

“Survive and Thrive with Irresistible Force:
Evolve the Knowledge We Need
for the Digital Era”

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Presentation Topics

1. Context of our era: “*A Knowledge Society driven by an Information Economy*”
2. It’s Now the Information Renaissance: Become a Renaissance Man or Renaissance Woman
3. Renaissance Times are Clashes of Paradigms
4. The Question Answered—Who Wins? Irresistible Force or Immovable Object
5. Survive and Thrive with Irresistible Force

1. Context of our era: “*A Knowledge Society driven by an Information Economy*”

(Gillette, 2015 Global Forum-Oulu)

Global Forum 2017-Day 2 Keynote Panel Task Statement:

A person’s world is defined by what they know.

Hence, coordinated programs of education are traditionally the engines for social change.

The digital age is infinitely fast-moving. Its citizenry is inundated by daily floods of information and hazards lurk everywhere in cyberspace.

The challenge is to ensure sufficient digital literacy to enable the world’s citizens to make informed choices about things that are critical to their well-being.

That task requires innovative ideas, and concepts to underwrite global education, training and awareness requirements.

2. It's Now the Information Renaissance: Become a Renaissance Man or Woman

1. Information Renaissance—A Knowledge Society driven by an Information Economy

- Challenging innovation, yet not unprecedented in human history
- Like European renaissance (Italy c. 1500; Britain c. 1600)

2. Succeed as a Person — Become a Renaissance Man or Woman

- Exemplars = Leonardo da Vinci, Vittoria Colonna
- Be a “T-person” – both broadly comprehensive (T-crossbar), deeply competent (T-base) , in one complete person
 - » Breadth of comprehension (goal of liberal arts education)
 - » Depth of competence (goal of professional education)
- Breadth informs adaptability; Depth informs utility
 - » Adaptability to succeed in rapid change (adapt to environment)
 - » Utility to prosper by adding value (find a need and fill it)

3. Renaissance Times are Clashes of Paradigms

1. Overarching **Characteristics of Renaissance Times**

- **Positives:** rapid, **great human progress**
- **Negatives:** clash of paradigms generates **major social conflict**

2. Irresistible Force (new paradigm) Meets Immovable Object (old paradigm)

- **Renaissance & reformation** (progress paradigm) **generates counter-reformation** (current or *older* status-quo paradigm), which uses the techniques of progress to counter the new paradigm
- **Results in upheaval & change:** top to bottom, bottom to top
- At the end of the story, **the Irresistible Force always wins, yet the Immovable Object alters its vectors**

4. The Question Answered—Who Wins? Irresistible Force or Immovable Object



5. Survive and Thrive with Irresistible Force

Story: Interior Secretary James Watt--Grand Canyon raft trip

"The first day was spectacular.... The second day started to get a little tedious, but the third day I wanted bigger motors to move that raft out. On the fourth day we were praying for helicopters and they came."

[No helicopters coming in this journey] **Yet, whitewater lessons:** stay with the raft; wear PFD; hold onto paddle

Survive and Thrive: Flow with Irresistible Force (human evolution) even through Immovable Object (past history, good & bad; the stubborn earth, good & bad)

- Evolve with changing conditions to reach your **irresistible** goal
- Your vectors will change by objective conditions, yet go **onward**
- At the end of the story, the Irresistible Force always wins; humans as **Homo Sapiens** ("Humans wise/knowledgeable") **will survive and thrive** through the **evolution of their knowledge**

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