Dear Colleagues,

Last year I published an edited volume titled *Civilizations in World Politics: Plural and Pluralist Perspectives* (Routledge, 2010). I wrote a lengthy theoretical introduction, followed by six empirical case studies (on America, Europe, China, Japan, India and Islam) illustrating the perspective I set forth, and concluded by another theoretical chapter written by a colleague. Since there were so many interesting ideas on the table when that project was finished, I decided to organized two follow-on projects to create a trilogy of books, one on civilizational theory, a second one on civilizational identities in the West and a third one on civilizational processes in the East. In drafting the framing essays for the second and third of these books my thinking has been comparative. The two companion volumes hopefully will go to press this coming summer. The first attachment lists the two tables of contents.

In addition I attach three of my four draft chapters, the Introduction and Conclusion of the book on Anglo-America and the Introduction of the book on Sinicization (the conclusion to that book is not yet ready for circulation). So as not to overburden you, I suggest the following reading guide:

· pp. 2-9 (Section 1 “Civilizational Analysis: A Conceptual Overview”) of the conclusion (“Many Wests and One Global Civilization of Multiple Modernities”) to the book on Anglo-America. This section is identical to the first section in the Introduction to the book on Sinicization – except that for purposes of illustration I have included material on Africa in the first and on Russia in the second. These pages distill core arguments from the book that is already published.
pp.28-40 (Section 5 “One Global Civilization Containing Multiple Modernities” and Section 6 “Conclusion”) which I hope will be of some interest to members of the ICM and which contain a muddle I am struggling with.

If you are interested in more reading, there are lots of pages which may or may not engage your interest here or there. I have another, single-authored book on civilizations in mind that would put this material (and the already published theoretical chapter) together between two covers and enlarge and deepen the ideas I am struggling with on pp. 28-40. I would be very interested in your generic comments about such a project.

Fully aware that I could not get as knowledgeable and informed an audience in any of the social sciences today, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to present my work to members of the ICM. At the same time, I am also fully aware that as a non-humanist my conceptual moves, lines of argumentation and style of presentation may strike many of you as odd, even strange. I am perfectly comfortable with that reaction. Most of my colleagues in the social sciences think that I am crazy to have followed this line of work. Since I have spent most of my career sitting quite comfortably between various stools such expressions of dismay are unlikely to upset me. I am extremely grateful for whatever time you can find to engage and react to some of these ideas, PK