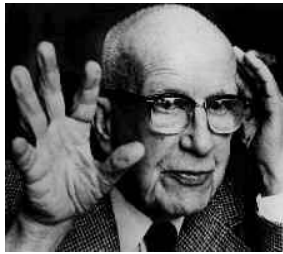


# At the Controls of Spaceship Earth<sup>1</sup>



R. Buckminster Fuller (1895 – 1983) inspired *At the Controls of Spaceship Earth*. He foresaw that computer technology combined with the available multiplicity of data about human societies would make



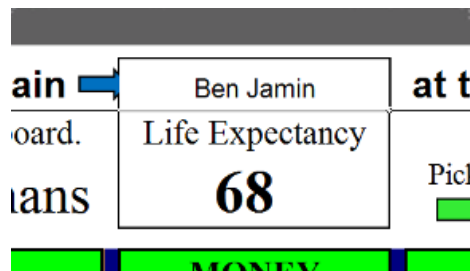
it possible to base policy on actual scientifically valid and reliable relationships among variables rather than on ideology or intuition.

The equations operating in the background of your control panel are based on actual conditions in countries of the world around 2008. As Captain, you can change those conditions throughout the Spaceship.

**Step 1.** Enter your name as Captain.

**Step 2.** Select countries from the dropdown list. That fills each control with the actual data for that country.<sup>2</sup>

**Step 3.** Then click on the up and down arrows to change each control.



Watch Life Expectancy; it tells how you are doing. It is the average of the life expectancies determined by each variable weighted by the strength of its correlation to actual life expectancies for all countries. Gross Domestic Product per capita is weighted and averaged the same way. Each country's actual life expectancy is show in the lower right-hand panel. A disparity means that other variables not included in the panel are operating.

Good luck! Remember, your more than six and a half billion human passengers are relying on you.

Bob Blain, Ph.D. Sociologist Earth orbit year: 2010.

<sup>1</sup> If scroll bars are not visible in the spreadsheet, right click on the Excel icon, select arrange, and click vertical.

<sup>2</sup> The data is contained in the second spreadsheet. Data are mostly from the CIA World Factbook. Data used to calculate a country's currency exchange rate in minutes is from the monthly *International Financial Statistics* published by the International Monetary Fund. NA appears where that data is not available.