

Intercultural cities

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European Charter

For Interconvictionality

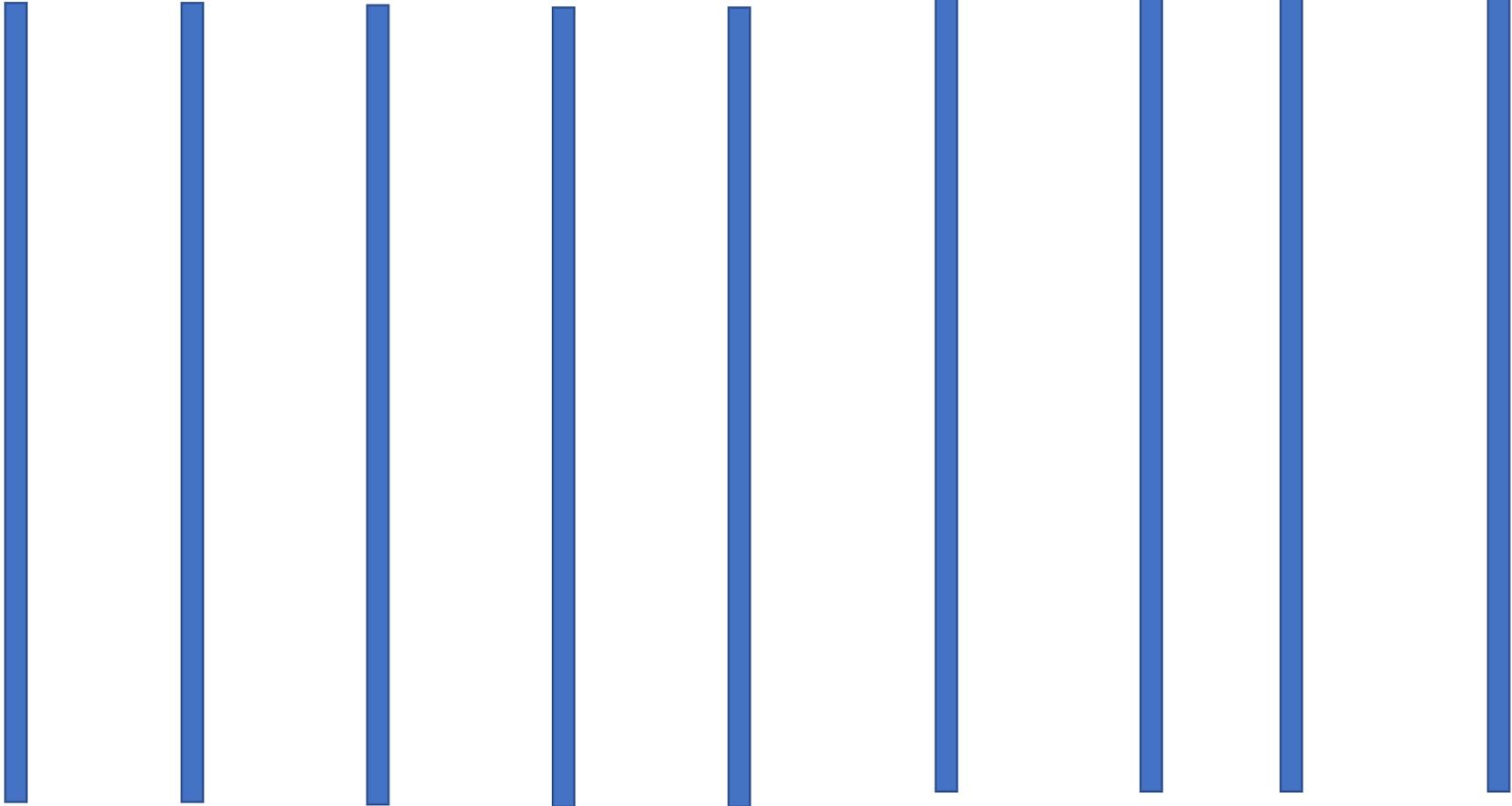
The Intercultural, International, Interconvictional Group G3i

It is a working group, composed of men and women of different nationalities and a range of culture, religion and philosophy.

