



## 12. Space Epilogue

By Bob Krone and Salena Gregory-Krone<sup>1</sup>

### Preface

We urge readers to have at least skimmed through the first five articles of this Special Issue of the *Journal of Space Philosophy* and to have read Dr. Dror's articles 6, 8, and 10 before reading this final article. We believe that this will prepare you for the awareness of both his brilliant career and the critical importance of his "Singularity Contour," presented here to the world. We doubt there has ever been an equal knowledge of the history, and current status, of global public policymaking to Yehezkel Dror's. His continual professional publications beginning in the 1960s – summarized here – provide complete evidence for that belief. There is a theme that runs through Professor Dror's works. That theme is the shadow of pessimism about humanity's capability to overcome historic and increasingly dangerous aspects of human existence on Earth.

He fully understands all the good imbedded in the genetic origins of life, which have given homo sapiens the will, the hope, the intelligence, and the creativity augmented by some geniuses to survive and prosper in multiple ways through repeated natural and human-caused catastrophes, especially over the last fifty thousand years since the still not understood leap in human mental abilities. He also fully understands the impacts of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse impeding progress. He is acutely aware of the increasing risks to humanity posed by the likelihood of inadequate control of emerging Singularity science and technology. And he describes the human species as cascading through a phase leap into a radically novel epoch – the nature of which is unknown and largely unconceivable.

### Visions and Values for the Next Human Transformation

With all that background of learning, Yehezkel Dror turned to the study of the evolution of the human species to map the critical variables needed to steer the next evolutionary leap toward heaven while avoiding hell and, as the top priority, self-caused extinction. He presents his analysis, findings, and prescriptions in his three latest books, published within a couple of years, but grounded in his lifelong scholarship and praxis. The subtitle for his most recent *For Rulers* book is *Priming Political Leaders for Saving Humanity from*

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<sup>1</sup> Bob and Salena Gregory-Krone share in every way in their senior lives. They first met professionally in the 1970s, when they each had earlier partners. The four of them – Salena and husband Norris Gregory, and Bob and his wife, Sue – became fast friends socially and professionally. They travelled together globally in mutual respect and friendship. That foursome ended when Norris passed in 2011, then Sue passed in 2014. Bob and Salena returned to their professional partnership, which moved on and blossomed into marriage in 2015. Bob, as President of Kepler Space Institute (KSI) and Salena—having had a unique thirty-four year US Civil Service career which began in the War Department in 1944, including pioneering work for the US Air Force and Department of Defense in the Equal Employment Opportunity field that was recognized in the US Congressional Record—became a Research Associate and author for KSI. They collaborated, again, in the development of this special issue of the *Journal of Space Philosophy* dedicated to Professor Yehezkel Dror and his remarkable legacy for the positive continued evolution of humanity.

*Itself*. Then he moved on for this journal issue with his “Singularity” and “Policy Scientist” articles.

Before we provide you our Space Epilogue, we summarize six important findings of Yehezkel Dror:

1. Leaders/rulers have always been critical for humankind, together with other variables; they are becoming fateful in steering the Singularity, shaping the uses and misuses of the power to mold human futures significantly.
2. Contemporary political leaders are utterly unable to cope with the critical issues posed by the Singularity. Therefore, a much-improved genre of political leaders is a sine qua non for assuring the future of the human species.
3. “Anthroporegenesis” is the term Dror selects for the epoch in which humanity has the power to transform features of Earth critical for humanity and, in particular, to recreate main properties of human beings. Science and technology are providing these powers. However existing forms of governance are not equipped to make and implement harsh choices on regulating their production and use as essential for preventing catastrophes up to self-termination of the species, and instead facilitating long-term human thriving.
4. Absolutely essential are global measures overriding tribalism, extreme nationalism, greed, and fanaticism, and instead enforcing worldwide Singularity-steering measures. Accordingly, Dror proposed moving towards a “Benevolent Platonic Global Leviathan” equipped with moral and cognitive qualities and having the authority and instruments needed for assuring the survival of the human species and facilitating its evolution towards novel forms of human thriving.
5. Science and technology as such are not the danger. It is their misuse – together with human errors – that poses the risks of catastrophes and self-termination of the species.
6. The survival of the human species is an overriding imperative, subject to hypothetical future choices by humanity to create a superspecies taking its place.

### **Transformations of Human Societies**

The timeline of the so-called cognitive revolution of the human species is in debate, but in terms of symbolic abilities, on which modern humanity is based, it apparently ended about 50,000 years ago – leading with time to language, writing, science and technology, and a variety of symbolic and material cultural artifacts. But mutual killings were a feature going back to the beginning of hominins, and they are still common among some types of higher apes, being imprinted also on *Homo sapiens*.

Altogether, the history of humankind was rightly characterized as a slaughterhouse, together with much cooperation. Both processes pushed learning, leading to present realities with advancing cultures together with science and technology, but combined with

misery and mass killings. But, with the emergence of mass-extminating tools, starting with nuclear bombs and sure to expand and multiply in the Singularity, the cohabitation between killings and cooperation cannot continue without endangering the future of humanity by a dangerous mix of better lives for most of humanity and the increasing likelihood of catastrophes.

