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**Topic Summary**

"Shrinking the Earth: From an Age of Abundance to an Age of Limits"

In this lecture, I will show through maps and photographs how dramatically our perspective on the earth has changed over the past 500 years, and how our situation as a species on the planet has also changed dramatically. For many centuries, beginning in the West and now sweeping over the continents, the common view has been that we live on a planet of abundance that we must conquer and make use of it. Now all nations are facing natural limits of resources and ecology. The old and vanishing era has left us with many important institutions as well as ideas that now must be questioned and ultimately revised or replaced.