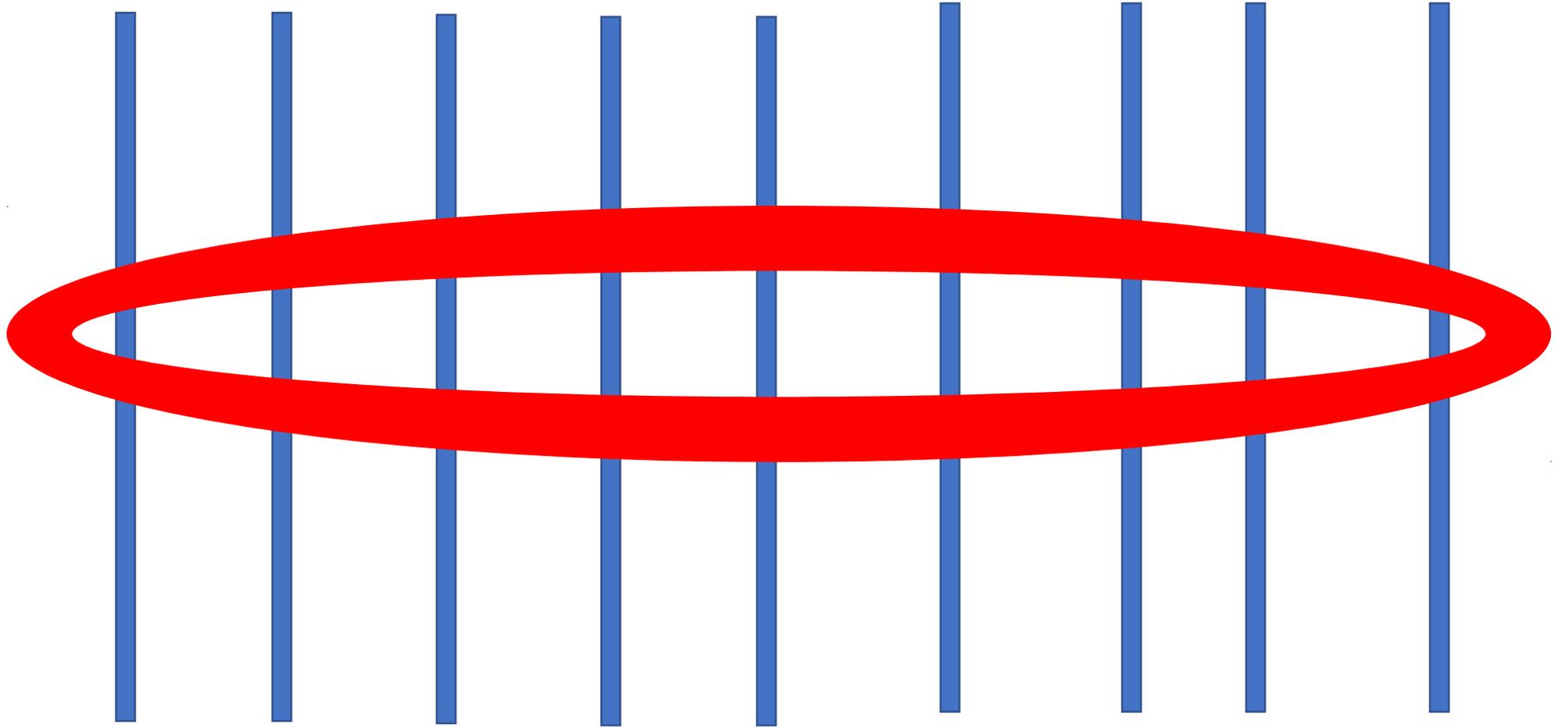
It seeks to contribute to the development of European citizenship and society by promoting the better founded operation of the groundbreaking concept of interconvictionality.

The G3i is persuaded that interconvictionality contributes to the cohesiveness of multicultural and multi-convictional society.

MULTI...



INTER ...



One of the fundamental features of Europe is the political, social, linguistic and cultural diversity of the constituent peoples.

Lightening the internal borders of the continent, the intermingling of its native populations and increasing migratory movements, contribute today to highlight this ever more strongly.

To this evolution is added the expression of an increasing variety of “convictions” of all kinds: philosophical, religious, political, asocial or cultural.

If the 1905 Convention, which founded the Council of Europe, and the 2000 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union recognise the importance of convictions for expressing them, they say nothing as to how their diversity is to be taken jointly into account.

Thus, the G3i suggests the the Council of Europe and the European Union register, as one of their major projects, the recourse of the concept of Intervictionality, in other words the simultaneous recognition of convictional diversity, of their potential reciprocal contributions and of the possibility of overcoming their different purposes in order to act together.

A European Charter for Interconvictionality might then be both a theoretical and an operational support for this concept.

