Workable Utopias: Core Principles of How Societies Function

- A society is made up of systems.
- A working social system will be founded on physical reality.
- Physical reality includes the external physical environment and the human organism. (These are not completely separable.)
- When people's basic needs are met, a society works better.
- A society runs more smoothly when it accommodates human nature so that what feels good for the individual is generally also good for the society.
- A single value (or value system) will influence many different aspects of a system; issues are entangled, not separate.
- (Almost?) any value system will have pros and cons. It will be good at doing some things, not as good at doing others.

The Pyramid of Physical Reality:

Economy is a part of ecology; ecology is a part of the physical universe.

Economy: Human-designed systems for matter and energy flow.

Ecology: energy and matter flow through organic and inorganic substances.

Laws of physics: gravity, entropy, sun's energy, etc.

The Pyramid of Human Society:

A society channels human nature (well or badly) to meet human needs (well or badly).

Society: practices that shape how needs are met (including economy, values, power).

Human nature: what people instinctively tend to do or feel.

Human needs: physical, mental, emotional. (These three are not ultimately separable.)