The background of the entire cover is a deep blue space filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. A prominent, glowing white comet streak with a long tail cuts across the lower right portion of the image. In the bottom left, the curved horizon of the Earth is visible, showing a mix of brown and green landmasses and blue oceans. The overall aesthetic is cosmic and futuristic.

Eckhard Fahlbusch

Homo progressivus –
The Energetic Overcome

With a Little Help from Bruce Springsteen and ...

**For all who came before us
for all who are with us now
For all who are to come**

With illustrations by Heike Rupprecht

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**A book for the present
that looks back at the past ... for
the sake of the future.**



1. PROLOGUE “LETTERS TO YOU”



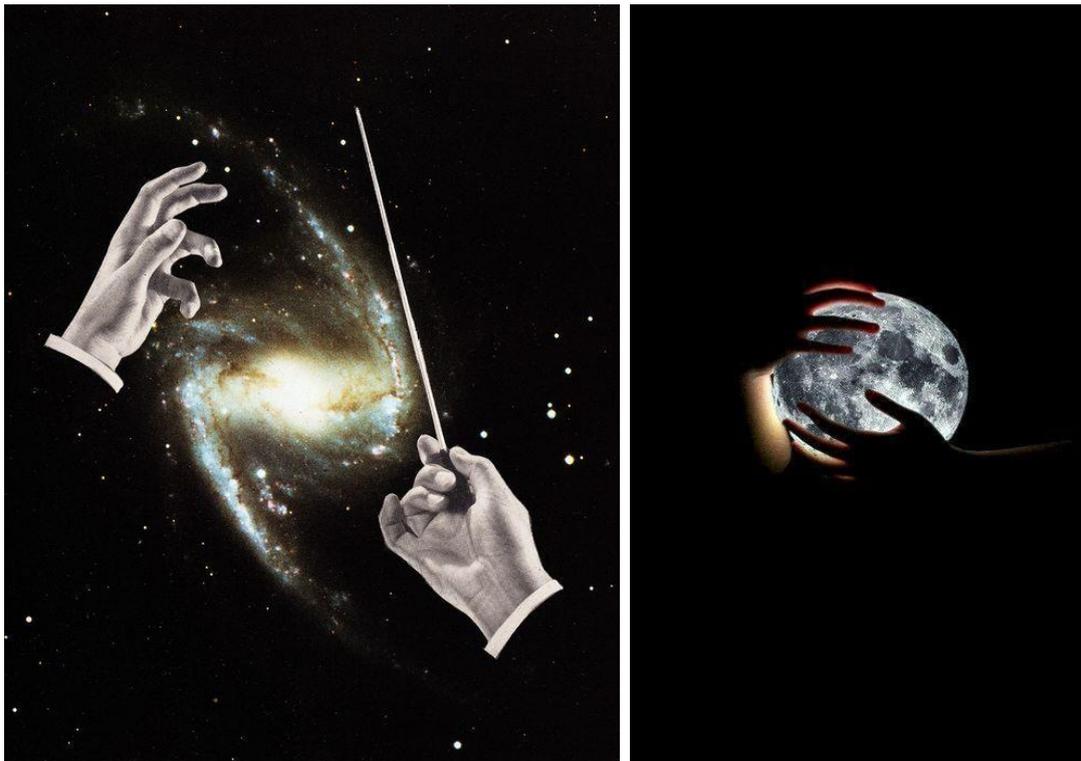
WHE SHALL OVERCOME

Music by Bruce Springsteen – with unforgettable pictures:



Dear Bruce Springsteen,

There is a rage in my belly like never before. It rages at Trump, Putin, Bolsonaro and their cronies. My first request of you, while we are still locked in the global Coronavirus crisis, is that you instigate and set up three world-spanning festivals in concert with other artists and their managers. There is a quotation from you that I particularly like: ***“A guitar has both power and magic”***. So how much power and magic would emanate from a whole procession of bands and instruments appearing in succession? Their emboldening and encouraging song lyrics would beam out from three world-spanning and world-embracing festivals – one in South Africa (in memory of **Nelson Mandela**), one in India (in memory of **Mahatma Gandhi**) and the third in the USA (in memory of **Pete Seeger, Muhammed Ali**, and of **Martin Luther King and John Lennon**, both of whom were murdered in the United States of America). In addition, a series of concerts should be set up and organised in every one of the 196 countries of this Earth.



Embracing the whole world with heavenly music!

That makes 199 concerts in total, and the announcement should be made before the US presidential election scheduled for 3 November 2020.

In this way, for the sake of democracy, voters in the United States could be influenced **to prevent Donald Trump winning a second term in office. It is especially important to reach the voters between the East and West Coasts who feel frustrated and marginalised.**

The Coronavirus pandemic has hit the cultural side of life very hard. The message that three world-spanning festivals and 196 concerts are being set up and organised, and will be performed after the Coronavirus pandemic in every country of the world, should also help to breathe new life into the music and event industry, pool and release new strengths and radiate confidence and hope. Not to mention the euphoria that would follow when people know what it is all about, and understand the aims pursued in organising these three massive festivals and 196 concerts. Ideally the 196 concerts would be held on successive days after the three festivals, making it 199 days in total. Over this long period, most people would be inspired and aroused from their “sleep” by these sublime artistic events. So the aims would be implemented and achieved **because they would become firmly established in us and put down roots.** This is not just about alleviating hunger, need and misery on the oppressed African continent (as with Live Aid in 1985) or to protest against the Vietnam War (as with Woodstock in 1969). No, this will be an epoch-making clarion call. A jolt passing through the entire world, flying around it, driving out our indifference and causing the hell on Earth to freeze over. Essentially it is all about the survival of humanity, and preventing the 6th species extinction on Earth which started a long time ago. By joining together in this unprecedented way – **by creating strength in numbers like a swarm** – we can set common fundamental goals which we will declare, disseminate and bring to fruition:

“We stand for reconciliation, not division.

We stand for the ‘real’ United Nations of the World – and we all share this one World. We stand for cohesion between religions – with basic ethical rules, empathy compassion.

**We stand for love, forgiveness,
sharing, peace, and freedom.**

250 years ago, a musician and composer was born. Like you, dear Bruce Springsteen, he shaped his age musically with elemental powers. With his 9th Symphony, Ludwig van Beethoven created a masterpiece. The “Ode to Joy” from the fourth movement of his 9th Symphony links the theme of “Joy, beautiful spark of the gods” with the idea of solidarity – “All people become brothers”. The instrumental version has been the European anthem since 1972. It is a call to people to unite under the banner of Joy, break down barriers and support one another. But in these times of growing xenophobia, the European anthem is also a call to reconciliation and international understanding. When Ludwig van Beethoven composed his 9th Symphony, he was already completely deaf. Sadly he was unable to complete his 10th Symphony. The thought that composers and musicians might complete the 10th Symphony as Beethoven intended it fills me with great joy. The idea that the 10th Symphony might be performed for the first time at the end of the 3rd world-spanning festival in the USA – as the **“Anthem for the World”** – fills me with passion!

Afterwards we shall celebrate the

Declaration of Human Rights.

“INDEPENDENCE DAY – IN THE WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS”

All together – all over the world – every year.

Nobody could fail to hear this signal. This message. **This energetic overcome.** And nobody who cares about what is good for the Earth and the life on it could possibly ignore it.



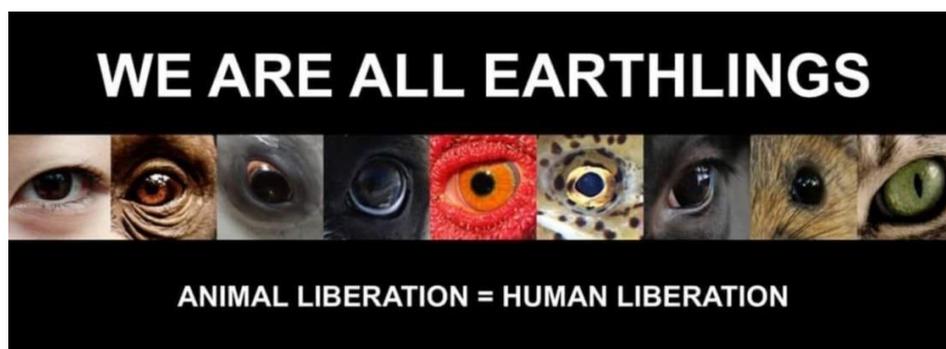
“Homo progressivus – The Energetic Overcome

With a little help from Bruce Springsteen and Ludwig van Beethoven.”



Dear Bruce Springsteen,

We live on an extraordinary and certainly unique rock. Although a few of us act like sadists who love doing things to hurt other people – especially the intransigent gas-guzzling dinosaur, **Donald Trump**. It must not be allowed to stay like this. So the second thing I would ask of you is that you rock *Homo sapiens* as a species, give it a good shake and then stand it up again in better shape. Your forceful music and your stirring, accusatory and inspiring song lyrics are predestined to make this feat succeed – **triggered by the suggested 199 concerts**. In this way, your artistry will succeed in making our life on Earth better and fairer by restructuring it. It is very likely that the Coronavirus crisis is giving us the last big opportunity to place everything on the test bench and to identify and eliminate injustices – before “unchecked” climate change shows us the **red card**. As part of a strengthened democracy, the common good, equality and fairness of opportunity will have to be given priority globally in the future. This needs to be done in the face of naked capitalism which, in its brutal barbarism and harshness, and its egoistical and rapacious form has resulted in an unspeakably unjust distribution of wealth. And one which will continue to grow if it is not prevented. And finally, we need to care much more for all the species who share the world with us. They should be able to breathe again because man is finally distinguishing himself by his humanity and commitment to species conservation, and not because *Homo sapiens* is dying out.



On 8 July 2020, Angela Merkel spoke to the European Parliament and said:

“December 2020 will be the 250th anniversary of the birth of the composer of the European anthem, Ludwig van Beethoven. His 9th symphony ticks all the boxes for me and feels new every time. Whenever I hear it, I discover something different in the music that speaks to me and leaves an impression. Just like Europe itself. There is always something new to discover. And it continues to impress me. So I would like to end today with the wish that the message of this music, the idea of brotherhood and unity, might guide us in Europe. What message could be more fitting than that Europe is largely capable of this if we stand by one another and stick together.”

In 2000 and 2019, Angela Merkel said in two interviews with *Spiegel* magazine:

“I would go to one of US rocker Bruce Springsteen’s concerts at the drop of a hat.”

Looking back at the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years earlier, she remembers:

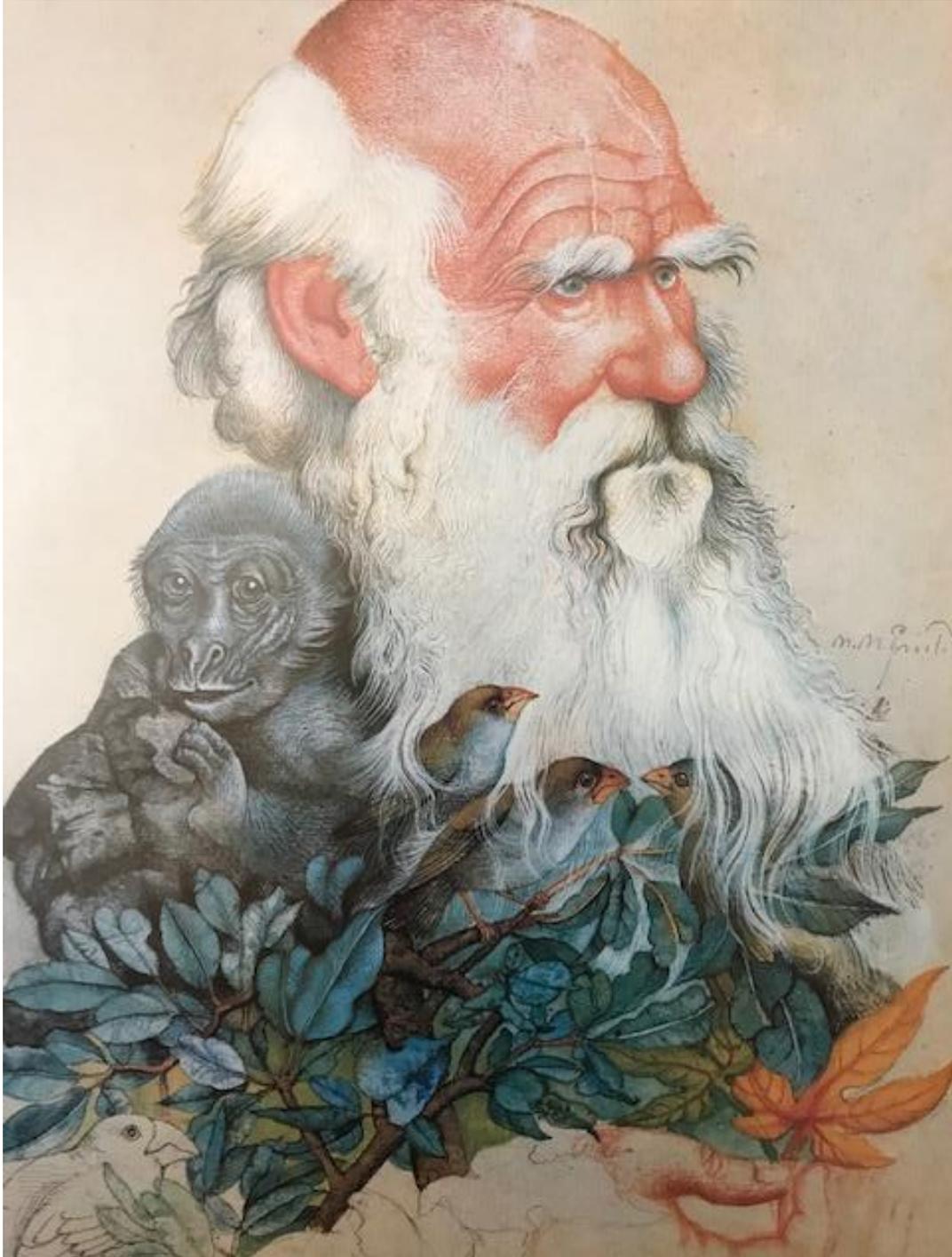
“For my first long journey, I wanted to go to America. Because of its size, its variety, its culture. To see the Rocky Mountains, drive around in a car and see and hear Bruce Springsteen. That was my dream.”



There could certainly be no better opportunity for Angela Merkel than to participate actively in the 3rd world-spanning festival in the USA, at which the 10th Symphony would be premiered as the “Anthem for the World”.

Charles Darwin said:

“Music has a wonderful power of recalling (...) (in us) in a vague and indefinite manner, those strong emotions which were felt during long-past ages.”



WE ARE ALL EARTHLINGS!

According to Albert Einstein,

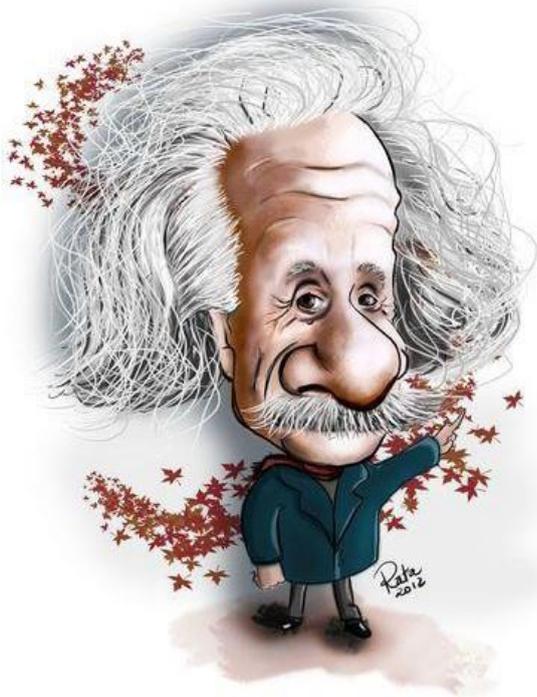
“Life is like riding a bicycle.

To keep your balance, YOU MUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD.”

Charlie Chaplin said:

“At the crossroads of life there are no signs.

You have to believe in yourself, that’s the secret.”

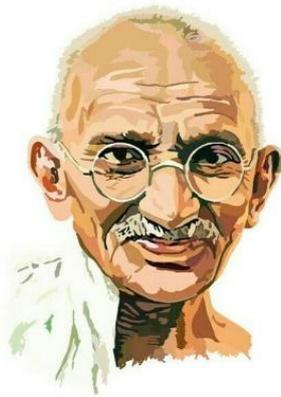


Mahatma said to us all:

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."

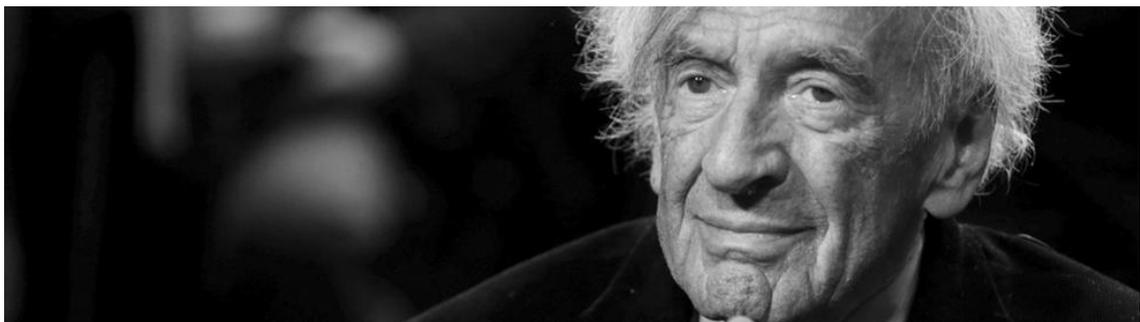
Madiba said to us all:

"It always seems impossible until it is done."



Elie Wiesel said:

"None of us can do as much as when we all work together."



“Hubble”, our rock star in space, would say:

“If you people could see what I can see, then you would know how small you are.

You would also know how lucky you are to live on this speck of dust known as “Earth”.

For 30 years I have been looking with fascination into the vastness of space,

and allowing you to share in this. From what I have seen, you won’t find

a better place (that you can actually reach) than planet Earth.”



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2. TEN TEMPLATES AND ONE ADVANCE

1st template:

A look back – for the present

– for the sake of the future:

A lost election and a devious Pyrrhic victory.

”Another victory like that and we will be lost!”

On May 31, 1969 Hillary Diane Rodham said:

“I find myself in a familiar position, that of reacting, something that our generation has been doing for quite a while now. We're not in the positions yet of leadership and power, but we do have that indispensable element of criticizing and constructive protest. (...) for too long our leaders have viewed politics as the art of the possible. And the challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible possible.”



The speech given by Hillary Diane Rodham on May 31, 1969 at the Wellesley College graduation ceremony spoke of integrity, respect and the mutual confidence among people. In 2016 Hillary Clinton faced her greatest political challenge. In order to defeat Donald Trump in the race for the American presidency in 2016, she had to undergo the **metamorphosis from *Homo sapiens*** that we all wanted. Going into the election she had to take with her and embody the desire to change society, improve relationships between people and scrutinize institutions that she carried with her on to the stage at Wellesley College 47 years ago. It was also because of this that Hillary Clinton lost the election; she underestimated the anti-establishment movement in Washington. In order to wipe out the establishment in Washington, many voters wanted to show that the power is in the people – even the power to mess things up, something that which helped Trump to victory. The election was decided by frustrated citizens in states away from the east and west coasts and in mainly rural areas. Areas where the USA is more racist, more violent and anti-progressive – like the new President and his entourage.

How did it come to pass that Donald Trump became the 45th President of the United States? The reasons in detail:

- Trump’s voters hid the truth and were taken in by the dumb slogans and obvious lies of a dangerous populist,
- Hillary Clinton’s weaknesses and errors that allowed voters to drift to the right. There was also a general trend that was more *against* Clinton than it was *for* Trump,
- The American electoral system which counts the votes of the Electoral College and not the individual votes of the electorate. Hillary Clinton received almost three million more votes than her opponent but lost the election anyway. The electoral system had already shunted George W. Bush into the White House in 2000 and not the Democrat Al Gore, who received half a million more votes than the Republican,
- Cyber attacks and *fake news*, which the cunning power of Donald Trump used to dangerously manipulate the American people, and
- Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump’s election campaigner. In a report published on January 6, 2017, the security services of the CIA, NSA and FBI proved that the Russian President Vladimir Putin had conducted an “influence campaign” through hacker attacks in order to leverage Trump to electoral success. This potentially scandalous accusation was intensified by the initial denial of contact between Moscow and the former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and Attorney General Jeff Sessions – this was even before the US election. At the time, Sessions was still an election campaigner for Trump.



One day after his inauguration, millions of people around the world took to the streets to protest against Donald Trump. In Washington alone there were at least 500,000 people, which is more than attended the official inauguration the day before. The protests focused on misogyny, violence, racism, homophobia and religious intolerance, among other things.

American artists express their views and are called upon

During the George W. Bush era, Robert Redford said that he had never experienced such dark times in his entire life. Now times have become even darker for the USA and for the world. American artists are also being called upon more than ever to defend a crumbling democracy against the power of Donald Trump.



Some American artists who could shine a light on society!

More and more artists must now work together to mobilize society and even the frustrated citizens in the country's heartland. Once that finally happens, all Americans will have the chance to fathom the real reasons for their dissension.

Before the election, Bruce Springsteen said:

“Donald Trump is such a flagrant, toxic narcissist that he wants to take down the entire democratic system with him if he goes. He’s such an unreflective person. He simply has no sense of decency, no sense of responsibility about him. The words that he’s been using over the past several weeks really are an attack on the entire democratic process. He’s going to make as big a mess as he can.”

Before the inauguration, Barbra Streisand said:

“Clueless, Reckless, Graceless, Mindless and Heartless: Our President Elect. I cannot respect a racist, xenophobic sexist who puts us all at risk with his behavior. It is our right and our duty to defend our freedoms and to help our fellow citizens. The rest of us must remain vigilant. Write your representatives and senators. Make donations to groups that fight for equal rights, civil rights, freedom of the press, climate change measures, gun control regulation and healthcare mandates. Protest. Speak-up. Help others.”

After the inauguration, Bruce Springsteen said:

our hearts and spirits are with the hundreds of thousands of women and men that marched on the streets to protest against hate and division, and in support of tolerance, inclusion, reproductive rights, civil rights, racial justice, L.G.B.T.Q. rights, the environment, wage equality, gender equality, health care, and immigrant rights. We stand together with you. We are the new American resistance.”



Before the inauguration, Meryl Streep said:

“This instinct to humiliate, when it’s modeled by someone in the public platform, by someone powerful, it filters down into everybody’s life. And it kind of gives permission for other people to do the same thing. Disrespect invites disrespect. Violence incites violence. When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose. This brings me to the press: we need the principled press to hold power to account, to call them on the carpet for every outrage! That’s why our founders enshrined the press and its freedoms in our constitution.”

Before the inauguration, George Clooney said:

“I didn’t vote for him, I don’t support him, I don’t think he’s the right choice. At this moment in our lives we have to hope that he doesn’t destroy everything.”

After the inauguration, Meryl Streep said:

“If we live through this precarious moment, if his catastrophic instinct to retaliate doesn’t lead us to nuclear winter, we will have much to thank our President for. He will have woken us up to how fragile freedom is.”



On February 5, 2017, the author Louis Begley said:

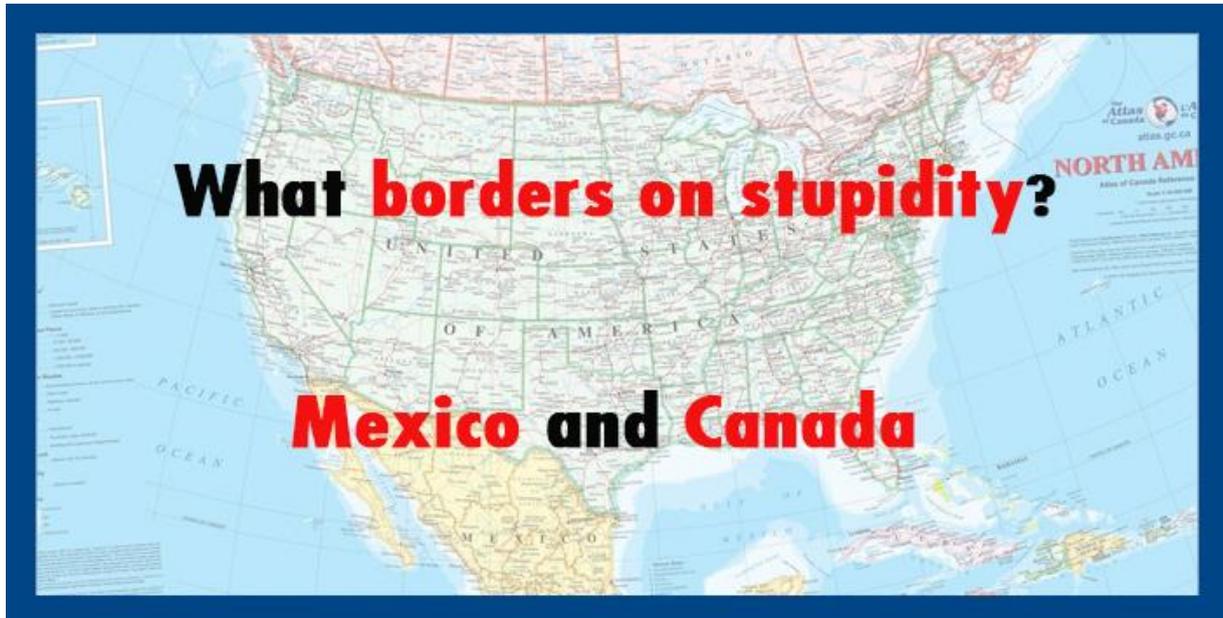
“We should be ashamed of Donald J. Trump because in the long history of the Republic we have never had a President so limited in spirit and character, that has no understanding of philosophy, art and science and doesn't want to understand, and that has a enormous lack of friendliness and empathy. And now he hangs round our necks!

Hopefully not for too long!”



2nd template:
Election campaign for Joe Biden

The question and the answer in the following images are clear and unmistakable. That's how I felt after the election on 8 November 2016. That's what I saw when he took power on 20 January 2017. In my opinion, this situation has now massively deteriorated. And now I fear that it will all happen again in the US presidential election in November 2020, ultimately washing overboard all democracy in the United States of America.



We call upon voters in the states between the East and West coasts, those along the border with Mexico and those along the border with Canada in particular to convince us that the opposite is true. Voters must recognise and see that the tax reforms and deregulation measures of the financial sector brought in by Trump only benefit and encourage big companies, rich Americans and the financial jugglers in the invisible derivatives market.

The once-proud Republican Party is barely recognisable any more. The vast majority of Republicans bow and scrape to Donald Trump. They are in thrall to him. They have no plan and no real strategy. Not to mention a programme that includes the words “common good”. They follow him blindly like lemmings over a cliff. As in 2016, they are only interested in the motto “America First”. The Republicans’ cowardice is Trump’s greatest trump card. Even though all the evidence in every area clearly speaks against the incumbent US President, his party ignores the facts and defends Trump in all his unsoundness of mind.

- A US President who described captured US soldiers (like the late former presidential candidate, Republican John McCain) or those who died in the First World War as weaklings and losers.
- A US President who denies that climate change is caused by humans.
- A US President who, through his inaction and inability, has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of US citizens during the coronavirus crisis.
- A US President who, through his racist attitude and arrogance, incites police officers to bully, kill and murder people.
- A US President who encourages the divisions in US society with lies, deceptions and criminal energy.
- A US President who tramples roughshod over the USA’s reputation as the world’s former protecting power and exposes it to ridicule both nationally and internationally. He must be removed from office. This is now in the hands of the American voters on 3 November 2020.

Donald Trump, who “builds” one cloud castle after another with his self-attributed glorious deeds, and who calls himself the greatest and best President of all time, is in reality the stupidest and worst US President of all time. The New York Times commissioned 170 members of the American Political Science Association to rank all the past US Presidents. The result was published in February 2018: [Ranking](#).



Only one of the republicans, the Senator from Nebraska steps out of line seriously.

On October 17, 2020 Ben Sasse said:

“President Donald Trump kisses dictators butts, mistreats women and uses the White House as a business. Trump is TV-obsessed and narcissistic, has driven US allies away and toward China, and has deeply damaged the Republican Party. His family has treated the presidency like a business opportunity. He has flirted with white supremacists. He hasn't lifted a finger on behalf of the Hong Kongers. It isn't just that he fails to lead our allies, it's that the United States now regularly sells out our allies under his leadership.

Trump never treated the Covid-19 crisis seriously.”



UNCLE SHAM

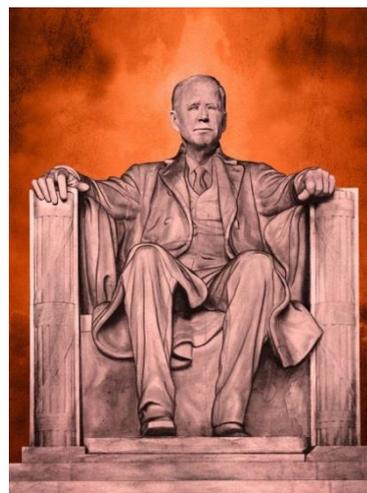


I WANT YOU
TO BELIEVE
200,000
DEAD AMERICANS
ARE
“VIRTUALLY NOBODY”



Abraham Lincoln said:

*“And this, too, shall pass away. How much it expresses!
How chastening in the hour of pride. How consoling in the depths of affliction!
And this, too, shall pass away.”*



With his song “The Rising”, Bruce Springsteen bestowed his own form of comfort on the American people after the devastating terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 (**“This too shall pass”**). At Barack Obama’s inauguration in 2009, Bruce Springsteen opened the “We Are One” festival of celebration at the Lincoln Memorial with “The Rising”. And in August 2020, Bruce Springsteen used the same song to campaign for Joe Biden in the presidential election with the aim of preventing Donald Trump’s re-election. How comforting it would be if the misery and pain that Trump has caused worldwide could be brought to an end (**“This too shall pass”**). If Joe Biden wins, he should take up the baton of Lincoln and Obama, carry it into the future and continue in their spirit. [Election campaign for Joe Biden](#)

- Barack Obama vs. Donald Trump:

[Trump treating presidency as 'one more reality show'](#)

Barack Obama took aim at U.S. President Donald Trump during his speech to the Democratic National Convention on 19 August 2020, saying he has treated the presidency like “one more reality show.” Obama said Trump has “shown no interest in putting in the work” since becoming president.

- Michelle Obama said: [You can't fake your way' through being president](#)

Michelle Obama said during the Democratic National Convention on 17 August 2020 night that after seeing what her husband, former president Barack Obama went through over eight years, “you can’t fake your way” through the presidency. She said a president’s words can spark wars or create peace and that “being president doesn’t change who you are, it reveals who you are.”

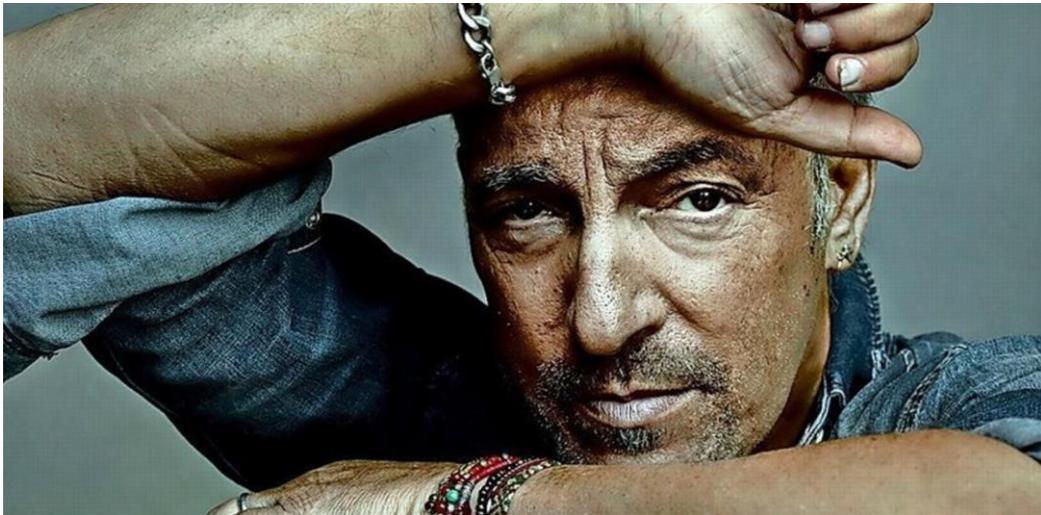
- Mike Bloomberg vs. Donald Trump: [Why the hell should we re-hire Donald Trump](#)

Former Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg addressed the Democratic National Convention on 20 August 2020, asking Americans not to “re-hire” Donald Trump. He said while Trump has claimed to be a “good businessman” when in fact he has driven his various businesses into bankruptcy six times



Before the US presidential election on 3 November 2020, Bruce Springsteen said:

*“White privilege and white supremacy are much more deeply entrenched than I thought. I believe, in the last three or four I have had the feeling that racism and white supremacy and white privilege are simply veins in our extremities and not the main arteries running in the centre through the heart of the nation, which is what I now believe. This has opened my eyes – regardless of whether I had previously viewed it in a stupid, innocent way or not. The Republicans are terrible. Always these constant lies and this total distortion of the American ideal. It is heart-breaking and dreadful. **First of all we need to chase the Trump regime out of office and start again.** I am proud that my son Evan went onto the streets in the Black Lives Matter protests. Sadly we don’t yet have a post-racist society. That will never happen. But I think it is possible to have a society in which people truly regard one another as men and women with full value, as American men and women. It is a movement of tremendous hope and it is a tremendously diverse group of young people who live on the street. And it is a movement that is shaping its own history right now.”*



Back in June 2020, Bruce Springsteen in his *E Street Radio* show addressed US President Donald Trump directly with unequivocal words about his behaviour during the coronavirus crisis: ***With all respect, Sir, show some consideration and care for your countrymen and your country. Put on a fucking mask!***

[Bruce Springsteen's Message to Donald Trump](#)

On 2 June 2020, attorney and US financial expert Sandra Navidi

said on the Markus Lanz Talkshow:

“I predicted back in 2016 that Donald Trump would attempt to bring the army onto the streets since Trump’s ultimate goal was always a hostile takeover of democracy in order to establish an autocracy. Basically he had sent out clear signals on this right from the start. Only it is difficult for mentally healthy people to comprehend this and even believe that it is possible. But I think this is just the start. I believe that Donald Trump has little fear of people, but he would in proceed in any case since he is concerned about having his hopes dashed by not being re-elected. I think that his ultimate goal is to keep ramping up the chaos the closer we get to the elections so that, in the end, he will be able to suspend the elections. We simply need to look at how he has behaved in his business life. The pattern was always the same – making the lies so big that it was almost impossible to imagine he could have invented them. To make the debts so vast that his creditors would be brought to their knees, even the largest banks, otherwise they might themselves go bust. That’s exactly what he’s doing now. But it must be said that there are more and more voices accusing Donald Trump of genocide, not least with respect to the coronavirus crisis because he has sabotaged the rescue measures, such as provision of testing and respirators, or has undermined the efforts of State Governors. For example, the state of New York received just 20,000 dollars per person sick with Covid, while other states have received 300,000 dollars. So you can see that he used this means specifically to put pressure on the Governors.”