Once this Charter is written and then ratified, it would be desirable for each institution concerned to be invited to implement it.

If international relations have been organised by numerous treaties, pacts, if cooperation and intercultural dialogues have also been the object of many international conventions or directives, interconvictional relations have never been the subject of legal provisions or institutions intended to explain them, to define their role and objectives, to determine their forms and organise them on the various levels where they are nonetheless indispensable.

To remedy this omission, the G3i suggests that a *European Charter for Interconvictionality* be drawn up and implemented whose provisions, applicable to the States and peoples of Europe might be inspired by the following elements.

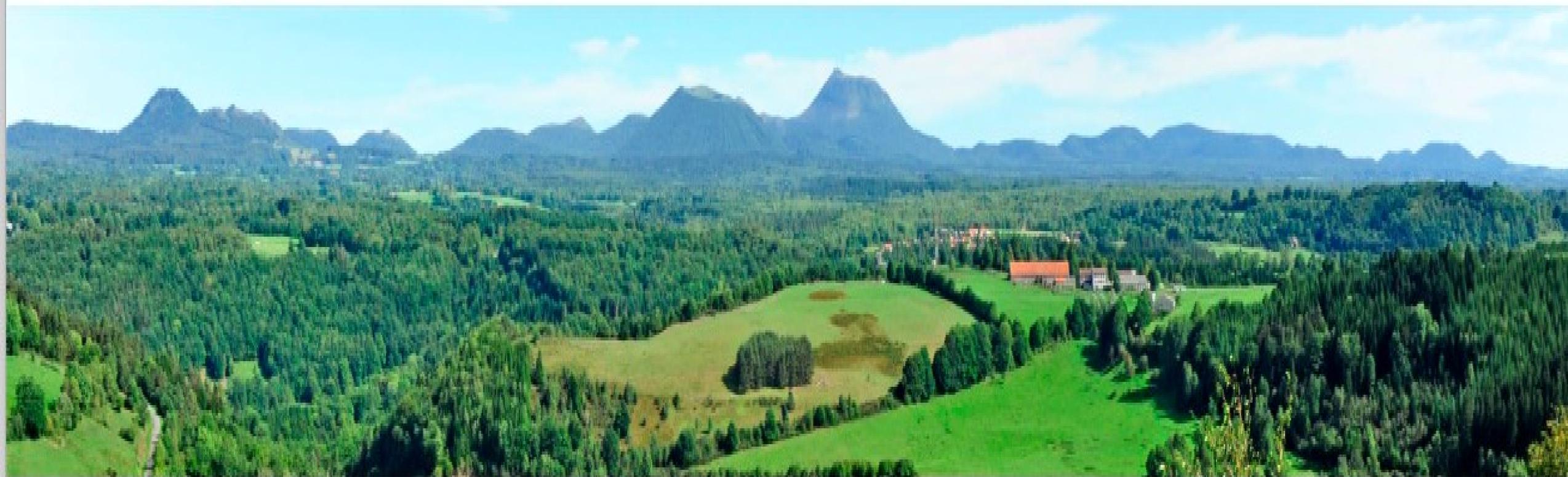
Toward Geopolitical solutions

for

rural Territories

**An example : The Combrailles in the Auvergne
(France)**





Being both remote and typical of the French countryside, the Combrailles is often viewed as merely subject to multiple disadvantages which are deemed to remove from the territory any prospect of development. But is this approach still entirely appropriate today ?

Other regions, considered to be burdened with disadvantages far exceeding their assets (reduced to the level of a consolation prize), have completely reversed their situation. Such examples are multiplying pretty much everywhere on the planet.

Given the tangled maze of uncertainties and changes we are undergoing, many of us struggle to understand the phenomena at work.

Let us attempt a synthesis by highlighting the convergence of five key determinants.

Climate

Natural resources

The economy and society

Institutions and the rule of law

Technology

Climatic and environmental change is modifying physical, human and economic geography at an increasing rate ; as much at the level of the biosphere as at that of local regions, with these two being interdependent.

To give an example : the drying up of the mediterranean basin, which is now well documented, places the Combrailles at the northernmost limit of those zones which will experience water stress within the next few years.

Depletion of stocks of natural resources is no longer on the horizon but is here and now. According to those in the industry, the peak in conventional oil production was reached between 2000 and 2005. In any case, it is well behind us.

The president of Total has announced that non-conventional oil production will peak around 2060. Production of minerals and other natural resources are equally due to peak between 2020 and 2080, according to their type. Reductions in the production of phosphates, copper and other resources create problems for agriculture

The irreversible diminution of petrol stocks is leading to the contraction of the world economy, thereby engendering two major consequences.

