

Exploring the World and Meeting Its People

Coming Ashore

Douglas & Stephanie Hackney

www.HackneysTravel.com



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Bona Fides

- 44 countries, 6 continents
- Travel by foot, dugout canoe, scooter, rickshaw, automobile, motorcycle, overland expedition vehicle, bus, helicopter, plane, train, sailboat
- Full-time, overland living
- Lessons learned from our experiences and other overlanders



Learn more about us on our
web site
www.HackneysTravel.com



Coming Ashore Agenda

- What it is
- While you're gone
- When you return
- Mitigation
- Adjusting
- Summary



Exploration Reality

“One day, your boat will come ashore.
You need to start thinking about that day.”

- John Kretschmer

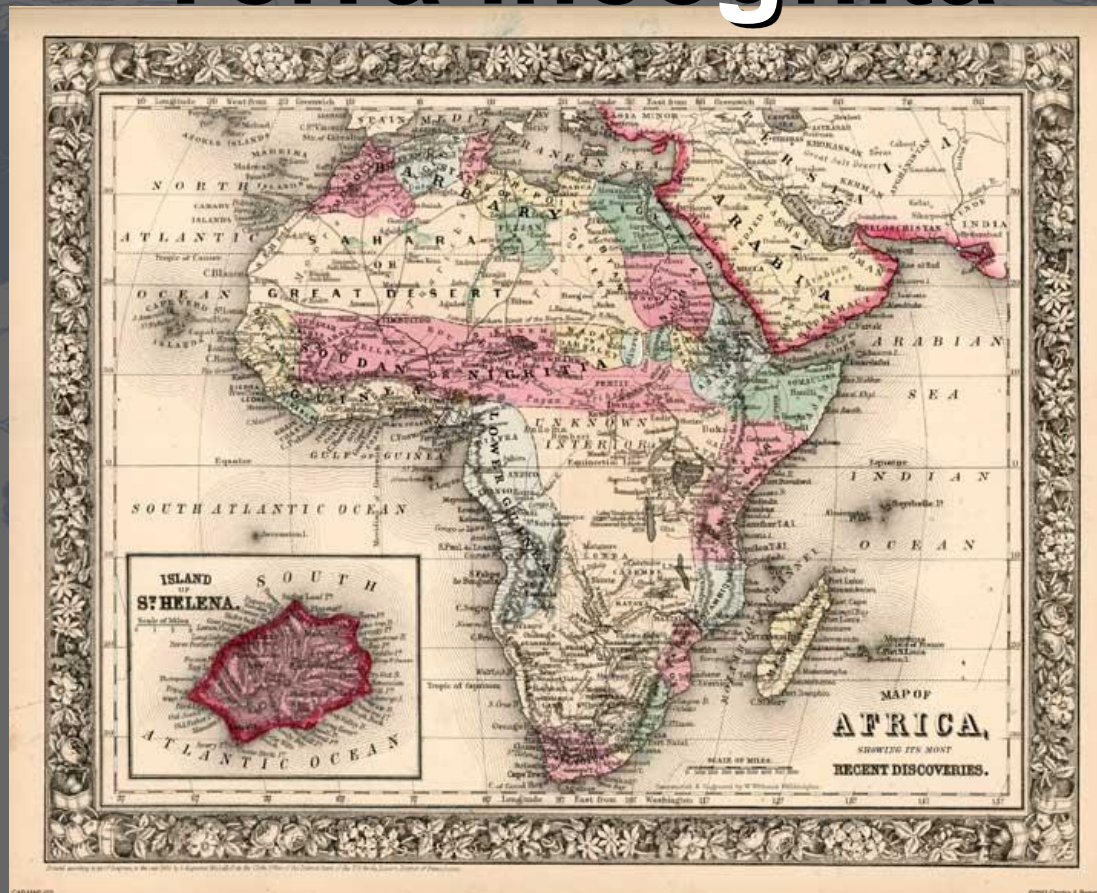


Origins

- As old as exploration
- Recurring theme



Terra Incognita

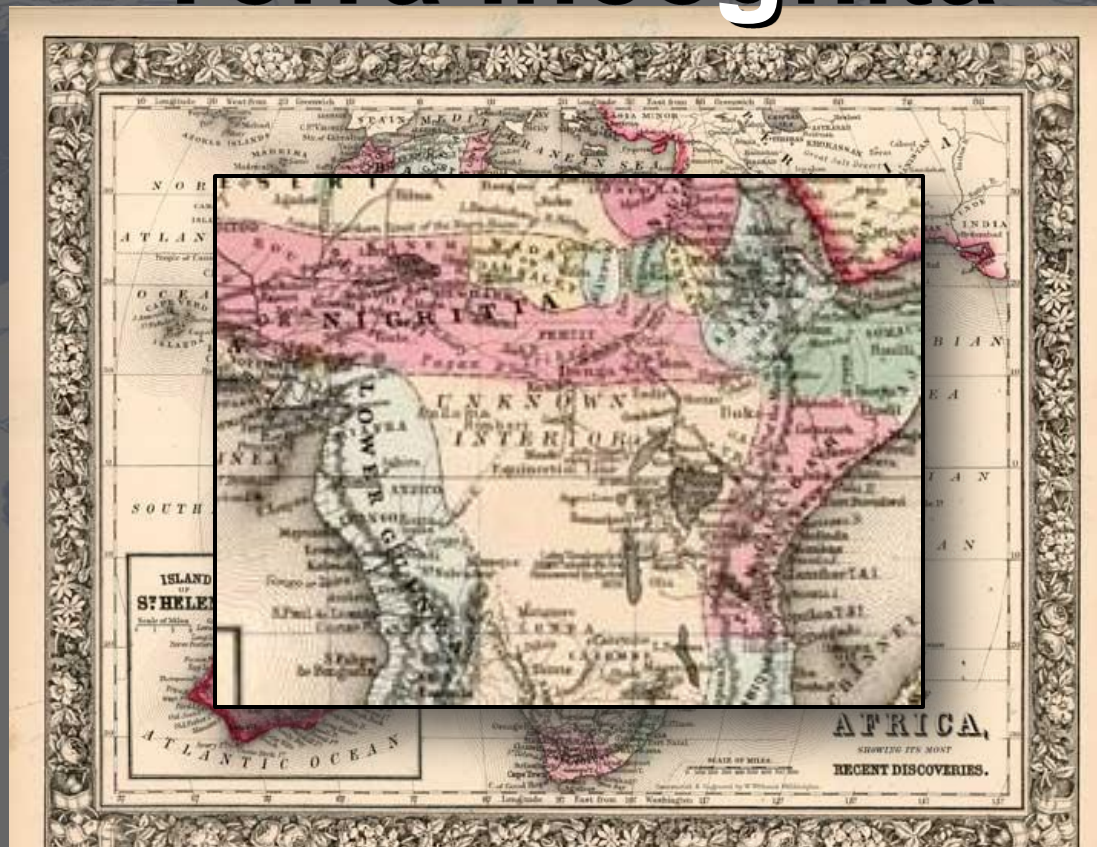


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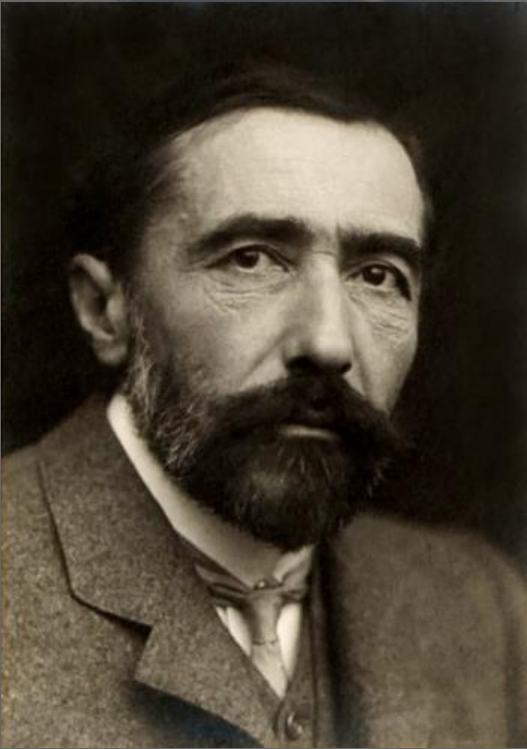
Terra Incognita