The World War Three specter

Will democratic society in the USA survive President Donald Trump and his populist, totalitarian and protectionist aims? Or must society rebel in order to save the longest functioning democracy in the world and prevent disastrous consequences for the entire world?

The mist of terror that has engulfed Washington and the White House threatens to send the world up in flames, including the USA.



The unpredictable despot, his dangerous backers and followers marching behind him close formation are the greatest danger to democracy and world peace since the Second World War. We cannot imagine a better outlook than a Third World War fought by weapons of mass destruction on all sides.

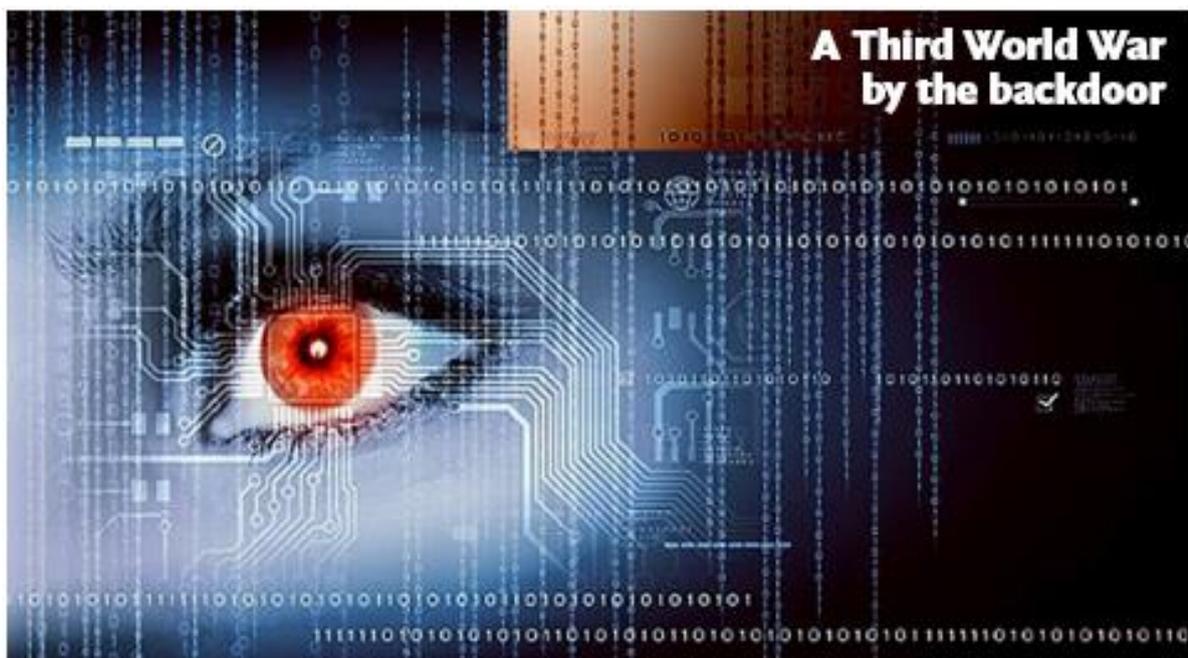
The facts and the potentials threats described here should be enough to initiate impeachment proceedings as soon as possible against the present intolerable US President. The fact that man of his nature has his finger on the trigger of nuclear weapons means that such steps are absolutely necessary. It does not just come down to the constitutional organs but also the overwhelming majority of American society who are supported by democratic movements worldwide. We firmly believe that the vast majority of Americans and people in the world are in favor of freedom, justice and democracy and not nationalism, authoritarian leadership and ruthlessness towards minorities.

We must succeed in drawing the Trump supporters away from the sidelines. We must succeed in ending the totalitarian fanning of the flames and put out the already blazing fires. This also applies to Turkey, Hungary, Poland, France and Germany. We must succeed in eradicating the nationalist right-wing radical nightmares from our planet.

We must understand that everything can happen, everything is possible, and that it is up to us to decide if it will be good or bad!

In our primer Dustin Hoffmann said that history sometimes repeats itself, making reference to the Vietnam War and the 2003 war in Iraq. The justifications for the two wars were based on manipulation and lies.

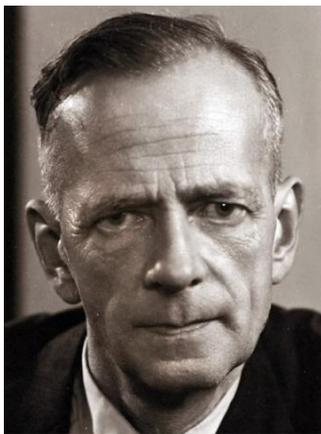
In today's world the values of tolerance and cohesion, respect when dealing with others, the wider picture and last but not least, the appreciation of a strong democracy are disappearing more and more. If nationalist right-wing populists come into power across the world and govern with totalitarian instruments, then democracy is at the end of the road. The reciprocal monitoring of constitutional bodies loses its importance, the media will be brought to heel or silenced and the judicial system will be brought in to line. And in the end cyber attacks, "alternative facts" and *fake news* will cause World War Three.



Hitler had his diabolical objectives in sight and set about achieving them in a barbaric manner. In the beginning the future conqueror of Nazi Germany went by undetected as a looming hellfire and Nazi domination was not taken seriously. The following warning was either not heard, not understood or simply ignored in France, England and the USA.

On February 23, 1932, the SPD member of the Reichstag Kurt Schumacher gave a courageous speech in the German Reichstag where he said:

***“The entire national socialist agitation is
a permanent appeal to the inner weaknesses of men.”***



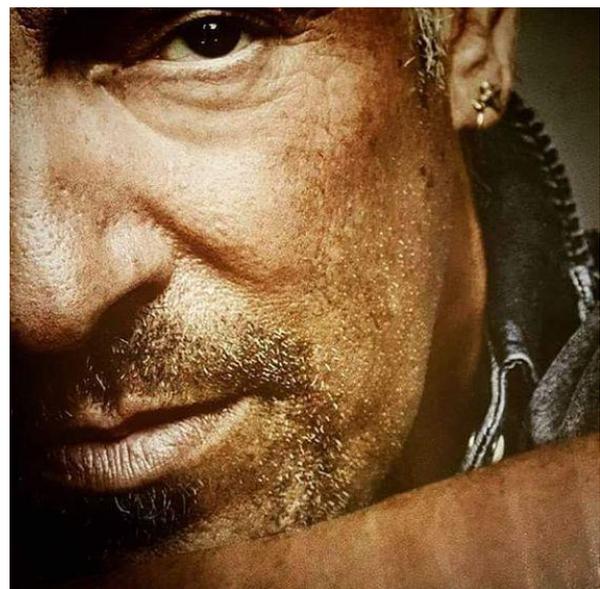
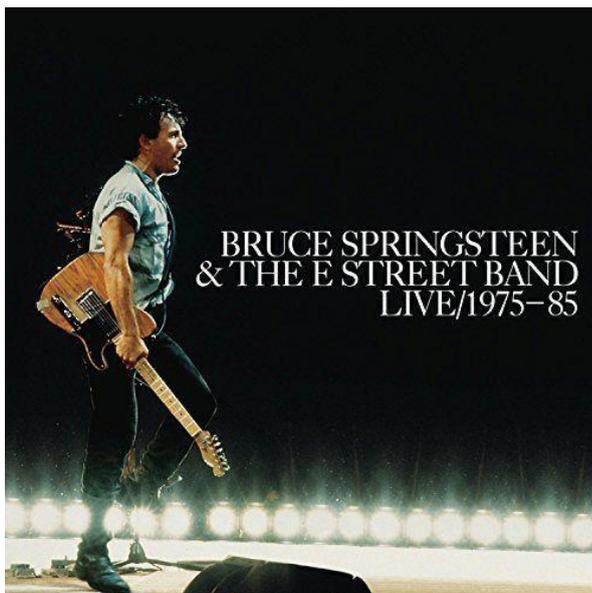
The warning went unheeded, the “thousand-year reign” of a megalomaniac lasted 12 years and threw the world into unspeakable suffering and was engulfed in rubble and ashes in 1945!

I agree with Bruce Springsteen, Donald Trump – in contrast to Hitler – acts completely without thinking and does not consider the consequences. But regardless of whether he knows or does not know how his policy threatens the USA and the world: **if he carries on like this**, then he must be stopped in his tracks as soon as possible.

3rd template:

Why am I asking Bruce Springsteen to spearhead a new movement which he announced himself on 20 January 2017? Because, in my opinion, he is, for every age group and stratum of society, the best crowd-puller, the best ambassador and the best communicator to successfully lead the 3 world-spanning festivals and the 196 concerts in every country on Earth

In 1979, while I was studying mechanical engineering in West Berlin, my brother Hansi telephoned. He asked me to buy a vinyl LP by a US musician I had never heard of. And that music – “Born to Run” – really knocked my socks off! In today’s vernacular I would have asked, “Who da fook is Bruce Springsteen?” My musical tastes in those days ran more to Jimmi Hendrix, The Who, The Doors, Eric Clapton and, of course, Led Zeppelin. Bob Dylan and Joan Baez were also welcome as protest musicians. It would probably have stayed like that for a few more years. But then came 1985 when I got my hands on the **double live album from Bruce Springsteen & The E Street band 1975 - 1985**. And the tunes and words of this music pounded in my ears, sneaked into my brain, and flowed into my heart. I was almost out of my mind with excitement. I listened to all four sides of the double album in one sitting. That was the only way I could feel the spirit and excitement packed into the four sides of those disks. It’s hard to select just one, but I simply adore the version of **“The River”** in which Bruce chats about his life at the start.



And then finally, in 1988, I went to **my first live concert with the Boss** at Frankfurt’s Wald Stadium For over four hours, this American boy demonstrated and radiated a stage presence and boisterous power. He would certainly have continued to do so for longer if the unforgettable saxophonist **Clarence Clemons** hadn’t pulled him off the stage with his immense strength.



Or was that all just for show, and I couldn't tell because I was so far from the stage? It kept on bugging me. I needed to find out for myself. One week later, Bruce and his E Street Band were guests in my Berlin living room – the **“Waldbühne”** open-air stage beside the Olympic Stadium. The realization took shape that there was nothing rehearsed about it at all. The Boss is simply as he is. Then came certainty. Another week later in Bremen's Weser Stadium. In the front row I experienced how a musician casts a spell over his audience with his joy of playing, enthusiasm, and genuine passion. With no gimmicks, and no light show – the man lives and loves his music and spurs the artists of the E Street Band on from one incredible performance to the next. I could have hugged him. Since that was not possible, I have carried him in my heart ever since. And he is still with me. He animates me or psyches me up when I need it. No drugs. Just rock 'n' roll from the best of the best.

Back in 2019, I still believed I appreciated and could correctly explain the significance and power of Bruce Springsteen's music, even in political terms. But then, in late summer 2019, I was browsing the Internet and discovered an event that took place in East Berlin on 19 July 1988. As I have described above, on 12 July 1988 in Frankfurt's Wald Stadium, 22 July 1988 in Berlin's Waldbühne open-air venue and 30 July 1988 in Bremen's Weser Stadium I experienced my first three unforgettable live concerts with my hero. And then, between the concerts in the Frankfurt Wald Stadium and the Berlin Waldbühne, Bruce played at the Velodrome in the Weißensee area of East Berlin on 19 July 1988. I was so mad because I didn't get to see it. I wasn't there.

Recently, however, I came across a book by **Erik Kirschbaum** entitled **"ROCKING THE WALL * BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN"**. This would give me the opportunity to write a comment or review about the book. But then I thought, wouldn't it be so much better if I let the author say it for himself.

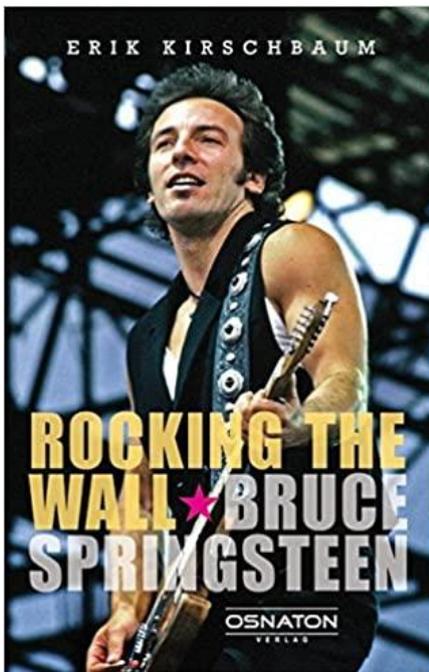
In the preface to his book, Erik Kirschbaum writes:

"After a riveting Bruce Springsteen concert in Berlin in 2002, I was riding home in a taxi, when the driver suddenly started chatter- ing on about another Springsteen performance—in Communist East Berlin, back in 1988. He said that July '88 show was the most amazing thing ever, anywhere. Springsteen rocked East Berlin and rattled the whole Communist country. The concert behind the Iron Curtain happened more than fourteen years before our chance encounter on that cold October night, but the heavysset taxi driver with the thick gray beard and long scraggly hair couldn't stop raving about it. 'Yeah, I know,' I said, trying to close my eyes and relax. I had just filed a Reuters news agency report on Springsteen bashing George W. Bush for bullying countries like Germany that were opposed to invading Iraq. 'I've seen lots of Springsteen concerts too, and they're always amazing. ' 'Nein, nein, nein', the driver replied. 'You don't understand. ' That East Berlin concert was really different. There was never anything like it. More than 300,000 people watched it live, and millions more saw it on television. The whole country was shaken up. 'It was the most incredible thing that ever happened in East Germany,' he said, growing animated, his garlic-scented breath drifting in my direction. For millions of baby boomers, Springsteen's music has been the soundtrack of our lives. Four decades of song lyrics are lodged in our collective memory, like 'It's a death trap, it's a suicide rap, we gotta get out while we're young, cuz tramps like us, baby, we were born to run,' from 'Born to Run,' and 'It ain't no sin to be glad you're alive,' from 'Badlands'. The Berlin taxi driver's uncontainable enthusiasm about that concert was contagious, and he got me wondering: Had there been something really special about that Springsteen show in Communist East Berlin? The more I delved into it, the more I wanted to know. It was fascinating, for instance, to find out that Springsteen had the moxie to deliver a short anti-Wall speech in Berlin. It was also incredible to read about the size and unruliness of the biggest-ever East German concert crowd—estimated to have been at least 300,000 people—and how countless thousands without tickets simply stormed the gates to get in. And then it dawned on me—what made that particular con- cert so extraordinary was its date: July 19, 1988.

That was less than sixteen months before the Berlin Wall fell. Could there have been a connection between the Springsteen concert, the rebellion that later followed in East Germany, and the Berlin Wall falling that no one had seen before? Might there be a direct line between Springsteen on July 19, 1988, and the Berlin Wall bursting open on November 9, 1989? I've been wondering about these questions ever since. It seems clear to me that there must be a link between that Springsteen concert and the shifting sentiment in East Germany that led to the Berlin Wall's collapse. I got excited by the idea of trying to find out about the atmosphere and what really happened when Springsteen went behind the Iron Curtain in 1988, but there was always the daunting prospect of how I was ever going to find people who were at a concert a quarter of a century ago. That turned out to be easier than I thought because, it seems, almost everyone living in East Germany and at least in their teens in 1988 was either at the concert, knew someone who was at the concert, or heard or saw it on the radio or TV. It was almost as if time stood still on that day in East Germany—everyone seems to have a memory of it. And as good fortune would have it, Springsteen was back in Berlin in May 2012, on his 'Wrecking Ball Tour', and many who attended had been at the 1988 concert as well and, like Springsteen himself on stage, were more than happy to talk about their memories of the 1988 concert. And so I talked to scores of eyewitnesses and a number of historians in Germany and the United States, about the question of whether Springsteen's four-hour performance and fearless call to bring down the Wall might have had something to do with the revolution that began roiling in East Germany in the weeks and months that followed. Whether you believe that Springsteen's epic concert contributed to the movement that brought down the Berlin Wall depends to a certain degree on whether you believe in the power of rock 'n' roll. Among those who are convinced of those revolutionary forces is Philip Murphy, America's ambassador to Germany and an unabashed Springsteen fan. Although he wasn't in East Berlin in 1988, Murphy believes his fellow New Jerseyan did have an appreciable impact on East Germans: 'I know and love Springsteen's music – and can only imagine what kind of effect the live concert must have had on East German audiences, on people living under an oppressive regime, wanting change so desperately.' In the words of Joerg Beneke, who was among the hundreds of thousands who saw the concert live, Springsteen's concert was like 'a nail in the coffin' for Communist East Germany, the beginning of the end.

What is beyond doubt is that Springsteen's 1988 concert in East Berlin is a glorious example of the influence that rock 'n' roll can have on people who are hungry and ready for change.

This is the untold story about that once-in-a-lifetime concert in East Berlin and the role Springsteen may have unwittingly played in helping fuel a rebellion that would bring down the Berlin Wall."



The back cover of Erik Kirschbaum's book "ROCKING THE WALL * BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN" has the following quotations:

"Inside this book is as clear a statement of the power of this music as anyone ever has come up with." Dave Marsh, Rolling Stone music critic

"The Boss inspired a whole generation to fight for freedom",

David Crossland, Spiegel Online

"Springsteen is still with us – the GDR regime is not", Stephan Evans, BBC Culture

"The moment most of us had been waiting for all our lives",

Michelle Martin, Washington Post

"There were more young people in one place than ever before in the history of the GDR, and they sang at the tops of their voices about freedom and getting out of there. It is almost unbelievable when you look at the pictures today: Bruce Springsteen on a stage in Weißensee, 19 July 1988. In front of him the youth of the GDR who, one year later, would be helping to bring their government to its knees and tear down the Wall, celebrating and singing and dreaming of another life.", Tobias Rütter, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.



"It's great to be with you here in East Berlin. I have come to play rock 'n' roll in the hope that all barriers will be torn down one day." Then Bruce played and sang the anthem for freedom and peace "Chimes of Freedom".

I can fully endorse the statements and conclusions of Erik Kirschbaum, Dave Marsh, David Crossland, Stephan Evans und Michelle Martin concerning the significance of this unique concert – and the power of music overall. I have summarised on the following pages what played out before and after this incredible festival.

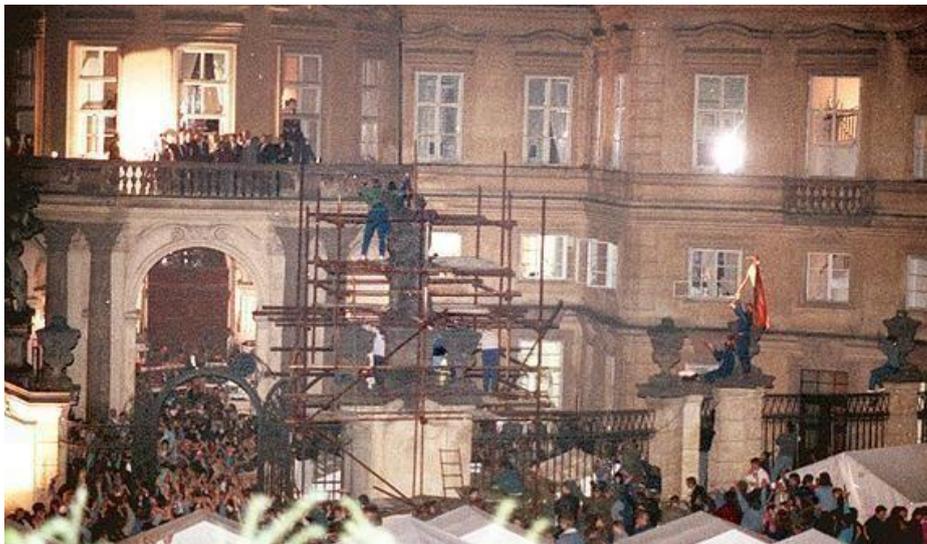
Miraculous History With Happyend!

Almost all generations before us lost their homes and property at least once in their lives – usually due to destruction by war, dislocation or flight from war. We, the post-war generations, should never forget how lucky we are to this day. But even in Germany millions of people know the feeling of being unjustly locked in, locked up or locked out by borders, fences, or behind walls. Most of them have thought of fleeing, many of them have fled, risking their lives and often paying for it with their lives.



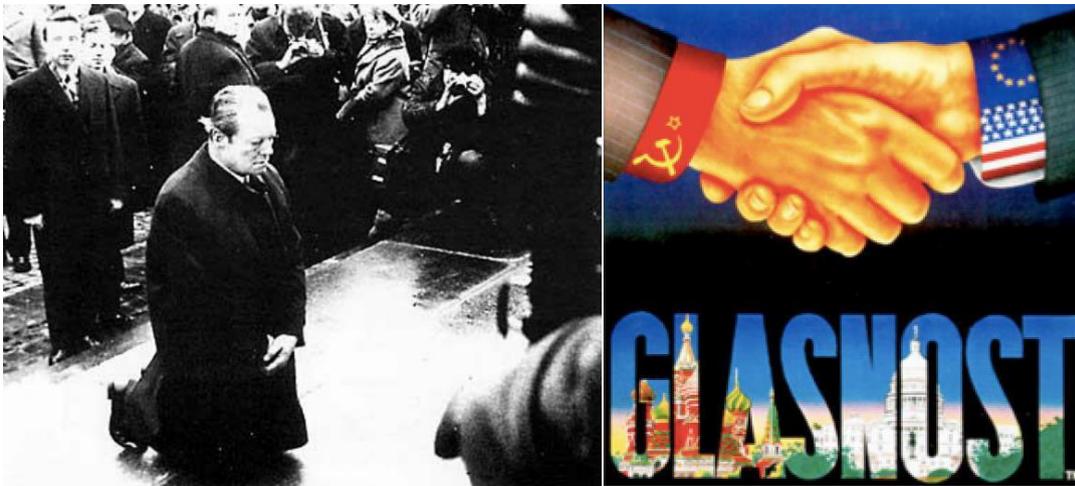
The last to die at the Wall!

On September 30, 1989, Hans Dietrich Genscher spoke from the balcony of the German Embassy in Prague to the refugees from the GDR crowded together in the garden of the embassy: *"We came here to tell you that your departure today (... has become possible)."*



The last words of this sentence were drowned out in the roaring cheers of the refugees, marking the beginning of the "Wende", a political turnaround in Germany, which ultimately led to reunification. The unbridled will to freedom of many citizens of the GDR as well as the skillful diplomacy required for this step contributed to the happy outcome.

Without Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies, *Glasnost* and *Perestroika*, along with a certain **STEPPING STONE**, German reunification would still be far away.



The stepping stone!

As it turned out, however, Günter Schabowski made his legendary and unforgettable appearance on November 9, 1989, in which he promulgated the new GDR law allowing citizens of East Germany to travel freely. Answering a journalist's question about when the new law would go into force, Günter Schabowski said, *"As far as I know... immediately, right away."* The Berlin Wall opened some hours later. The inner-German border was overcome without a shot being fired. A wonderful gift which time and again sends shivers down our spines!



Whether Günter Schabowski really knew what he was saying, is hardly relevant today. The important thing was and is that it was an essential cornerstone on the way to German reunification, which was formalized on October 3, 1990.

Lenny Kravitz said:

"I was there. I was there when the Berlin Wall came down! It meant a lot to me, because my grandfather was there with me. I had taken him with me on tour because he loves to travel. History fascinated him, and the fall of the Berlin Wall was very emotional for him.

I know that he took a piece of the Wall home with him.

Yes, I was there, and it was an unbelievable experience."



In November 1989, Hans Dietrich Genscher thanked Gyula Horn for his efforts which made a crucial contribution to the end of the Cold War. On July 27, 1989, the Iron Curtain between the East and the West began to crack. Gyula Horn, later to become prime minister of the second freely elected government of Hungary (1994-1998), was Hungarian foreign minister at the time. Together with his Austrian colleague, Alois Mock, he cut the barbed wire at the Austrian-Hungarian border near Sopron. That was the beginning of the end of the Iron Curtain. Contrary to expectations, Hungary never demanded material compensation.



At the White House on 22 November 2016, Bruce Springsteen was awarded the highest civil honour of the United States – the Presidential Medal of Freedom. At the award ceremony, Barack Obama said: *“I am the President, but he is the Boss.”*



Peter Aschenbrenner shares this opinion in all seriousness – as he describes it below with genuine enthusiasm:

In his book on leaders, Peter Aschenbrenner wrote:

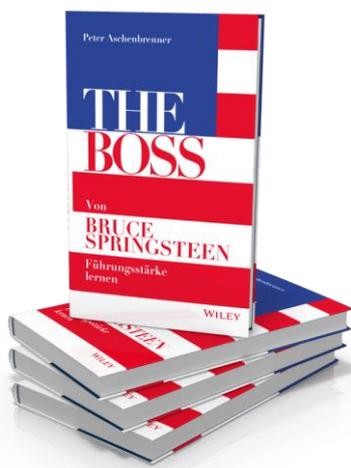
“Learn strong leadership from Bruce Springsteen – The Boss”:

“I want to spark the fire in you, just as Bruce Springsteen does at all of his concerts. Be or become a passionate, courageous and fortunate leader who succeeds in inspiring others, making them follow and shaping their working lives in a positive way. Use Bruce Springsteen as your role model. It doesn’t matter whether you like his music or not. If his music doesn’t inspire you, then be “infected” by his attitude, his professionalism and, most of all, by his passion. (...) On 17 July 1988, I was at the Bruce Springsteen concert in the Riem Riding Stadium in Munich with my Business Administration teacher at that time. Right before the start, my teacher said: “Watch out. If you like it, you will be hooked.” When he said it, I didn’t understand him. But after the concert I knew exactly what he meant. The concert started, Springsteen came onto the stage and swept across the Riem Riding Stadium. Three and a half hours later, I sat there; my world had changed and I was hooked from that moment on. Since then, I have been there on every tour, I have seen over 130 shows around the world and am already craving for the next tour in the hope that I can go to a few concerts with my wife and daughter. (...) On 30 May 1993, Bruce Springsteen pulled me - as a man - up onto the stage to dance (this is normally a ritual for women with ‘Dancing in the Dark’ or ‘Working on the Highway’). In 2008, I saw Bruce Springsteen at what was, for me, the greatest ever concert in front of 95,000 people in the Camp Nou Stadium, Barcelona. (...) I would like to introduce you to the subject of leadership from the viewpoint of one of the greatest and most successful musicians in the world. As a long-term fan who has now seen 137 Springsteen concerts and read over 50 books, who goes to a concert not just as a music fan, but as a leader and consultant, who has been fortunate enough to get to know personally a number of musicians from his band. In this book, I refer to Bruce Springsteen who has been successful in the music business for over 50 years. Springsteen is one of the most charismatic musicians of our age. He has sold over 130 million albums worldwide, is one of the top five musicians of all time in terms of ticket sales (to date, he has sold concert tickets worth over 1.7 billion euros), has received countless awards, such as Grammys or Oscars, has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and seems to have done a great deal right as a leader – of both his band and his company. Using examples from his business life, I hope to give you an understanding of the subject of leadership from different angles. (...) You should be aware of the expectations that will be made of you, the changes you need to make in yourself, the

adaptions that will be needed to ultimately become a leader who achieves successes, reaches goals, has satisfied employees, serves both company and employees, assumes social responsibility and thrives in this role in the truest sense of the word. You should act as passionately as Bruce Springsteen on the stage. Anyone who has seen Springsteen live will know what I mean. For three or four hours, he gives everything he has. He struggles to give pleasure to everyone in the hall or stadium, to make them dance, laugh, weep with joy or simply have a great evening with other people. (...) The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper described one of his concerts in Frankfurt in the following words:

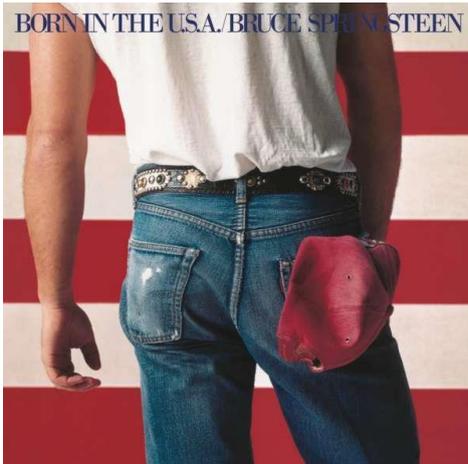
‘Rock ‘n’ roll will continue to be played until the Boss is exhausted and every last person understands what a man can do if he approaches the task with passion and a love for people. In short, if there is method in the madness, it can change the world on its own...’

Be a part of this madness and this change. It’s worth it.”

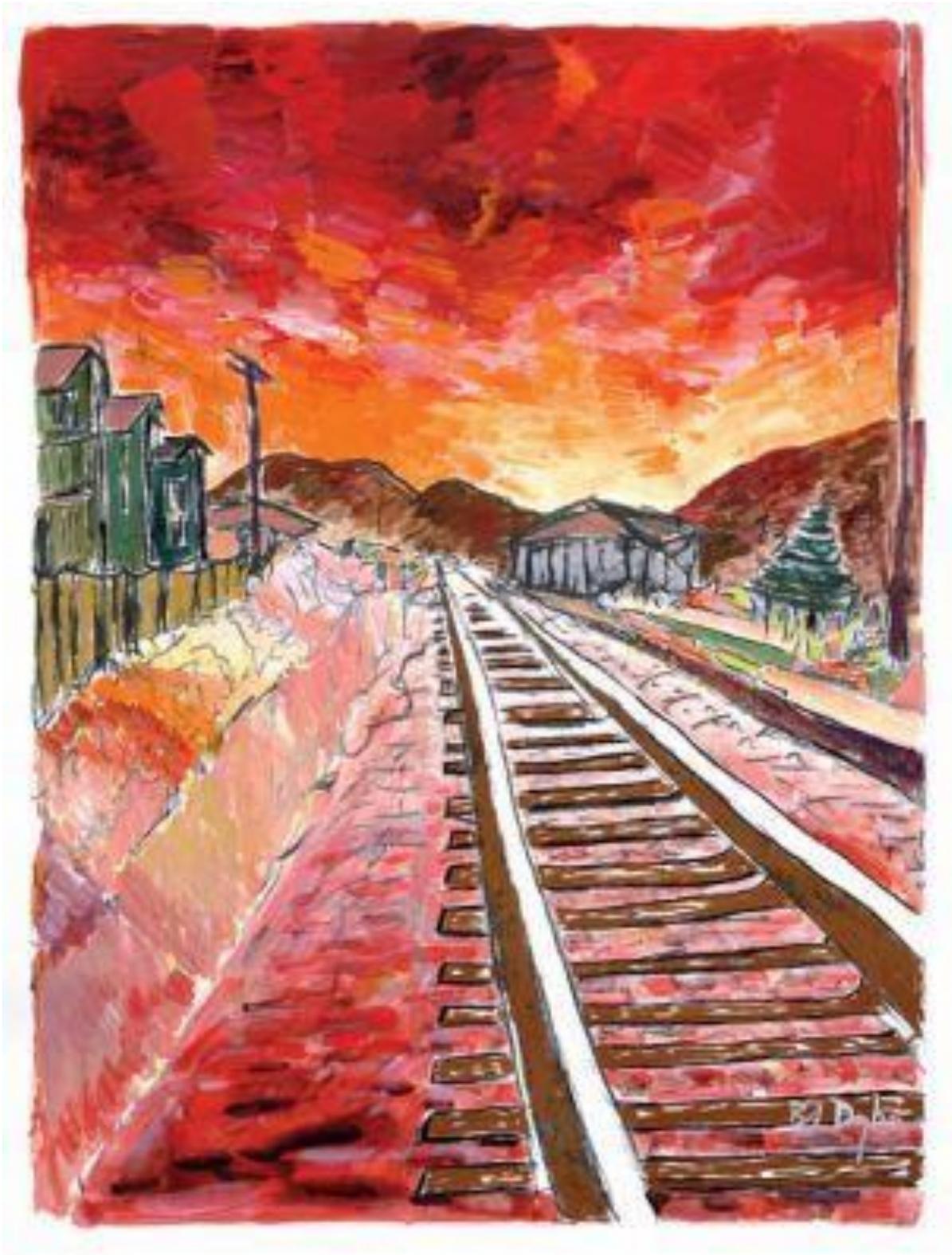


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“Born in the USA” is probably his most famous song. Possibly because it is so often misinterpreted (whether intentionally or unintentionally) as a sort of nationalistic hymn to the US; it has been used by more than one US President without asking permission. In fact it is a song about a soldier returning from the Vietnam War to an America that has little time for men who lost their battle. This is precisely the opposite of what it is all too often taken to mean. So, once and for all, **“Born in the USA” is NOT a jingoistic or patriotic song.**



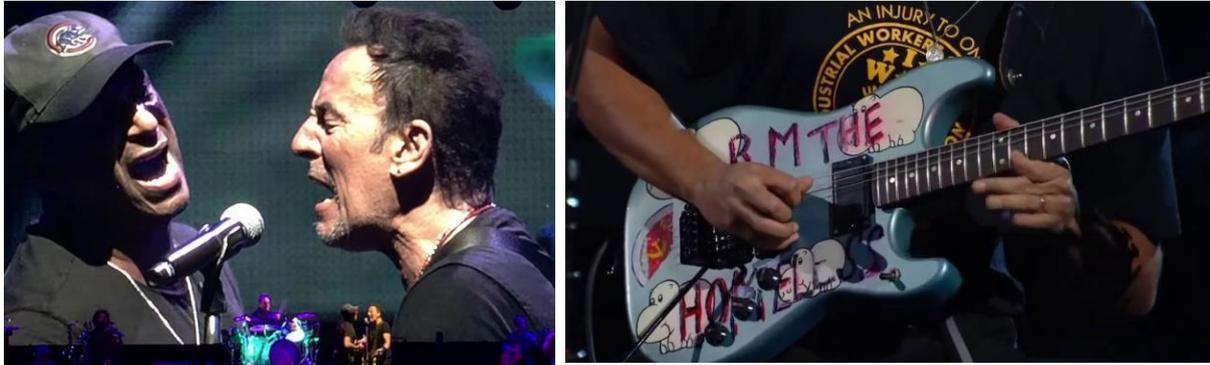
The background to his song **“The Ghost of Tom Joad”** from 1995 is John Steinbeck’s novel **“The Grapes of Wrath”**, the American author’s most famous work. He wrote this socio-critical novel in 1939 and, despite all the hostility from the ranks of the political Right and land barons, it was a massive success. The critics pulled out all the stops, going as far as banning the book, and burning copies. But not even the most controversial debates were able to prevent the novel being awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1940. And in 1962, Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. As early as 1940, the director John Ford made a film of the same name, with Henry Fonda playing the leading part of Tom Joad. The American folk singer Woody Guthrie dedicated a ballad to Joad. And then in 1995 Bruce Springsteen once again denounced the social injustices in the US with a melancholy ballad; this initially disappointed me as I was expecting a rock version. **But Bruce is always good for a surprise.** With guitarists Steven Van Zandt and Nils Lofgren, the E Street Band already had a great team. So it was an incredible surprise when **Tom Morello** walked on stage, and breathed new life into Tom Joad. I have never before or since heard or felt the elemental power of guitar playing to such an extent. Tom Morello is a virtuoso on his instrument. He masters it, loves it, and occasionally even tortures it, particularly when he gives the rapacious **loan sharks** a good thrashing. The overall result of the music, text, and interpretation is quite simply sublime. The song is a massive surprise, and a sensation for the audience. Both in the concert hall, and at home on the couch or in the kitchen. And it is a **reminder to the rich and powerful** at whom Springsteen aims his passion because they are doing nothing to eliminate the injustices.



