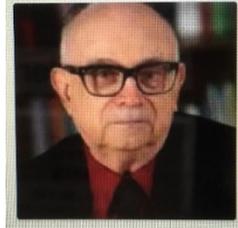




## 5. The Yehezkel Dror Legacy



Human societal progress on Earth has been nurtured from the beginning by the thinking and leadership of those who observed their environments and the behavior of others, and who possessed the brainpower and motivation to bring about improvements. This article gives readers abstracts from Yehezkel Dror's publications on seven major subjects, which have been analyzed in detail in his books, and which are illustrated on the cover of this special issue:



The full legacy of Dr. Yehezkel Dror may not be understood for decades, but it needs to be appreciated by Earth's global decision makers before it is too late for humanity. What do we mean by that assertion?

Readers will find in this publication a huge set of Yehezkel Dror's findings, conclusions, and prescriptions for public policymakers concerning the capacity of governance to address problems that have increased the risk to humanity since the mid-20th Century. The beginning of the 21st Century is further aggravating those risks in ways he has described for decades in his publications, presentations, and teaching. For the first time in human history, the crippling or extermination of the human species by human actions is a distinct possibility. Too many combinations of such events would be irreversible once

initiated. We live in an unprecedented era of dramatic scientific and technological advances, bringing good to people. But Dror describes too much of global leadership as sleepwalking amidst the evidence of potential major catastrophes – even human extinction.

Yehezkel Dror's basic findings are:

- There is no acceptable alternative to political leadership.
- However, past and current leadership has failed and is failing in its capacity to cope with evolving and increasingly critical and also fateful problems.
- As a result, radically improving political leadership is imperative. Readers will see such findings, analyses, and prescriptions spread throughout Yehezkel Dror's publications . For many issues, he was the first to identify and describe them – terrorism being only one example.

Having been a co-founder of the Policy Sciences and a leading scholar for its multiple uses, his legacy is unmatched. The Kepler Space Institute leadership places him in an equivalent position in public policymaking to Einstein and Hawking in astrophysics.



For all of those reasons the Kepler Space Institute considers this *Journal of Space Philosophy* special issue to be its most important publication to date. Dr. Dror, reviewing his scholarship at age 90, is not optimistic about Earth's political leadership overcoming historic barriers to resolving many pathological human characteristics that have caused wars, conflicts, intolerance, greed and mental illness that is devastating to humanity. He shares the Kepler Space Institute's vision that the beginning of the current and future Space Epoch holds potential feasible solutions for problems humans have experienced on Earth. He also believes that discovering them through Space Exploration Development and human settlements will provide models for human to replicate back on Earth.

However, we must design and implement all those activities using the principles of reverence for life, within ethical societies, implemented by the Policy Sciences. That is the challenge we, and our children and grandchildren, must embrace.

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