“When I grow up I shall go there.” - Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski



Going There



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Coming Ashore

I found myself back in the sepulchral city resenting the sight of people hurrying through the streets to **filch a little money from each other**, to devour their infamous cookery, to gulp their unwholesome beer, to dream their **insignificant and silly** dreams. They trespassed upon my thoughts. They were intruders whose knowledge of life was to me an **irritating pretense**, because I felt so sure **they could not possibly know** the things I knew. Their bearing, which was simply the bearing of commonplace individuals going about their business in the assurance of perfect safety, was **offensive to me** like the outrageous flauntings of folly **in the face of a danger it is unable to comprehend**.

- Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad



Coming Ashore Context

- Extended exploration
- Cultural interactions
- Observations and insights
- Transformational experiences

New and different perspectives



Coming Ashore Drivers

- Status change
- Stimulation loss
- Feedback loop loss
- Relevance

What do you blog about now?



Coming Ashore Time Effect



Time (scale varies by person)



The Receptacle



What do you do when you don't fit back in?



Signs

- Signal / noise ratio
- Differences in priorities and urgencies
 - Inconveniences vs. Problems
 - Societal blind eye and tin ear
- Difficulty finding meaning / purpose

What do you talk about at a party?



While You're Gone

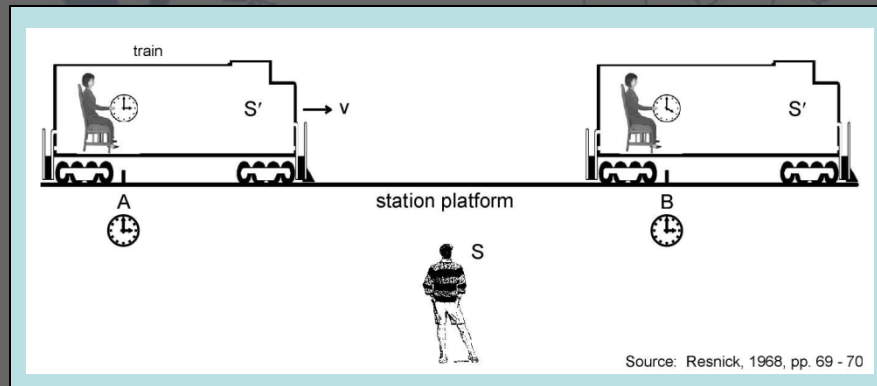
- Life goes on
- People change
- Culture changes
- Technology changes

The context of life changes



Reality is Relative

- The perspective of the viewer determines reality



**As your perspective changes,
your reality changes**



Their View of Reality

CNN INTERNATIONAL
.com/world

HOME ASIA EUROPE U.S. **WORLD** WORLD BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY ENTERTAINMENT WORLD SPORT TRAVEL