Focusing on one of the most important variables shaping these processes, while recognizing the importance of many others, Yehezkel Dror concludes that there is no substitute for new types of global governance and a new genre of global political leadership. But these too may fail, endangering the very existence of the human species. Therefore, humanity must move into an emergency mode and proceed with space settlement to have a second chance if calamities hit humanity on Earth.

### **Space as Humanity's Chariot**

Given Humanity's history with mutual mass killings, ice ages, megavolcanoes, etc., we may wonder how humankind survived and in the long run thrived. There seems to be something in our genes that provides hope for the future. As Carl Sagan said, "We are Star Stuff." We have an unquenchable curiosity about the universe and our role in it. This may turn out to be humanity's ultimate benefactor.

There were, in March 2018, 7.4 billion humans on planet Earth, and this number will further grow before probably levelling off. This large mass of humans contains heaven and hell and much in between: those who create beauty and self-fulfillment for themselves and others, and those who want others to suffer and non-believers to be exterminated.

We are, as Jonas Salk commented in 1973, blundering through the transformation from Epic "A," Survival of the fittest, to Epic "B," Survival of the Wisest. We aren't sure where we are, and Yuval Noah Harari, in his book *Sapiens: A Brief History of Mankind*, ends with the statement:

The real question facing us is not "What do we want to become?" but "What do we want to want?" And Yehezkel Dror asks: "Humanity, to be, what to be, not to be?" but he also accepts as axiomatic for the foreseeable future an existentialist imperative to assure, as far as possible, the long-term existence of the human species. (*Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a new Epoch*)

So, we now follow with a bit of Aristotelean logic:

- If history reveals inadequate evidence of human capability to weave the future positively in the emerging Anthroporegenesis epoch,
- Then, a set of radically novel measures is required, including a critical mass of novel values, regimes, and leadership.
- We have summarized the most crucial ideas and recommendation of Professor Yehezkel Dror.

But that still leaves unanswered the question “How can Dror’s compelling proposals be realized?”

We think that human space exploration and then settlement can provide an important part of the answer, recognizing the fuzzy gambling of that concept.

US President John F. Kennedy, on May 25, 1961, in a message to Congress, announced to the world:

I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish.

On July 20, 1969 people all over the world watched in anxiety and fascination as the Apollo 11 Space mission brought astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins to the Moon, and Armstrong and Aldrin became the first humans to step on the Moon. That was a humankind revolution that changed public awareness for possible future human Space exploration and led to unprecedented international cooperation to build the International Space Station (ISS), beginning in 1998. That Earth-orbiting home for humans is continuing to be expanded today, and it is expected to operate until 2028. Astronauts, cosmonauts, and Space tourists from 17 nations have been aboard since November 2, 2000. It is the largest human-made body in low Earth orbit and the experimental pioneer for the future human space settlements throughout the Solar system and beyond. The recent discovery of water on Mars, if verified, is just one sign of many of the potentials of Space as, with time, an additional habitat of humanity.

We cite the Moon landing as an historic mega-event that happened thanks to a massive, coordinated US science and technology project with top-level political support. This approach can also realize unprecedented Space visions.

### **A Phased Implementation Program for a Humanity Space Singularity Prospect**

#### **1. Announcement of the creation of an initial select Space Singularity dedicated group.**

KSI has offered to be a sponsor for this first step. It would be an emerging global umbrella collegium determining its own visions, priorities and programs.

Dror has provided extensive evidence to support his publications on the incapacity to govern of rulers and political leaders, and the required Policy Sciences qualifications of future Singularity leaders. This applies to the space Singularity group, which must engage in shared learning. KSI is now composing a doctoral-level educational program focusing on Space leadership that will become one model for a larger scale leadership development endeavor.

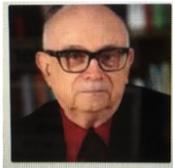
2. **Mobilization of wide public support by a range of publics, high-quality mass media, and social networks.**
3. **Pushing Space exploration and preparations for pilot settlements on the Moon, Mars, or in massive solar system orbiting entities.**
4. **Efforts to put support of this humanity-focused effort on the agendas of global international organizations and within the visions of national leadership.**

It could take a hundred years, or longer, for those four steps to meet the needs of a cognitive revolution for the human species, assuming the existing human species does not self-destruct. This “Space Epilogue” is hypothesized as one step in that direction.

We, in KSI, will use the following slide to introduce the education and research to understand, and work toward, the launching of this revolution:

## *Anthroporegenesis*

**A term, and concept, proposed by Yehezkel Dror for the emerging radically new epoch in the history of the human species in which, thanks to novel science and technology, humanity will be able to impact significantly on its future evolution as a species and on its environments, including perhaps creation of new sentient beings – thus engaging in acts of "genesis."**



*Yehezkel Dror*



*Tim Watkins Image,  
New Scientist*

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