*Men walking 'long the railroad tracks. Going someplace,
there's no going back. ... I'm sitting down here in the campfire light
Searching for the ghost of Tom Joad.*

In his introduction to the song, Bruce remembers the roots of rock 'n' roll and folk music, and mentions some important names, such as Hank Williams, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dillon, Pete Seeger, and Joan Baez. He talks about the delinquents and hard times when he sarcastically notes

HIGH TIMES ON WALL STREET AND HARD TIMES ON MAIN STREET.



At the end of the song, Tom Joad alias Bruce Springsteen sings:

“Mom, wherever there's a cop beating a guy.

Wherever a hungry newborn baby cries.

Where there's a fight against the blood and hatred in the air.

Look for me, Mom, I'll be there.

Wherever somebody's fighting for a place to stand.

*Or a decent job or a **helping hand**.*

Wherever somebody's struggling to be free.

Look in their eyes, Ma, and you'll see me.

I'm sitting down here in the campfire light

with the ghost of old Tom Joad.”



Lend A Helping Hand!



Mark Twain said: "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government **when it deserves it.**"

Bruce Springsteen said: *"I have spent my life judging the distance between American reality and the American dream. Blind faith in your leaders, or in anything, will get you killed."*

The second sentence in the above quotation has just one target. Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, whom the Boss puts through the wringer. And he is allowed to do that because ultimately he is **the moral memory of the USA.**

Bruce Springsteen said before the Presidential elections in Fall 2016, and after Donald Trump was sworn in as US President in January 2017:

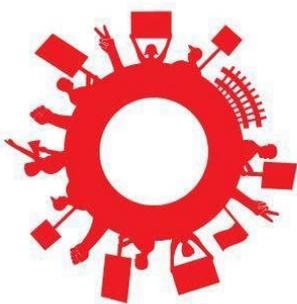
"Donald Trump is a flagrant, toxic narcissist who is intent on destroying the entire democratic process. He is not yet clear about it as he is such a non-reflective person. And he simply has no sense of decency, no sense of responsibility about him. The words he has been using in recent weeks are an attack on our entire democracy. I think he's going to make as big a mess as he can." "Our hearts and minds are with the hundreds of thousands of women and men that marched yesterday who rallied against hate, and division, and in support of tolerance, inclusion, reproductive rights, civil rights, justice for all races, and for environmental protection, health insurance, and the rights of immigrants.

We stand with you.

We are the new American resistance.



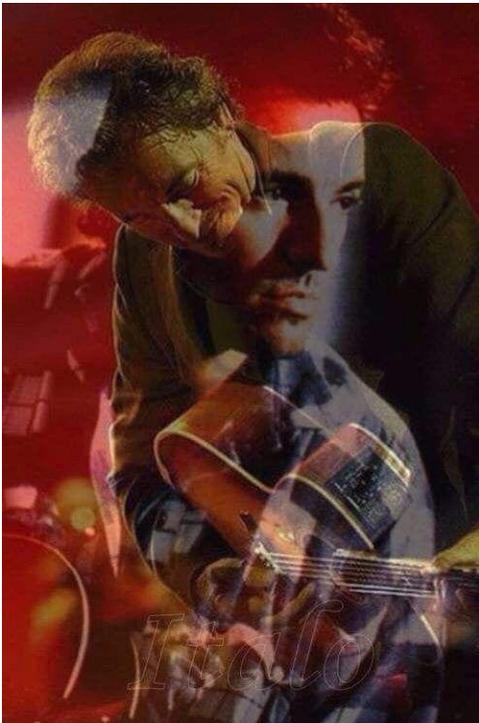
Every movement needs a **front man**. In my view, **Bruce Springsteen** would be a suitable candidate. And he needs **lots of helping hands**. The world urgently needs a **new protest movement**, that not only protests, but also has specific goals, and activities to help it achieve these goals. It can use campaigns that have already had an emotional impact on people, and inspired them. The last such that I remember was the **Occupy Wall Street movement** which filled New York's Zuccotti Park near Wall Street from mid-September to mid-November 2011. It was triggered by the financial crisis, while the Arab Spring was a clarion call for the Occupy movement in New York. All the *Occupy* movements demanded an end to social inequalities and speculative trading by the banks. They also condemned the influence that business has on politics. The demonstrators regarded themselves as representatives of the bottom **99 percent**, compared to the richest **1 percent** of the population.



In the introduction to his album **“Wrecking Ball”** in 2014, Springsteen said:

“You can never go wrong pissed off in rock ‘n’ roll. And yes, the first half of the album, particularly, is very angry. The genesis of the record was after 2008, when we had the huge financial crisis. People lost their homes, and I had friends who were losing their homes, and nobody went to jail. Nobody was responsible. There was no outcry of indignation, no voices of protest like those which were heard later from the Occupy movement. Occupy was therefore very powerful because it addressed for the first time the inequality in society, turning it into a national debate. That had never been possible before. All attempts to conduct this debate about inequality and injustice in our society were choked off by the right, particularly the Tea Party movement. That put Barack Obama under enormous pressure. Now it is being discussed everywhere. Why is this? Because the people went onto

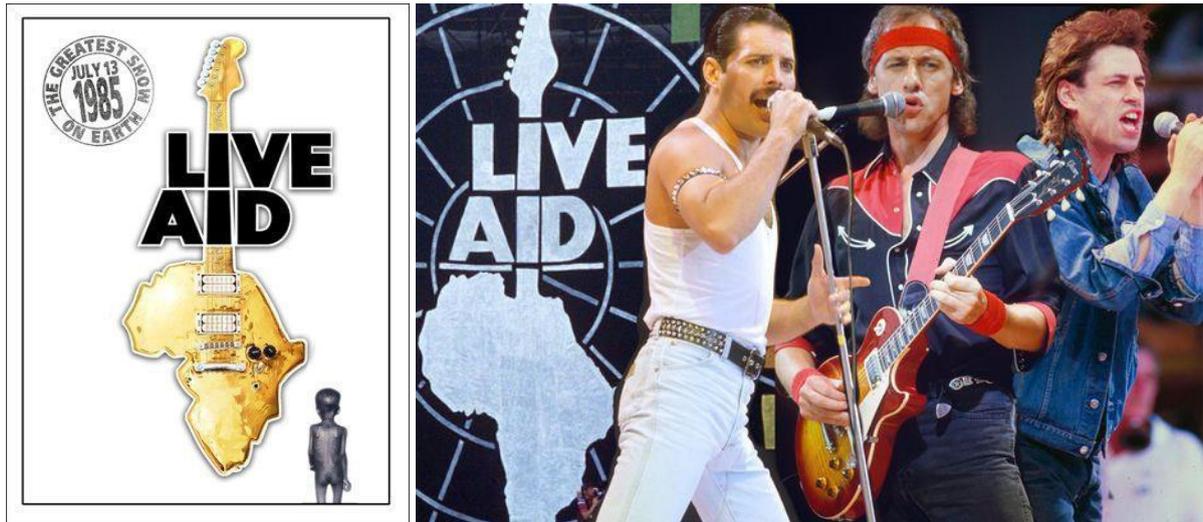
the streets. It works. I can see that in the fact that, for example, Republican Newt Gingrich insulted his party colleague Mitt Romney, calling him a “financial vulture”. That would have been unimaginable before Occupy. Now the debates in the US are 99 percent about this topic. That is important. In my songs on ‘Wrecking Ball’ I berate the bad bankers and fat cats because they have stolen our ideals and values. The greed of these people is directed against everything the American ideal stands for. I have always tried in my songs to compare the ideal of the American dream with the American reality. I always wanted to know how far the vision and reality are apart. In my songs, I would like to absorb what is happening in society, and on the streets. I have always admired Bob Dylan for that. I want to achieve it too. The Bush government was so frightful, I just had to do something.”



Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan would be a great team in a new protest movement!

The Bob Dylan illustrations were drawn by Armin Müller-Stahl.

I have great memories of the biggest music festival of all time – **Live Aid** in 1985. **Bob Geldof and Midge Ure** organized and staged the largest ever music event to raise money for famine relief in Africa. The two Live Aid venues in London and Philadelphia saw acts such as Queen, U2, Bob Dylan, Madonna, Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney, and David Bowie. And with the aid of *Concorde*, Phil Collins appeared in both Philadelphia and London.



The parallel charity concerts in London’s Wembley Stadium and at the JFK Stadium in Philadelphia lasted for 16 hours in total. They brought together an unprecedented number of stars who called for donations towards famine relief in Ethiopia. Two billion people watched the shows in 150 countries. Live Aid was also particularly notable because of appearances from a number of bands who reformed for the event. Most famous was the group Led Zeppelin, which had broken up in 1980 after the death of drummer John Bonham. The Who had also not appeared together since 1982. The requests for donations brought in over 200 million German Marks.

On 2 July 2005, the G8 summit in the Scottish capital Edinburgh saw a follow-up to the Live Aid concerts, this time under the name of **Live 8**. On this occasion it was signatures that were collected, rather than donations. They were intended to encourage the decision-makers from the G8 nations to increase development aid, and to write off African debt. One high point was the one-off reunion of Pink Floyd’s in its original line-up with Roger Waters. Live 8 was a rock concert that spanned the world

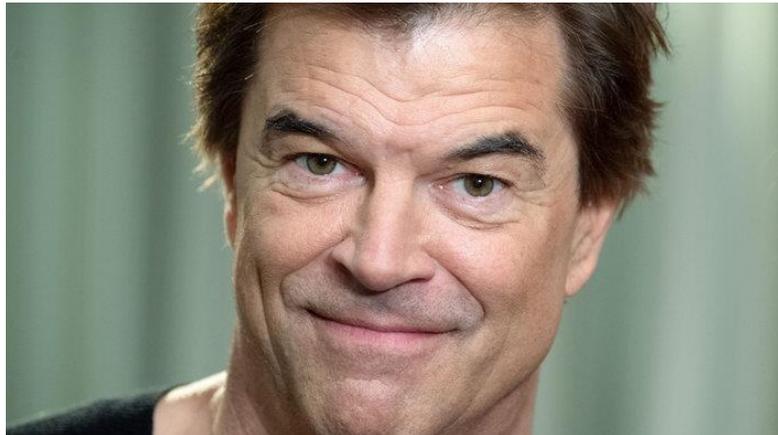
under the slogan **“Make poverty history”**. The concert took place at ten locations in the G8 member states (including Russia), plus South Africa. The concert was initiated and organized by **Bob Geldof and Bono**.



Bob Geldof had demanded financial aid amounting to 25 billion US Dollars from the heads of the G8 countries. Twice that amount was then granted as development aid **for the whole of Africa**. They also approved a partial cancellation of debt for 18 of the most debt-ridden African states. But this simply took the **form of a non-binding promise**. The financing remained open, and no repayment term was mentioned. The total was also offset against the development aid for these countries that was already scheduled. This is how politics works: On the Sunday, we basked in the tabloid headlines, then **on Monday, the wallets were sewn up again**. In Germany, the promoter Marek Lieberberg strongly criticized the German government and the Senate of the City of Berlin. He reproached them for their lack of support for the Live 8 concert. For example, the event could not be held in front of the Reichstag building because of the grass sprinklers. There would have been plenty of space. As a result, the audience was limited to just a narrow strip of land.

Campino, front man of the *Toten Hosen*, said:

“Holding a world-shaking event like Live 8 on a narrow 24 meter strip, rather than allowing it to be held in the large square around the Victory Column, is an unbelievable disgrace. Any of the multipurpose halls on our tours provide more space for the audience in front of the stage.”



The Occupy movements, and the Live Aid and Live 8 events were great, but they are not part of history, and are fading into oblivion. We should now capture the spirit of these mass movements, and create something new.

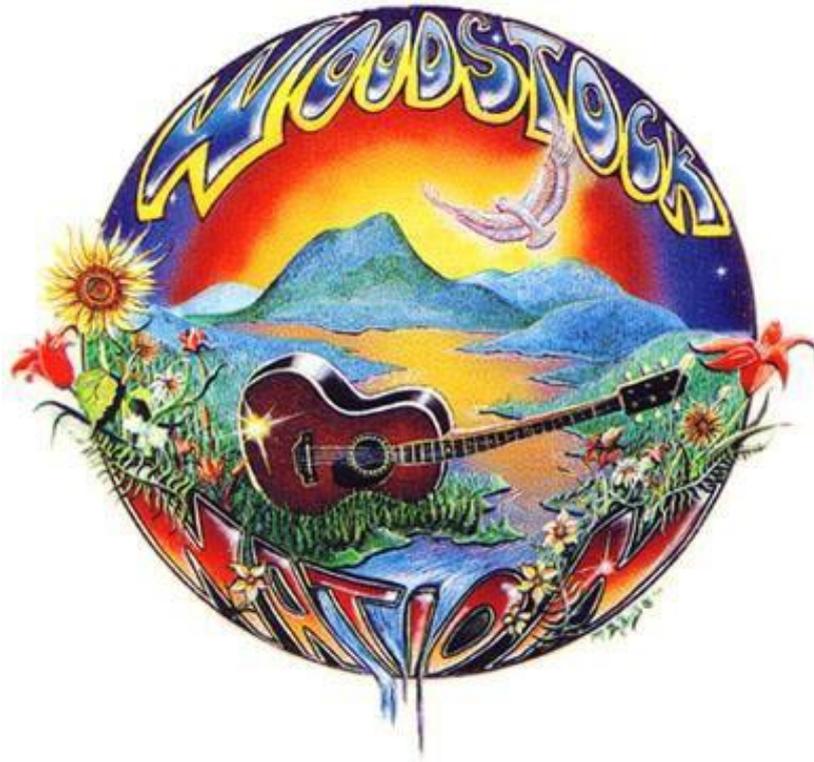
But this new movement should not just be about taking control of Wall Street, or the needy people on the oppressed African continent. This time it needs to be bigger. It needs to address the state of the world, and the corner into which the extremist populists, autocrats, and egoists have maneuvered us. If we look carefully we see that many countries of the world on several continents are governed by sadists. For me, sadists are people who love doing things to hurt other people. We need to call them out for this, or expose them to scrutiny so that they can no longer disguise their egoistic natures and actions.

This movement should include people who are recognized as leading figures, and have symbolic power, such as **Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg**. These two remind me of the maid Jeanne from Orleans who entered the history books as Joan of Arc. The link between these three extraordinary young women is described in the German version of this book under **Greta, Hanna, and Malala – the story of three girls**.

The “Boss” will take us out of the field

A few pages back in this book, Rolando Villazón said that great music presented with a big heart can trigger or awaken a revolution in us.

It is now 2019. And the revolution in the field took place 50 years ago. **Woodstock**, the legendary rock concert on 15 – 18 August 1969 made history. It was actually held in pastures on a dairy farm in White Lake, a town in upstate New York, 70 kilometers to the south west of Woodstock (which was the originally intended venue). 32 bands performed in front of 400,000 visitors, and wowed the crowd with folk, rock, blues, and country music. They included stars like Jimmy Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and The Who.



Joe Cocker launched his world career with the song *“With a little help from my friends”*. This had already been recorded by The Beatles in 1968, with Ringo Starr on vocals.

The expected audience figures at the four-day Woodstock were more than doubled. The conditions during the event were almost disastrous due to the horrendous weather and poor organization. But despite the unfavourable circumstances, **Woodstock became famous for its peaceful atmosphere.**



“With a little help from my friends”

Woodstock still embodies the style of a free-spirited, artistic America that is very different to the America of 51 years later. It contrasted the USA that was divided by the Vietnam war, and shocked to the core by the assassinations of John F Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy.

The Oscar-winning film Woodstock, which was filmed at the festival, proved to be one of the most successful documentaries of all time, and helped to carry the **myth of Woodstock** out into the world.

Live Aid, Live 8, and Occupy congratulate Woodstock on its 50th birthday. And as a gift, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Bob Geldof, Bono, Sting, Harry Belafonte, and many others declare **the establishment of a new and unprecedented global movement.** The name of this movement could be **“With a little help from my friends”.**

Even supermodels like Kate Moss, Heidi Klum, Claudia Schiffer, and Carla Bruni can show that there is more to them than just their jet-set lifestyles and outer appearance that they put on show on the catwalks of the world. Headed by **Gisele Bündchen**, who understands how it feels when the world crashes down around someone.



I am bold enough to believe that we could resolve the world's conflicts and trouble spots. What it will take is for us to tackle the underlying causes **once and for all. And we need to do this together, not least because time is running out on the *Doomsday Clock*.** This can succeed because everyone with good intentions towards our planet, and all the creatures that live on it, will get together and talk to one another. Participation may even help people suffering from depression. I am often asked why I believe so strongly **in democracy?** My answer is always the same: I don't want to live in a country in which I am controlled and monitored around the clock. I don't want to live in a country in which the government knows everything about me, and assesses me on that basis. I don't want to be assessed on an autocratic rating scale that will be used as the basis for rewarding, or punishing me. I want to live in a country in which I can move around freely, and give free rein to my imagination. I want to be at home in a country in which the weakest are helped, and in which freedom of opinion and of the press are unassailable. I will feel comfortable on a part of the Earth that is home to vibrant, colorful, and established democracies. **And I want to live in a world in which the forces of democracy are strong enough to outstrip the egoistical autocrats and extremist populists.**

What can we do now? It certainly isn't enough to simply tweak individual symptoms or make a few adjustments. The first thing we need is to realize that we can't go on like this. What we now urgently need is **a jolt that passes through the whole world.** A jolt that triggers a new and widespread mood of optimism. We now need a **sense of unity** with people who have good intentions and want to act. That is how we can create - and then live in - a new world order. There are four major aspects that we need to tackle first:

- **Beat the coronavirus pandemic, especially with vaccines and drugs.**
- **Immediate, meaningful and targeted measures to prevent further climate change.**
- **Nuclear disarmament, not nuclear proliferation**
- **First the common good and social market economy.** This needs to be a worldwide movement against naked capitalism which, in its brutal barbarism and harshness, and its egoistical and rapacious form has resulted in an unspeakably unjust distribution of wealth.

And all that will be presented during 3 great festivals for love, forgiveness, sharing, peace, and freedom, and at 196 concerts, one in each of the 196 countries on Earth.

“For love, forgiveness, sharing, peace, and freedom” is the central message. It will give us renewed energy to end wars and greed, hunger and thirst, with educated people and one belief, under the umbrella of the **“United peoples of the world”**. And yet we will retain those cultures, customs, and practices that are worth loving and living, and are vital as essential roots.

We call upon the artists to seize power ... for a short time.

And that time has come.

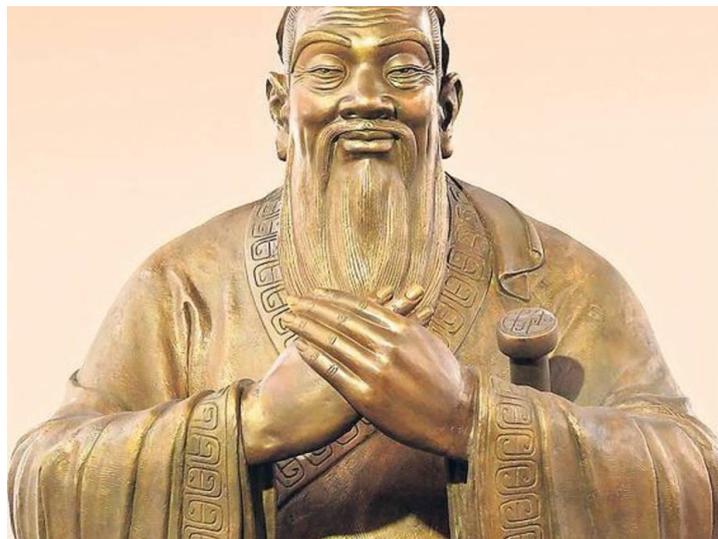
It is up to us to give birth to the second generation of *Homo sapiens*. This generation will be smarter, wiser, and fairer than the first, which for so long has been living in its own shadow and is now looking to cast light on its darkness.

Confucius said:

“It is better to light one small candle of gratitude than to curse the darkness.”

“Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may remember.

Involve me and I will understand.”



4th template:

When Bruce Springsteen – with help from Ludwig van Beethoven and great conductors – calls for the 3 world-spanning festivals and 196 concerts in every country on Earth, everyone will join in. His power of attraction is simply irresistible – to both the artists and his fans! They all want or wanted to get up on the stage with him or appreciate him, as the following videos and testimonials show:

- Bruce Springsteen & Barack & Michele Obama & Martin Luther King: [Working On A Dream](#)
- Bruce Springsteen: MANDELA WAS THE REAL BOSS: [Free Nelson Mandela](#)
- Chuck Berry & Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band: [Johnny B. Good](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band & **more than 300,000 fans in East Berlin – one year before the Berlin Wall was torn down:** [Chimes of Freedom](#)
- U2 & Bruce Springsteen: [I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For](#)
Bono says: “When I say America is not just a country but an idea, I am thinking about people like Bruce Springsteen.”
- Bruce Springsteen & Friends – [12/12/12 - Stars Came Out for Hurricane Sandy](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & Jon Bon Jovi: [Born To Run](#) – **12/12/12 for Hurricane Sandy**
- Sting & Bruce Springsteen: [Every Breath You Take](#)
- Tina Turner & Bruce Springsteen: [The Best](#)
- Ludwig van Beethoven & Bruce Springsteen: [No Surrender](#) & [“Ode to Joy”](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band & Tom Morello: [The Ghost of Tom Joad](#)
- Rolling Stones & Bruce Springsteen: [Tumbling Dice](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & Wolfgang Niedecken: [Hungry Heart](#)
In the last interview before his murder on 8 December 1980, John Lennon said that “Hungry Heart” is a great record.
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band & David Bowie: [Rebel Rebel](#)

- U2 & Patty Smith & Bruce Springsteen: [Because The Night](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & Michael Stipe (REM): [Because The Night](#)
- Alicia Keys & Patty Smith: [Because The Night](#)
- REM & Bruce Springsteen: [Man on the Moon](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band and a huge number of fans: [Dream Baby Dream](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band: [Blood Brothers](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & Patti Scialfa & The E Street Band: [Kingdom Of Days](#)
- Patty & Bruce: [Tougher Than The Rest](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band and a huge number of love stories: [Tougher Than The Rest](#)
- Bruce Springsteen in action: [Leap of Faith](#)
- Amy Macdonald sings for Bruce Springsteen: [Automatic](#)
Amy Macdonald says: I love Bruce Springsteen. I think he is a musical legend and it would be an honour to stand beside him on a stage.
- Lady Gaga sings for Bruce Springsteen:
[The Edge of Glory - together with Clarence Clemons](#)
My parents and my grandfather come from the working class. Bruce Springsteen has always revered these people. So “Edge of Glory” is a reference to Bruce Springsteen. He had such an influence on our home. My father gave me, I believe it was for Christmas, a Bruce Springsteen songbook for the piano and on it was ‘Thunder Road,’ which is my favorite Bruce Springsteen song.

- Melissa Etheridge & Bruce Springsteen: [Thunder Road](#)
- Jon Stewart - Bruce Springsteen tribute: [Bob Dylan & James Brown Had a Baby](#)
- Bruce Springsteen tribute video: [With the voice of Jon Stewart](#)
- Bruce Springsteen tribute: [Sting - The Rising](#)
- Barack Obama & Bruce Springsteen: [I am the President, but he is the Boss](#)
- Music by Bruce Springsteen – with unforgettable pictures: [Chimes of Freedom](#)
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band: [Letter To You](#)
An invitation to all artists and fans who mean well and want to do good, and who would like to take part in the 3 world-spanning festivals and the 196 concerts in every country of the Earth.
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band: [Land of Hope and Dreams](#)
If Bruce replaces the word “Land” in the title and song lyrics with “World”, this would be a song for the whole world. A song that emanates hope and can make dreams come true. Best of all, Bruce could combine his letter of invitation “Letter To You” with the “[World](#) of Hope and Dreams”.



On 4 June 2020, Bruce Springsteen was the guest DJ on the Sirius XM radio station. He used this opportunity to make a powerful appeal to the American citizens against racism and police violence.

As a prelude, Bruce played his protest song “American Skin (41 Shots)”, and dedicated it to the African-American George Floyd, who was killed by police brutality. He said: *“This song is almost eight minutes long. That’s how long it took George Floyd to die while a police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee against his neck.”*: [American Skin \(41 Shots\)](#) from 2001 pillories the action of four white police officers who, in 1999, pumped 41 shots into the unarmed black immigrant, Amadou Diallo. Springsteen then said:

“The country is burning and in chaos. 40 million people are out of work. More than 100,000 citizens have died from Covid-19, and the only the most indifferent and heartless response comes from our White House. As of today, our black citizens continue to be needlessly killed by our police on the streets of America.”

And in 2001, the **cult band Living Colour** fascinated their audience in Montreux with a highly emotional and heart-rending interpretation of [American Skin \(41 Shots\)](#).



- Bruce Springsteen as Hero and Helper: [I'll Stand By You](#)
- Bruce Springsteen and the American Dream: [American Land](#) **With Sister on the violin and the Biggest Man you have ever seen: Big Man Clarence Clemons on the toy flute.**
- Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band & Prince: [Purple Rain](#)

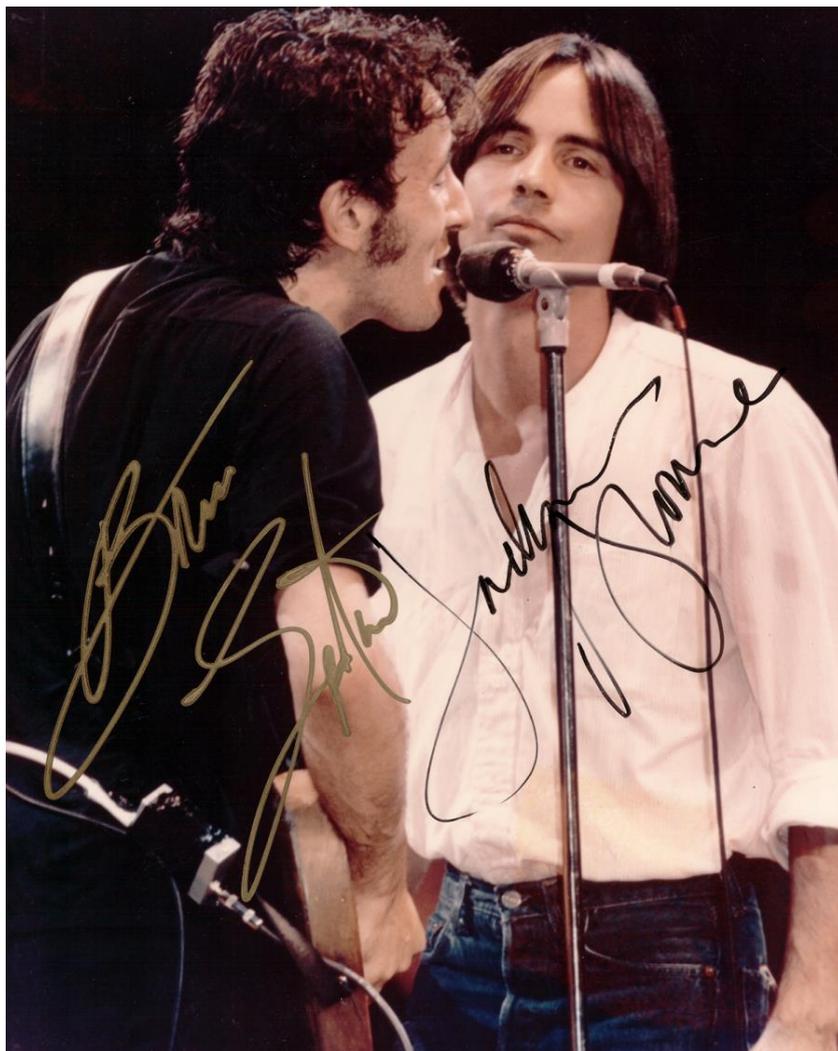
On 23 April 2019 it was perhaps no accident that I was listening to **Purple Rain** in my headphones. It was the version by Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. In April 2016, Bruce and his band interpreted Prince's unforgettable classic in their own special way – both melancholic and powerful – with the incredible Nils Lofgren on guitar. It wasn't only the Prince fans who had goose bumps. Two days after Prince's sudden death, Bruce Springsteen paid a very moving tribute, and said goodbye to the star with the words "Prince forever".



Jackson Browne says about Bruce Springsteen:

"In many ways, Bruce Springsteen is the embodiment of rock & roll. Combining strains of Appalachian music, rockabilly, blues and R&B, his work epitomizes rock's deepest values: desire, the need for freedom and the search to find yourself. All through his songs there is a generosity and a willingness to portray even the simplest aspects of our lives in a dramatic and committed way. The first time I heard him play was at a small club, the Bitter End in New York, where he did a guest set. He had this descriptive power — it was just an amazing display of lyrical prowess. I asked him where he was from, and he sort of grinned and said he was from New Jersey. In those days people used to joke about New Jersey. There was this collective complex that people from New Jersey had about what it meant to be from there, and he just smiled because he knew where he was from. The next time I saw him play it was with his band, the one with David Sancious in it. I'd never seen anybody do what he was doing: He would play acoustic guitar and dance all over the place, and the guitar wasn't plugged into anything. There wasn't this meticulous need to have every note heard. It was so powerful, and it filled that college gym with so much emotion that it didn't matter if you couldn't hear every note. It was drama, his approach to music, something that he would expand on many times over, but it was there from the beginning. A year or so later I saw him play in L.A., with Max Weinberg, Clarence Clemons and Steve Van Zandt in the band, and it was even more dramatic — the use of lights and the way it was staged. There were these events built into the music. I went to see them the second night, and I guess I expected it to be the same thing, but it was completely different. It was obvious that they were drawing on a vocabulary. It was exhilarating, and at the bottom of it all there was all this joy and fun and a sense of brotherhood, of being outsiders who had tremendous power and a story to tell. Bruce has been unafraid to take on the tasks associated with growing up. He's a family man, with kids and the same values and concerns as working-class Americans. It runs all through his work, the idea of finding that one person and making a life together. Look at "Rosalita": Her mother doesn't like him, her father doesn't like him, but he's come for her. Or in "The River," where he gets Mary pregnant and for his nineteenth birthday he gets a union card and a wedding coat. That night they go to the river and dive in. For those of us who are ambivalent about marriage, the struggle for love in a world of impermanence is summed up by the two of them diving into that river at night. Bruce's songs are filled with these images, but they aren't exclusively the images of working-class people.

It just happens to be where he's from. Bruce has all kinds of influences, from Chuck Berry and Gary "U.S." Bonds to Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie. But he's also a lot like Montgomery Clift, Marion Brando and James Dean — people whose most indistinct utterances have been magnified to communicate volumes. Bruce has always had enormous range in terms of subject and emotion, as well as volume — his quietest stuff is as quiet as you will ever hear anyone sing, but at his loudest he is, well, he's the loudest. But he's always worked on a very large scale, a scale that is nothing short of heroic. He is one of the few songwriters who works on a scale that is capable of handling the subject of our national grief and the need to find a response to September 11th. His sense of music as a healing power, of band-as-church, has always been there, woven into the fabric of his songs. He's got his feet planted on either side of that great divide between black and white gospel, between blues and country, between rebellion and redemption."



More Artists are Playing Together with Bruce Springsteen

– IT'S A FEAST FOR THE EYES –

Bob Dylan says:

“The artists who have changed my life were individuals. They exclusively follow their own version of reality. Once you have this world view, there is no more future. In my opinion, the last artist to emerge to join their ranks is Bruce Springsteen.”



Mick Jagger (Rolling Stones) says:

“I saw Springsteen at one of his marathon concerts in the Meadowlands Arena, New Jersey.

Did I stay to the end? Of course I did. I also bought some beer,

T-shirts – the whole package. He was great.”



Pete Townshend (The Who) says:

“When Springsteen sings, it isn’t about having fun. It’s a goddamn triumph, man!”



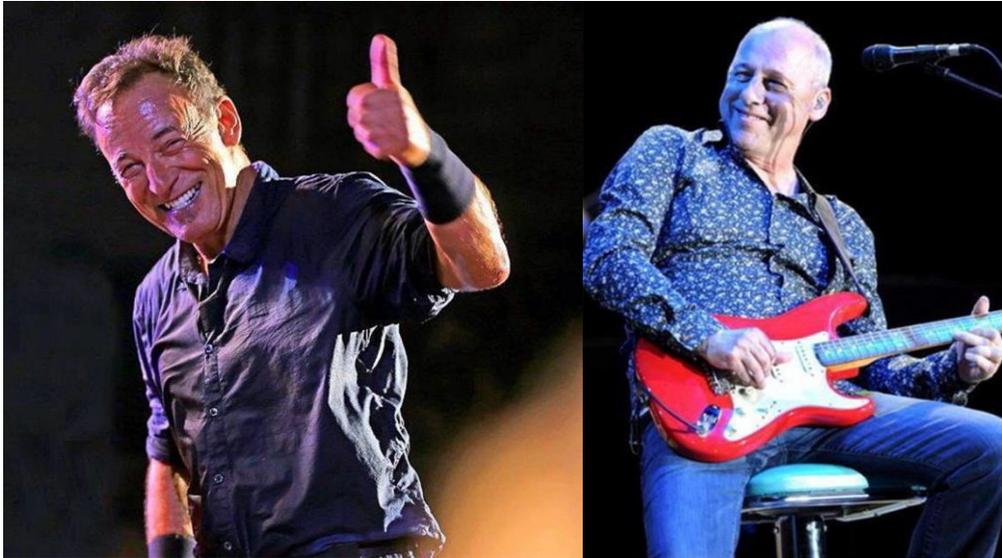
Billy Joel said:

If I had to transform myself into a rock ‘n’ roll superhero, I would press a photograph of Bruce Springsteen into my surgeon’s hand.



