



Foundations of hope for a  
global sustainable information  
society

Funda-  
mentos de  
esperanza  
para una sociedad  
de información  
global y sostenible

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1. The Great Bifurcation
2. Global Sustainable Information Society
3. Global Consciousness
4. Conclusion



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- We live in the age of **global challenges**.

Global challenges are due to disparities in social relations

- among humans
- between humans and nature
- between humans and technology



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations among humans = alienation of humans from each other through alienation from society („Big Brother“ , „Net“)
  - cultural crises
  - political crises
  - economic crises



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations between humans and environment = alienation from nature („Gaia“)
  - environmental catastrophes



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations between **humans and technology** = alienation from technology („Megamachine“)
  - technological disasters



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Global challenges
  - threaten the continuation of humanity through another world war and environmental catastrophes
  - can be met only by all humanity: need of global consciousness



# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- We face the choice:
  - either **breakdown** of the interdependent world system because of business as usual
  - or **breakthrough** to a higher-order world system through co-operative action





# 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - first, the change must re-design relations among all humans on earth and between them and nature and technology and build up an integrative **new world-system**
  - hence **globality**



## 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - second, the change must establish safeguards against man-made dysfunctions that might, eventually, cause the collapse of the whole world-system
  - hence sustainability



# 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - third, the change must mobilise humanity's best **intellectual capacities** to gain knowledge that allows for the design of the required safeguards
  - hence **informationality**



# 3 Global Consciousness

- The Triple-C Model describes **social information** (= information of, between and in social systems) in different levels:
  - cognition
  - communication
  - co-operation



# 3 Global Consciousness

- First, **social cognition** = the actualisation of capabilities of actors (= social agents, social systems) of reflecting their own goals, the state they are in, and the way to reach the goals, as **individual systems**



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Second, **social communication** = the actualisation of capabilities of actors of **reflecting** each others' reflection on goals, states, and ways, in interaction of **individual systems**



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Third, **social co-operation** = the actualisation of capabilities of actors of **reflecting goals as common**, states they are in as common, and ways to reach their goals as common, **in the collective supra-system they are integrated with**



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Human history has so far unfolded different stages of the formation of social cognition, communication, and co-operation; they have been oscillating between **individualism** and **collectivism**.





# 3 Global Consciousness

- First stage: **Tribalism**  
at the dawn of humankind in face-to-face groups
  - the supra-system is mystified as an all-embracing „We“ ; any actor works as personification of the „We“
  - **myths convey tradition**
  - **means and ends are not questioned**



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Second stage: **Idiotism**  
from Antiquity to this day's anonymous mass societies
  - the actors become **self-regarding** persons of their own; the structures of the supra-systems prioritise **competition**
  - **ideology**: the **private** as the supreme good
  - **means** are **intelligently flexibilised** for given, shortsighted ends



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:  
**Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable information society)  
here and now (to avoid barbarism)
  - actors need to build up a **unity-through-diversity relationship** to the supra-system (collective reflexion assures that the pursuit of individual goals does not harm other supra-system components)



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:  
**Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable information society)  
here and now (to avoid barbarism)
  - realistic, science-based assessment of different development paths is needed



# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:  
**Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable information society)  
here and now (to avoid barbarism)
  - means as well as ends need to be  
questionable and agreeable (actors are  
capacitated to reflect their own position as  
well as the position of others from the  
perspective of the supra-system)



# 4 Conclusion

- From communication to solidarity =  
toward co-operation  
toward a global sustainable information  
society  
toward global consciousness  
toward cosmopolitanism



# 4 Conclusion

- There are foreshadowings of a global sustainable information society...



# Gracias por su atención

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