

GLOBAL CRISIS: BEYOND THE BRINK TWO-PAGE CONCEPTUAL SUMMARY

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Global Crisis: Beyond the Brink
Proposal for episodic television series and theatrical documentary feature
Executive summary

The U.S. National Intelligence Council's and other authoritative voices predict a dangerous future for the world, including unprecedented consequences of warming temperatures, explosive population growth, massive water and food shortages, global pollution, widespread human migration, armed conflict involving national and subnational groups, and the mounting threat of nuclear war.

Human civilization is at a crossroads to survive; and the challenge is to establish world-wide educational initiative that will energize citizens to take positive action.

Chronicles Group, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) corporation, proposes to create a 13-part, 30-minute episodic television series and a theatrical documentary feature that will first, place a spotlight on the evolving global crisis, and second, highlight immediate solutions for the growing food, energy and water humanitarian crises.

In order to maintain the highest journalistic integrity, the Chronicles Group will conduct on-camera interviews with distinguished scientists, experts, and solutions-focused stakeholders. The production will be designed to be entertaining, compelling, provocative, and accurate.

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Ira Helfand stated in a recent article that America confronts a long list of critical problems that all require urgent attention. Among them, two drivers of global climate disruption stand out. Fossil-fuel use and nuclear war are unique in the threat they pose to global climate, and thus to the very survival of human civilization.

In recent remarks UN Secretary-General António Guterres' called climate change the defining issue of our time, with now being a defining moment. Meeting the challenges brought on by climate change requires many movements around the world to call leaders to account to address the current and looming crises. As of 2019, 195 nations have signed the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, pledging to limit 21st century global warming by limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. Opponents in the United States represent some of the most powerful private-sector and political forces. However, polls show that the vast majority of the American public, including majorities in every state, say that the United States should participate in the Paris Agreement.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recently registered the Doomsday Clock to TWO minutes to Midnight. Tensions between nations, plus the threat of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of nonstate actors are both of concern. The last time the world was this close to nuclear annihilation, in the 1980s, the need to prevent nuclear war was front and center in the nation's political discourse. A vast popular movement formed that demanded and won a freeze in the nuclear arms race.

The production's creative approach will be from a historical and ecological perspective, examining the world from the Cold War era to the present, plus future concerns. This will include the Cold War legacy as well as other significant international social, scientific, engineering and geopolitical historical events that have evolved during the past 74 years, and laid the foundation for our world future.

The production will be told from a storytelling perspective, will examine the past and explore the present, and will scrutinize how and why the world is in its present state. It will be examined from a nonpartisan and objective global ecological, socioeconomic, geopolitical, scientific, and technological historical perspective. It will consider life-threatening scenarios, and positive, logical solutions that can avert future but realistic global catastrophes.

The production will highlight findings from the 2017 U.S. National Intelligence Council Global Trend 2035 Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, and other credible studies that warn our planet's leaders and public of the dire consequences of environmental change. It will also feature scalable solutions to these challenges, and interviews with solutions leaders. Some of the proposed content follows.

1. **Cold war, historical.** The production will establish the primary legacy of the Cold War era from 1945 thru 1991, when the United States and former Soviet Union produced over 60,000 nuclear weapons. This builds on Chronicles' Group 2015 film *The Cold War and Beyond*.
2. **Growing and interconnected stresses.** The focus will be on the time since the Cold War, with nuclear threats accelerating as a result of modernizing technology and nuclear forces, growing inequality between nations, population growth, and environmental stresses.
3. **Global food security.** The production will spotlight global food security, with particular attention to the five Mediterranean-climate food-basket regions, with attention to California's globally important San Joaquin Valley and its vulnerability to catastrophic demise. This builds on Chronicles' Group 2017 film *Beyond the Brink*.
4. **Water security.** The production will focus on climate impacts on surface and groundwater sustainability, and its nexus with energy and food production, and altering of the world's ecological balance, plus links to public health and the global economy. This builds on Chronicles' Group films *Beyond the Brink*, and *Running Dry*.
5. **Ecological disruption.** The production will further examine ecological crises, which will lead to widespread migration and risk of global conflict among major powers, further terrorist threats, continued instability in weak states, and the spread of lethal and disruptive technologies.
6. **Population growth.** The production will highlight the fact Earth has never before had a projected 2050 population of 10 billion inhabiting the planet and will provide the international security ramifications and consequences.
7. **Soil degradation.** The production will present the reality that more than a third of the world's soils producing 95% of the world's food supply are currently degraded. The production will discuss the dangerous international security and humanitarian consequences.
8. **Accidental war.** The production will address assessments of an accidental war occurring as a result of mistake or breakdown in command and control occurring among the expanding list of nuclear weapon countries.
9. **Migration.** The production will provide a historical context on migration as a component of the inter-linked global challenges around climate, population growth, and increasing inequality. It will frame the issue in terms of the drivers of current and projected migration.
10. **Communication.** The production will examine the historical and continuing role of private, public, religious, and other non-profit sector voices in shaping the debate around climate solutions, with particular emphasis on the United States and associated cultural norms..
11. **Climate solutions.** The production will provide logical and rational geopolitical conceptual solutions to the evolving international security calamity. It will address both barriers and opportunities.