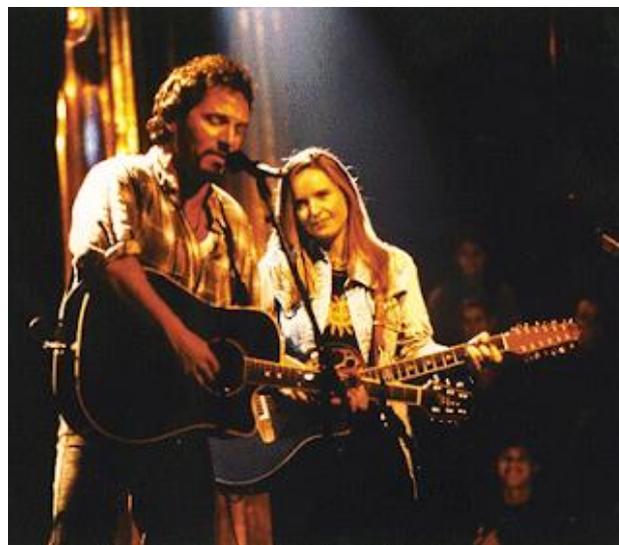
Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) says:

“He is the perfect balance between music and understanding.”



Melissa Etheridge says:

It was 1976, and I was living in Lynwood, Kansas. I was perhaps twelve or thirteen years old and dreamed of getting out of there, how the world out there was great, and how I belonged in it – then this song suddenly came on the radio and turned my life upside down. The song was Born to Run, by a guy called Bruce Springsteen. I thought to myself, “That’s incredible, all at once my life has meaning.” So many events of our recent history have played out with backing from Bruce Springsteen’s music. His career is a journey that has totally shaped the time in which we are living.



Sean Penn says:

“With Bruce Springsteen, you always have this impression of personal authenticity, unpretentiousness and passion. And a sense of humour, a feeling for rock ‘n’ roll and a gift for telling stories of the sort that used to only come from tribal chieftains. Chieftain is not just an American word. And Boss? Well, Boss comes from boss man. And if this guy isn’t the Boss. Well, man. Then nobody is.”



Sean Penn and Bruce Springsteen agree: Donald Trump is an Enemy of Mankind. *First of all we need to chase the Trump regime out of office and start again.*

Barack Obama says:

“I don’t only love Bruce’s music. I simply love him as a person. He is someone who has never lost sight of his origins, who knows who he is, who has never disguised himself. When we think of authenticity, we think of Bruce Springsteen, and that’s how he comes over as a person. Because in the whole time that our country has existed, only a handful of people have tapped into the full power of music to explain the true history of America, sincerely, with heart and soul. And one of these is Bruce Springsteen.

On a day like today, I am reminded:

I may be the President, but he is the Boss.”



[The European anthem](#)

“Joy, beautiful spark of the gods” – from the “Ode to Joy”

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven; text: Friedrich Schiller

Since 1972, the **European anthem** has symbolised the feeling of cohesiveness of all Europeans. The **Ode to Joy** – with its text by Friedrich Schiller (1785) and music by Ludwig van Beethoven – **“Joy, beautiful spark of the gods”** (from 1824) links the theme of joy with the idea of solidarity – **“All people become brothers”**. “Joy, beautiful spark of the gods” comes from the final movement of Beethoven’s 9th symphony.

The European anthem stands beside the national anthems of the 27 Member States. It is an expression of the values of freedom, peace and solidarity. These values are shared by all the Member States of the European Union. It is an expression of the unity of Europe in all its diversity. This is a good time to think more closely about the meaning of the European anthem, **especially in Hungary and Poland**.

In December 1989 (just one month after the fall of the Berlin Wall), the famous conductor Leonard Bernstein conducted the 9th symphony in East Berlin’s Schauspielhaus theatre in the Gendarmenmarkt square. The performance was broadcast to 20 countries, and Bernstein had assembled his orchestra from international players with symbolic significance. In addition to the choir and instrumentalists from the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, he brought in musicians from East Berlin, Dresden, Leningrad, New York, Paris and London. **And he replaced the word “Joy” (Freude) from the original with “Freedom” (Freiheit), creating a sort of monument for this historical moment.**

The following link plays the magnificent concert from Christmas 1989 – with people who still today can hardly believe their luck because the Berlin Wall had fallen just a few weeks previously. This “fall” was attended by a people-inspirer who had played a concert to more than 300,000 people hungry for freedom a year previously in East Berlin. [Ludwig van Beethoven’s 9th symphony – Conducted by Leonard Bernstein – The Freedom Concert on 25 December 1989](#)

In the next link, Leonard Bernstein discusses war and peace in a way I have never seen or heard before. Today – in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic – the memory of this enormously important and powerful piece is of immense significance. He is ultimately discussing the future of mankind, which first still needs to earn the “crown of creation”:

[Leonard Bernstein on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony](#)



The two following links contain two wonderful examples of the meaning, power and force of Ludwig van Beethoven’s 9th symphony:

[The European anthem](#)

“Festival of Joy” in Vienna 2018 – with a soloist from the Vienna Boys’ Choir (Joy³)



Beethoven Symphony No. 9 - Mvt. 4

With conductor Daniel Barenboim und the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in London's Royal Albert Hall (itself a heavenly masterpiece) in 2012.



The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is a symphony orchestra established in 1999 and is made up of Israeli and Arab musicians in equal numbers. The ensemble was created by Daniel Barenboim, Edward Said and Bernd Kauffmann and works to find peaceful solutions in the Middle East conflict. It plays guest performances worldwide.

“Joy, beautiful spark of the gods” – from the “Ode to Joy”

A feast for the eyes and ears in front of a church in Nuremberg



Composer John Williams has written the soundtracks for many films, including Star Wars, JFK, ET, Jaws, Schindler's List, Amistad, Close Encounters of the Third Kind and Indiana Jones. In terms of recognition, Darth Vader's Theme from Star Wars is often compared with the final movement of Beethoven's 9th symphony, the Ode to Joy. Even though the significance of the two pieces is entirely opposite.

John Williams said about this:

*"The power of music is incredible, as is the power of cinema which brings this music to so many people. In some respects, these are very good times for us. As composers, we can only be thankful that music can be so easily distributed. In Beethoven's time, this was unimaginable. **And he is probably the greatest composer who has ever lived, and his Ode to Joy can unite the world.***

Nobody has ever expressed the idea of universal brotherhood better."



Shown here with the film director, Steven Spielberg, the two have worked together for 40 years. And they have been close friends for much of this time, not least because Spielberg is very musical.

Comfort, courage and confidence for New York – for this wonderful, multi-cultural city that was so brutally affected by the coronavirus crisis and with such dramatic and existential effects for its residents. Damn you, Donald Trump!

Bruce Springsteen – New York City Serenade (Rome /7/11/13):

Wonderful musical caresses from a violin ensemble –

Rock meets classical at the highest level:

[New York City Serenade](#)



(Bruce Springsteen published this song 45 years earlier in 1975)

Alicia Keys – Here in Times Square 2016, last 3 songs:

[No One - Empire State of Mind - Holy War](#)

“**No One**” is a beautiful love song. A symbiosis of notes, verses, lyrics and such tender feelings.

“**Empire State of Mind (part II)**” looks back at the gloss and pulsating force of New York City before the coronavirus crisis. But the song also dispenses consolation, courage and confidence that it will return or become even better once there are suitable vaccines and drugs available for the coronavirus in 2021. The realisation that things cannot be allowed to

continue as before will be very important for the revitalisation and redefinition of the city once the pandemic has been beaten. This will require Joe Biden to have a clear win in the US presidential election on 3 November 2020 and for Donald Trump to leave the White House at the earliest possible opportunity.

“Holy War” is an anti-war song. It demonstrates the expressive power, imagination and warm heart of Alicia Keys. She gives us a manual for life and love with which we can overcome war and hate. And her idea of incorporating and passing on parts of **“Imagine”** into the song is just magnificent. John Lennon wrote **“Imagine”** in 1971 in the middle of the Vietnam War. Over the last four decades, the song became important as a message of peace that extends far beyond John Lennon’s work. The message that Alicia Keys delivers in these three songs should be praised to the heavens, especially because she is brave enough to speak out loud where it is needed. Her performance is sublime. It is both powerful and peaceful in its imagery, lyrics and voice. Before her final piece, **“Holy War”**, Alicia Keys said emphatically and invitingly in October 2016:

“They know that our voice means change,” she said. “If you care about your life, where we are going, and your children, then vote for it, vote for it, please.”



**That was before the US presidential election in November 2016!
And we know the result of that. It means that the emphatic and encouraging
call to vote Trump out of office needs to be made much more
intensively and by countless voices!**

John Miles has been singing and playing MUSIC since 1976:

*“Music was my first love
And it will be my last.
Music of the future
and music of the past.
To live without my music
would be impossible to do.
For in this world of troubles,
my music pulls me through.”*





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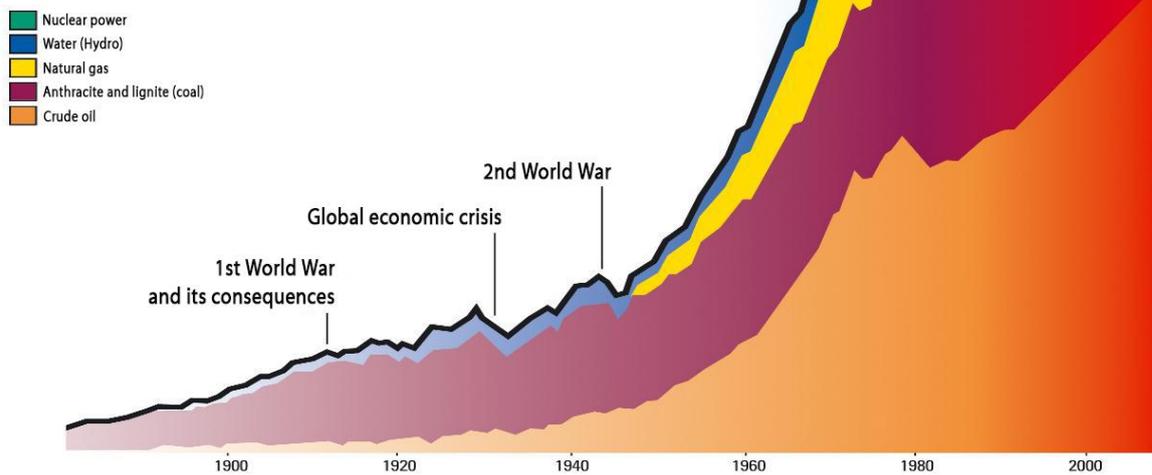
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5th template:

For the global use of renewable energies that will help us to avoid and overcome unchecked climate change.

The Hunger for Energy

Changes in worldwide energy consumption



The insight is growing only slowly that we have been on the wrong track with oil, coal, gas and uranium for over 100 years.

Bertold Brecht said:

"And they sawed the branches on which they sat and called out to each other what they had learned, how one could saw in a better way. And they plummeted horribly to the ground, and those who watched them shook their heads and continued to saw with ever increasing vigor."



The combustion of fossil energy is the cause of unabated climate change at an unprecedented pace. The consequences are catastrophic. Geologically speaking, we are in the process of killing ourselves.



The way fossil fuels are logistically distributed around the globe by the coal, gas, uranium and oil barons before they reach their destination, is evidence enough that we really are barking up the wrong tree.

Example: Anthracite coal is mined in Columbia, brought up to the surface and then loaded onto trucks. The trucks drive to the export harbors where the coal is loaded from the trucks onto ships. Then the ships head out for their ports of destination, for example in Europe. Here the coal is again loaded from the ship onto trucks and trains. Now the trucks and trains transport the coal to the coal power plants where the coal is ultimately burned.



Not only logistically devious! Are we out of our minds?

The logistics of oil from the place of production to the place of combustion is principally the same:



Platform, tanker, whipping boy, refinery, pipeline, oil depot, tank truck, gasoline station, combustors - do we still have all our marbles?

Climate buddies: The great team: **Trumputin**

The US government under the leadership of Barack Obama signed the Paris Climate Agreement in September 2016 along with China. At the beginning of June 2017 US President Trump withdrew from it with a bang. The nationalist hardliners of Steve Bannon and Scott Pruitt are prevailing against the rational faction of Rex Tillerson. Instead of working against climate change, more coal should be mined and new oil fields drilled. Donald Trump has also stated that he wants to subsidize oil production in the USA through fracking and bring the industry back to life.

According to Trump, the idea that climate change is caused by humans is a Chinese invention. His Executive Order from March 28, 2017 speaks volumes. This Executive Order and his withdrawal from the world Climate Agreement showed Trump's showcase politics once more and demonstrated how he is stuck in the coalfields and caught up in the past. While those on the coast have long been aware of how important renewable energies are, there those in between that still hang on to the coat tails that want to destroy climate protection. We can only hope that this Executive Order attracts legal action and will be repealed. And that the fossil that is the US president, the parties involved in protecting the climate as well as those who want to, will unite stronger and faster in order to compete against the coal, oil and gas barons.

The development and implementation of renewable energies needs to be accelerated across the globe. Otherwise, Vladimir Putin will be gloating thanks to the rich abundance of raw materials in the permafrost in Siberia which will melt faster and release the natural resources within. **That the future of *Homo sapiens* melts down to the release of billions and billions of cubic meters of methane and uge peat fire, is only his secondary interest.** As first and foremost, Putin is Russian. The same is true for him: **"Russia First"**.



Siberia melts and the world drowns!

It is so simple if we make proper use of the natural and technological advantages in the different regions of the world, as the following examples demonstrate:

- In Norway, nearly the entire power requirement is met with domestic hydropower plants.
- Iceland covers its electrical power demand 100% from renewable resources using geothermal energy and hydropower. Costa Rica is also striving for this goal, focusing mainly on water power and solar energy.
- Samsö in Denmark has succeeded in turning into "Green-energyIsland" with a combination of solar and wind energy for stationary and mobile applications.
- Thanks to sun radiation, many regions including Australia, Africa, India, Southern Europe, the Middle East and large parts of South America and the United States, are perfectly suited for the use of photovoltaics and solar thermal systems.
- All around the world, there are regions exposed to the wind at the coasts and in high altitudes, ideal places for the efficient deployment of wind power plants.
- Germany along with North America and many countries in Asia, with their technological diversity and high product quality, can deploy a balanced mix in production, storage and use of renewable energies.
- Russia as well as other European countries should face up to the fact that the age of fossil fuels is ending and push the transformation of the economy as rapidly as possible with improved value-adding activities in the technological area.
- The manifold energy storage systems for mobile and stationary applications can be employed in nearly all regions and fields. Energy storage is an essential component of the integrated energy turnaround – in particular for decentralized solutions.

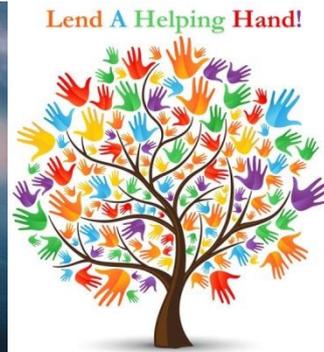




Bernard Looney, *BP*



Darren Woods, *ExxonMobil*



According to Bernard Looney, BP wants to be climate-neutral by 2050. I am sure this could actually be done by 2040. Greta Thunberg inspired the global climate protection movement “Fridays for Future”. Ten thousand scientists joined it with “Scientists for Future”. The “Parents for Future” and “Grandparents for Future” are fighting for the future of their children and grandchildren. With the exception of Trump and Bolsonaro, the politicians have listened to the scientists’ advice during the Coronavirus pandemic. They now need to do the same about climate change. The four bosses shown here represent the coal, oil and gas barons. They should – for the common good – develop new CO₂-free business sectors and campaign for the fossil fuels to remain where they belong – in Mother Earth.



Ben van Beurden, *Shell*



Patrick Pouyanné, *Total*

Greta Thunberg said to politicians and business leaders:

“(...) You only ever talk about continuing with the same bad ideas that have brought us to this sad plight. The only sensible thing is to pull on the emergency brake. (...) I want climate justice and a planet we can live on. Our civilisation is being sacrificed for the opportunities of a small group of people who want to make more and more money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the suffering of the many that is paying for the luxury of the few. (...) You say that you love your children more than anything but, at the same time, you are stealing their future from in front of their eyes. (...) We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We must leave the fossil fuels in the ground. We must turn our focus to justice. If it is impossible to find solutions in the existing system, then we need to change the system. (...) We have reached a crossroads in our history. Celebrities are treated as gods and could use their voices to wake the people up. We need you. You could use your faces and voices to draw attention to this global crisis. What a strange world it is in which children need to sacrifice their education to protest against the destruction of their future. (...) We have come here to tell you that a change is coming, whether you want it or not.

The real power belongs to the people. Thank you.”

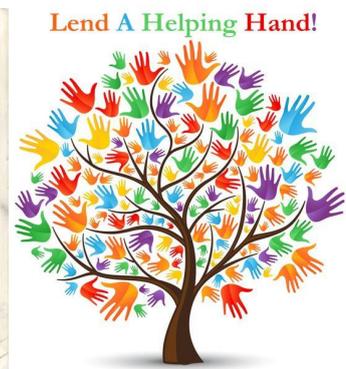




Angela Merkel



Ursula von der Leyen



Islac Liebgod and Rachel Khunes say and demand:

“Everyone deserves a second chance. Please start by renouncing your selfish “first” policy. Once we have overcome the Coronavirus pandemic we must understand that the Earth is just one country; that’s how the astronauts describe it to us as they look down on our “blue marble” from space. If we carry on as we did before the Coronavirus pandemic, then unchecked climate change will show us the “red card”. To prevent that, we now urgently need the Paris Agreement to be implemented. And please ask Mr Bolsonaro to stop burning down and logging the Earth’s “green lungs”. Ultimately the Amazon forest belongs to us all.”



Xi Jinping



Narendra Modi



Angela Merkel



Ursula von der Leyen

Lend A Helping Hand!



Lend A Helping Hand!



Islac Liebgod and Rachel Khunes have discovered something amazing:

“In 1989, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave the following emotional speech to the United Nations: “Every country will be affected and no one can opt out. Each country has to contribute, and those countries who are industrialised must contribute more to help those who are not. It is life itself, incomparably precious, that distinguishes us from the other planets. It is life itself that we must battle to preserve.” On this occasion she was talking about CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), not greenhouse gases. But the parallels are striking!”



Xi Jinping



Narendra Modi



Angela Merkel



Ursula von der Leyen



Islac Liebgod and Rachel Khunes say and demand:

“It was US President Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher who brought the idea that “CFCs destroy the ozone layer” to the global agenda and ultimately pushed through the ban on CFCs. The ban was needed because CFCs had attacked the ozone layer that is so vital for our survival and, without the ban, would have destroyed it. The ban, as set out in the Montreal Protocol, was the first international treaty and the most successful agreement ever made by the United Nations. So, just as CFCs were banned, now CO₂, which results from burning fossil fuels, also needs to be banned to prevent the catastrophic effects of unchecked climate change.”



Xi Jinping



Narendra Modi



Angela Merkel



António Guterres



Eberhard Brandes of the World Wildlife Fund said:

“The climate crisis and species extinction are twin crises. The two are interlinked and accelerate one another. The rise in the Earth’s temperature is changing ecosystems at a dramatic rate. Many animals and plants are unable to adapt fast enough. We need to stop this dangerous development for our own sake since biodiversity is the fundamental basis of our existence. Poaching, habitat destruction and ever more plastic waste in the oceans are further adding to the consequences of the climate crisis. And please make the protection of our rain forest your primary concern.”



Mohammed bin Salman



Ursula von der Leyen

Chair of the G20 Summit in 2020

Gerd Salomon says:

"It cost us trillions of dollars to save and support the global banking system and the still questionable branch of investment banking, and yet it all helps only a small segment of mankind.

Promoting the energy turnaround ought to be worth at least that much!

That will be a big step for ALL of humanity."



John Kerry says:

"The current drama about refugees and immigrants in Europe will someday soon seem harmless when climate refugees get on the move because of an absence of water and food or one tribe fighting against another for mere survival. Climate change is a 'seismic challenge', here and today, not in some indeterminate future."



Barack Obama said before December 2015:

"The struggle against climate warming has the highest priority for me.

Embrace the human ingenuity that can do something about it.

We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change.

And the last than can do something about it."



Leonardo di Caprio says to politicians and captains of industry:

"You can make history or be condemned by history. Governments and industrial enterprises all over the world have to adopt decisive and clear measures right away. Climate change is 'the major challenge to humanity.' It's not purely a matter of politics, our survival is at stake."

"Yes, we have achieved the Paris Agreement, that is a reason for hope. But it will not be enough. Our planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels in the ground where they belong.

Now is the time for bold, unprecedented action."



This could certainly become the anthem for the movements that were started by Greta Thunberg and her most excellent *“Fridays for Future”* idea.

No Surrender Festival

In connection with:

Hopefully the new song of Bruce Springsteen: “THE WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS”

“Fridays for Future”, “Scientists for Future”, “Foresters for Future”, “Parents for Future”, “Grandparents for Future”, “Churches for Future”. These are the movements backed by billions of people who oppose the unchecked climate change and those who cause it and want to both pause and put the brakes on it to the extent that is necessary/possible. **This is the only way that our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will have a future. We must not sin against our descendants.**

Add in support from **“World Ethos for Future”** with Hans Küng and **“Green Cross for Future”** with Mikhail Gorbachev.

To achieve the energy revolution **as soon as possible** we need also the following powerful movements:

**“Entrepreneurs for Future”,
“Financial Artists and Wizards for Future”,
“Politicians for Future” and
The club of the Billionaires
“The Giving Pledge for Future”.**

<https://givingpledge.org/>



Pink and Amy Macdonald sings for Greta Thunberg and billions of people

Pink: [What About Us](#)

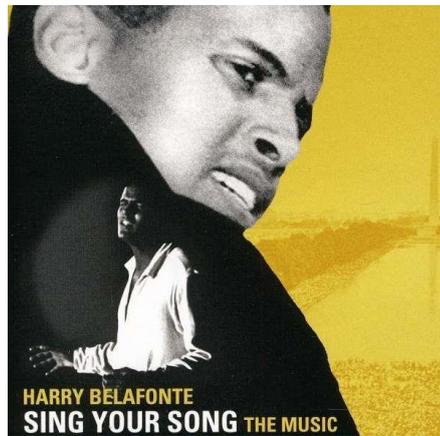
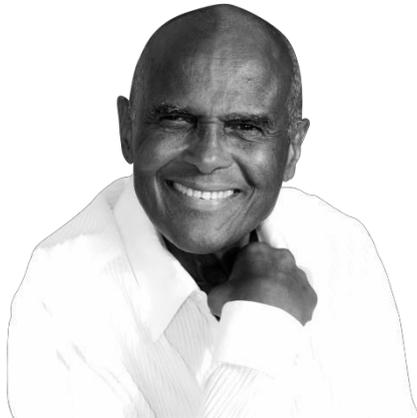


Amy Macdonald: [Don't Tell Me That It's Over](#) and [Dream On](#)



Harry Belafonte says:

“How can it be that there is so much chaos, disorder and violence in the world after so many have invested so much to change it? But I remain optimistic. Without optimism you can’t give hope a direction. The world needs hope. It needs a vision. And those of us who still have a spark of it, should communicate as much vision as they possibly can. In the years past, I have looked across our borders and have seen young people everywhere in the world who have recognized how much we need each other in our struggle. It will surely help us on our journey to know more about each other.”



Lenny Kravitz says:

“There’s something positive going on at present that I find very exciting. Because it is clear that many people are waking up. That young people are once again prepared to take matters into their own hands and redress injustices. I really hope it is true. I think it’s great that they are protesting. Only there must be more. We need to rise up, make ourselves heard, and take action.”



6th template:

For the common good with which we can overcome greed

Greed and constant striving for growth and profit of any kind and the thus achievable gain in power are, as driving forces, doubtlessly an essential component of human existence. This fact has been continuously reinforced since the scientific revolution 500 years ago. Greed and striving for greater knowledge have given enormous impetus to science backed by capital, and with this knowledge we can increasingly understand life on earth. So we can assume that growth, profit and power are not negative as such. **It all depends on how we generate growth, produce profit and apply power.** In the past, greed has degenerated into unbridled rapacity through unjustified claims to ownership. Human beings were exploited and destroyed, particularly by war, slavery and serfdom. This happened because unscrupulous political and economic leaders abused their power, which was facilitated, among other things, by unrestrained forces of an uncontrolled market. **We must jointly stop this blatant nonsense - now, here and everywhere on our planet.** Growth and long-term investment of profits in the manufacture of useful and intelligent products are a gain for employers as well as employees. **That way responsible employers create jobs with decent wages to ensure the purchasing power of consumers.** It is an economic cycle, which – controlled by the state – also provides a safety net for the socially disadvantaged and the ill, without smothering the individual's motivation to get ahead. This system, characterized by an efficiently working, sound banking business and **a sensible way of consuming,** is known as "social market economy."

Pink says:

"Unbridled consumption keeps us from thinking about women's rights, Iraq and what is happening in Africa - it keeps us from thinking at all."



Andreas Mayer says:

"The term luxury today means things like luxury cars, luxury apartments, luxury cruises, etc. In the future, luxury will mean clean air, clean drinking water, an adequate supply of food, a tolerable climate and a life in peace and freedom, also in the interest of the species living with us. If we do not jointly make that our maxim and live accordingly, mankind will have no future."



There would be enough for everyone if we learned how to share in a just way and be prudent with our natural resources.

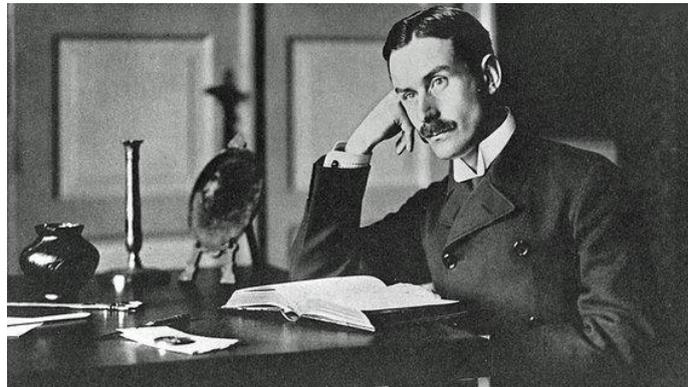
"Sharing" and "value creation" must be the priority. Away with deceptive packaging and incessant striving for growth, which is rampant and making us consume the Earth's resources far too fast, to the disadvantage of those who come after us.

Greed foments jealousy. And that leads to fanaticism, hatred, violence, thirst for revenge, terror and war.

With disbelief, anger and incomprehension, we see the unjust and morally indefensible distribution of wealth. **In 2019, the richest, i.e. one percent of the world's population, possessed more wealth than the remaining 99 percent altogether.**

Thomas Mann said:

"There is no property that would endure negligence."



Synonyms for negligence:

irresponsibility, carelessness, unscrupulousness!

Immanuel Kant said:

*"We are not rich by what we possess,
but rather by what we can do without."*



That does not mean it shouldn't pay off to do outstanding work. But income beyond a certain level should be set aside for projects that promote the common good and be put at the disposal of the financial funds (yet to be established) to be administered by the "United Peoples of the World."

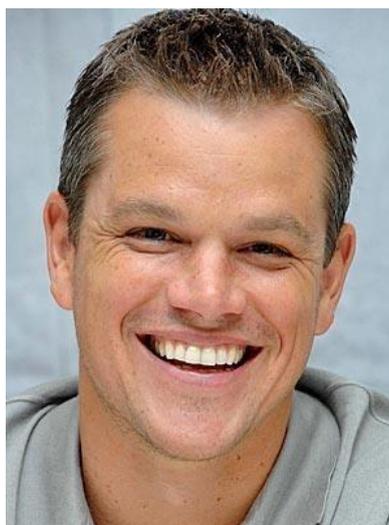
Denzel Washington says:

"I am blessed by the fact that I can earn several hundred million dollars. But I can't take them with me, and you can't either. The point is not how much you have, but what you do with what you have."



Matt Damon says:

"I woke up one day and realized that I have influence. We actors are something like spokesmen for our society. And that's when I became aware that we have to be committed to the world. It's fun and I don't see it as work. I'm responsible for returning something of my good luck and helping people with it."



We're not talking about leveling everyone down. But it is simply indecent and completely out of proportion if the chief executive of an industrial enterprise or the fund manager of a bank thinks he is entitled to earn a hundred or even a thousand times more than the normal worker or bank employee.

Wolfgang Gerhardt says:

"We want to create awareness for the fact that market economy has a social value and a social mission."



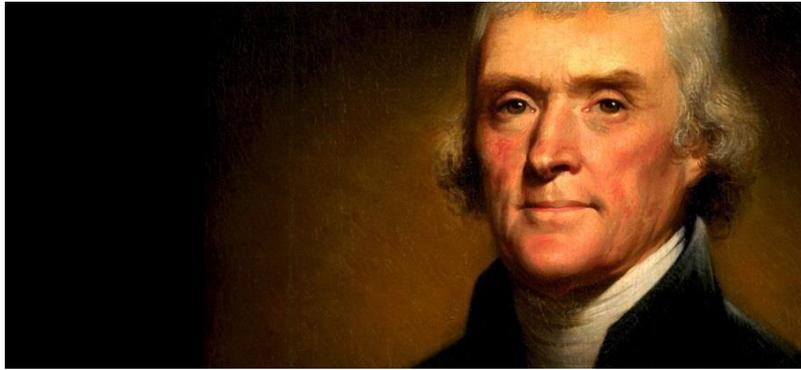
Reasonable and just sharing regulations include reorganizing the financial world and the stock markets worldwide.

The world of finance should be returned to its original form, which is to guarantee the flow and availability of funds for investments promoting the commonweal, instead of indulging in speculative deals with obscure and worthless derivatives that are often circulated with criminal intent and rotten tricks. Instead of palm-greasing and money laundering, we need more positive values to make the world go round.



In 1802, Thomas Jefferson wrote:

"If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and the corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their Fathers conquered."



Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States of America (1801–1809) and the main author of the American Declaration of Independence. His thinking and acting was shaped by the principles of the Enlightenment.

The Federal Reserve, which issues the dollar, is a private bank or rather is controlled by private banks. The recent financial crisis developed exactly the way Thomas Jefferson predicted. Millions of Americans lost the roofs over their heads in the real estate crisis.

Thomas Jefferson said during his time in office (1801–1809):

"I hold that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."



The stock market should be changed so that the positive values of *Shareholder Value* and *Stakeholder Value* are merged and their negative elements and weaknesses are eliminated. That way the exclusive maximization of shareholder benefits from enterprises can be balanced out in favor of a sustainable, sensible operation and the survival of enterprises. In brief, we need more responsible entrepreneurs again with pioneering spirit and committed to long-term planning, instead of managers who have nothing in mind but quarterly figures and their own profit.

It is of utmost important to put a stop to the greedy stock-market sharks' trading that is so detrimental to the public good. Above all, speculation on food products must be prohibited by law.



Food is nothing to play with!

**Spekulation mit Lebensmitteln
ist kriminell**

Speculation on foodstuffs is criminal!

In this context, it also pays to take a closer look at our textile industry, with its cut-rate fashion and consumer marketing aimed at controlling our consumption behavior. Andrew Morgan took on this task for us.

Andrew Morgan says:

"Globalization is not bad in principle. Just as long as a small group of people doesn't grab all the profit for themselves while the rest have to live in poverty. It's incredible to see the masses of clothing available everywhere. Big companies make their profits by persuading us to consume more and more fashion articles in ever shorter periods. And it works: Our consumption of clothing has grown by 400 percent in the last two decades. At the same time, prices for cheap fashion are continuously dropping, but this is combined with lower quality. Such an item is replaced at an ever faster pace. Since the materials and transportation don't get cheaper, the only link in this chain where costs can be reduced to a minimum is labor. And this is where it gets profoundly disturbing. We exploit these destitute people who have no alternative to their miserable working conditions. This continuous exploitation perpetuates a system of poverty. The production system of cut-rate fashion is inhuman. Why can't we improve it? I must be aware of the fact that I am supporting inhuman labor when I buy cheap clothes. Cut-price fashion has the largest market share in the textile industry."



Andrew Morgan



Please use your influence and take responsibility!

We also call upon the fashion designers to persuade consumers that there is no place in fashion for wearing animal furs. This is the only way to eradicate the barbaric breeding, killing and skinning of fur-bearing animals.

Muhammad Yunus, Saskia Bruysten and Sophie Eisenmann say:

"We founded Yunus Social Business to help entrepreneurs in transition and developing countries build up businesses that solve social problems with a long-term effect. The social businesses we work with benefit from our offering customized financing concepts as well as from our advisory services. The investment capital is paid back and can be reinvested over and over again into new social businesses. Most importantly, thousands of jobs have been created this way and hundreds of thousands of people have gained access to vital resources and services like safe drinking water, health care and affordable clean energy - hence improvements in their daily lives that would simply not have been available to them without social business models.

This creates an added value for all parties involved."



A win-win-win situation!



MacKenzie Besos

Lend A Helping Hand!



Melinda Gates

Lend A Helping Hand!

