

Aurelio Peccei
„The Human Quality“ (1977)
Selected Quotes
Pergamon Press Edition

Compilation by Petra Künkel as background material for the ENCI Meeting of CoR and WAAS, Dubrovnik, 21-22 March 2019

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The empire of man (today we would call this the era of the Anthropocene)

The global human empire in fact possesses the wherewithal to outshine all past civilizations, or it may just as easily end tragically.... The road to possible salvation and new, higher achievements will never be found unless we first understand what the new condition of man actually is and what new role and responsibilities it entails.

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The present global crisis, in which everything in the human system seems to be out of balance with practically everything else, is a direct consequence of man's inability to rise to the level of understanding and responsibility demanded by his new power role in the world. *The problem is within men, not outside him, and so is any possible solution.*

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The problématique

From whatever angle the human condition and problematique or human prospects are examined today, the decisive factor invariably turns out to be the human being himself, with his defects and qualities and his large unused, even unexplored potential.

...It is not utopian to bank on the human revolution which, I am convinced, is the prima and absolute condition for the development and the continuation of our species at this stage of its evolution.

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About the Missions for Mankind

The purpose of the great projects which call for worldwide cooperation, is twofold. On the one hand, they must aim at organizing a whole new reference framework for the human situation in this age of man's global empire.... And on the other hand, they must be used to convince different human groups that it is in their direct and immediate interest to assign absolute priority to the systematic development of human quality and capacity.

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Peccei is suggesting a publication series : News for World Citizens

All work should be carried out in the spirit of intellectual and scientific freedom and interdisciplinary cooperation, evidencing mankind's cultural diversity. From the organizational standpoint, it seems appropriate for the concept to be applied of networks of specific centers, using social actors, non-governmental organizations and ad hoc groups organized to collaborate towards a common goal in different parts of the world.

...(it) would strengthen the perception that a global approach.....is indispensable to face up to human problems. They would in fact be in many ways interlinked and, and together form a sort of system which embraces the entire globe in a variety of ways.

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This is almost talking about the Planetary Boundaries, Peccei calls them outer limits.

Adequate scientific knowledge of such lists and the conditions under which they can be approached or the consequences of trespassing on them is all the more necessary.....

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Peccei is talking about the inner limits.

.....man's present mental and psychological - and even perhaps physical - adaptation to the denaturalization and tempo of modern life is far from satisfactory. However the wonderful potential capacity of the brain is so badly used that there are probably still ample margins that he can and must use to reestablish his lost equilibria....