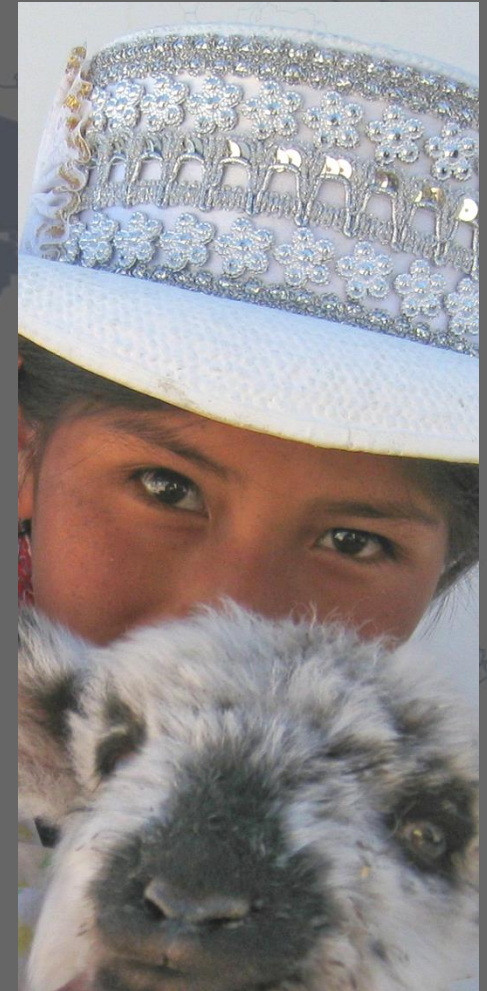
Hot Topics » [NASA](#) » [North Korea](#) » [Pirates](#) » [India](#) » [Living Golf](#) » [Economy](#) » more topics »

April 14, 2009 -- Updated 1701 GMT (0101 HKT)

At least 20 killed in Peru crash



Your View of Reality



Reality Gap

- Delta between what you know is reality and what they think is reality
- Very tough to close this gap
- Can be extremely frustrating
- Can lead to major Coming Ashore Effect

**They are comfortable where,
how and who they are**



When You Return

- Others will not share your perspective
- Others will be a lot less interested than you anticipate
- Some may resent your experiences and observations
- Everyone you know will have moved on

You are not as trusted as their TV



Tribe

- You may be tribeless upon return

Those still
out there



Those
Who
Stayed

Being tribeless is very challenging



Prepare for Re-Entry

- You may lose friends and family relationships
- You will be different
- Everyone else will be different

Others will lack your perspective



Return Roles / Plans

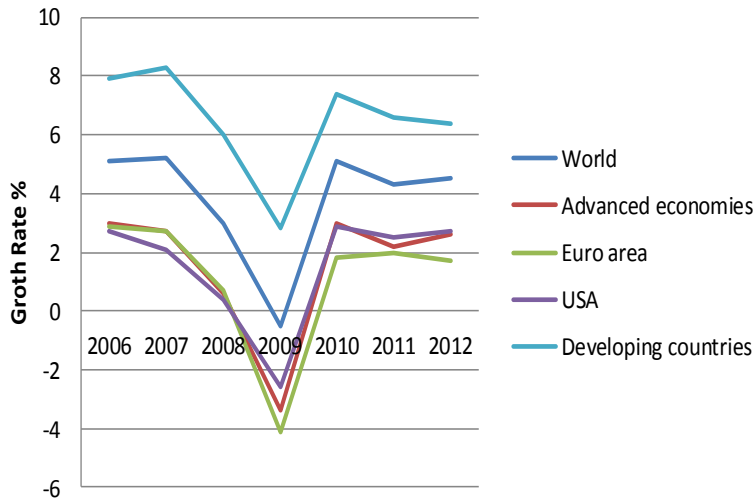
- What, exactly, will you do?
- Where and how will you do it?
- Who will you do it with?
- How long will it take to begin?

What if you are a different person then?