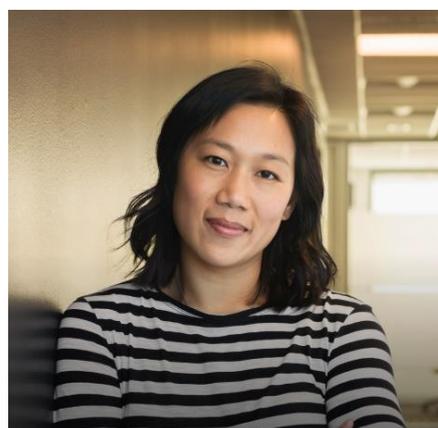


Mikhail Gorbachev said:

*“The three major challenges that face us today are the preservation of peace, the struggle against poverty, and ecological good sense. Assuming that the number of children per woman in every country on Earth remains constant at the current level until 2100, then the world population at the end of the century will have grown to 26 billion people. Combined with climate change, this creates a nightmare scenario that can only be halted by education and reasonable family planning, especially in Africa. The “Giving Pledge” organisation hopes to use its financial might to make a generous and **visible** contribution to this. The four women selected below represent over 200 billionaires with assets of around 1 billion dollars.*



Diane von Furstenberg



Priscilla Chan

Pavan Sukhdev says:

“We must urgently change the rules of the game according to which we run our economy. The question must no longer be who is best in influencing governments, avoiding taxes and obtaining subsidies for dubious business models to optimize profits for a single group of stakeholders, namely the shareholders. In the future, competition between corporations should consist in being more innovative than the rivals, using resources more carefully and meeting the demands of very diverse social groups. Society, which had to bear the costs up to now, should be able to see what companies destroy when they grow. We need a general set-up for a new corporate culture that increases human wellbeing and social equality, while preventing environmental risks and ecological losses from growing.”



7th template:

The desired future role of the royal families

Prince Charles says:

"The world is out of joint. For a life in harmony with nature, we must radically rethink in order to save our Earth and creation. We have become deaf to our inner voice, our intuition, which would preserve us from inflicting damage upon the environment. We need a new view of the world, a vision that takes the challenges of the 21st century into account. We should consider that our children and grandchildren will not ask what our generation thought and said, but what it did."





Spain: Felipe & Letizia



Belgium: Philippe & Mathilde

Lend A Helping Hand!



Lend A Helping Hand!



Just like Prince Charles, all the emperors and empresses, kings and queens, princes and princesses should ignore the protocol and work for species conservation and the diversity of species, for climate protection and the energy revolution, and for the Earth and creation!



Belgium: Wilhelm-Alexander & Maxima



Denmark: Frederik & Mary



Tony Blair



John Major



Dear Queen Elizabeth,

please stop the UK becoming the poorhouse of Europe. The United Kingdom should return to the bosom of the European Union. Show the national traitors Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson the Red Card. In mid-September 2020, you have already had 377,000 people infected with coronavirus, and 42,000 deaths. More than in any other European country. The Bank of England is anticipating the deepest recession in over 300 years. Britain's economic output nosedived by 20.4% in the second quarter of 2020. As a member of the EU, the United Kingdom would have received over 50 billion Euros from the EU's 750 billion coronavirus fund – comparable to Italy and Spain. Because of Brexit, the United Kingdom has sadly been left out in the cold. Reason enough for a 2nd referendum – against Brexit. The former Prime Ministers Tony Blair, John Major and David Cameron, along with your former Attorney-General and a great majority of your people, will certainly stand beside you and support the “revolution”.



David Cameron



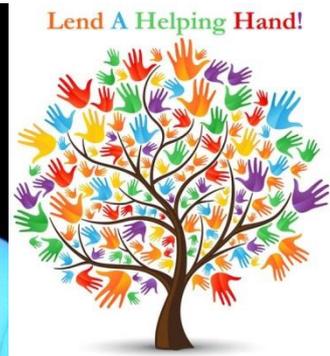
Geoffrey Cox



Emily Blunt



Bob Geldof



Dear Queen Elizabeth,

– leaving protocol aside – you can certainly rely on the support of British artists on the road to a 2nd referendum. In my opinion, Sting expressed it best when he said: *“I was disappointed and shocked by the Brexit vote. I believe that a majority of voters believed the cynical populists in politics and the media who were spreading lies about what Brexit actually means. The main reason I want to remain in the EU is because it has stopped us killing one another for 75 years. I have never had to aim a gun at a German. But my father did – and my grandfather. I still consider myself a European. A British European.”*



Sting



J. K. Rowling



Tony Blair



John Major

During the coronavirus crisis, Captain Tom Moore raised 33 million pounds by doing a sponsored walk on his Zimmer frame. This unique effort is now in the Guinness Book of Records. The 100 year-old veteran of the 2nd World War donated the entire total to the chronically under-financed National Health Service (NHS). As thanks, Captain Moore was knighted by Queen Elizabeth.



Captain Sir Thomas Moore has become a celebrated star in the United Kingdom and an advertising icon. What an incredible story it would be if Captain Tom could Collect 33 million votes by campaigning for Britain's re-entry to the EU. Dear Queen Elisabeth, I'm very sure that you will get an uge support from Nicola Sturgeon to go in this direction!



Nicola Sturgeon



Geoffrey Cox

8th template:

For global peace, freedom and justice in a strengthened and colour-diverse democracy with the aim of ending current wars and preventing new wars

There have been wars as long as there have been humans: on a small scale, for instance, wars between tribes or clans, and on a large scale religious wars or the world wars of the 20th century, which brought disaster upon great parts of the world.

The causes of large wars were and are usually the prospects of rulers and warmongers for unjustified territorial gains, extension of their power and greed for resources of all kinds. This includes the striving of demagogues' and sadists' for supremacy; they have always known and still know how to create bogeyman images, incite hatred, stir people up against each other, abuse them and use them as cannon fodder.

The death toll of the two World Wars of the 20th century 1914–1918 and 1939–1945 amounted to approximately 75 million, of which World War II alone claimed at least 55 million. Since then, about 20 million people have lost their lives in wars and armed conflicts. The percentage of victims among the civilian population has drastically increased. In the face of these numbers and considering the population explosion between 1950 and 2017 – taking us from 2.5 billion to nearly 7.5 billion – we have been living in a somewhat more peaceful world in the past 70 years. One reason for this is probably that wars in general are less profitable in the age of nuclear deterrence than market domination in our increasingly industrialized and digitalized capitalist world. **But it is a fallacy to believe things won't or can't possibly change in the future.** The radical changes already perceptible as a consequence of climate change, of the unilateral increase in wealth and of world population growth are alarming. In combination with dictatorial power structures, they could cause unpredictable and uncontrollable risks which could then trigger immeasurable suffering worldwide. The governments of the countries possessing nuclear weapons (such as China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, the UK and the USA), along with many political, economic and social experts, feel safe and often speak of the "balance of terror" which has guaranteed 70 years of world peace. But the radical changes mentioned above have already led to tipping points in some areas. If these tipping points actually tilt – as is the case with climate change – there will be feedback effects creating self-reinforcing dynamics.

Then the balance of terror would no longer be merely on the brink of tipping, but would threaten to melt away in an atomic hellfire.



What does war do to us? It turns us into perpetrators and victims. It brutalizes us and hardens us. It deprives us of our humaneness and makes us killers and monsters, or it plunges us into a deep trauma, sometimes both. In the end, not only the dead have lost their lives. The survivors often don't find their way back to life either. Many of them have become different persons and will suffer the injuries the war has left on their bodies and souls for the rest of their lives. Often enough they seek refuge in drugs.

Violence breeds ever new violence, hatred ever new hatred, and war ever new war – **we should have learned that much from history!**



Countless wars have been waged in Europe. Every belligerent nation has *"prayed"* for victory. What a delusion, when they were all praying to one and the same God, in this case the God of the Christians.



Wars in the shadow and not in the light of the cross!



**Christians believe, He gave his blood
also to deter us from war and violence!**

The imperialism of the European powers in the colonial period, especially on the African continent and in the Middle East, must be condemned as well. It is bad enough that the colonial masters misappropriated land. But it is barbaric that the indigenous population was enslaved, abused and often treated like animals – even worse than in the period of serfdom in Europe. Especially when one considers that the birthplace of mankind is in Africa.

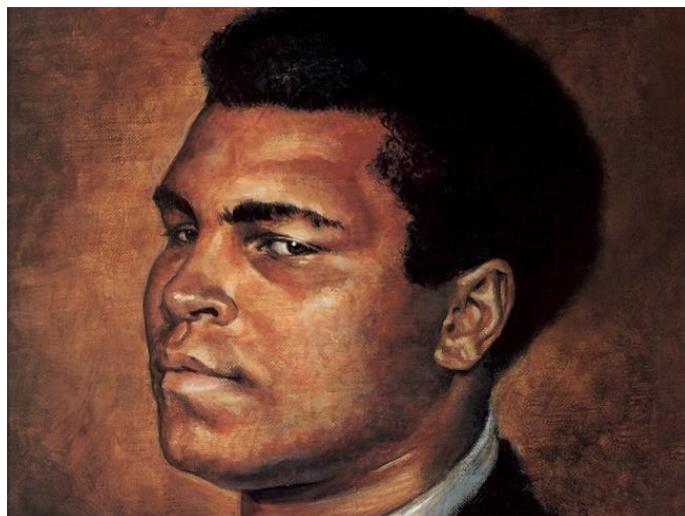
All early ancestors and early man **naturally** had dark skin caused by the radiation of the sun in Africa.



Other skin colors developed only when our ancestors – already as *Homo sapiens* - left Africa some 100,000 years ago. The first "white man" was the Neanderthal, who died out about 30,000 years ago. **This knowledge leaves no space for discrimination on the basis of race, color or national and ethnic origin.**

Muhammad Ali said:

"It's wrong to hate people because of the color of their skin. And it's irrelevant which color does the hating. It's fundamentally wrong."



The television series *Roots* is a shocking portrayal of the inhumanity and barbarism slavery caused. The film begins with a young man in Africa called Kunta Kinte. He was abducted from Africa in 1767 and enslaved in America. But he refused to be called by his slave name. His heroic protest lived on in his progeny. In whispers, the name Kunta Kinte was passed on from generation to generation until a little boy growing up in Tennessee heard it. His name was Alex Haley. And he made Kunta Kinte's name known worldwide. His family tree became the backbone of the book *Roots*. Haley was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his book that shocked America and the entire world. 130 million viewers saw David L. Wolpers' TV series; it was flooded with dozens of prizes. To this day, the film has lost none of its rousing vitality.

The mini-series covering a time period of 100 years between 1765 and 1865 was shown for the first time in Germany in 1978. Filmed for a mass viewership, America's first critical examination of the history of slave trade raised the awareness of the nation about its own past as no other TV event ever had. The production, awarded nine Emmys, reminds one more of the story in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* than of the slave-romanticism seen in *Gone with the Wind*. It portrays violence and gruesome suffering never previously seen on television - such as when part of Kunta Kinte's foot is hacked off after his repeated attempts to flee. The saga was all the more moving, however, because Blacks were not only portrayed as victims or abstract examples of repression, but as intelligent people in search of a small piece of happiness, something with which the audience could identify.

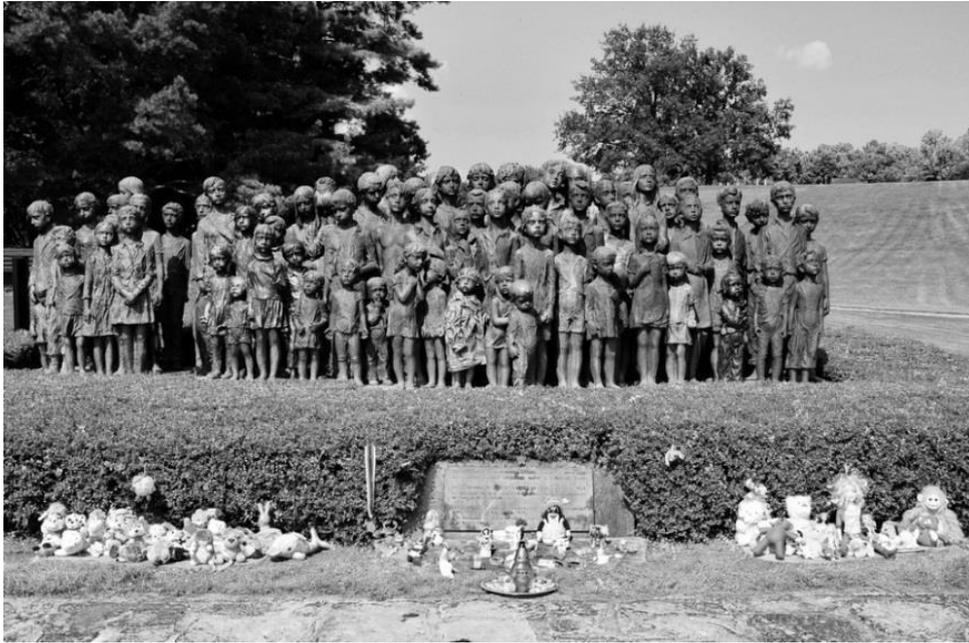


The Europeans were not one jot better when they conquered the Americas. Along with the slaves from Africa, the conquerors also brought in rats and pathogens. About 90 percent of the original inhabitants were exterminated within one century. Only at the end of the 20th century did the population of their descendants return to the size it had been before Columbus landed in the Caribbean in 1492.



How can we prevent inhuman demagogues like Hitler Stalin, Mao or Pol Pot from seizing power in the first place, before they can become completely dehumanized mass murderers and war criminals? How can religious wars against Islam under the guise of Christianity be prevented from happening again in the future?

More than six million Jews were killed during World War II, among them 1.5 million children. Since then it is continuously repeated: Such a thing must never happen again.



Nevertheless we sit in front of the TV today in our globalized world, staring benumbed at abominable scenes where people are brutally slaughtered in the name of a falsely understood religion – by terrorist groups like Al Qaeda, Boko Haram or ISIS. In spite of this disgraceful relapse into barbarism, these gangs of murderers experience a growing influx of young people who have gone astray and become radicalized. **The seed sown on 9/11 is still bearing fruit.**



This, too, is a way to remember the day that shook the world – instead of inciting to revenge and new bloodshed!

In our view, the warmongers and gravediggers include George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz, who lied to us and cheated us following the last war against Iraq. The latter three are smarter and for that reason all the more despicable.

It's better not to even think about what would have happened if these four hardliners, instead of John F. Kennedy and his staff, had been in power in 1962 in the middle of the Cold War. After a lot of saber-rattling, Kennedy and Khrushchev reached an agreement because they knew that a third world war – with atomic missiles on both sides – could have destroyed all life on the planet.



A good thing it ended like this...



...and not like this !

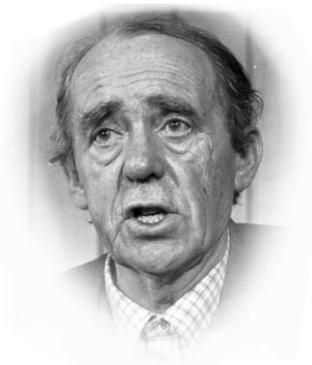
Mahatma Gandhi said:

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."



Heinrich Böll said:

"There is nothing, no law or anything in the world that could justify the use of the atomic bomb."



John F. Kennedy said:

"Our goal is not the victory of power, but the rule of law - not peace at the cost of freedom, but both freedom and peace here in our hemisphere and, as we hope, everywhere in the world.

If God wills, we will achieve this goal."



Before the George W. Bush era, the USA under Bill Clinton had a balanced budget with a flourishing economy. When he assumed office in 2009, Barack Obama took over a mountain of debt of 11 trillion dollars left to him by his predecessor. Worse yet: In eight wasteful and baneful years between 2000 and 2008, the nations of the world - including their peoples and ethnic groups – were more divided than united. **Instead of giving in to the urge for revenge after 9/11, the group of the twenty most important industrial nations and newly industrialized countries (G20) should have been called upon to seek and find peaceful solutions to such terrorist attacks!**

George Clooney says:

"If Al Gore hadn't had to distance himself from Clinton because of the Lewinsky affair, he would've won the presidential election. And he never would have gone to war. It's ridiculous – Lewinsky gives the president a blowjob, so we attack Iraq."



David Letterman says:

"President Bush has said that he does not need approval from the U.N. to wage war, and I'm thinking, well, hell, he didn't need the approval of the American voters to become president, either."



Robert Redford said before the presidency of Donald Trump:

"I'm worried about my country. The incompetent government of President George W. Bush exploited people's fears after the 9/11 attack. I have never experienced such dark times in my entire life."

Now times have become even darker for the USA and for the world!



Sean Penn said about warfare in Iraq:

"Looking from above, we see smart bombs and drones, that's all. Showing the war as it is would normally stop it. We have to look at that, again and again, and we have to call those who are responsible to account."

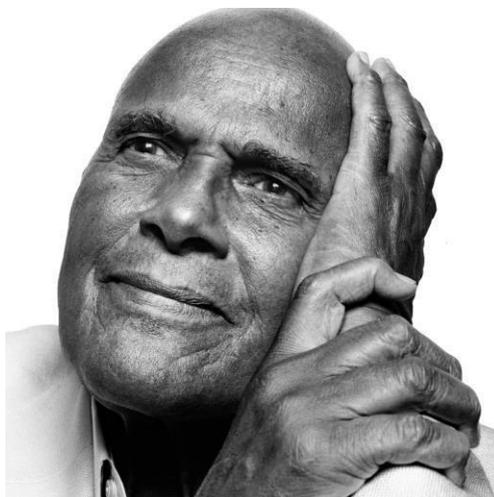


Unfortunately, the former U.S. President and Nobel Peace laureate Barack Obama came too late and so far has not been able to fulfill the expectations and hopes he awoke. This is not a reproach, but **the result of a deeply fragmented society, politically and religiously, in the "Divided States of the World."**



Harry Belafonte says:

“The people who deny us civil rights are the very same people who reject world peace. But we will not achieve anything without peace. We have to understand that peace is not some far away goal, it already begins with the path toward peace.”





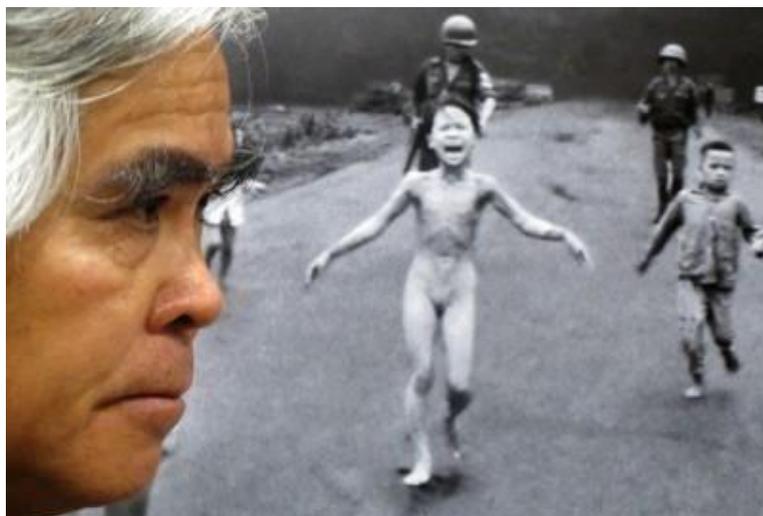
Vietnam, June 8, 1972 - please, please, please - never again war!!!

Nick Út was asked:

"Did you consider whether it was right to publish this photo?"

Nick Út answers even today:

*"Yes, the decision was right because
this photo has become an antiwar photo against the Vietnam war!"*



This picture was seen all over the world. In the middle of the photo we see Phan Thị Kim Phúc, the “Napalm girl”. The image became a symbol of the horrors of war. On 11 February 2019, Phan Thị Kim Phúc was awarded the Dresden Peace Prize. The 55 year-old UN peace ambassador received the prize because, as a victim, she had refused to hate and had worked worldwide for reconciliation and forgiveness.

Phan Thị Kim Phúc said:

“When I am alone, I avoid the picture. But I can use it to work for peace. That is my vision. I am very thankful to be still alive, to have learned from my experience and have been able to find a way to handle injuries, pain and the agony differently. And I decided to stop being a victim of war. I am a mother, grandmother and survivor who works for peace. My own life is devoted to hope, love and forgiveness. My vision is to help so that the world becomes a better place in which to live. I appeal to people to oppose prejudice, hate and bitterness. Anyone can work for peace and contribute to a better society. If a little girl can learn love, hope and the ability to forgive after such an experience, then anyone can.

We cannot change the past, but with love we can heal the future.”



The encomium to Phan Thị Kim Phúc was given by US war photographer James Nachtwey, who was himself awarded the Dresden Peace Prize in 2012. James Nachtwey said about Kim Phúc: *“If her life had become a living symbol of war, she made the conscious decision to transform it into a living symbol of peace.”*

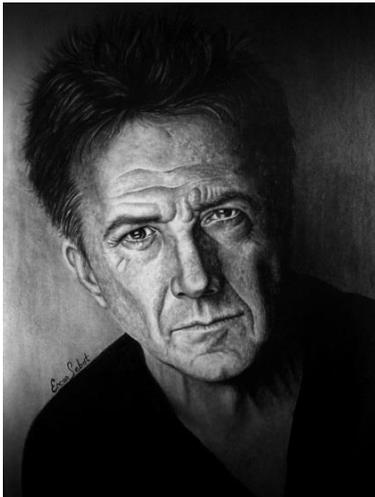
Dustin Hoffman says:

“The Vietnam War began with a lie. The trigger was the alleged attack of the North Vietnamese on one of our war ships stationed in the Gulf of Tonkin. But there was no such attack, it was a lie, a propaganda fabrication, to begin the horrible war.

History sometimes repeats itself.”

Albert Gore Sr. said:

“The country was pulled into a conflict under false pretenses which cost thousands of lives and massively damaged the moral position of our country in the world.”



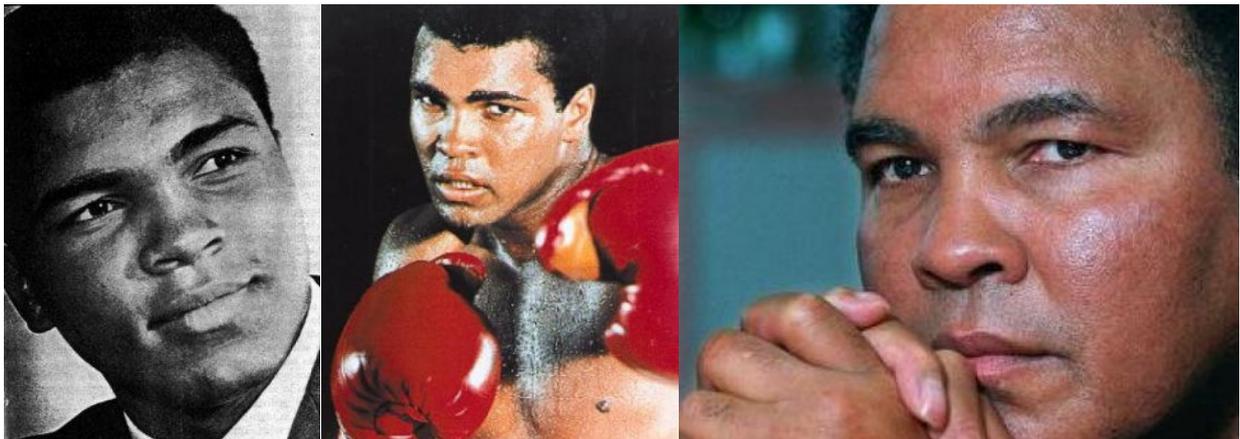
The liar!

More than 5.5 million people died in the Vietnam War, 58,220 of them U.S. citizens. The documents released by the U.S. intelligence service NSA in November 2005, confirmed once more that the North Vietnamese attack reported to U.S. President Johnson was suggested by a one-sided selection of radio signals, hence deliberately faked.

Muhammad Ali, who died in June 2016, outraged white America in 1967: At the U.S. Armed Forces Recruiting Office in Houston, Texas, he refused to do his military service. Publicly rejecting the Vietnam War, he accepted being stripped of his world title as well as the revocation of his boxing license and five years in prison for his refusal to be drafted.

Muhammad Ali said:

"Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home to drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam, while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No, I'm not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters over darker people the world over!"



Three years later the Supreme Court overturned the conviction and declared the withdrawal of his boxing license unlawful. Muhammad Ali returned to the ring – the most famous comeback in sports history. In 1998, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed the freedom fighter "U.N. Peace Messenger" .

Manuel Fontaine said in late December 2017:

“Children are increasingly being used as targets in war zones around the world. The parties to the conflict clearly ignore the international law that aims to protect the most vulnerable. In conflicts throughout the world, children have been turned into targets at the front, are used as human shields, killed, mutilated and forced to fight. Rape, forced marriage, abduction and enslavement are tactics used in conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Nigeria, South Sudan and Myanmar. Many millions of children are also indirectly paying the price, suffering from malnutrition, disease and trauma. Children are exposed to attacks and brutal force in their homes, schools and playgrounds. These attacks continue year after year. We must not be deaf to this.

Such brutality must not become the new normal.”



Islac Liebgod und Rachel Khunes sagen:

If demagogues, war criminals and warmongers succeed in seducing millions of people, abusing them and plunging them into misery, shouldn't we *jointly* succeed all the more in filling billions of people with enthusiasm for peace, freedom and justice?



9th template:

For the creation of a better world without egoistical autocrats and extremist populists, without greed, without racism, without nuclear weapons and without war, without unchecked climate change and without misuse of religion

World Press Photos 2020 – 2011 – Ohne Worte!



Damn it! – Why do we let that happen? There follows a non-exhaustive selection of politicians who share in the responsibility for this and must be thrown out!



Donald Trump



Viktor Orbán



Baschar al-Assad



Jair Bolsonaro



Vladimir Putin



Alexander Lukaschenko



Kim Jong-un



Jarosław Kaczyński



Boris Johnson



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

And we should throw down the gauntlet to egotistical autocrats and extremist populists
and put them on the run. Because they are



Dangerous



poisonous



corrosive



environmental hazard



explosive



and contaminated

Their best-before dates lie between one or two terms of office and a lifetime. I am often asked why I stand up for **democracy**. My answer is always the same: I do not want to live in a country where I am controlled and monitored 24/7. I do not want to live in a country where the government knows everything about me and evaluates me. I do not want to be rated against an autocratic scale and then rewarded or punished according to it. I want to live in a country where I have freedom of movement and can let my imagination run wild. I want to be at home in a country that helps the weakest and where freedom of the press and freedom of opinion are sacrosanct. I will feel at home on an Earth where a living, vivid and stable democracy exists. **And I want to live in a world where democracy is so powerful that it can overwhelm the egotistical autocrats and extremist populists.**

A recommendation for those who want to live in freedom!!!

GEH WÄHLEN! 

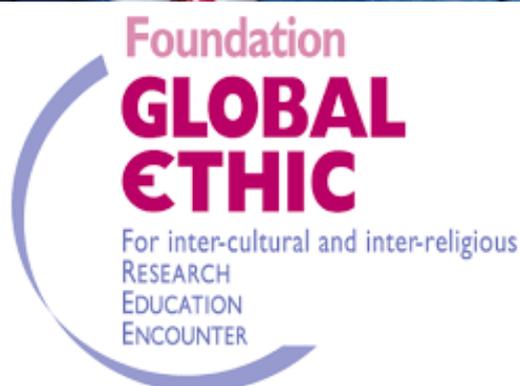
["VOTE!"]

DEINE 
DEMOKRATIE

["IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY"]

Hans Küng, the founder and President (1995 – 2013) of the Global Ethic Foundation says:

“Numberless women and men of all regions and religions strive to lead lives not determined by egoism but by commitment to their fellow humans and to the world around them. Nevertheless, all over the world we find endless lies, and deceit, swindling and hypocrisy, ideology and demagoguery. This includes politicians and business people who use lies as a means to success In the great ancient religious and ethical traditions of humankind we find the directive: You shall not lie! Or in positive terms: Speak and act truthfully! Let us reflect anew on the consequences of this ancient directive: No woman or man, no institution, no state or church or religious community has the right to speak lies to other humans. This is especially true for the leaders of countries, politicians, and political parties, to whom we entrust our own freedoms. When they lie to the faces of their people, when they manipulate the truth, or when they are guilty of venality or ruthlessness in domestic or foreign affairs, they forsake their credibility and deserve to lose their offices and their voters. Conversely, public opinion should support those politicians who dare to speak the truth to the people at all times.”



George Clooney says:

We need to remove from office leaders that stoke hatred and violence.

Bruce Springsteen said:

“Blind faith in your leaders or in anything will get you killed.”



It is clear from the context who George Clooney would like to remove from office. And the quotation from Bruce Springsteen should be taken to heart by anyone who still blindly trusts and wants to re-elect Donald Trump. He is a man who has no understanding of the words compassion and empathy – **not ever and not anywhere.**

From 1947 onwards, Benjamin Ferencz was Chief Prosecutor at the *Einsatzgruppen* trial of Nazi war criminals and mass murderers in Nuremberg. In his opening statement he said:

“Vengeance is not our goal (...) We ask this court to affirm by international penal action, man’s right to live in peace and dignity, regardless of his race or creed.”

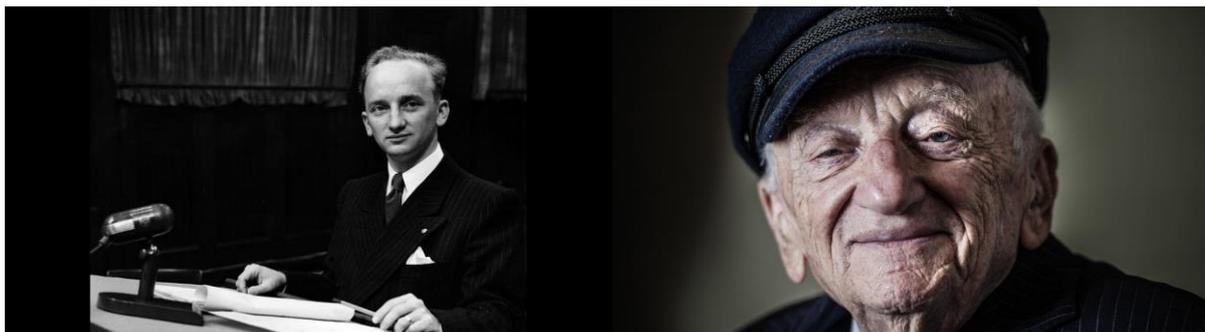
Benjamin Ferencz built the foundations for the establishment, in 1998, of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** which tries crimes against humanity.

On 11 May 2020, Benjamin Ferencz said:

“It is my deepest conviction that mankind must stop going to war. Sadly we have been glorifying war for centuries. All of the Nuremberg Einsatzgruppen lads (which is what I call them) were decent people in normal life – the sort you find in every country. There has never been a war without war crimes. I think it is appalling that the USA still doesn’t have a member of the ICC. Ultimately, even in America, we need to understand that we all live on the same planet. We are all one family. And it is not difficult to share out this planet’s resources so that we can all live in peace and dignity. But this will only happen if we stop spending billions every day on arms. If we were to spend all the money that we spend on arms and use it to look after the old, the sick and the weak, then we would stop altogether creating the sort of despair that leads to what we call terrorism. Don’t misunderstand me. I am a proud American patriot. But I am also a proud citizen of the world. I would love to hear the President stop ending his speeches with just “God bless America”, and for him to add the words “and the rest of the world”.

Now 100 years old, international lawyer Benjamin Ferencz said on 11 March 2020:

“So many countries need a change of government. Those which don’t have a humanist world view need to be voted out of office.”



Mahatma Gandhi said:

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won.

There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always."

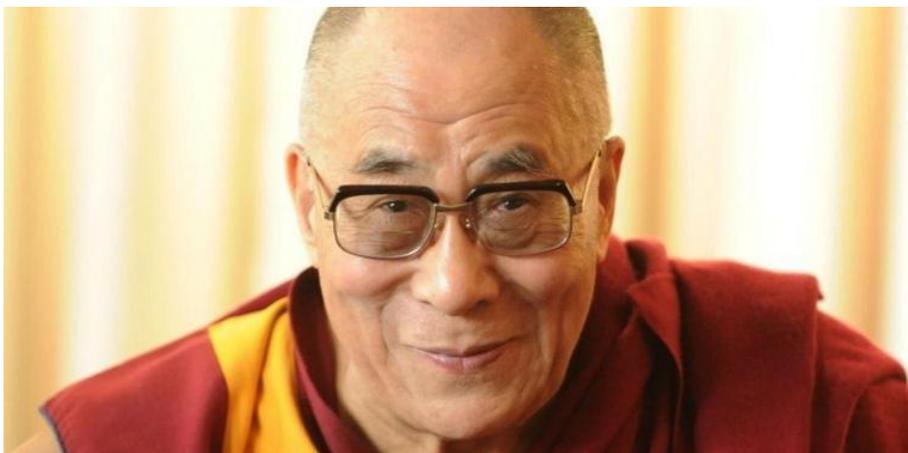


The Dalai Lama says:

"We all share this little planet Earth and must learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. This is not just a dream, but a necessity. Without the basic human values of love and kindness, we cannot survive. Peace will not be created by God; that's up to us human beings.

What we really need today is the feeling of unity of all seven billion people. In the end human resoluteness and truth will be victorious over violence and repression.

In the end peace, reason and freedom will get the upper hand."



10th template:

**Strengthening of the United Nations and creation of a new
world order which will allow us to better avoid
or overcome future crises**

Imagine we were facing a global threat from outside our world, such as we know from science fiction films. Then the peoples and religions of the world and their leaders would stand together to protect and defend our Earth.



If we carry on as we are doing now, *sooner or later* climate change will become a global threat to everyone – not from the outside, but one we have created ourselves. With this knowledge, we must push for a binding agreement on global measures to protect the climate and prevent wars fought over drinking water and food. The second part of that sentence is crucially important here.

Scientists have pushed the minute-hand of the "Doomsday Clock": Closer than ever: It is 100 seconds to midnight – **without consideration of the corona pandemic.**



WASHINGTON, D.C. – January 23, 2020

IT IS NOW 100 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

The iconic Doomsday Clock symbolizing the gravest perils facing humankind is now closer to midnight than at any point since its creation in 1947. To underscore the need for action, the time on the Doomsday Clock is now being expressed in seconds, rather than minutes: Today, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board in consultation with the Bulletin's Board of Sponsors, which includes 13 Nobel Laureates, moved the Doomsday Clock from two minutes to midnight to 100 seconds to midnight.

As the statement issued today by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists explains: "Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers—nuclear war and climate change—that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society's ability to respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the international political infrastructure for managing them to erode."

The Doomsday Clock has now moved closer to midnight in three of the last four years. While the Doomsday Clock did not move in 2019, its minute hand was set forward in 2018 by 30 seconds, to two minutes before midnight. The Clock was adjusted in 2017 to two and a half minutes to midnight from its previous setting of three minutes to midnight.

