

Thomas HOMER-DIXON

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The
**INGENUITY
GAP**

CAN WE
SOLVE THE
PROBLEMS
OF THE
FUTURE?

Ingenuity Gap

Royal Society of Canada



Ingenuity Gap:

The Ingenuity Gap Thomas Homer-Dixon, 2001-05-15 Human beings have been smart enough to turn nature to their ends generate vast wealth for themselves and double their average life span But are they smart enough to solve the problems of the 21st century Thomas Homer Dixon In *The Ingenuity Gap* Thomas Homer Dixon global guru the Toronto Star asks is our world becoming too complex too fast paced to manage The challenges facing us converge intertwine and remain largely beyond our ken Most of suspect the experts don't really know what's going on that as a species we've released forces that are neither managed nor manageable We are fast approaching a time when we may no longer be able to control a world that increasingly exceeds our grasp This is the ingenuity gap the term coined by Thomas Homer Dixon the critical gap between our need for practical innovative ideas to solve complex problems and our actual supply of those ideas Through gripping narrative stories and incidents that exemplify his arguments he takes us on a world tour that begins with a heartstopping description of the tragic crash of United Airlines Flight 232 from Denver to Chicago and includes Las Vegas in its desert a wilderness beach in British Columbia and his solitary search for a little girl in Patna India He shows how in our complex world while poor countries are particularly vulnerable to ingenuity gaps our own rich countries are not immune and we are caught between a requirement for ingenuity and an increasingly uncertain supply When the gap widens political disintegration and violent upheaval can result reaching into our own economies and daily lives in subtle ways In compelling lucid prose he makes real the problems we face and suggests how we might overcome them *The Ingenuity Gap* Thomas Homer-Dixon, 2002-08-13 Despite all of society's advances our problems proliferate Wars abound environmental degradation accelerates economies topple overnight and pandemics such as AIDS and tuberculosis continue to spread The Internet and other media help to disseminate knowledge but they've also created an info glut and left us too little time to process it What's more advances in technology have made the world so bewilderingly fast paced and complex that fewer people are able even to grasp the problems let alone generate solutions That space between the problems that arise and our ability to solve them is the ingenuity gap and as we careen towards an increasingly harried and hectic future the gap seems only to widen As he explores the possible consequences of this gap Thomas Homer Dixon offers an absorbing assessment of the state of the world and our ability to fix it Culling from an astounding array of fields from economics to evolution political science to paleontology computers to communications he integrates his vast knowledge into an accessible and engaging argument This is a book with profound implications for everyone that we can ill afford to ignore **The Ingenuity Gap** Maren Leed, 2010 American officers are the bedrock of military success They face a whirlwind of change that is picking up speed yet their preparation is dictated by a system based on stability and predictability that if they ever existed certainly do not exist today Others have identified many of the same problems and have offered some of the same solutions explored in much greater depth than we were able to accomplish here Yet strikingly few changes have been made This reluctance primarily cultural

and institutional cannot persist Failing to adapt the officer management system to better align with the future will put U S officers at a growing disadvantage placing more and more of a burden upon them as individuals to overcome a bureaucracy that ideally would be dedicated to supporting their success The ingenuity gap is real and growing and our officers are caught in it DOD should immediately implement changes to officer management to close this gap **The Ingenuity Gap** Thomas F. Homer-Dixon,2002 Environmental Change and Security Project Report ,2001 *Privatizing Peace: From Conflict to Security* Allan Gerson,Nat Colletta,2022-06-08 Privatizing Peace From Conflict to Security pinpoints the weaknesses in the numerous peacekeeping missions of recent decades as well as the blind spots in the thinking that guided them Even more significantly they clearly demonstrate the ways in which well meaning stabilization and reconstruction programs fail to accommodate the economic and social imperatives of war torn societies But this visionary work is not merely an indictment of First World myopia in the face of Third World devastation The authors offer cogent well thought out recommendations firmly grounded in current reality with a powerful determination to avoid the repetition of past mistakes Published under the Transnational Publishers imprint *Hurry Up and Slow Down* Paul Faris,2003 To explore the idea of education to close the ingenuity gap I use Thomas Homer Dixon s work to define ingenuity The notion that the supply of ingenuity to solve our technical and social problems is not keeping pace with the ingenuity required to solve those problems is called the ingenuity gap Man made technological developments are increasing the density intensity and pace of globalisation People must reorganise decision making organisations and problem solving methods to pragmatically combat the growing ingenuity gap John Dewey s work illustrates the fundamental attitudes for the thinking and judgment associated with educating for ingenuity Howard Gardner s idea that truth beauty and morality ought to form the core values and tenets of the philosophy of educating for ingenuity is integral to this thesis The act of teaching facilitates the invitation to the communication necessary to foster ingenuity John Novak discusses the five relationships of educational leadership that enhance an environment of ingenuity The International Baccalaureate IB is an existing model of global education one that defines some of the school experiences and academic development of core values of educating for ingenuity Expanding upon the structure of the IB and other research within this thesis I speculate upon what my school where educating for ingenuity so as to close the ingenuity gap is the goal would be like **Worldchanging** Alex Steffen,2008-03 Building a better future locally and globally is the topic of this user s guide written by a diverse collaborative of innovators Worldchanging demonstrates that the means for making a difference lie all around Technology, Trade and the New Economy University of Ottawa. Program of Research in International Management and Economy,1995 Feeding the Future Andrew Heintzman,Evan Solomon,2004 As humanity enters the 21st century globalization and modernization promise to make for more consumption of grains beef and fish than ever before The 2 billion inhabitants of India and China are set to purchase at unprecedented levels and sub Saharan Africa will need to overcome its many torturous famines What kinds of fixes can ensure the stability of the food

supply throughout the 21st century and beyond Feeding the Future provides pragmatic learned solutions to the issues that loom large Nine chapters each penned by a different expert examine issues ranging from food safety to the business of food to conservation Fish or Cut Bait examines overfishing and other practices that threaten to ruin the world s seas while Between Feast and Famine takes on the issue of global trade showing how globalization can be made to work for all Combining social ingenuity emerging technologies and smart business models Feeding the Future offers real solutions for a world that needs them now more than ever Braving the New World Thomas Michael Joseph Bateman,Manuel Mertin,David Martin Thomas,1999-12 **1996 International Symposium on Technology and Society** ,1996 **Human Survivability in the 21st Century** Royal Society of Canada,1999 This volume records the papers presented at the Royal Society of Canada symposium in 1998 on the theme of survivability Topics of papers include environmental management environmental scarcity the ingenuity gap the sustainability of communities governance social cohesion risking human extinction the Copernican principle human survivability and education new systems for a positive 21st century Paradise is a Bazaar? Indra De Soysa,2001 **Homeland Security and Terrorism** Russell Howard,James Forest,Joanne Moore,2006 Recommended online resources p 476 481 **The Case Study of Indonesia** Charles Victor Barber,1997 Great Issues for Medicine in the Twenty-first Century Dana Cook Grossman,Heinz Valtin,1999 These proceedings examine intriguing issues connected with the advances in the biomedical sciences including the human genome the origin and substrate of thinking healthcare and the crisis of human crowding They also delve into future ethical and social issues for medicine *Homeland Security: Borders and points of entry* James J. F. Forest,2006 **Revolution Or Evolution?** Dalhousie University. Centre for Foreign Policy Studies,2006 *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften* ,2008

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