

Earthrise

# Earthrise

The Dawning of a New Civilization in the 21st Century

A Compilation of Articles by Leading Pioneer Organizations

Compiled by the Goi Peace Foundation

Edited by Patrick U. Petit



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## Preface

By Patrick U. Petit

At the dawning of the new millennium, a growing number of people worldwide realizes that the future of humanity lies within the responsibility of each one of us. While the majority of us still believes that the world's problems are caused solely by governments, by people holding special authority, by representatives of the corporate world or other forces outside ourselves, awakened global citizens truly know that they must be the change they want to see in the world. They feel empowered from within to become change agents by establishing organizations and networks to serve humanity and the common good, and by fostering the creation of new, effective instruments of peaceful civic governance essential for our sustainable flourishing on Earth and with Earth.

The publication, *Earthrise: The Dawning of a New Civilization in the 21st Century*, is a compilation of articles by leading pioneer organizations dedicated to co-create a New Civilization based on reverence for all life on Earth. Their inspiring initiatives and creative activities ignite personal and collective empowerment and responsibility as a tidal wave of hitherto untapped human potential for co-creating a sustainable and peaceful world, and facilitate the transformation of our cultures.

There is some reason to believe that we are entering a pneumatocratic era – an era in which each individual is ready to accept responsibility, and to carry out his or her mission as a self-conscious member of the human race. It is an era, where we, – in the words of David Korten, author of *The Great Turning: From Empire To Earth Community* and Co-Founder of Positive Futures Network, »embrace the higher-order potential of our human nature, turn crisis into opportunities, and learn to live in creative partnership with one another and the Earth«.

Pneumatocracy is derived from the Greek *Pneuma*, meaning »spirit« or »soul«, and *Kratos*, meaning »the sovereign rule of« or »the power of«. Therefore, Pneumatocracy is »the sovereign rule of the spirit« and was first coined in 1973 by the dutch visionary leader and philosopher Johan Henri Quanjer. Pneumatocracy is a phenomenon which is flowering globally: many people are turning towards higher consciousness and inner wisdom as the solution to social and economical issues, beyond the traditional confines of current organized politics. This new form of »enlightened governance« emphasizes that some-

thing more evolved than democracy exists, something which recognizes that the expression of a greater spirit in humanity is needed, and is being progressively introduced and manifested, everywhere, for the greater good. Although Pneumatocracy is a development rooted in democracy, it goes beyond our conventional understanding of democracy. Pneumatocracy is founded on the collective awareness and individual self-actualization of each human being.

According to Masami Saionji, Chairperson of the Goi Peace Foundation, it is our consciousness that shapes our lives and the reality of the world around us. We can attain only what we firmly believe in. This is why it is essential that we uphold the highest vision. As more and more people share this vision, its manifestation will be facilitated. Therefore, it is imperative to inspire individuals to awaken to their inherent potential, and empower each of them to become agents of change.

It is the objective of this publication to inspire and to call on awakened citizens to join this global movement of mapmakers for our common future. They carry the pin-code for the paradigm shift that humanity is destined to undergo. They represent – according to Oran Cohen, Founder and Director of Living Peace Foundation –, »the new order of freedom that is emerging. This »movement« has no borders, no criteria, no categories and no dogmas. It is about the freedom to love and the love of freedom. It is about awakening to our highest truth, whatever it may be, and uniting as humanity to fundamentally transform our world and ourselves. It is about living our highest collective values of love, truth, unity, and peace«.

The Goi Peace Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the distinguished authors and organizations which have contributed to this book. Their innovative initiatives and creative activities are an invaluable source of inspiration and motivation for humanity as it seeks to achieve a sustainable, harmonious and peaceful world.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the newly established Earthrise Foundation for its gracious support.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Ramona Rosenstern – a gifted life coach, holistic healer and Founder of RaStoa Academy – for her generous grant provided to make this publication possible.

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history. A time when humanity must

choose its future. We all have the power of choice. Our individual destiny and collective future lie within our own hands. »Our world is in grave danger«, said Roger Walsh, one of the pioneers of transpersonal psychology, »but it is in good hands, because it is in your hands«.

**May Peace Prevail on Earth.**

Thanksgiving Season 2007

# Introduction

## The Dawning of a New Civilization

By Hiroo Saionji

### The Need of a Global Holistic Consciousness

Our global civilization stands at a crossroads. We have arrived at a critical bifurcation point in the history of humanity. With the spread of environmental destruction, cultural clashes, terrorism, overpopulation, wealth disparity, resource depletion, mass starvation, epidemic diseases, climate changes and a host of other complex issues, the world we live in today is economically, socially and ecologically no longer sustainable.

These 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. It is not enough simply to patch up the existing civilization founded on its old paradigms. 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 entitled *Earthrise: The Dawning of a New Civilization in the 21st Century*, highlights some of the 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. The concepts, models and structures they present may still be seeds of change, but they are undeniable signs of an emerging harmonious and values-based civilization, which will eventually replace the old collapsing materialistic civilization.

Although we are aware that many other organizations could be and should be

added to this publication, we are very confident that these exemplary institutions, working at the forefront of a New Civilization in the making, represent 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 like-minded organizations at a major international forum organized in Tokyo in November 2005. Among these organizations were the Club of Budapest, the Club of Rome, the Institute of Noetic Sciences, Kosmos Journal, Pathways to Peace, and the World Commission on Spirituality and Global Consciousness, whose articles are also included in this book.

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.

Now more than ever, each of us is called upon to become a proactive agent for positive change. We are reaching out to all people who see this need, to build the critical mass for a paradigm shift. Working in collaboration transcending generations, cultures, and disciplines, we can reverse the current trends toward breakdown and co-create a New Civilization – a sustainable and harmonious civilization based on spiritual values, respect for our diversity, timeless wisdom and reverence for all life on Earth.

We hope that this book will offer you a glimpse of such exciting and enlightening future that is possible. May it inspire you to find your unique role in changing the world at this unprecedented moment in human history. Let us together create a New Civilization.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

Tokyo, October 2007