Rachel Bronson, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: **"It is 100 seconds to midnight. We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds – not hours, or even minutes. It is the closest to Doomsday we have ever been in the history of the Doomsday Clock. We now face a true emergency – an absolutely unacceptable state of world affairs that has eliminated any margin for error or further delay."**

Former California Governor Jerry Brown, executive chair, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: **"Dangerous rivalry and hostility among the superpowers increases the likelihood of nuclear blunder. Climate change just compounds the crisis. If there's ever a time to wake up, it's now."**

For the first time, experts from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists were joined in making the Doomsday Clock change by members of The Elders. Founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007, The Elders are independent global leaders working together for peace and human rights.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, deputy chair, The Elders; and former South Korean Foreign Minister, said: **“We share a common concern over the failure of the multilateral system to address the existential threats we face. From the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and the Iran Nuclear Deal, to deadlock at nuclear disarmament talks and division at the UN Security Council – our mechanisms for collaboration are being undermined when we need them most.”**

Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, chair, The Elders, and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said: **“We ask world leaders to join us in 2020 as we work to pull humanity back from the brink. The Doomsday Clock now stands at 100 seconds to midnight, the most dangerous situation that humanity has ever faced. Now is the time to come together – to unite and to act.”**

The Doomsday Clock statement highlights three worsening factors:

- **Nuclear weapons.** “In the nuclear realm, national leaders have ended or undermined several major arms control treaties and negotiations during the last year, creating an environment conducive to a renewed nuclear arms race, to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to lowered barriers to nuclear war. Political conflicts regarding nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea remain unresolved and are, if anything, worsening. US-Russia cooperation on arms control and disarmament is all but nonexistent.”
- **Climate change.** “Public awareness of the climate crisis grew over the course of 2019, largely because of mass protests by young people around the world. Just the same, governmental action on climate change still falls far short of meeting the challenge at hand. At UN climate meetings last year, national delegates made fine speeches but put forward few concrete plans to further limit the carbon dioxide emissions that are disrupting Earth’s climate. This limited political response came during a year when the

effects of manmade climate change were manifested by one of the warmest years on record, extensive wildfires, and quicker-than-expected melting of glacial ice.”

- **Cyber-based disinformation.** “Continued corruption of the information ecosphere on which democracy and public decision making depend has heightened the nuclear and climate threats. In the last year, many governments used cyber-enabled disinformation campaigns to sow distrust in institutions and among nations, undermining domestic and international efforts to foster peace and protect the planet.”

At the same time, the Doomsday Clock statement also identifies possible action steps to turn back the hands of the Clock.

- US and Russian leaders can return to the negotiating table to: reinstate the INF Treaty or take other action to restrain an unnecessary arms race in medium-range missiles; extend the limits of New START beyond 2021; seek further reductions in nuclear arms; discuss a lowering of the alert status of the nuclear arsenals of both countries; limit nuclear modernization programs that threaten to create a new nuclear arms race; and start talks on cyber warfare, missile defenses, the militarization of space, hypersonic technology, and the elimination of battlefield nuclear weapons.
- The countries of the world should publicly rededicate themselves to the temperature goal of the Paris climate agreement, which is restricting warming “well below” 2 degrees Celsius higher than the preindustrial level. That goal is consistent with consensus views on climate science, and, notwithstanding the inadequate climate action to date, it may well remain within reach if major changes in the worldwide energy system and land use are undertaken promptly. If that goal is to be attained, industrialized countries will need to curb emissions rapidly, going beyond their initial, inadequate pledges and supporting developing countries so they can leapfrog the entrenched, fossil fuel-intensive patterns previously pursued by industrialized countries.

- The United States and other signatories of the Iran nuclear deal can work together to restrain nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Iran is poised to violate key thresholds of the deal.
- The international community should begin multilateral discussions aimed at establishing norms of behavior, both domestic and international, that discourage and penalize the misuse of science. Science provides the world's searchlight in times of fog and confusion. Furthermore, focused attention is needed to prevent information technology from undermining public trust in political institutions, in the media, and in the existence of objective reality itself. Cyber-enabled information warfare is a threat to the common good. Deception campaigns—and leaders intent on blurring the line between fact and politically motivated fantasy—are a profound threat to effective democracies, reducing their ability to address nuclear weapons, climate change, and other existential dangers.

Among these scientists, you won't find any nutty prophets of doom or namby-pamby angels of peace, but serious, world-renowned experts including no fewer than **17 Nobel laureates**.

From my point of view most important: **Climate change, which is advancing unchecked.**



Our greenhouse, too, must be thrown into reverse gear!

If Fracking-Trump and Pipeline-Putin will accelerate the climate change furthermore in the forward gear, then it will be only a matter of time before the "**Doomsday Clock**" strikes **twelve!!!**

All in all, the experts see:

“An extraordinary and undeniable threat to the survival of mankind.”



Amnesty International demands:

*"The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council must waive their veto
in cases of genocide and similar severe crimes.*

The Security Council has failed in Syria, Iraq, Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.

*By relinquishing the power of veto, the UN Security Council would obtain
more latitude to protect civilians in armed conflicts."*



Coming to terms with the past and envisaging the future are inseparably connected with each other. From our history we can learn what we can gain or should avoid in the future. When looking into the mirror, each of us should see the following image:



Then we "*know*" that there must be no discrimination, neither against nor in favor of anyone, because of their skin color, faith, gender, origin, disability or political views. No one must be persecuted, much less killed – whether in smaller or in larger wars.

Wars still break out because people, due to arbitrary definitions and delusions – whether of a religious, nationalist or racist nature – fancy themselves to be superior to others whom they declare to be "the enemy" or "inferior." In the future we will also have wars for access to drinking water and food, all the way to our individual struggle for survival, **if we carry on obliviously!**

Hans-Dietrich Genscher said:

"The world of the 21st century will only be able to preserve its stability if it is determined by the force of law and not the law of force."

"The world is a survival community."



We should view our planet as what it really is: A tiny little, but beautiful speck of dust in an incredibly large universe, on which it is worthwhile living and whose inhabitants are fighting for survival.



Mark Knopfler sings in *Brothers in Arms*:



*There's so many different worlds
So many different suns
And we have just one world
But we live in different ones*

Sigourney Weaver says:

"Honestly now, what can our species do really well?

We are slow, clumsy, vulnerable.

Basically, we are little animals which can die out

or be eaten by stronger animals any time."



Oskar says:

"Actually, we are all just stupid little pests

circling around the sun on a small, blue sphere, obstinately and ignorantly."



Oskar means us – *Homo sapiens!*

With this insight, our consciousness, our virtues and our abilities, and bringing to bear

- knowledge, imagination, creativity and curiosity
- reason, vision and wisdom
- openness, tolerance and solidarity as well as
- anger, compassion, benevolence and respect

we should be able to understand and internalize the central message, "For Love, Forgiveness, Sharing, Peace and Freedom" and live by it.

The ten templates of this book could become the basis for a new "Constitution of the United Peoples of the World":

For a life on Earth in the "United Peoples of the World

For love, forgiveness, sharing, peace and freedom

For one creed

For a fundamental right to education

For renewable energy

Against fossil energy

Against hunger and thirst

Against the abuse of religions

Against greed

Against war



Living in Harmony

Heraclitus: The most beautiful harmony arises from the unification of opposites.

If we jointly succeed in seeing the positive messages as opportunities and seizing them, we can eliminate all that is bad and evil on earth.

A new world government should be composed of representatives elected by the peoples of the world, who "serve" as role models in a global sense. At the end of their term of office, they should propose their successors.

The constitution and the decision-making power of the "United Peoples of the World" should combine the positive elements of the governmental systems of countries/organizations such as the following, but excluding their weaknesses:

- China and Russia with their ability to make decisions quickly, but with inadequate democratic rights of co-determination.
- USA, France and UK with fundamentally strong presidential systems, but paralyzing institutions (e.g. USA - Congress and House of Representatives mutually block each other due to alternating and polarizing majorities).
- The European Union as united states: formerly often adversaries – today 28 nations peacefully united with common democratic institutions and a single currency. What is still missing are unified and stable humanitarian, social and free-market structures and rules.
- Germany with historically conditioned division of powers, but too many regional elections in 16 *Länder*, which can block or prevent really important decisions due to shifting majorities in the *Bundesrat* [representative body of the federal states, the *Länder*], because these decisions need to be agreed upon.
- The United Nations: "*The U.N. is the conscience of the world,*" Kofi Annan, former Secretary General, once said. The U.N. was founded in 1945 with the aim of "preserving humanity from the scourge of war," as it says in the Charter. A noble aspiration upon which the organization has often run aground. The dream of peace is as burning an issue today as it was when the U.N. was founded just after World War II. While maintaining its positive values, the U.N. should be replaced by a government of the "United Peoples of the World" which is more assertive and more efficient at making decisions.

When a government of the "United Peoples of the World" is elected, it should be able to rigorously and resolutely govern in order to achieve the pinpointed goals - supported by a commission of experts on which equal representation is provided. That can prevent shabby political compromises from watering down factually correct decisions. If the voters do not agree, an unsuccessful world government under the auspices of the "United Peoples of the World" will be democratically voted out of office at the next election.



Summary and Outlook

It is thanks to the location of planet Earth in our solar system that millions of species were able to develop over billions of years in the water and on land. During this time, unimaginable for us human beings, life has continuously been changing through the process of evolution and other influences and it has **reinvented** itself numerous times.

Animals, plants and human beings which adapted to their environment in an optimal way had the best chances for survival on this long journey – that is, until 70,000 years ago, when *Homo sapiens* underwent a cognitive change and consequently fell into the agricultural trap around 12,000 years ago. **We are still shackled by this today.**

In this primer, we have compressed the age of our Earth from 4.6 billion years into one calendar year in order to better understand the chronological progression and milestones. Based on a calendar year, *Homo sapiens* first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve just after 11 p.m. Within this – geologically speaking – very short time of about an hour, *Homo sapiens* developed into a creature of contradictions. On the one hand, we see him love, forgive and share as well as live, learn and pray in peace and freedom. On the other hand, we see boundless suffering – as a result of wars, pillage, greed, hunger and thirst and abuse of religion – as well as an irresponsible waste of resources. *Homo sapiens* has subdued the Earth, and in a way that not only threatens the diversity of species, but severely threatens the survival of his own species.

The proven threat to life as we know it on our planet does not come from the outside, from aliens, asteroids or comets, but from the irrational behavior of *Homo sapiens*. For all we know, it is three minutes to twelve on the Doomsday Clock. It is time for a collective effort by all caring people to show common sense and act. **This is a wakeup call, a guide and an invitation to join in. A thunderbolt must shake the earth, forcing us to overcome our indifference and making hell on earth freeze over!**

The ten messages of this primer are directed at everyone and in particular at decision-makers, at those responsible in this world and their summits. We have demonstrated the need for action in the various areas in order to carry out these messages. At the same time, the living persons cited in this reader can lead the way **together** before the many ambassadors and mediators proposed here and all who mean well close ranks. Each of us is small and cannot accomplish very much. **Together** we can achieve much more **in the large scheme of things** – and that will work best **on the principle of swarm intelligence**.

We have learned from Stefano Mancuso that plants, although they don't have organs, can develop strategies to ensure their survival by using a form of swarm intelligence. We also know about the ability to survive through swarm intelligence in the animal kingdom, e.g. in the ant colony and in schools of fish.



Swarm intelligence is a concept that is becoming increasingly important in science. The principle of swarm intelligence is spread throughout the universe. It is true for planets, solar systems, galaxies, galaxy clouds and the entire visible and invisible cosmos. Even the nerve cells in our brains follow the principle of swarm intelligence, amazingly enhancing our faculties of perception and of acting. The positive force from above is in each of us. We can reinforce this force by sharpening our consciousness, individually and in our spheres of activity. People who want to use their lives to make the world a little bit better, can join together and thus form a swarm. That way, something bigger and better emerges from the interplay between single individuals: ***"Homo progressivus – The energetic rebellion."***

The countless voices crying for peace, freedom and justice demonstrate the necessity of new values and new rules. They challenge us to speak out against outmoded, parochial and self-serving behavior. For us, they are a powerful driving force and a great incentive for the future, which begins today! The best way into the future, according to a well-known motto of futurologists, is to *invent* it. We have done our best in this primer.

What we need is an epic change. To bring it about, millions of people must probably swarm together and cooperate to win billions of people over to peace, freedom and justice. We hear many people say that the concept of justice, as we understand it, is an illusion because the world of finance, of industry and commerce, of politics and religion are far too intertwined, with criminal and corrupt excrescences deeply infesting the pores of society.

With this in mind, we must realize that we human beings have invented and shaped this world with its hierarchies, thus creating discrimination, partitions and other injustices. Let us throw unnecessary bureaucracy and in-the-box thinking overboard. We can and we must reinvent ourselves. Free association and holistic thinking, based on ethical principles, will help us. **Without those principles, reflecting on the meaning of our life would be worthless. We would sink ever deeper into a chaos of insecurity and indifference!**

The time is ripe for a new world order that is appropriate to our time – politically, economically, socially and in religious respect – under the umbrella of the "United Peoples of the World."

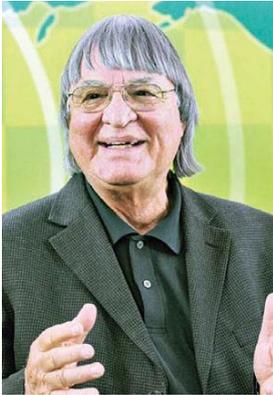


Jim Dator says:

"Any useful statement about the future should at first seem ridiculous.

True innovation lurks in the unknown, not in trendy technologies

that merely take old business models apart."



We humans must reinvent ourselves with a new business model.

**This model is called *Homo progressivus* – who pays
with the "Globe" and protects it!**

If we are convinced of something, we should not allow ourselves to be held back or dissuaded from it. We must keep going to the end. We will reach our goal if we set out on this path together and move ahead in a powerful but non-violent swarm.

Giacomo Girolamo Casanova said:

"He who has resolved to do something and thinks of nothing else,

will overcome all obstacles."



Pope Francis says:

"We have never treated and damaged our common house so badly as in the two centuries past. Were someone to consider the inhabitants of the earth from the outside, he would be amazed at such behavior, which sometimes appears suicidal. The Earth seems to be transforming itself into an 'immense garbage dump'. The rhythm of consumption, the waste and the change of the environment has so far surpassed the capacity of the planet that the current life style can only end in catastrophe. The subjugation of politics to technology and the financial system demonstrates the failure of the world summits on environmental issues. But climate change is one of the most important current challenges to mankind. Rapid growth in the rich countries is achieved at the expense of the poor countries. This often wildly rampant growth must be slowed down and reorganized."



Franz-Josef Radermacher says:

"If we are to establish a global eco-social market economy, environmental and resource protection must be implemented worldwide: for all value-creation processes in the areas of work, recreation and vacation, for all global common resources, for the oceans as well as for the Arctic and Antarctic, for the great rivers and water reservoirs, for energy, climate, for the agricultural sector, the dealing with rare metals etc. Sustainable handling of scarce resources must succeed, in conjunction with rigorous environmental protection worldwide. We must guard the earth like a treasure. Nature has intrinsic rights above and beyond its utility to human beings. The world must be passed on to the next generation intact, at least in the condition it was in when the current generation took over. Rigorous environmental and resource protection has priority, along with social balance and cultural interaction. Growth comes after that, but not growth on the basis of 'plundering', but on the basis of intelligence and peaceful cooperation.

For all of that we need a better regulatory policy with global perspective, with a global domestic policy in which tasks are efficiently assigned to the correct level of organization (global, continental, national, regional, municipal).

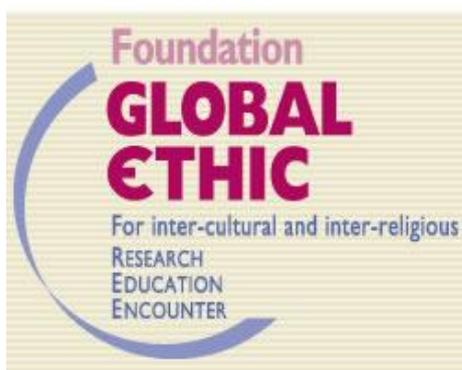
We need a sound social contract for this globe."



Hans Küng and the Global Ethic Foundation say:

“Our world is experiencing a fundamental crisis: A crisis in global economy, global ecology, and global politics. The lack of a grand vision, the tangle of unresolved problems, political paralysis, mediocre political leadership with little insight or foresight, and in general too little sense for the commonweal are seen everywhere: Too many old answers to new challenges. Hundreds of millions of human beings on our planet increasingly suffer from unemployment, poverty, hunger, and the destruction of their families. Hope for a lasting peace among nations slips away from us. There are tensions between the sexes and generations. Children die, kill, and are killed. More and more countries are shaken by corruption in politics and business. It is increasingly difficult to live together peacefully in our cities because of social, racial, and ethnic conflicts, the abuse of drugs, organized crime, and even anarchy. Even neighbors often live in fear of one another. Our planet continues to be ruthlessly plundered. A collapse of the ecosystem threatens us. Time and again we see leaders and members of religions incite aggression, fanaticism, hate, and xenophobia – even inspire and legitimize violent and bloody conflicts. Religion often is misused for purely power-political goals, including war. We are filled with disgust. We condemn these blights and declare that they need not be. An ethic already exists within the religious teachings of the world which can counter the global distress. Of course this ethic provides no direct solution for all the immense problems of the world, but it does supply the moral foundation for a better individual and global order: A vision which can lead women and men away from despair, and society away from chaos. We are persons who have committed ourselves to the precepts and practices of the world’s religions. We confirm that there is already a consensus among the religions which can be the basis for a global ethic – a minimal fundamental consensus concerning binding values, irrevocable standards, and fundamental moral attitudes. There is no survival for humanity without global peace! Young people must learn at home and in school that violence may not be a means of settling differences with others. Only thus can a culture of non-violence be created. We must value a sense of moderation and modesty instead of an unquenchable greed for money, prestige, and consumption. In greed humans lose their ‘souls’, their freedom, their composure, their inner peace, and thus that which makes them human. When politicians lie in the faces of their people, when they manipulate the truth, or when they are guilty of venality or ruthlessness in domestic or foreign affairs, they forsake their credibility and deserve to lose their offices and their voters. Conversely, public opinion should support those politicians who dare to speak the truth to the people at all times. When representatives of religion stir up prejudice, hatred, and

enmity towards those of different belief, or even incite or legitimize religious wars, they deserve the condemnation of humankind and the loss of their adherents. We all have a responsibility for a better global order. So we appeal to all the inhabitants of this planet. Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed. We pledge to work for such transformation in individual and collective consciousness, for the awakening of our spiritual powers through reflection, meditation, prayer, or positive thinking, for a conversion of the heart. Together we can move mountains! Without a willingness to take risks and a readiness to sacrifice there can be no fundamental change in our situation! Therefore we commit ourselves to a common global ethic, to better mutual understanding, as well as to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and Earth-friendly ways of life. We invite all men and women, whether religious or not, to do the same!"



Freely adapted from Bill Pullman in the film *INDEPENDENCE DAY: Mankind – from this day on this word shall hold new meaning for us. We can no longer allow petty conflicts to sap our strength. Our common interest connects us. It is time to fight for our freedom. Against tyranny, persecution and repression and for the continuation of the human race. If we pool our positive strengths and our resources, we will survive and celebrate our INDEPENDENCE DAY together across the world.*



In the movie *The Plan*, John Slattery, the heavenly "administrator," tells presidential candidate Matt Damon:

"Most people take the path we intend for them. Too fearful to explore a different one. But now and then there are people like you. Who overcome all obstacles we put in their way. People who recognize that free will is a gift you can't use unless you fight for it. I believe that is the true plan of the chairman. That someday we will no longer write the plan – you will."



**One advance and the desired
positive effects**

The pure egoism will break our neck, if we do not row against it and together

In China, Xi Jinping will run the communist system until the end of his life (and this is entirely legal). The authoritarian leader keeps the people submissive with either carrot or stick, depending on his whim. The surveillance state that George Orwell described back in 1948 was child's play in comparison. And Hong Kong is being brought to heel and illegally assimilated with a new security law. China is demonstrating its power and economic might to the outside world and attempting to achieve global dominance. Under political influence, the vast majority of the Chinese people labour under the belief that the Chinese surveillance state is massively superior to democracy. The new Chinese Silk Road pursues the goal (essentially as a one-way street) of making the states involved dependent with spurious public funding and investment aid from the red giant.

The relationship with China is strained. The relationship with the USA is facing its worst crisis since the Second World War. An aimless and capricious despot sits in the White House and with childish features truculently and obstinately parades his ineptitude before the eyes of the world.

.....
"America first", "China first", "India first", "Russia first", ... It's enough to make you tear your hair out when you see how the globalised and increasingly digitised world is ruled by egoistical and nationalist autocrats. And Europe lurches and stumbles with eyes wide open into an ever filthier bog which threatens to drown both the European Union and the forces of democracy.

Within this seething turmoil, the major powers (and those that believe themselves to be) are conducting various proxy wars, especially in Africa, which shatter the hopes on this oppressed continent. And the fuses are burning already in the Near and Middle East.

We are also exposed to an existential threat by unchecked climate change and the 6th species extinction on Earth. These two dangers are like "Siamese twins" that we must handle and resolve together.

And then there is the coronavirus – SARS-CoV-2 – which is releasing the infectious COVID-19 disease around the world. The coronavirus pandemic is ruthlessly and relentlessly holding the entire world captive in the health, financial and economic respects. But we should not exaggerate our fears. Suitable drugs and vaccines will certainly be available by the 1st half of 2021, initially for the at-risk groups and ultimately for us all. Until then we need to stay strong and keep following the hand-washing and distancing rules.

It is not really important where the coronavirus originated or started, we need to accept it, develop immunity to it, beat it with drugs and vaccines and ultimately understand that it is both a curse and a blessing. We should regard it as a wake-up call sent to and directed at all of humanity. It can send a jolt through the whole world that will shake us out of our persistent stupor.

Then we have what will certainly be our last big opportunity to closely examine ourselves in all aspects of our lives, and to realign our future wherever it is necessary and appears in order. We need to learn from the mistakes of our past, and derive lessons from them.

But once we have overcome the coronavirus pandemic, if we continue in the same way as before and leave the field to the autocrats, the barracudas and financial wizards, the oil, coal and gas dinosaurs, then there really is no help for us. Basically there is only one way left. We must turn away from naked, rapacious capitalism, turn away from fossil fuels, reinforce democracy and encourage species conservation. And we must do this worldwide. The world must focus on promoting the common good and turn its back on egoism and self-serving interests. So together we will be able to avert the catastrophic effects of unchecked climate change and help the species living with us. Because if the species still living with us die out, then ultimately we will die too.

Billions of unsettled people throughout the world are waiting for encouragement to put the rapacious, nationalist, extremist and far right populists and autocrats in their places – both during and after the coronavirus pandemic.

The people are thirsting for hope and confidence. They are wait for good news, and even more

so for reliable news. They want to be swept up in this as they are longing for direction and a safe anchorage. They are yearning for politicians and role models who are courageous, have a sense of responsibility, are in touch with the people and caring. We are living in a world that has gone politically and economically off the rails. Security and justice have fallen by the wayside, particularly for the generation that follows us.

And we need a dependable and strong Germany that will work together with France to be a force for stability within the EU. We must dare to allow Europe to be a role model for a democratically-governed world and a future worth living, where people live and are treated in accordance with ethical principles.

The handling of the coronavirus crisis shows us what is possible and what is necessary when the dangers and risks are right outside the door. Politics, economics and society are in a boat together and depend on one another. So far, our German government has helped creatively, rapidly and non-bureaucratically, and has established rules that we should follow. And society now – for the most part – is being reasonable in terms of collaborative action, personal sacrifice and solidarity. The cooperation in Germany so far gives hope that we will emerge from this crisis stronger than before. If trust, loyalty, authenticity, confidence, compassion, empathy, altruism, consolation, gratitude and humility – even before nature – give our society wings, then anything is possible. The key to overcoming this global crisis is in the hands and heads of the scientists, so that they develop effective vaccines and drugs that can be used successfully as quickly as possible.

During the coronavirus crisis, politics and society have been waiting for recommendations, advice and results from science. And that's a good thing! But why doesn't it work in the same way with the climate crisis. In that case, the scientists are constantly ignored – by the current US President, the Brazilian President and the "experts" from the AfD party in Germany. If, as we all hope, the coronavirus crisis soon abates, then we will urgently need solutions for the energy revolution and to alleviate the climate crisis.

During the coronavirus crisis, young and healthy people have been helping the sick and old. Conversely, it is essential for the climate crisis for older people to stand in front, beside and

behind the young, develop a backbone and call for worldwide solidarity. Between the coronavirus and climate crises, the concept of solidarity is assuming prime importance – in both directions. It is quite simply a matter of taking responsibility for humanity. Synonyms for “solidarity” include decency, honesty, fair play, cohesiveness, sense of community, common good and justice. There are many more.

One advance and the desired positive effects

Unfortunately, the former U.S. President and Nobel Peace laureate Barack Obama came too late and so far has not been able to fulfill the expectations and hopes he awoke. This is not a reproach, but the result of a deeply fragmented society, politically and religiously, in the **"Divided States of the USA and the World."**

The Nobel Peace laureate for Barack Obama was an **advance**. There must be more from him. **Especially in the strengthening and reorganization of the United Nations. But he needs much support for this mammoth task.**

Who could help? Which personalities could we give the role of managing this job, which is certainly the hardest one in the world at this time? In my opinion, there are no better candidates than **Barack Obama and Angela Merkel** with the support of **Michele Obama, George & Amal Clooney and Bruce Springsteen** (together with a huge number of Artists). These six potential savours appear very different, but have lots in common, especially where it counts. All are empathetic and sympathetic. All have survived and mastered crises. They are respected and assertive. People trust them. They are influential, experienced, persistent and lacking in vanity. And, when it comes down to it, they are all active patrons who have the common aim of achieving solutions. Directness, singlemindedness, fortitude, honesty, the ability and strength to shape and lead, combined with an incisive mind, strength of will and sense of reality – it is certainly unique to find all these characteristics united in a single person.

There was once a Fisher of Men who could walk on water,



and he could change water into wine.



For Barack & Michele Obama, Angela Merkel, as well as George & Amal Clooney and Bruce Springsteen it will certainly be enough if they can fish a very large number of men to banish Donald Trump and his cronies to the desert. The water-walker returned stronger than ever after 40 days in the desert. Trump and his cronies should desiccate their wicked spirits in the desert. They might then return chastened and assume their new place – outside politics and economics. Just as Saul became Paul on the road to Damascus, they could go on living in the future and do good. Otherwise they can stay put and wither in the desert.



Lend A Helping Hand!



Lend A Helping Hand!



After Joe Biden's Presidency, the dream team would be as follows:
George Clooney as the next US President, with Amal as his First Lady!
And Michele Obama as his Vice President. It is also conceivable that Clooney
and Obama could swap roles, since Michele has already spent 8 years in the White House.
The new UN Secretary-Generals – a tandem team of Angela Merkel and Barack Obama, who
could also bring their experience to aid the new US government.





Angela Merkel, with Amal and George Clooney in the German Federal Chancellery

It's good that the three already know one another. That would certainly be an intense discussion, not just with respect to overcoming the misery on Earth and the basically powerless United Nations in its previous incarnation. Hopefully they would also discuss strategies that could be applied to make improvements, and the roles that each of them could play on the political stage.

Time Magazine wrote in December 2015:

"Germany has spent the past 70 years testing antidotes to its toxically nationalist, militarist, genocidal past. Merkel brandished a different set of values – humanity, generosity, tolerance – to demonstrate how Germany's great strength could be used to save, rather than destroy."

The U.S. news magazine selected German chancellor Angela Merkel as "Person of the Year 2015". This honor is accorded to people who have most changed or moved the world in the year ending - whether positively or negatively.

The object of this tribute would surely have been happier about the award if those who came in second and third had made the world better and more just. But what does it say about our world when the following places are occupied by ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump?

Where are, for example, the leaders of the U.N. veto powers – China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA? *Time Magazine's* explanation for awarding the German chancellor was: She deserves the award for asking more of her country than most politicians would dare, for standing firm against tyranny as well as expedience and for providing steadfast moral leadership in a world where it is in short supply. **Together we must make it clear to world decision-makers that we will follow them when they show courage, venture to do something and join forces with the aim of improving life on our planet as a whole.**

Potential Bearer of hope for a better and more just world !?



Nicola Sturgeon



Justin Trudeau



Annalena Baerbock



Emmanuel Macron



Robert Habeck



Jacinda Ardern



Pedro Sánchez



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović



**A drama on the galactic scale
with earthlings living on a strange rock.**

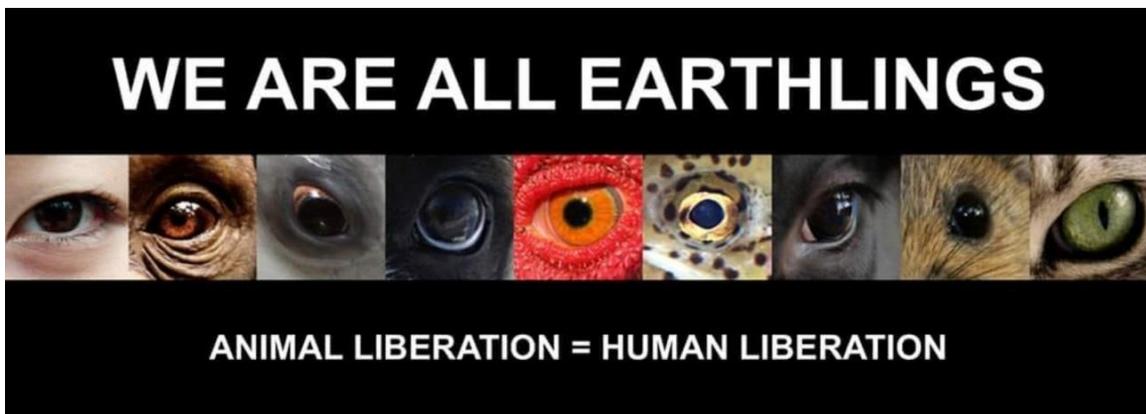
A firework of pages, lines, notes, and images.

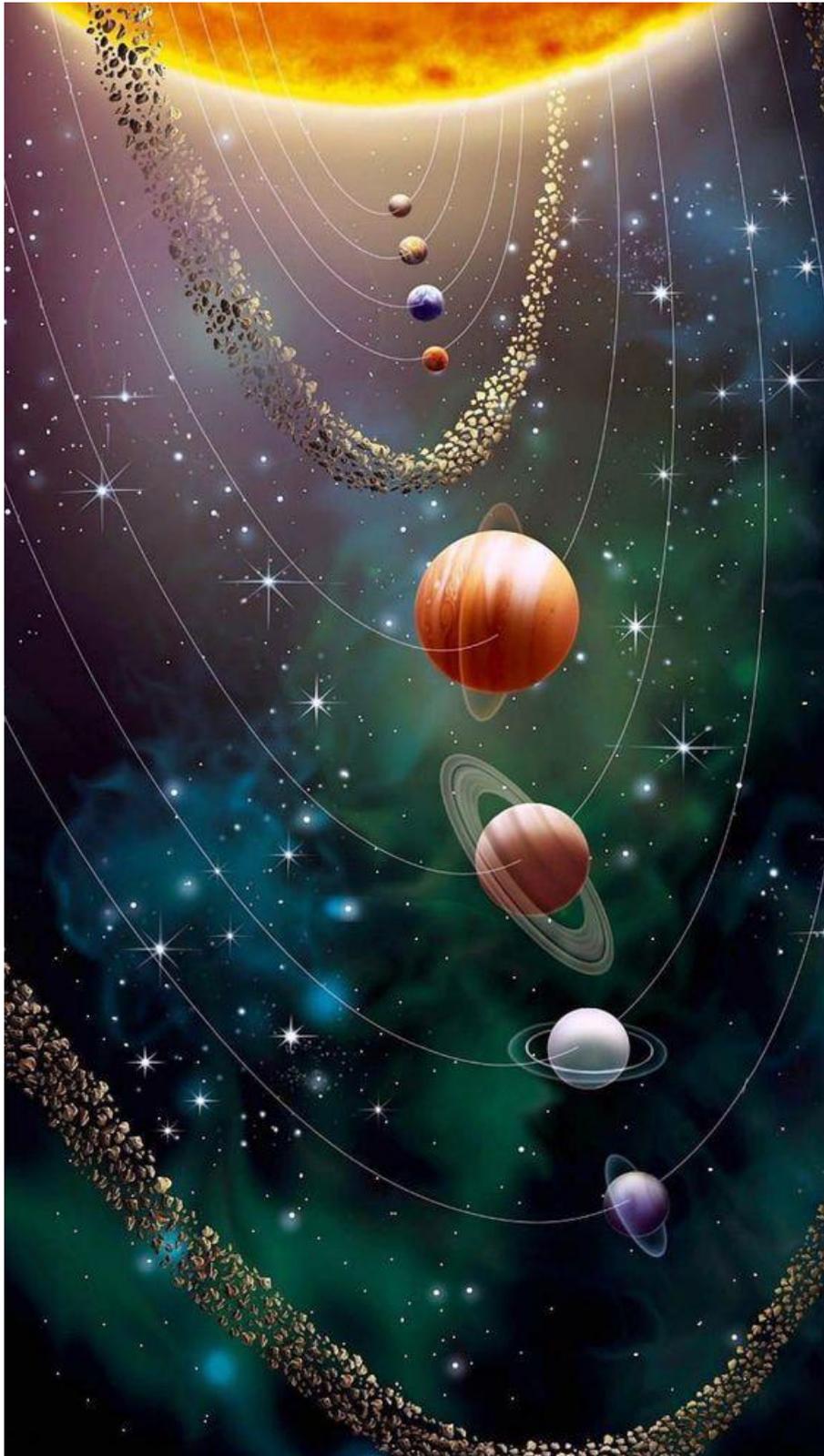
Breath-taking, shocking, evocative, and ground-breaking.

**Readers will be captivated by countless repetitions to make sure
that the words become established and take root.**

**A visionary story, exciting imaginative characters
and great role models who have marked the history
of humankind and will continue to do so in the future.**

**Joining forces with people who mean
well and want to do good.**





It all started with a firework show. That's how our Sun and planets came into being, 4.6 billion years ago. Third in from the center is our Earth. That blue marble is the 3rd planet from the Sun. It is a paradise, and we should treat it as such so we don't end up like Adam and Eve!

