

BOOK REVIEW

Earthrise: The Dawning of a New Civilization in the Twenty-First Century- A Compilation of Articles by Leading Pioneer Organizations

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The Need of a Global Holistic Consciousness

Our global civilization stands at a crossroads. The global crises threatening our very survival are all interconnected and are the cumulative effect of human activities and lifestyles. They are at their core a crisis in human consciousness—a crisis in human thinking, human values, human priorities and human responsibility. It is therefore a choice we must make collectively either to continue on the present path toward destruction, or choose the way leading to a sustainable future. In order to reverse current trends and constructively shape our global future, we must develop a new dimension of consciousness and create a New Civilization.

A New Civilization we envision is a world in which our human sociocultural systems, including our economic and political systems, are transformed to operate in accordance with the harmonious and cooperative principles of nature and ecosystems. It is a world where humanity reaches a higher and more holistic consciousness to embrace and revere all life on Earth, appreciating its beauty and diversity. It is a world in which all individuals can fully express their potential to carry out their unique role in creating true peace and harmony on this planet.

A New Civilization Is Taking Shape

As serious as it is, the critical situation we face today is also an unprecedented opportunity for a major leap in human evolution. Underneath the surface of the still dominant materialistic, consumerist culture, a major shift is occurring among the global citizenry. We see ever-increasing number of people adapting new responsible ways of thinking and acting, forming a new culture that ensures greater socio-economic and ecological sustainability. These awakened citizens are now emerging around the globe to bring about positive changes in all areas of society, including politics, economics, business and education.

Pioneer organizations and institutions in various fields and regions are at the forefront of this cultural paradigm shift. With innovative concepts and creative initiatives, they are putting visions into action bringing inspiration to the world.

This publication *Earthrise: The Dawning of a New Civilization in the Twenty First Century*, highlights thirty leading edge civil society organizations and networks internationally active in fields such as politics and diplomacy, ecology and education, economics and business, sciences and media, as well as youth and spirituality. The articles contributed by these organizations describe their respective visions, activities, best practices and their specific contribution toward the creation of a new civilization.

For example, Gaia Trust - Global Ecovillage Network demonstrates a new sustainable lifestyle through its ecovillage models, while the Schumacher College and the Center for Ecoliteracy offer education that nurtures a holistic worldview. The Global Marshall Plan Initiative proposes an innovative concept of a global eco-social market economy, and the Social Venture Network presents pioneering ideas that changed business models. The Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy and Pathways To Peace promote their respective holistic approach to peacebuilding in the 21st Century, and the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace campaigns to establish departments of peace within governments. Green Cross International and the Schweisfurth Foundation focus on current issues such as sustainable water source management and healthy food security, while the Institute for Noetic Sciences explores the frontiers of consciousness to serve individual and collective transformation.

Together, all the pioneer organizations in this publication paint a compelling picture of a New Civilization, offering concrete first steps to get there. Their innovative projects are undeniable signs of an emerging harmonious and values-based civilization, which will eventually replace the old collapsing materialistic civilization.

These exemplary institutions, working at the forefront of a New Civilization in the making, are representative for millions of awakened people and thousands of leading organizations around the world, who are contributing day by day to this evolutionary global transformation, with a strong sense of mission and compassion for all life.

Creating a New Civilization Initiative

This publication is a part of the Initiative for Creating a New Civilization, which was launched by the Goi Peace Foundation and thirteen additional likeminded organizations at a major international forum organized in Tokyo in November 2005. *Kosmos Journal* has dedicated its Volume V Number 2 issue to that promising global Initiative.

The Initiative has since brought together many more organizations and individuals under a common vision of a sustainable and harmonious planetary civilization. In 2006,

motivated young people from all parts of the world also joined the initiative, launching a global youth movement for creating a new civilization, also covered by *Kosmos Journal* Volume VI Number 2 edition .

This empowering book will offer you a glimpse of the exciting and enlightening future that is possible, and will inspire you to become an agent of change.