

# Project Utopia

## Project Utopia, the ideal society envisioned by Ivo de Vries

It is not hard to see that the utopian society is a far cry from what we are currently experiencing. As long as humans have walked the surface of the earth we have been fighting each other and since recent times destroying the very planet we live on. Since I think it is in human nature to destroy it will take a while before we end up in a society I would consider as utopian. The problem with humans is in the numbers. Take a random person and his or her intentions are well and no problem seems to arise. But when we view human society as a whole we collectively manage to kill, pollute and destroy about anything we get our hands on. How come you might ask. I think it is the individualism that drives our destructive behavior. It is me, my friends and family that are important and I will do anything to increase our wealth and prosperity although that might cause harm to the environment or others. It is this view that will eventually kill us all and therefore the solution for utopia should be the following.

The only way in which our species will survive is when we have a collective goal. One man does not have the ability to change the world, it is the human race who has to do the job. If every person would live by the same set of rules which include not harming each other or the environment this world would be a better place. As to reach the ultimate utopian society some extras have to be added to prevent anything bad from happening. One main factor has to be birth control. If everybody on earth would have two or less babies the population would stabilize or slowly diminish. Although this might seem a small measure it will have fundamental implications which will make utopia a possibility. A stabilized population size would for example mean we do not have to expand our habitat into nature any further. As for some point that everybody would have a house it is not necessary to destroy nature for housing. The same holds for factories or agricultural fields, we do not simply need more resources since we only need to produce the same or less every year. What is the point of having wars over pieces of land when we have enough land already. As time passes the available building room per person increases due to the shrinkage of the population anyway. To summarize the utopia I envision is a world where nature is kept intact and is only used for sustainable recreational purposes, global resources are shared by every inhabitant of this planet making competition or envy obsolete. If we all strive for accomplishing these goals utopia is only a step away.

Serious games could contribute to reach this goal in the area of collective thinking. If there only was a game that would point all of our heads in the same direction. Although virtually impossible, the only game I would imagine to be able to capture the imagination and influence our thoughts has to be something in the form of virtual reality. If virtual reality would enable every human to experience the beauty of nature and thereby emphasize the importance of preservation, this "game" would have a serious impact. As for understanding other cultures and emphasizing our equality virtual reality could be the means to do this. One main requirement is that the virtual reality environment is accessible to anyone so the same experience is shared throughout the world. Having the virtual environment looking as the real deal could also make the learning experience longer lasting.