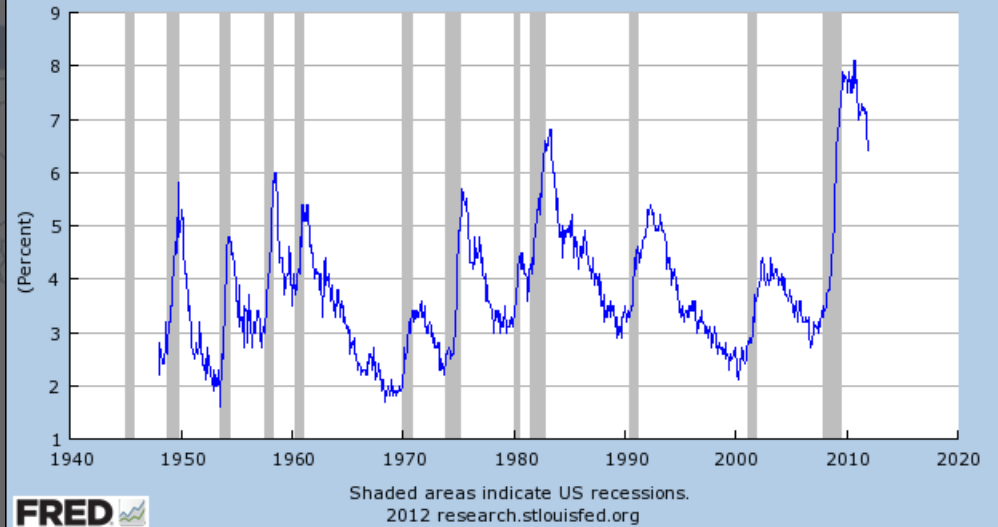
Uncontrollable Variables

Global GDP



Unemployment Rate - 45 to 54 years (LNS14000093)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics



What if conditions are different then?



Adjusting & Adapting

- Give yourself permission to change
- Give others permission to change
- Be who you are now, not who you were before

Celebrate the changes



Mitigation

- Maintain personal relationships
- Maintain professional relationships
- Maintain or create new tribal memberships
- Prepare for a new role / reality

Be realistic about reintegration



Pre-Planning

- Event triggers
- Time triggers
- Return roles / plans



Event Triggers

- Health
- Kids / grandkids
- Life events
- Overlanding events / goals
- Finances

Defined and agreed triggers limit effects



Time Triggers

- Time budget limit
- Sabbatical term
- Seasons
- Ages

Known time bounds can limit effects



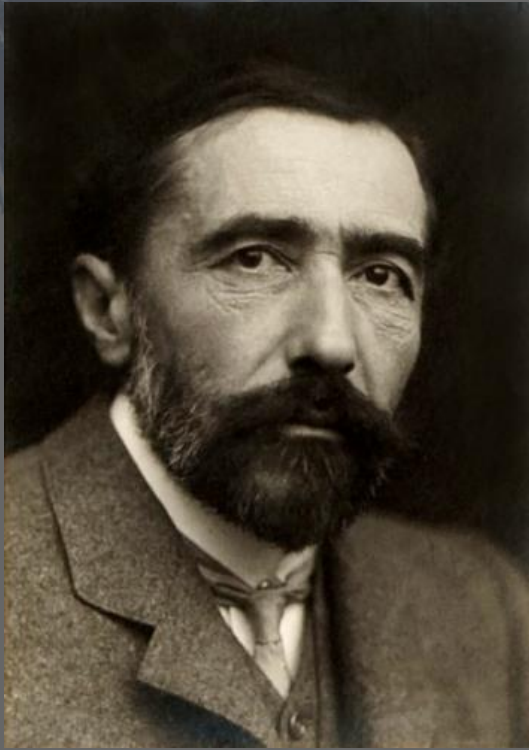
Why Risk The Effects?



Why Risk The Effects?



It's a Price Worth Paying



Joseph Conrad (1857-1924)

- Almayer's Folly (1895)
- An Outcast of the Islands (1896)
- The Nigger of the 'Narcissus' (1897)
- **Heart of Darkness** (1899)
- Lord Jim (1900)
- The Inheritors (1901)
- Typhoon (1902)
- The End of the Tether (1902)
- Romance (1903)
- Nostromo (1904)
- The Secret Agent (1907)
- Under Western Eyes (1911)
- Chance (1913)
- Victory (1915)
- The Shadow Line (1917)
- The Arrow of Gold (1919)
- The Rescue (1920)
- The Nature of a Crime (1923)
- The Rover (1923)
- Suspense: A Napoleonic Novel (1925)



Summary

- Extended overlanding can change you
- Everyone and everything changes while you're gone
- Mitigate via pre-planning

Prepare to come ashore



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