

Summary of **OUTCRY** by J. Morris Hicks

As the title suggests, this book is all about what Mother Nature is trying to tell us regarding how our civilization is rapidly destroying the biosphere that gives us life. Her OUTCRY is abundantly evident in phenomena like declining insect, bird and fish populations, rising global temperatures, storms, fires, melting ice at the poles, and dead zones in the oceans; to name just a few. The title also suggests an OUTCRY from a number of "big picture" scientists who have connected the dots between human behavior and the deterioration of nature's ability to keep us alive. The book starts with a "Foreword by Mother Nature." The next paragraph, in her own words, is how her "OUTCRY" begins.

This message is addressed to the billions of human citizens who reside in the developed nations of planet Earth. You may wonder why I am not sending this message to all humans who live here. It's because you in the developed world are the ones who have done most of the disruption of my efforts to sustain you—while the remaining three or four billion people have done most of the suffering as a result of your reckless behavior.

Following nature's "OUTCRY" in Part One of the book, Part Two is all about what we can do about changing our living arrangements enough to slow, stop or reverse the damage we have already done. In other words, what can be done soon enough to prevent the extinction of the human species? Some scientists have suggested that we must give back half of the planet's land and seas in order for nature to have enough space to continue providing us with the habitat services that we need survive indefinitely. The problem is that there is no global conversation regarding a plan for how we might do that and I fear that uncoordinated, willy-nilly efforts to tackle such a mind-boggling mission will never achieve success.

As an engineer and corporate executive for most of my career, I have learned that no complex issue can be resolved effectively without a plan. In Part Two of the book, we talk about the urgent need for that "global conversation" that is so essential to our survival. In order to help spark that conversation, I began in September of 2018 with [a vision of my own](#) of how we might learn to live in harmony with nature on the only planet in the known universe capable of keeping us alive.

That vision now looks like this: a coast-to-coast living corridor (twenty-five miles wide) in the USA—a magical place where only green lifestyle options exist. Running from Seattle to Boston, this envisioned corridor would traverse the northernmost states of Montana and North Dakota and would accommodate up to three hundred million people in an ultra-comfortable living arrangement that would be 70% less dense than Manhattan.

The early residents would take up residence there on a "by invitation only" basis for the first few million people, and the entire corridor would feature an environmentally sensitive economy. It would have a form of governance that deals first and foremost with the sustainability needs of the natural world. With a 3,000-mile, Hyper-Loop system spanning the

entire length of the corridor, it would ultimately eliminate over 80% of all travel by cars, trucks and domestic airlines in the United States.

The goal of the above vision is to spark a global conversation about how an ultra-sustainable habitat could be developed in the USA and thus serve as a model for the rest of the world. How we might be able to turn that vision into reality before 2030 is the focus of this book. The primary question as we develop that model is "How green is green enough?" Since we can't be sure of the answer, we must totally re-design every aspect of our civilization, and even then, it may not be enough to save us. Even if we fail, the good news is that we might be able to slow our demise sufficiently enough to provide meaningful and comfortable lives for the children who are alive on this planet today. We cannot let those children down.

OUTCRY

**A DESPERATE PLEA FROM OUR PLANET
AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT**

J. MORRIS HICKS

Engineer. Business Executive. Author. Speaker.

WITH

STUART H. SCOTT

Founder & Executive Director, scientistswarning.org

"The world is completely delusional and going to hell in a handbasket as fast as humanly possible. The only relevant question is: How do we make the crash as soft a landing as possible for some kind of continuation of human civilization?"

JAMES CAMERON

Foreword by Mother Nature