo Didn't Make It: The Disappearance of Developmental Niches in Society

In a provocative article in 1971 [1], social futurist Kenneth Boulding offered insights to the possible fostering of a sustainable socio-economic world order, versus the (very real) possibility that, like the proverbial Dodo, we would not

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