3. THE FIRST SCANDAL TO SHAKE OUR WORLD



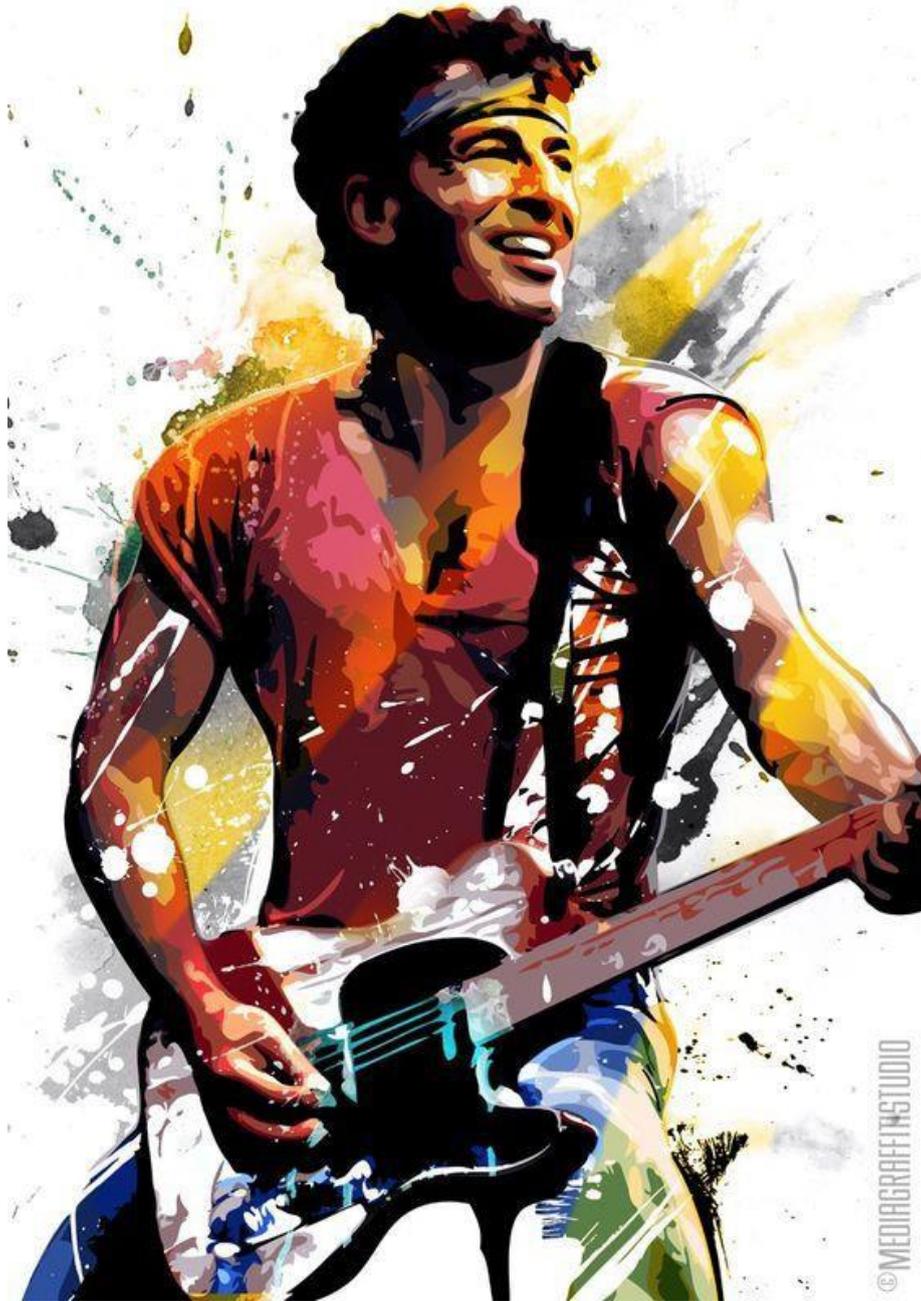
After that, the Earth was left in peace. But a long time later, it needs to make another choice. Between Donald Trump and his chamber of horrors – Or Bruce, Angie & the Obamas. It's a question of **death or life?** 4 pages more "our" Earth made its choice: **life!**



Today, Eve and Adam would certainly be refugees choosing to flee
– from the extremist populists and autocrats of this world –
with an immovable strawberry blond at the top of the pile.

WE WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY. WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT.

A SECOND ARK – IN WHICH YOU COULD SAIL AWAY – WE KNOW HOW TO PREVENT THAT.



The decision-makers of the worlds of politics and economics have failed TOTALLY!
Fifty years after **Woodstock**, the time has come for freethinking and independent artists –
with the Boss at the front – to call for world revolution.

With a little help from my friends!

Then we need reliable politicians, entrepreneurs working for the common good, sociologists, philosophers, economists, Utopians, idealists, realists, and philanthropists. What we DON'T need are extremist demagogues and autocrats. We need to win each other's hearts and minds. It isn't worldly goods that we need.



Lend A Helping Hand!



I GET BY
with a little help
FROM MY FRIENDS
- john lennon

Lend A Helping Hand!



Four bearers of hope who have nothing to lose. But still have so much to win.

For all of us who are here now. And all who are to come.

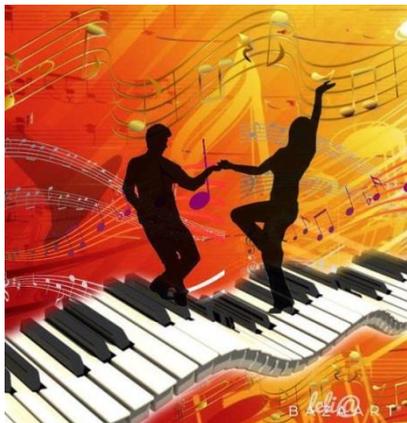
Let's join and take control of our own destiny.

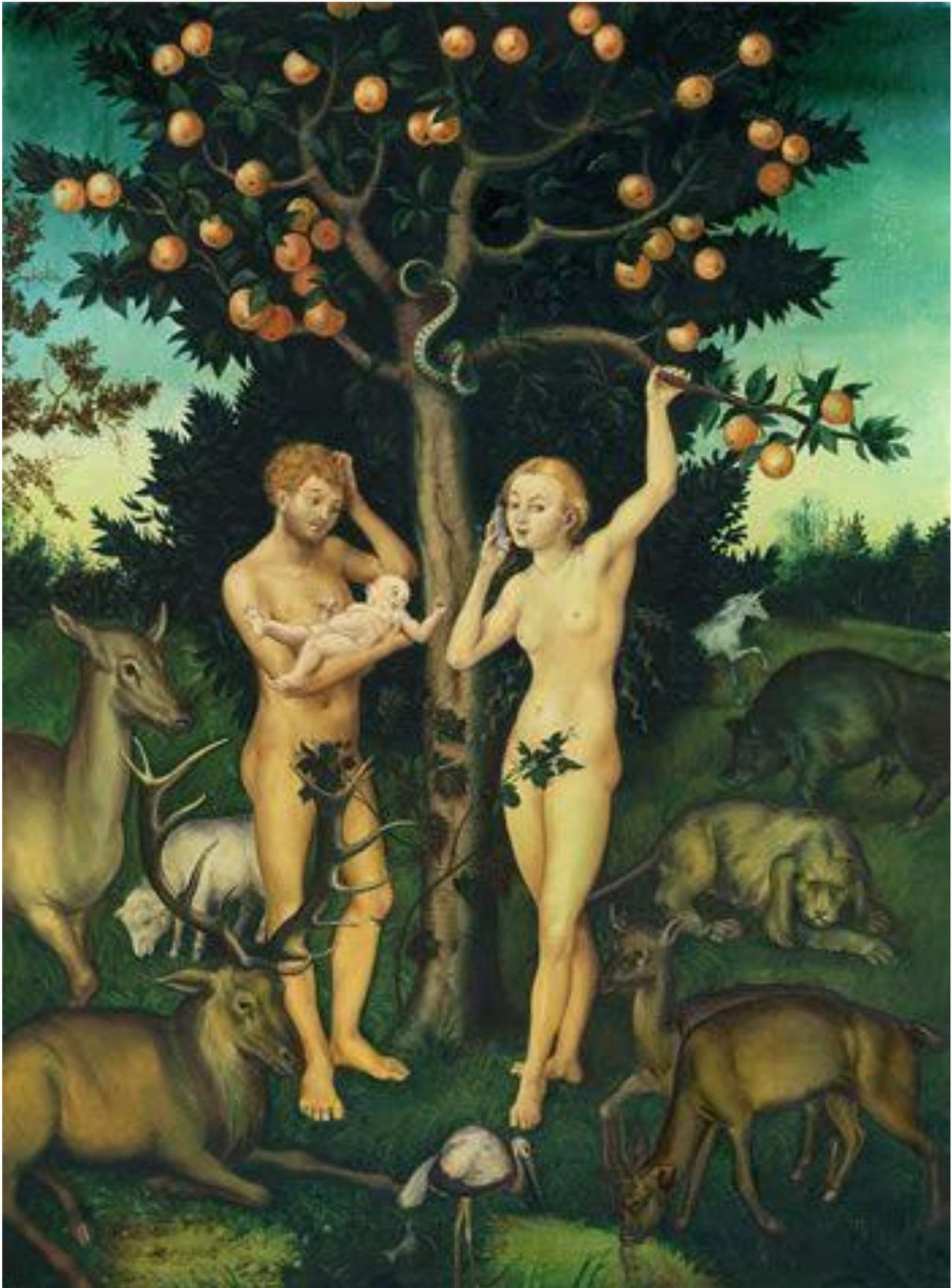




Let the artists give the order, and I will follow them heart and soul!

Give me music! Give me music!! Give me music!!!





Then Adam and Eve will be back because they care. They want a good future for their children, and for the species who live alongside us.

4. GOOD RESOLUTIONS

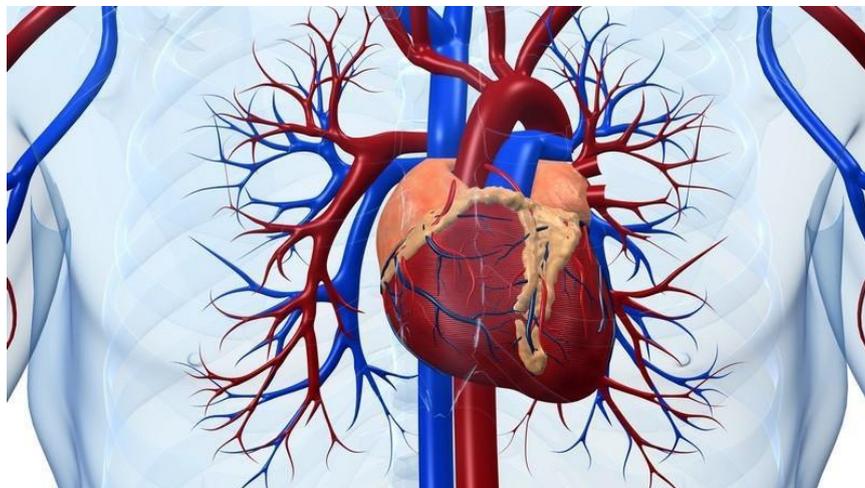
The devastating consequences of the two World Wars in the 20th Century showed what humans are capable of and how they can be misused. It looks like Man has learned from this. The evidence is in the huge improvements made over the last few decades that we can live, feel and enjoy in all areas of our lives. Thus, on October 24, 1945, the United Nations (UN) was founded. The main goal of the founding 51 states was stopping future wars. As of 2019, the UN has 193 Member States and, thus, almost every country in the world is a member. This international organization concerns itself with peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. These are things that concern and affect us all. Of course, even the activities of the UN must be regularly checked, and improvements carried out. There is a need to act regarding the on-going refugee crises and in the UN Security Council **in order to solve the problems of the 21st Century.**



Both the large and small successes of the past decade have helped many people. They were achieved by those with exceptional skills and by people who serve as role models both today and in the future. Below are a few that I have chosen to highlight:

Christiaan Barnard entered uncharted medical territory on December 3, 1967 in Cape Town. He became the first person to conduct a heart transplant. The transplanted heart failed 18 days later, and Louis Washkansky died aged 53. However, this was a pioneering moment in medical history and caused furor across the world. On December 3, 1967 at 05:52, Christiaan Barnard said:

“Lord, it beats again.”



Today, heart transplants are routine operations if a donor heart is available. This is what led me to decide a few years ago that it is best for my heart to live on in someone else after my death. I have had an organ donor card ever since. I like this idea better than having my heart and other functional organs eaten by worms and maggots or ending up as ashes in an urn.

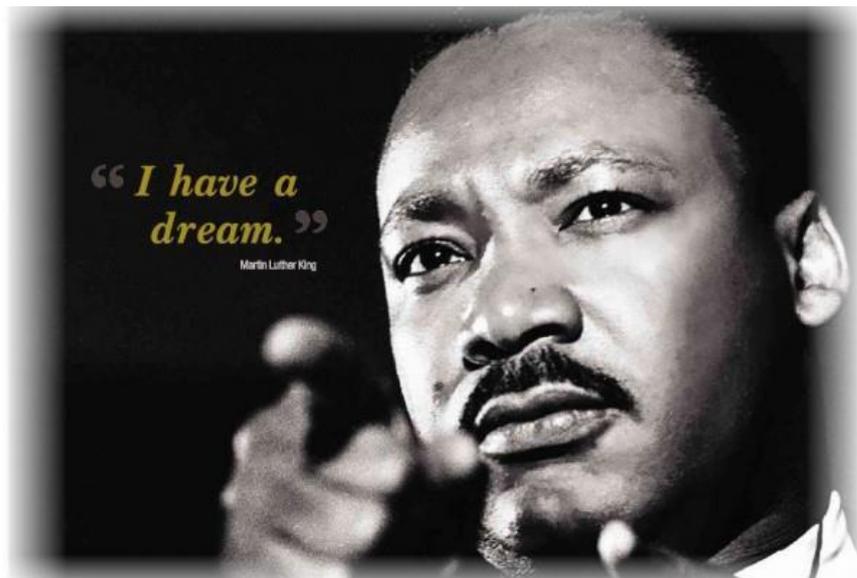
Health is the most valuable possession! As everyone says – those who are sick. Health is so precious; it must be affordable for all. Health is a human right. This means that access to well-targeted healthcare and medical help should not depend on the size of the patient's wallet. "Health for All" – The slogan of the World Health Organization (WHO) when it was founded in 1946. The progress made in conventional medicine over the last few decades was, is and will be trailblazing. But the key to healing widespread disease can only be found if disease-orientated classical medicine is networked with health-orientated homeopathy – even when it comes to research and application. "Health for All" includes prevention, diagnostics and therapy, and is associated with high costs. It works best in a living, stable democracy focused on the common good and where all age groups are handled equally. Democracy keeps us healthy. Health and democracy are the foundations of freedom, happiness and contentment.



Wealth
is much.
Satisfaction
is more.
Health
is all.

Martin Luther King was a Baptist minister and civil rights campaigner. He counts among the most important campaigners against social oppression and racism. In the 1960s he proposed civil unrest as a protest the political practice of racial segregation in the southern US states. Thanks to his efforts and impact, he inspired a mass movement that led to racial segregation being revoked and the right to vote for black people in the southern states. Martin Luther King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his efforts. He said:

“We have learned to fly the air like birds, we’ve learned to swim the seas like fish, and yet we haven’t learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters.”



Article 3, paragraph 3 and article 1 of the German Basic Law states:

“No person shall be favored or disfavored because of sex, parentage, race, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavored because of disability.”



On February 11, 2019 (11.2 – European date format), I was reminded that it was the **European Emergency Call Day**. The 112-emergency number saves lives – across Europe. The “life-saver” is 28 years old at the end of July 2019. On July 29, 1991, the 12 EU states decided to introduce a Europe-wide emergency number – 112. Today, 112 can be called from any Member State in the European Union. Thank you, EU. Even this accomplishment should be a life sign for an EU that is only, and must remain, worthwhile thanks to the cohesion of its Member States. The 112-emergency number can be dialed from any landline or cell phone within the EU. This allows us to call the emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) in all EU countries. On February 11, 2018, **Edelgard Huber von Gersdorff aged 112** became the honorary patroness of the 112 European emergency number. She died on April 9, 2018. Born in 1905, she lived through the German Empire, the Weimar Republic, both World Wars, the economic wonder and reunification of Germany. She experienced how Europe grew out of a continent ravished by war to become a community of humanitarians.

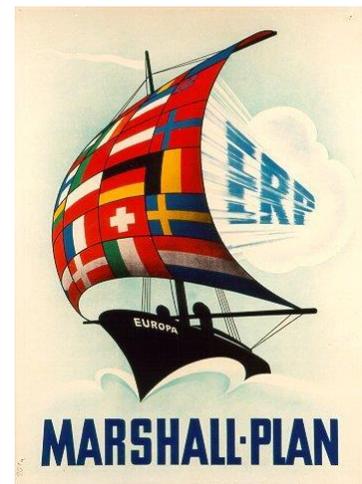
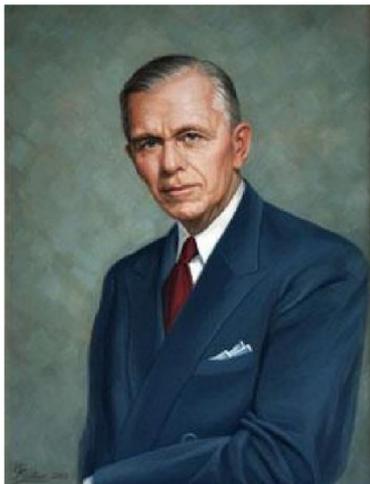
Edelgard Huber von Gersdorff said:

“112 is the sign of help and an important symbol for European unity.”



Edelgard Huber von Gersdorff, born on December 7, 1905, was the oldest woman in Germany. As a lawyer, she actively followed politics. Now, just before the European elections, we owe her and the police, fire and ambulance services a debt of gratitude: **For preserving democracy! And demonstrating that the EU deserved to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.**

George C. Marshall was an American 5-star General and great statesman who was essentially too valuable for the inhuman war. During the last World War, he coordinated the Allied operations in Europe and the Pacific. Time Magazine named him “Man of the Year” for the second time in 1947. George C. Marshall became US Secretary of State after the war ended. On January 30, 1948 he gave an unforgettable speech at Mahatma Gandhi’s graveside and was the **Creator of the Marshall Plan**. This was a vital boon that Europeans needed to restore Europe. Germans and Berliners owe him a vote of thanks for the Berlin airlifts to the blockaded city. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. He left politics for good on September 12, 1951. The main reason for his departure was the accusation by Senator McCarthy that George C. Marshall was a complicit traitor and aided the communists. George C. Marshall became president of the American branch of the Red Cross. George C. Marshall was a great and impeccable Democrat.



On June 5, 1947, George C. Marshall said:

“Peace is not safe without political stability. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. However, the United States government cannot develop a program for the economic reawakening of Europe. That is a task for Europe.

The initiative must come from Europe.”

Since the Second World War, Europe has lived in increasingly democratic conditions that enrich the lives of EU Member States and their citizens, and that have bound them together in an amicable manner. Today, we see these achievements as a matter of course. But we must remember that European history has many dark sides and is defined by wars. George C. Marshall's words must have resonated with Christian Ponceau, the French Foreign Minister at the time, because at the signing of the Treaties of Rome on March 25, 1957 he said:

“Our unity and our strength will instill respect in those who intend to disturb the peace. However, our dissent and our weaknesses will be a most dangerous temptation for them.”



It is more important that the states progress, have common values and implement common goals in order to benefit their citizens in a peaceful and stable alliance of states. Considering Brexit and the nationalist waves in Italy, Austria, Poland and Hungary, the responsibility for stopping extreme populists in Europe lies with Germany and France in particular. Otherwise there is a risk of a relapse into nationalism and particularism. The rhetoric before the European elections in 2019 must be European unity as THE alternative for the security and promotion of freedom, equality and democracy. It is time to realize the great vision of the future: A united and strong Europe is the power behind the long-desired world peace movement.

Konrad Adenauer was elected as the first Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 1963. Konrad Adenauer is the architect behind the Federal Republic of Germany. In the face of great adversity, he followed an unwavering path to the largest western democracy. Adenauer considered the reconciliation with France to be the cornerstone of European unification. Konrad Adenauer said:

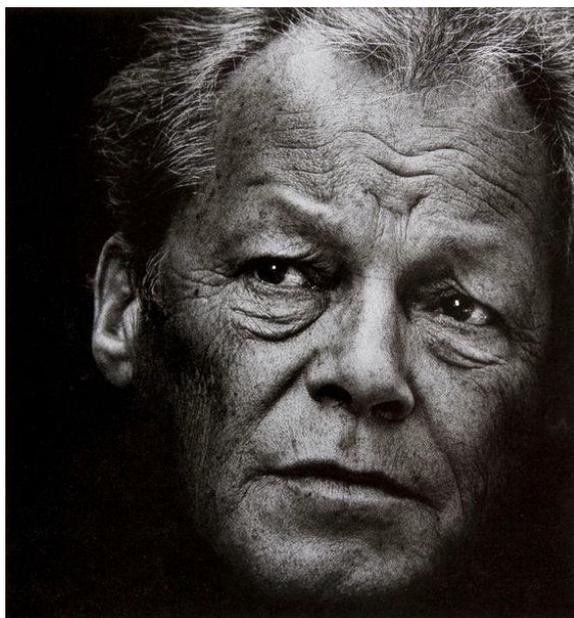
“We know that megalomania based on limitless power, that God as the Universe’s guide wants to depose, misuses Man’s freedom and dignity, but it will not endure. It will be conquered when freedom is stronger than slavery.”



Konrad Adenauer was also a passionate gardener and loved roses

Willy Brandt: Charismatic, clever and crafty (like Mahatma Gandhi) with empathy and warm-heartedness and a charisma that spoke to all age groups and social classes, and which continues today. Will Brandt opened the door to the East, even with his genuflection in Warsaw on December 7, 1970 which the world saw as a humble gesture. This instinctive moment of inspiration and gesture of humanity, this call to reconciliation was the foundation of his Nobel Peace Prize award in 1971. During the award ceremony in Stockholm, he quoted Fridtjof Nansen and said:

*“Fort dere – før det er for sent å angre –
Make haste, lest it be too late to rue.”*



Without **Mikhail Gorbachev's** policy of *glasnost and Perestroika* the Cold War would not have come to such a swift end and the Iron Curtain would not have fallen so quickly. And, the reunification of Germany would have taken much longer. Mikhail Gorbachev said:

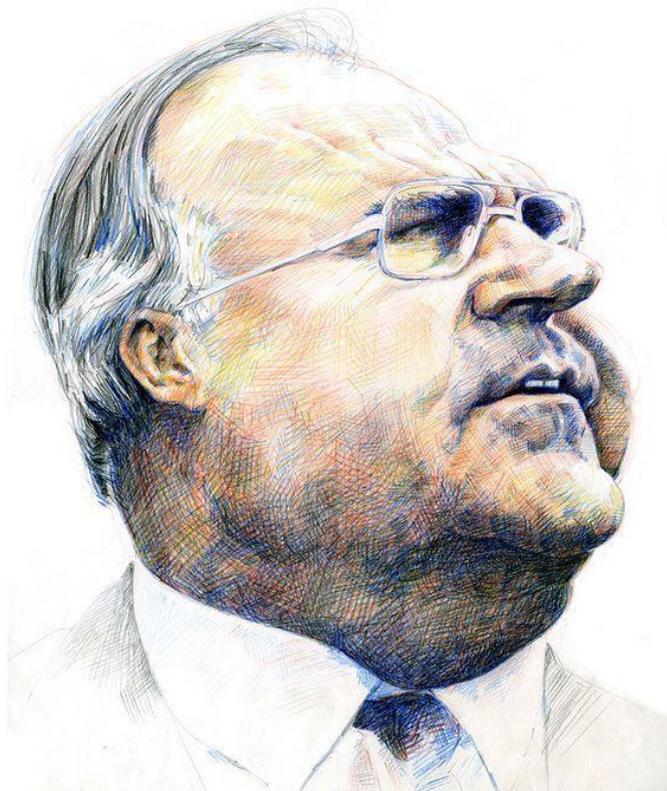
"We have succeeded in setting the planetary 'anthill' in motion.

(...) But on the basis of our good sense and our feelings, our knowledge, our love of life and of our neighbor, our faith and our ability to work we can endeavor to retain most of what still remains and learn to respect life rather than destroying it, and thus ensure the survival of humanity. (...) Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."



Helmut Kohl and East and West Germans experienced an unforgettable moment in the fall of the Berlin Wall. He was a pivotal enabler for the reunification of Germany and thanks to his spirited and decisive actions, the “Reunification Chancellor” was the driving force behind the 10-point plan from 1989. Thus, the path was paved by Konrad Adenauer and his West policies, Willy Brandt and his East policies, Mikhail Gorbachev with glasnost and Perestroika, and the courageous, freedom-hungry citizens from the Monday Demonstrations in the fall of 1989. Helmut Kohl achieved approval for the reunification of Germany from France, Spain, the USA and Russia thanks to his skilled negotiations. He was also a great European who co-designed and shaped the European unification process and the monetary union. Helmut Kohl said:

**“This Europe cannot be a fortress which separates us from others. It must be open.
Europe is our future. Europe is our destiny.”**



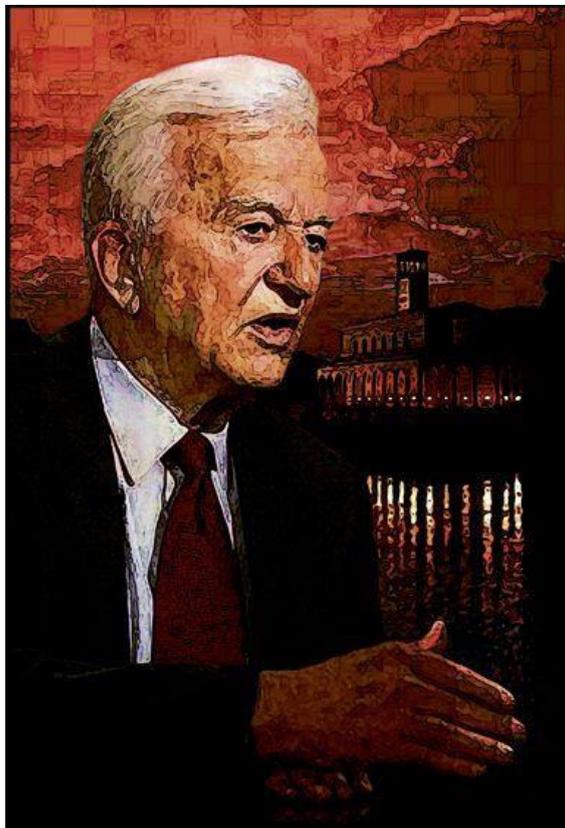
Helmut Schmidt (nicknamed “Schmidt the Lip”) followed a clear path. He fought tooth and nail if it came down to it. *Salus publica suprema lex* – “Let the welfare of the people be the supreme law.” Helmut Schmidt followed this motto through thick and thin, during the North Sea Flood, the oil and global economic crisis, Red Army Faction terrorism or the NATO Double-Track Decision, throughout his political career and beyond as a journalist and author. He was a local, regional, national, European and world citizen and was at home and a welcome guest wherever he went. Straitlaced, focused, steadfast, honest and with the skill and power to design and lead, astute and determined with a sense of reality and art – a unique combination of characteristics that is rare to find in just one person. Helmut Schmidt said:

“War is the big shit. You can call the Second World War and the German Disaster the tragedies of our dedication to duty. For the most part, we, as people, are not at fault, but we must carry the political heritage of those who are.”



On the 40th anniversary of the end of the war in 1985, **Richard von Weizsäcker** called the German capitulation on May 8, 1945 the liberation of Germany. He also called for action for reconciliation across all levels, even in the face of adversity. His plea to young people was

“(...) do not let yourselves be forced into enmity and hatred of other people, of Russians or Americans, Jews or Turks, of alternatives or conservatives, blacks or whites. Learn to live together, not in opposition to each other!”



Not being disabled is not an achievement but a gift that can be taken away from each one of us at any time.”

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher was the Grand Lady of German politics. She shaped liberal politics in Germany for decades. Hildegard Hamm-Brücher belonged to a political generation that hardly exists today. Born in 1921 in Essen, raised in Berlin. At 10 years old she lost her parents and moved to live with her grandmother in Dresden. At age 15, the Prussian protestant found out that she was “half Jewish” according to the Nazi Race Laws. Hildegard Hamm Brücher said:

“Anyone who engages with books, engages with foreigners.

With foreign thoughts. With foreign worlds. As Goethe said, anyone who reads a book amalgamates with foreigners. We cannot maintain our democracy without memories.”



Annemarie Renger was first elected to the German Bundestag in 1953 and was re-elected in an unbroken chain until 1990. On December 13, 1972, she was elected as President of the German Bundestag. A first in German history: The first female President. She was also the first woman in the world to be elected as the head of a freely elected parliament. In 1992, Annemarie Renger and Hildegard Hamm-Brücher were awarded the Buber-Rosenzweig medal for their campaign for Jewish-Christian dialog. A state funeral was held in Berlin on March 13, 2008 to commemorate her life. Annemarie Renger was always a true politician and human and thus was the most well-loved politician in Germany for many years. She was fearless and let no man put her asunder. The Grand Lady of social democracy also had a great sense of humor. Annemarie Renger said:

“Wherever there is power, you have to look for women like for a needle in a haystack.

I recommended myself to the party for presidential office.

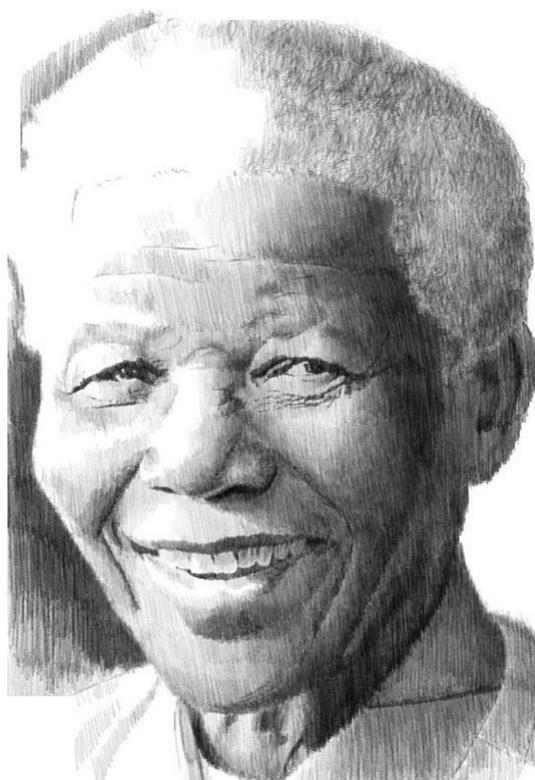
Do you think anyone else would have done it?”



Nelson Mandela was released from prison on February 10, 1990 **after 27 years** of incarceration. He was incarcerated for his role in fighting against apartheid in South Africa. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk (the President at the time) were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to bring a peaceful end to apartheid. Apartheid officially began in 1948 and was responsible for the systematic persecution of a black majority of around 41 million people by just four million white people. Apartheid ended on April 27, 1994. On May 10, 1994, Nelson Mandela started his term as the first democratically elected President of South Africa.

With his policy of reconciliation and forgiveness as well as his charisma and disarming smile, the world was enchanted with “Madiba”. His message was simple and true:

“It always seems impossible until it is done.”



Since 1962, Bob Dylan has sung the following in his song “Blowin’ in the Wind”:

How many roads must a man walk down

Before you call him a man?

How many seas must a white dove sail, before she sleeps

in the sand?

Yes, ‘n’ how many times must the cannon balls fly,

before they’re forever banned?

The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.

Yes, ‘n’ how many years can a mountain

exist, before it’s washed to the sea?

Yes, ‘n’ how many years can some people exist,

before they’re allowed to be free?

Yes, ‘n’ how many times can a man turn his head,

and pretend that he just doesn’t see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.

The answer is blowin’ in the wind.

Yes, ‘n’ how many times must a man look up,

before he can see the sky?

Yes, ‘n’ how many ears must one man have,

before he can hear people cry?

Yes, ‘n’ how many deaths will it take till he knows,

that too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind.

The answer is blowin’ in the wind.”



Desmond Tutu: A man I would rather let speak for himself so that he remains in our memories for as long as is possible or necessary. The following quotes are from his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize in November 1984 in Oslo and his speech at the Global Economic Forum in Davos in January 1998. His cry for help, his warnings, his requests and brave words are more relevant now than ever. They serve to bring attention and following to the issues in the vein of his companion Nelson Mandela:

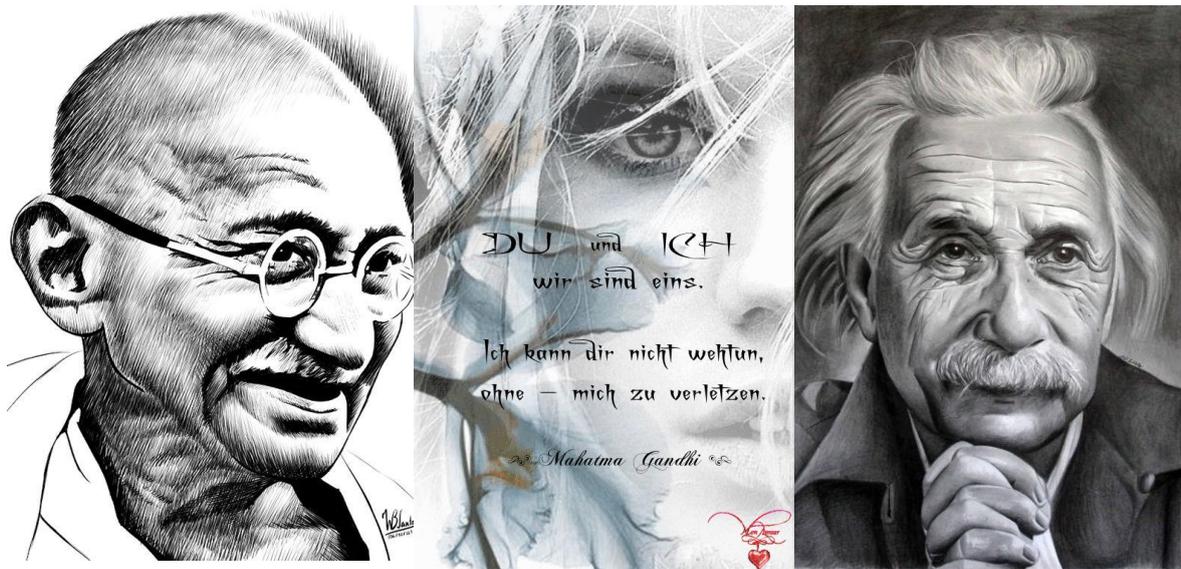
Desmond Tutu said:

“Goods, love, compassion and tenderness are not just for weaklings. They are things that the world is longing for. Fossil fuel companies will ultimately find out that it is better to be on the side of humanity, on the side of justice and freedom, and not to creep to those in power. Those who are only in power for a moment and become just grains of sand in history. Nations are entangled in a crazy arms race due to global insecurity and waste billions of dollars on weapons of destruction while millions are going hungry. In South Africa, we didn’t fight for political freedom. We fought for dissemination with higher moral values. This dissemination said that Man is more important than goods, than profits. We are fighting for human rights, for a political system in which people have the freedom to choose a live they want. Winning is great, but the real enjoyment comes from consoling the loser. Forgiveness is actually the best type of selfishness.”



