Review of *Too Smart for Our Own Good*, by Ronnie Wright, World Change Café, May 2011.

I want to recommend a book to you. The title is *Too Smart for Our Own Good: The Ecological Predicament of Humankind*, written by Craig Dilworth. This is not an easy book to read (it’s written like a textbook and is used by some universities as such) and has taken me a month to get through when I normally read one or two books per week. I found that I would re-read sections over and over and kept stopping to ponder what the author had said. I would honestly have to say that this is one of the most important books I’ve ever read. Let me warn you though that it will not leave you all warm and fuzzy and filled with hope, as the author’s conclusion is that, along with the title, we are “too dumb to do anything about it.” All evidence so far would indicate that he is correct, and if you read the book you will know why.

Drawing on evolution theory, biology, anthropology, archaeology, economics, environmental science and history, this book explains the ecological predicament of humankind by placing it in the context of the first scientific theory of our species’ development, taking over where Darwin left off. This book is very dense with information starting from the time we climbed out of trees and walked upright across the African plains right through to modern times and our evolving environmental, energy, water and food crises (to name a few). It makes it obvious that we have exhibited a habit of overpopulation, with resource shortages (like food) as a result, followed by increased technology, a surplus of resources (like food) due to that technology, overpopulation because of an abundance of resources, and again resource shortages as a result of population increase. This process has been repeated throughout all of human history and is being repeated once again. The author calls this the vicious circle principle.

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