

MODERNISM

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EPIC GEOENGINEERING SCHEME TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE WITH NEW SUPERCONTINENT

With climate change rampant, and the world's nations unable to reach agreement on climate action, an independent San Francisco laboratory has developed a groundbreaking new approach to achieving geopolitical consensus. Under the direction of experimental philosopher Jonathon Keats, the Political Tectonics Lab plans to close the divide between conflicting countries through a vast geoengineering project.

"Everyone on the planet shares the same fate, but geographic coincidences give different peoples different perspectives," says Mr. Keats. "To build cohesiveness, we need to bring nations together – literally – by taking control of plate tectonics. We need a new supercontinent."

The planet's last supercontinent, *Pangaea*, broke up approximately two hundred and fifty million years ago, and geologists predict the natural formation of another supercontinent in approximately two hundred and fifty million years. It's been dubbed *Novopangaea* or *Pangaea Ultima*, and the geography is much debated. "Two hundred and fifty million years is a long time to wait for what might ultimately be a suboptimal place," observes Mr. Keats. "What we need is *Pangaea Optima*, and we need it fast."

To create *Pangaea Optima*, the Political Tectonics Lab has pioneered the field of diplomatic geoengineering, in which continents are deliberately shifted and merged to offset historic rivalries. For instance, by closing the Pacific Ocean, the United States can be brought into geopolitical alignment with China and Russia. The new common ground can provide a physical foundation for their shared global future.

"Of course moving continents isn't easy," admits Mr. Keats, whose previous undertakings include optimizing time management with general relativity. "Fortunately we have the power to reshape the planet if we just tap into the nuclear reactor beneath our feet."

Earth's internal heat, which keeps continents afloat on a liquid mantle, is generated by the radioactivity of elements such as uranium. Mr. Keats proposes to make use of the energy by building nuclear reactors that plug into rifts on the sea floor. Extracting heat to turn large steam turbines, these nuclear reactors will locally cool the magma. Electricity generated by the turbines will be used to power subterranean magnetrons that will heat up magma in other rift areas with intensely-focused microwaves. Since the flow rate of magma and mantle convection currents are the basic mechanisms of continental movement, making *Pangaea Optima* is merely a matter of intelligently managing subcrustal heat.

In anticipation of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris this December, the Political Tectonics Lab will unveil prototype diplomatic geoengineering technologies at San Francisco's Modernism Gallery on Thursday, October 22nd. The lab will also exhibit preliminary mapping of *Pangaea Optima* and plans for tectonic movement of present-day continents.

Mr. Keats notes that none of these plans are intended to be definitive. "Further geological study is required," he says. "More important, the final arrangement of continents needs to be decided collectively."

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To facilitate public participation in the planning process, the Political Tectonics Lab has developed a supercontinental planning kit which includes an inflatable globe, a felt-tip pen, and a cardboard box addressed to the UN. The interactive kit is fully open-source, as are all other components of the diplomatic geoengineering initiative. Moreover, the Political Tectonics Lab has committed to advising the United Nations on a *pro bono* basis.

"Everyone stands to profit from *Pangaea Optima*," says Mr. Keats. "Even the discussion about diplomatic geoengineering can be productive. Envisioning a unified planet is a first step toward global consensus on climate action."

The Political Tectonics Lab will unveil Pangaea Optima on Thursday, October 22nd from 5:30 to 8:00 at Modernism Gallery, 685 Market St., San Francisco, CA. Viewings will be available by appointment through December. More information: www.modernisminc.com.

Acclaimed as a "poet of ideas" by The New Yorker and a "multimedia philosopher-prophet" by The Atlantic, Jonathon Keats is an experimental philosopher, artist, and writer based in the United States and Italy. This year he installed a camera with a 1,000-year-long exposure at the Arizona State University Art Museum. He has also opened the first restaurant for plants, serving gourmet sunlight to rose bushes at the Crocker Art Museum, exhibited extraterrestrial abstract artwork at the Judah L. Magnes Museum, and attempted to genetically engineer God in collaboration with scientists at the University of California, Berkeley. Exhibited internationally, his projects have been documented by PBS, Reuters, and the BBC World Service, garnering favorable attention in periodicals ranging from Science to Flash Art to The Economist. He is the recipient of a 2015-16 Art + Technology Lab grant from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and was awarded a Diekman Fellowship by the Djerassi Foundation in 2014. His books include You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future, forthcoming from Oxford University Press in April. He is represented by Modernism Gallery in San Francisco. More information: http://www.modernisminc.com/artists/Jonathon_KEATS/