Less petrol means fewer machines in operation and therefore fewer functioning industries ; it follows that there is a general reduction in the production of goods and services. GDPs are flatlining.

Less petrol means lower production throughout worldwide industry. The social benefits acquired during the 19th and 20th centuries were made possible by the immense productivity gains resulting from cheap and plentiful energy. As of now the situation is in retreat.

At present institutions are not just criticised but are explicitly attacked.

(...) the Visegrád group of countries is destabilising European Union politics ; a resurgent « Hanseatic League » is exerting a rising influence in the bosom of the European Union ; Turkey is creating turmoil within NATO ; numerous countries spurn the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights ;

To challenge institutions is to take against the rule of law because it is the judicial corpus which lends first of all justification, then legitimacy and ultimately power, to institutions. Private arbitration has opened the way to circumventing international and national rights. At the end of the line, it is the rule of law and democracy which are in trouble.

Since 1916, the US Senate has recognised the need to promote the cultural industries to spearhead the United-States' soft power.

Some decades later, by capturing audience attention at the same time on the same subject, every country used television as a tool to select the important topics and thereby as a means to standardise the pre-occupations of society by short-circuiting autonomy and diversity of thought.

Consequently, television has acquired an inordinate importance in the development of collective memory.

Collective memory plays a determining role in the creation of collaborative projects.

The result is the impoverishment of social projects, with individualism, exacerbated by widespread commercialisation, leading to isolation.

The problem :

*In the Combrailles, to cushion the convergence of the various blows,
climatic, technological and energy depletion,
so as to prevent democracy from becoming fenced in.*

Although algorithmic governance subjects us to behavioural impulses which short-circuit individual reflection and directly endanger concord, civil society and local elected representatives have the power to short-circuit in their turn this algorithmic madness and the various consequences arising from the depletion of stocks of resources. Short-circuiting does not mean an attempt to match the speed of algorithms which calculate at 220 000 km/second, but to create a branch line to bypass and soften the blows of the on-going changes.

This term was developed by Antoinette Rouvroy in conference speech available at the following address :

How can we branch out in the Combrailles ?

To summarise :

- 1) support the agricultural sector
- 2) upgrade the level of technology in the territory
- 3) induce a diversified and decent job market
- 4) create bridges between the world of agriculture and AI developers, in order to add value to the territory and stimulate a contributive and collaborative economy.

- **First actions** :

- The launch of a « nomadic academy ».
- A review of real-life success stories from local collectives and/or territories undertaking energy, social, economic, ecological and democratic transition.
- The establishment of a monitoring unit.
- The transformation of local contradictions into innovation.
- Communication aimed at young engineers : a downloadable booklet promoting the Combrailles, discovery weekends in the Combrailles with industrialists, etc.
- The establishment of a mediation unit responsible for the ethics of territorial transition, the ethics of change management and the nurturing of the informal talents and skills of the local inhabitants.

Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797) wrote :

« The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing ».

« le mal ne triomphe que par la démission des gens de bien ».

Pour conclure :

Vous l'avez compris, nous avons décidé localement de prendre de vitesse
« ***l'exculturation à 210 000 km/s*** » en créant une « ***bifurcation*** ».

- Les différents acteurs du territoire (société civile en général, élus locaux, industriels) s'engagent dans ce processus de « ***bifurcation*** » du territoire.
- Les besoins de transition climatique, environnementale, sociale, économique, énergétique, démocratique, sont les mêmes partout sur la planète. Aussi nous installons un réseau de territoires ruraux et semi-ruraux pour co-construire la bifurcation ; chacun la mettant en œuvre selon sa culture locale.

Si cette démarche peut intéresser votre lieu de vie ou un territoire qui vous tient à cœur, contactez-moi et travaillons ensemble.

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In conclusion :

As you will have understood, we have taken the decision locally to outpace “*exculturation at 210 000 km/s*” by “*branching off the main track*”.

- A number of the territory’s stakeholders (civil society in general, local elected representatives, industry representatives) have committed to this process of territorial “*branching off*” .
- The needs arising from transition – climatic, environmental, social, economic, energy provision, democratic - are the same everywhere on the planet; so we are also setting up a network of rural and semi-rural territories to co-develop this “*branching off*”; each implementing it according to local culture.
- If this approach is of interest to where you live or to a territory you hold dear, contact me and let us work together.

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