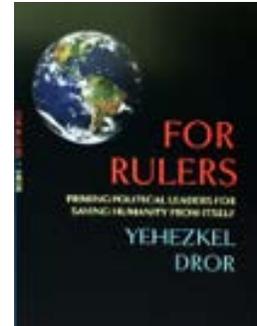
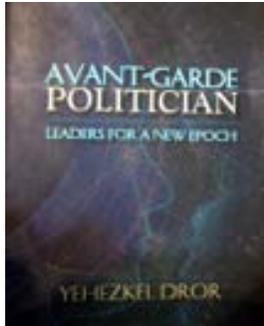




5D. Leadership: The Space Epoch Example



The book covers above present Yehezkel Dror's latest publications on leadership. He has consistently identified leadership as critical for public organization and in particular political performance throughout his career. He has advised rulers and those who guide them. And he has emphasized and illustrated the increasing risks posed to humanity by the widespread phenomenon of top level politicians: *sleepwalking*. His concept of a Singularity Epoch, the theme of this special issue of the *Journal of Space Philosophy*, has the purpose of helping the human species to recreate itself and its environment. To do so successfully, while first of all preventing catastrophes, a new genre of political leaders is essential – as discussed, inter alia, in his most recent book, *Priming Political Leaders for Saving Humanity from Itself*.

The purpose of this article is to inspire readers to delve deeply into the works of Dror – starting with political leadership. The benefits will be for you personally and, if appreciated by leaders worldwide, all societies on Earth will benefit. This fully applies to leadership as needed for advancing space exploration and settlement.

The following discourse addresses Dror's *Mirror for Rulers* within a more generic approach and applied to the forthcoming Space Epoch.

Introduction

Throughout human history, leadership has been a critical variable shaping outcomes for good or evil, for the thriving or extinction of societies, for progress or decline, for harmony or conflict, for peace and war, for the advance of science and technology, for religions, and for happiness or tragedy. With the Singularity, in the foreseeable future the importance of political leadership for humans on Earth and in space will become even more fateful.

This *Journal of Space Philosophy* article makes four assumptions: (1) that political leadership will be the key – but not the only – variable in the successes or failures of the forthcoming Singularity and Space Epoch; (2) that the long-term survival and improvement of Homo sapiens as a species will largely depend on a successful Space Epoch; (3) that current global leadership, with a few exceptions, is insufficiently aware of the potential benefits of the Space Epoch; and (4) that the analyses and prescriptions of

Professor Yehezkel Dror – making the long term pluralistic thriving of humanity as a species a priority – are critically important for the leadership of national and global decision clusters.

Referencing Assumption #2, many heads of state have supported national and international funding for Space research and missions over the past half century. President John F. Kennedy's dramatic launching of the Apollo program to land men on the Moon remains the most celebrated. There are many global reasons for the world's decision makers giving priority to needs other than Space exploration, development, and human settlements. Readers will be aware of them all. The unknowns on which Space scientists, leaders, managers, investors, and advocates dwell and worry: *Will the potential benefits of the Space Epoch be insufficiently recognized and acted upon by political and other leadership – missing the opportunity when those benefits could be captured in time to solve Earth's and humanity's existential needs?*

Dror's prescriptions for avant-garde politicians are designed for Earth's next epoch. Dror focuses on Space though recognizing its importance, but this article is devoted to the future of humans in Space. The Space environment has many features that make Dror's assumptions more achievable in Space than on Earth. There is no history of human conflict in Space to date, despite the movies in the Star Wars series becoming top money-makers by portraying it, and Donald Trump's recent announcement of the US Space Force. There is no history of human settlement in Space, hindering future possibilities. International cooperation produced many of the major Space missions and projects. Dror's primary prescription for avant-garde leadership is to make the good of humanity a priority. Earth's history reveals no nation or society giving the future of humanity as a whole priority above tribal interests. Leaders are elected or selected to take care, first of all, to their societies. Think of the legal, social, economic, and political leaps required for US political leaders to give priority to the needs of all humanity. Or, at least, to their country subject to the long-term needs of all of humanity!

What are Yehezkel Dror's prescriptions? Dror's works describe global leadership today as being unprepared for coping with emerging increasingly critical and also fateful challenges. Political leaders have the responsibility to serve as the prime agency dealing with them. But the vast majority of political leaders lack essential qualities of the mind, and they are sleepwalkers as far as the future of humanity is concerned. Dror's major conclusion is recognition that leadership will be the key for humanity's future – good or bad. For sure, continued tribalism of political leaders will ensure disasters for their countries and for humankind as a whole.

Preparation and Adoption of a Well-Designed Humanity-Constitution is Imperative
Dror provides three imperatives for a Humanity Constitution:

1. **Absolute priority** should go to assuring the long-term survival of the human species and to preventing serious harm to large parts of it.
2. **The species-changing inhibition imperative.** Production, diffusion, and use of species-changing knowledge and technologies and human enhancement should be rigorously controlled on a global scale.

3. **The human flourishing imperative.** Strenuous efforts should be made to advance long-term, pluralistic flourishing of the human species and its parts, while also taking care of pressing short-term human needs.

Essential avant-garde leadership qualities:

1. Have a sense of being called to serve as a future-shaping leader that is freely chosen by you and that dominates the whole of your life.
2. Acquire moral, cognitive, and volitional qualities essential for coping with rapidly changing challenges and, in particular, the Singularity.
3. Realistically understand the world as it is.
4. Accept that your real legacy for the future will be your positive impact on historic processes, not monuments or rituals.
5. Realize that critical issues, especially those posed by the Singularity, are increasingly of global scale. Therefore, never say and even less think that “my country comes first” without adding “subject to the needs of humanity as a whole.”
6. Recognize that state sovereignty must be limited, and that a decisive global governance system is essential for the survival of the human species – up to what Dror calls a “Platonic Global Leviathan.”

Editors’ Notes: Over his career, Yehezkel Dror has taught, written, and consulted on improving political leadership, grand policy thinking, and critical choice. The emerging Singularity requires all of these, with time not being on humanity’s side without drastic changes in global leadership that will stop the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (see the article “Singularity Space Contour,” by Bob Krone, following). **Bob Krone and Gordon Arthur.**