1. There is a third trend, though, and this is the one that gives me hope.

2. This is the trend toward what I call nation-building at home. While Washington may be gridlocked and drifting sideways, and our economic management has been anything but responsible, our country is still exploding with innovators and idealists.

3. Every week I hear from people with their new ideas for making clean energy, or with new approaches to education or with new thoughts about how to repair something in our country that desperately needs repairing.

4. And though some of these ideas are wacky, the number of people experimenting in their garages and local communities certainly tells me that this country is still bursting with vitality from below.

5. Our young people are so much more idealistic than we deserve them to be, and our broader public, though beaten down at times, is still eager to be enlisted - enlisted to fix education, enlisted to research renewable energy, enlisted to repair our infrastructure, enlisted to help others.

6. You can see it in the number of college graduates lining up to join. Teach for America.

7. They want our country to matter again, they want to be summoned, not just to do nation-building in Iraq or Afghanistan, but to do nation-building in America - to restore and revitalize something they cherish but feel is being degraded.

[コメント]
大恐慌にも似た世界の大不況の原因をつくってしまったアメリカの新しい可能性を示す動きを The World is Flat でフラット化した世界 の著書、フリードマン氏が示す好著。
- 2009年2月20日林明夫記 -