Mahatma Gandhi, who was physically just a small man from India, led an entire nation of 400 million people to independence thanks to his capacity for truth, non-violent actions, craftiness and tenacity. In 1947, he brought about the end of the British colonial rule over India through non-violent opposition. Mahatma Gandhi said:

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
“You and I; we are one. I cannot hurt you without hurting myself.”



In 1931, Albert Einstein wrote the following letter to Mahatma Gandhi:

“Dear Mr. Gandhi,

Through your actions you have shown that it is possible to succeed without violence, even to those who still use violence themselves. We hope that your example will go beyond the borders of your country and will help establish an international authority to make decisions instead of war.

With sincere admiration, yours Albert Einstein.”

At the memorial service for Mahatma Gandhi, murdered in 1948, Albert Einstein said:

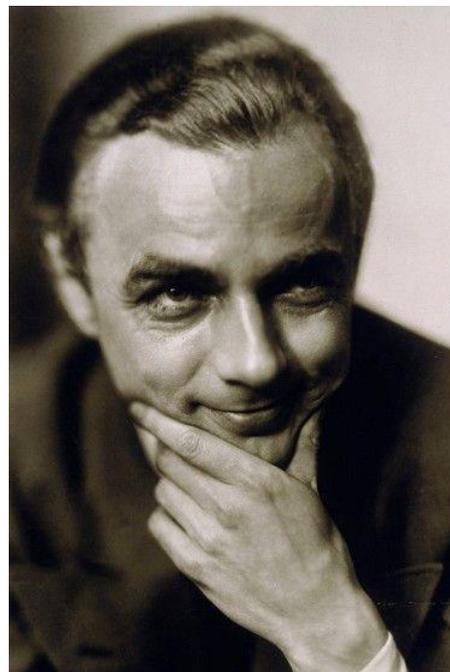
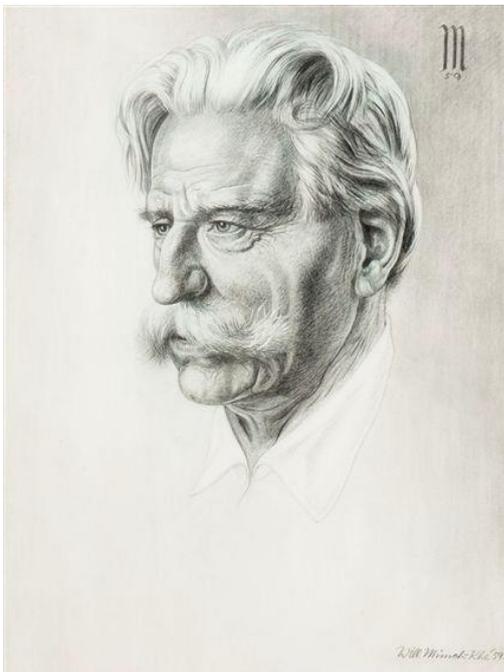
“Future generations will hardly be able to believe that a man of flesh and blood really walked the Earth.”

Albert Schweitzer was a Franco-German doctor, protestant theologian, organist, philosopher and pacifist. Albert Schweitzer founded a hospital in Lambaréné in the central African country of Gabon. His numerous and well-respected works include theological and philosophical writings, papers on music and autobiographical writings. He was awarded the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. He accepted the prize in 1954. Albert Schweitzer said:

“No future can make good something that you missed in the present.”

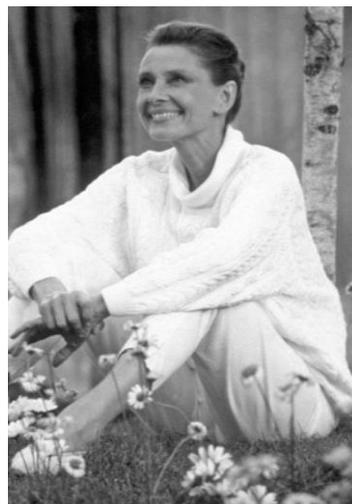
Erich Kästner was a German writer and author of cabaret texts. He was made famous for his children’s books *Emil and the Detectives*, *Lottie and Lisa* and *The Flying Classroom*, which have all been turned into successful movies. Erich Kästner was taken by the Gestapo numerous times between 1933 and 1945 and was expelled from the German Association of Writers. His works were burnt at the Book Burning for being “against the German spirit” and he had to watch from nearby. Erich Kästner said:

“All of the nonsense that has happened is not just on the shoulders of those who carried it out, but also those that didn't stop it.” “Good doesn't just happen, you have to do it.”



Audrey Hepburn left the movie business after *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *My Fair Lady* and committed herself to charitable works. She traveled the world and undertook projects for the children's charity UNICEF. She visited disaster zones and famine areas and carried out lots of public relations for people in need. In 1988, Audrey Hepburn was named a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF. Audrey Hepburn said:

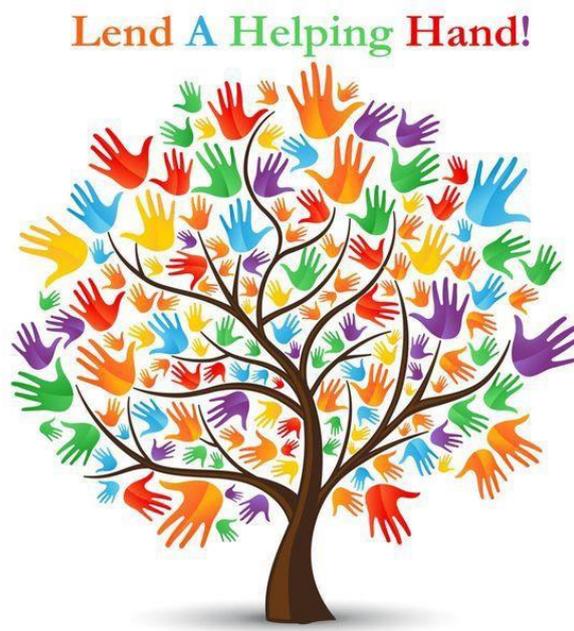
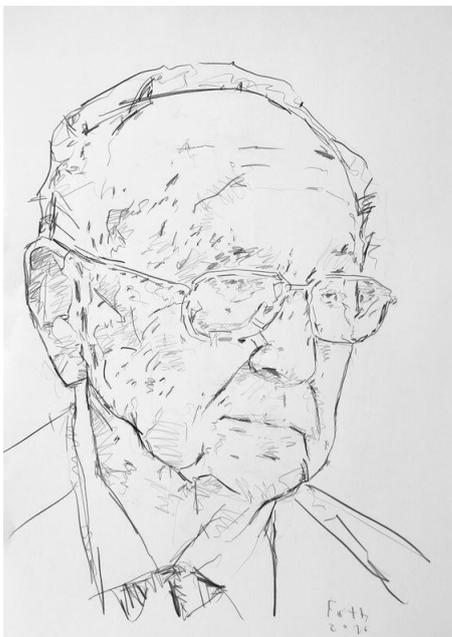
*“Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, It’s at the end of your arm.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself,
the other for helping others.”*



Lend A Helping Hand!

Hans-Dietrich Genscher was not just the architect and master builder of the unification of Germany. He was a European and citizen of the world that put freedom and the power of the law above all else. Hans-Dietrich Genscher said:

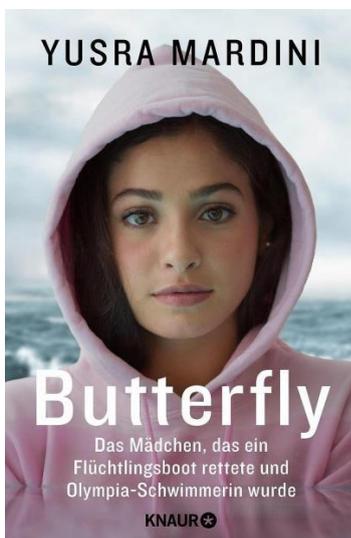
“We should have a ‘Day of Global Solidarity’ every year to focus on fighting hunger and hardship, illiteracy and discrimination. A day that demands international solidarity and promotes the view that the mass flow of refugees, like those from Africa, are not a border issue relating to the neighboring regions or a transport problem, instead they are a question of the survival of helpless people in need of protection.”



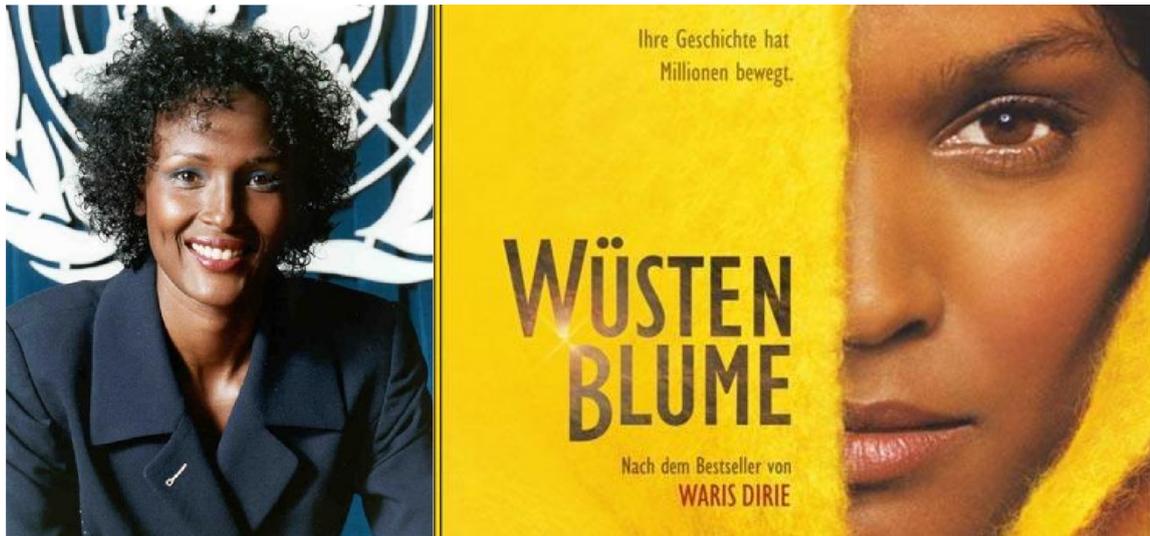
There were almost 70 million migrants on the move in 2018. **Yusra Mardini** became the face of the refugee crisis. Her story is very emotional and touching and shows the direction a life can take if fate means well – from Africa to Germany via the Mediterranean and then around the world with great success and prominent meetings, for example with the then UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon, US President Barack Obama and Pope Francis. In August 2016, the young swimmer was on the Refugee Olympic Athletes Team at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The Syrian was appointed a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in April 2017. What happened?

Like many other Syrians, Yusra Mardini left her homeland in 2015 and made the dangerous journey to Europe. When their boat's engine stopped working, Yusra and her sister, Sara, guided the boat through the night and saved many lives. She wrote about her story in her book. In the book, Yusra Mardini said:

"It isn't easy. There are times when I give everything, and it still isn't enough. Then I close my eyes and conjure that desperate moment in the sea when everything seemed hopeless. When the taunting voice told me to give up and get death over with. I remember how I fought and won. How I kicked, kept my head above water, stayed alive. Then warmth surges through my whole body, bringing hidden reserves of power to my aching muscles. Opening my eyes, I know. Nothing can break me now. Whatever happens, I'll get up. I'll swim on. I'll survive. I'll emerge from the chrysalis as a butterfly."



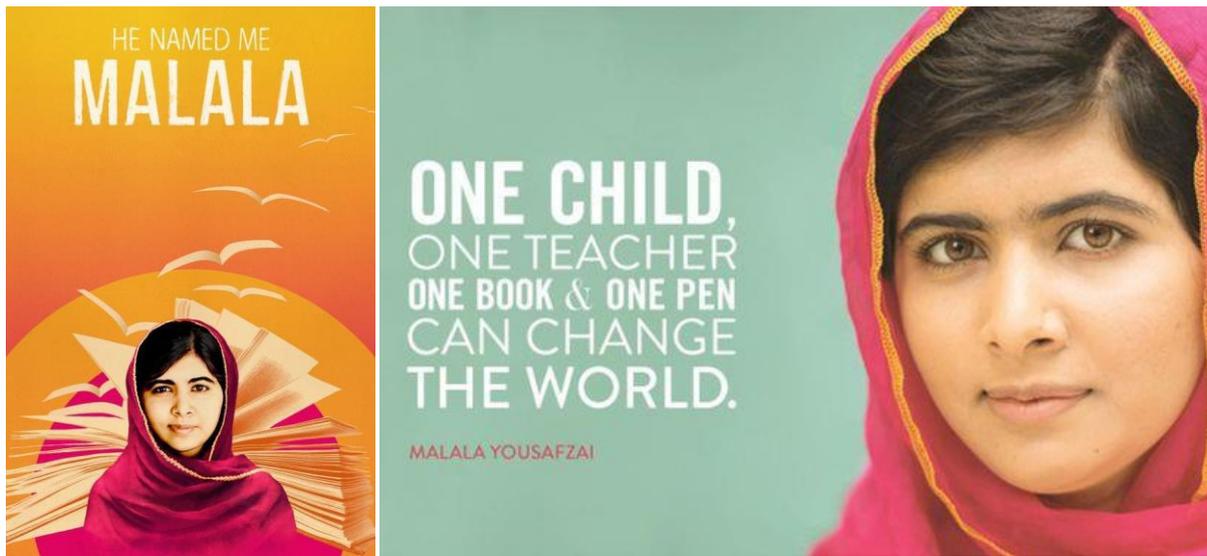
Waris Dirie: From an ignominious nomad to the runway as a UN ambassador. Thanks to her contributions and genuineness, Kofi Annan (the UN General Secretary at the time) named Waris Dirie a UN Ambassador in the war against the archaic practice of genital mutilation. The practice is widespread on the African continent, even in countries where it is illegal.



In her book “Desert Flower” she describes the misery that this practice brings to the girls affected. Waris Dirie said: *“Every 11 seconds, a girl in the world is cut! Every third girl cut dies as a result of Female Genital Mutilation and many suffer a lifetime of both physical and psychological trauma. With the establishment of the Desert Flower Foundation in 2002, we have declared war on this cruel ritual!”*

At age 5, she was subject to the inhumane genital mutilation procedure. At 13, Waris Dirie fled before an arranged marriage to a man old enough to be her grandfather. After her daring and life-threatening escape, she arrived in London and worked as a cleaner and at McDonalds. When she was 18, a well-known photographer discovered her modeling potential. She moved from London to New York and worked as a supermodel on catwalks across the world. In 1997, Waris Dirie told the United Nations about the despicable ritual of Female Genital Mutilation and about her own story. In doing so, she initiated an international wave of compassion and protests. She burnt suffering into the consciousness of a shocked public.

Malala Yousafzai was born on June 12, 1997. Since then, the Pakistani from the Swat Valley has become a world-famous activist for children's rights. Together with Kailash Satyarthi, Malala received the Nobel Peace Prize on October 10, 2014. She is the youngest ever recipient of a Nobel Prize and the youngest ever in the history of the Nobel Peace Prize. Since April 10, 2017, Malala has been a United Nations Messenger of Peace.



On January 3, 2009 when she was 11 years old, Malala started a blog under a pseudonym and documented, in Urdu, her feelings and fears about the violence in the Swat Valley, as well as her daily life under the rule of the Pakistani Taliban. In 2007, the Taliban began to destroy schools for girls and murder Pakistanis who opposed them. It was made illegal for girls to go to school, listen to music, dance and to appear in public without a face veil. Malala was inspired by **The Diary of Anne Frank**. Her blog quickly became well-known across Pakistan and was translated into English. Her pseudonym was revealed in 2011. On October 9, 2012, the Taliban stopped her school bus on the way home and questioned Malala. A member of the Taliban shot Malala at close range with a pistol. She was shot in the head and neck and was badly injured. The reason for the shooting was Malala's commitment to female education. On October 15, she was flown to the UK with life-threatening injuries and treated in the *Queen Elizabeth Hospital* in Birmingham. The projectile was lodged in her left eye and destroyed part of her temporal bones and upper jaw. In January 2013, she underwent plastic surgery to reconstruct her skull and face. They also reconstructed the facial nerves needed

for hearing. The Malala Education Foundation was founded in December 2012 in order to assert the right of children to an education across the world. Time Magazine named her as the second most important Person of the Year for 2012, after Barack Obama. Malala was then given a book contract worth two million pounds by the British publishers Weidenfeld & Nicolson for her biography. On October 11, she was invited to the White House as the guest of US President Barack Obama and his family. On January 27, 2017, in response to Donald Trump signing the “Executive Order Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”, Malala said: “I am heart-broken by Trump’s actions. America is turning its back on its proud history.” The documentary *He Named Me Malala* came to cinemas in 2015.



The connection between Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg and Jeanne d'Arc (also known as Joan of Arc) is addressed in the chapter entitled **Greta, Hanna and Malala – The History of Three Girls.**

Greta Thunberg, a sixteen-year old girl from Sweden, shows us that even individuals can move the world. On August 28, 2018, just before the Swedish parliamentary elections, she began to skip school every Friday. Not to annoy her teachers, but to demonstrate about climate change in front of the parliament. The attention she received has made her world famous. Thanks to her speech at the UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice in December 2018, at the Global Economic Forum in Davos in January 2019 and at the European Union in February 2019. In her forthright nature, she put those in positions of responsibility on the spot and spoke to their consciences. Greta Thunberg is a role model and has become a leading figure in the fight against climate change. Millions of school children, trainees and students from across the world are taking to the streets and speak as one:

***“The climate crisis is humankind’s greatest and most complex challenge.
We cannot wait until we are grown up and have a voice. Time is of the essence.
We must do something now. It is not the climate that must change,
but our actions so that we will have a future!”***



On March 1, 2019, the initiator of the “Fridays for Future” movement came to Hamburg and was greeted by around 10,000 young people. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said: *“We can only achieve our climate goals, if we have the support of the community. Therefore, I welcome the protests from young people and school children warning us to act quickly on climate change. I think it’s a great initiative.”* This gives us hope that Angela Merkel has returned to a time when she was known and celebrated across the world as the “Climate Chancellor”. So, she really can put the final touch to her term of office.

The Swede, Greta Thunberg, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in January 2019. Three members of the Norwegian Storting summarized her nomination as follows: *“We have proposed Greta Thunberg because if we do nothing to halt climate change it will be the cause of wars, conflict and refugees. Greta has launched a mass movement which is a major contribution to peace.”* Greta is one of 300 nominees. However, I think she has a good chance of winning. Furthermore, the important campaign and demonstrations that Greta has started through her initiatives will make it easier for the Nobel Prize Committee to come to the right decision.

On March 15, 2019, millions of people in 123 countries on all continents took part. Over 10,000 “Fridays for Future” events have been held to date in two-thirds of countries across the world. In Germany alone, over 300,000 school children, trainees, students and older sympathizers have taken to the streets. Young people are sensibly and visibly breaking with the traditions of their parents and grandparents and bidding fossil fuels, coal and oil barons and politicians of yesteryear **Adieu!**



The movement is growing and getting support: 23,000 scientists from Austria, Switzerland and Germany have acted under the name of “Scientists for Future.” Even parents are getting involved with “Parents for Future” and standing beside the ones mostly affected. Young people are getting involved for their future and for the future of their children, taking on and carrying demonstrative responsibility that the older generations could not do until now.

In March 2019, Angela Merkel said:

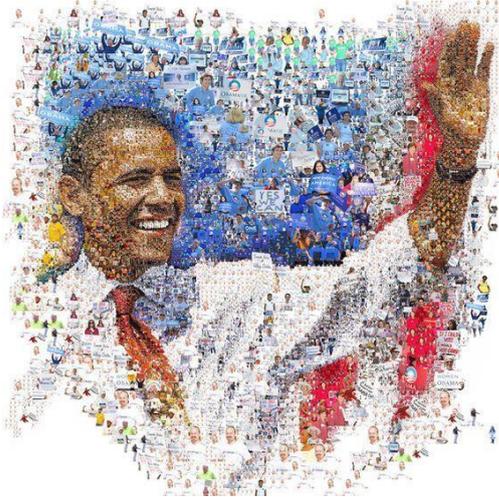
“I welcome the protests from young people and school children warning us to act quickly on climate change. The sign that you are worried, is good. It is important that you are making noise.”

In April 2019, Barack Obama said:

“You can change the world. It is up to you to shape the world that you and your children want to live in. You don’t allow your grandparents to decide what clothes you wear or what music you listen to. Why then would you let them determine the world you live in?”



Energy self-sufficient builds including vertical farming – using the sun’s power!



A fisher of Man and a scientist!!

Two people on whom hope rests, who have nothing to lose but so much to gain!



For everyone here with us, and everyone who will follow us!!



Heinrich Böll said:

“Freedom is never given; it is only ever earned.

*If freedom is not used, it withers. If rights
are not used, they wither.”*



Your
vote
counts!

On May 26, 2019, European elections took place in Germany. Local elections took also place on the same Sunday in Rhineland-Palatinate. And a 100-year old woman has put herself forward as a candidate for the Kirchheimbolanden city council. **Lisel Heise** is standing for the “Wir für Kibo” (EN – “Us, for Kirchheimbolanden”) initiative. The above story of Greta Thunberg, and the one below about Lisel Heise, show that people of any age can engage with issues – with the power, law and freedom of our democracy and Constitution at their backs. It is often the small stories that attract attention and recognition across the world and promote participation. **“People who want to change things must actively do so,”** said Lisel Heise. She has had an active and extraordinary life. Lisel Heise was born shortly after the First World War and grew up in the Weimar Republic. She was sent to Danzig during the Second World War to make the lives of migrants easier. She married her husband when he was on leave from his station in Africa and they had four children. The former teacher and avid athlete is almost definitely the oldest ever candidate for political office. The final straw was the closure of her favorite outdoor pool.

In March 2019, Lisel Heise said:

“The current situation is stupid! My heart is bleeding. The outdoor pool was my elixir of life and a kindergarten for many in this town. To close the pool for cost reasons is a genuine scandal. How can anyone simply close a source of health such as this. There are only Philistines in the town hall sitting in their stale fug. My microphone was simply turned off

during an event. Since then, officials have only met me with closed ears. With my candidacy, I want to bring this topic to the city council. But it's not just about the outdoor pool. I also want a traffic-free city center and a disco. There's practically nothing for young people in our town. I am skeptical of the established parties, but one politician impressed me: Helmut Schmidt, our ex-Chancellor. For me it's not about success, but about doing the right thing. I will open my mouth as long as I have the strength to."



After 80 years, she would follow in her father's footsteps into the city council. He criticized the destruction of the synagogue in 1938 and was imprisoned for four weeks. He was lucky not to disappear in a concentration camp. We cannot even imagine what a terrible time it was, where keeping people quiet was the order of the day and thinking differently or acting was dangerous. Today, democracy feels like an honor and the city council will be stirred up. **Lisel Heise: A role model with the potential for imitation.** Her success is almost a given as most of the over-40s had her as a teacher in school. And young people find 100-year olds cool.

GEH WÄHLEN !

DEINE
DEMOKRATIE

["VOTE!" – "IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY"]

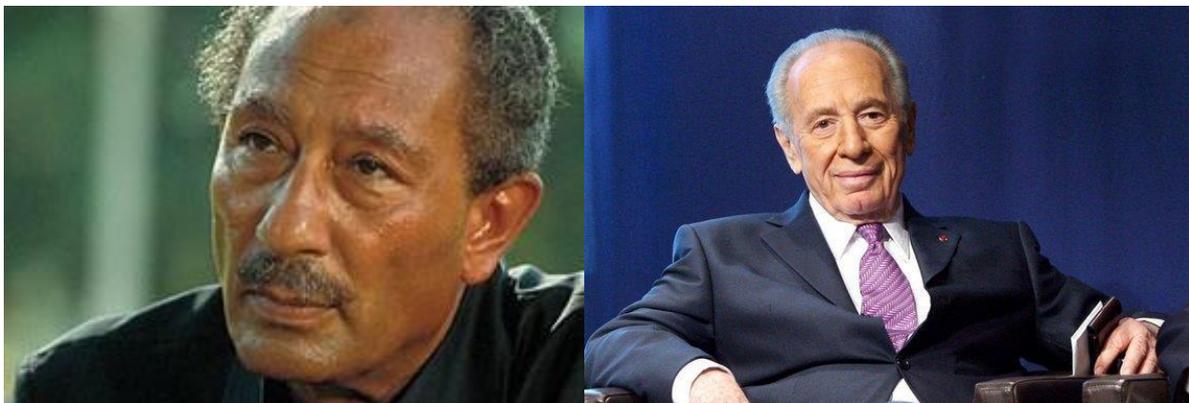
In 1979, the President of Egypt **Anwar el-Sadat** concluded a peace treaty with Israel. After decades of war and hostilities, he managed to break through the wall of hate. On his visit to Israel on November 19, 1977, he felt like he was visiting another planet. Up until then, the neighboring state of Israel had always been described as the cancer of the Arabic world. Abbie Nathan, an Israeli peace activist, believes that Sadat is the reincarnation of Abraham, Moses, Christ and Mohammed. Together with the Premier of Israel, Menachim Begin, Anwar el-Sadat was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for his peace efforts. Anwar el-Sadat told the Egyptian parliament in 1977:

“I am willing to go to the ends of the Earth for peace.”

With “the ends of the Earth”, Anwar el-Sadat was referring to the Israeli parliament. Anwar el-Sadat spoke at the parliament on November 20, 1977 – a world sensation.

The Israeli, all-round politician **Shimon Peres** was the personification of an appeal to future generations not to lose hope of peace in the future – however unlikely that may seem from today’s perspective. Shimon Peres said:

“Who would have thought after the Second World War that just two years later France, Germany and Italy would be working together in peaceful collaboration? I have often heard from experts that permanent peace in Egypt is almost impossible. But peace is still cleaving its path. I believe in the inevitability of peace. It’s better to talk, talk, talk than shoot, shoot shoot...”!!!



In 1962, the looming presence of nuclear weapons stationed on Cuba led John F. Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev to agree to put an end to a possible Third World War at any costs, as the use of nuclear weapons by either side would have devastating consequences for the planet. It is best we don't think about what would have happened if it had been Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in power instead. John F. Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev said:

“Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to Mankind.”

“In the next war, the survivors would envy the dead.”



It's better to talk, talk, talk than shoot, shoot shoot!!!

Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, was well-known during his lifetime. But he became world-famous after his death: The childless chemist, inventor and industrialist left his entire 31-million Swedish Krona fortune to a foundation. The interest revenue from the Nobel foundation “is distributed as prizes to those who have done good work for humanity in the revenue year.” In 1901, Alfred Nobel’s wishes were implemented. Since then, the Nobel Prize has become one of the most well-known and important awards in the world of science and society. Alfred Nobel said:

“The day when two army corps can annihilate each other in one second, all civilized nations, it is to be hoped, will recoil from war and discharge their troops.”



Those born after the Second World War are lucky that they have grown up in a time of peace – in particular, those that have been able to experience and enjoy the advantages of a living and stable democracy. However, we cannot forget that most of the generations, both before and between the two World Wars, lost all their belongings at least once thanks to war, displacement, exodus, natural catastrophes and stock market crashes. The last few generations were largely born and raised in collective prosperity on Earth. The main prerequisite here was a mainly peaceful life. These people, in which I include myself, have been spared of collective suffering. This is reason enough to cherish, protect and raise up our democracy.



A good book was published in 2018. The title is: “*Glad Tidings: Things don’t look good for the human race – but better than ever.*” The author, Walter Wüllenweder, wrote on the cover of his book: *The past decades were the best in the history of Homo sapiens. Never have people been in such good health, as well educated, as free and as safe from violence as today.* I also recommend the book “**FACTFULNESS**” by the Swedish scientist Hans Rosling, who died in 2017. With this book, he left us with a legacy of **32 good messages**. In this era of *fake news* Hans Rosling’s facts are worth their weight in gold.

In this chapter, I have detailed a few role models that have had a positive and democratic effect on the history of Germany, Europe and further afield. They are role models that we can look up to and that have got the above improvements

off the ground. We can continue this positive vein and ensure that the progress made brings something good to everyone. But we must use the power of democracy to fight for what we have achieved and fight against extremist populists, autocrats, demagogues, terrorists and egotistical people that are currently driving this dreadful across the world thanks to their **deliberate actions**.

Richard Dehmel said:

“All suffering is loneliness; all luck is togetherness.”



Dante Alighieri said:

“One man waits for the times to change, the other seizes the day and acts.”



Over the past few pages, I have written about people that I see as personalities both in books, on television, on computers and smartphones, but also in person. They are personalities that have defined and inspired me, and that I can emulate in one or more ways.

I named the first chapter of this book **Good Resolutions**. It is easier and better to implement good resolutions if we are guided by art and artists. The artists I admire are personalities that have guided and enriched my life. Therefore, they won't be neglected in this book. Because they bring us to tears of joy and sadness in the theater, in concert, in the cinema or on our couches. Actors, because they give us enjoyment and make us think. Directors, because they make sure that the actors shine on all levels and provide us with quality entertainment. Explorers, philosophers, poets and thinkers, painters and writers, because they beguile us and allow us to forget time. Comedians and cabaret artists because they make us laugh with their clowning around, pieces of art and humor, even if we are sad. Musicians, because they give us a musical heritage that lasts forever and because they didn't just revolutionize the music world during their often too short lives. There is something for everyone in the catalog of music. Music is there to make our lives easier and to give us enjoyment. Therefore, we love musicians because they give our ears, minds and hearts their artistic works thanks to their voices, mastery of instruments, passion, energy, persistence and imagination. And, haven't we all tried to emulate our idols? To do the same, or to even become better? Therefore, we have role models, to spur us on and get the best out of us.



Music helps us in all life situations. Music inspires us, makes us sad and brave, electrifies us. Music makes us dance. Music touches us, calms us, drives us and gives us power – sometimes classical, sometimes progressive or reverent, and of course rock, pop and jazz. **Music is simply amazing! Like Cecilia Bartoli and Miles Davis!**

In an interview with Michael Atzinger from *BR-Klassik* (German-language radio station) on May 27, 2017 during the premiere of “Ariodante” at the Whitsun Festival “Meine Musik” (EN – My Music) in Salzburg, Cecilia Bartoli said:

“What do you have to have, to do my job well? The most important ingredient is passion. Nothing can happen without passion. Then, commitment and identification with the job. And, of course, energy. And discipline. But I find it easy as I like to share my ideas with others. And I simply like to make good music. And we need it too. What do we really enjoy? Listening to music is one of most sacred moments in life. Together with others, sometimes so different to real life. Because we all sit alone in front of the computer. To listen to music means to share feelings, to laugh and cry together. For me, it’s a kind of religion. Music takes us to another place. Of course! And we need it. Our souls need it! Art gives us these ecstatic moments. And therefore, we need art in our lives. And we should nourish and care for it as much as possible.”



Miles Davis was one of the most important, influential and most innovative jazz musicians of the 20th Century. As well as an instrumentalist and creative spirit, Miles Davis was able to achieve his own artistic ideas. **He regularly added talented musicians to his band to find new impulses and give him room to develop. Many Jazz greats owe their musical breakthrough to Miles Davis.** Since the end of the 20th Century, his compositions have gained in popularity with both music critics and fans alike. They are considered the classics and masterpieces of jazz. Davis himself has been named one of the best trumpet players. In appreciation of Miles Davis' works, the House of Representatives in the United States adopted a symbolic resolution on December 15, 2009, the 50th anniversary of the recording of his album *Kind of Blue*, in order to honor his masterpiece and to strengthen jazz's position as a national culture.



Kind of Blue was released in 1959. It is a milestone in the history of jazz. In 2013, the music magazine, *Rolling Stone*, placed the album second in the list of the top 100 best jazz albums. *Kind of Blue* enjoys a legendary status thanks to the brilliant recording technology and its sound that is seen as a benchmark even today thanks to its auditory spaciousness and clarity.

The German Basic law calls culture “a national objective”, Henry Hübchen said:

“Of course. Because culture is what defines our lives and togetherness.

And because education and culture go hand in hand.”



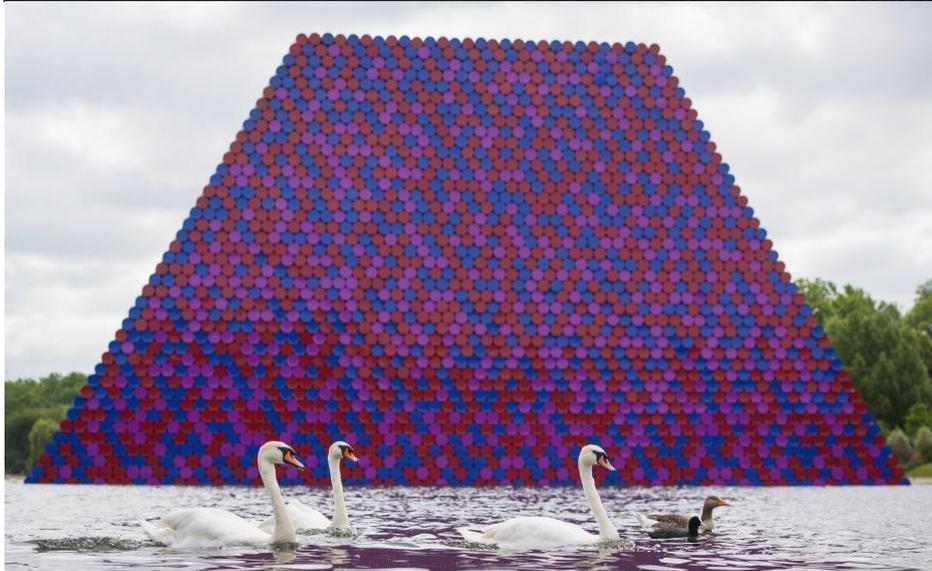
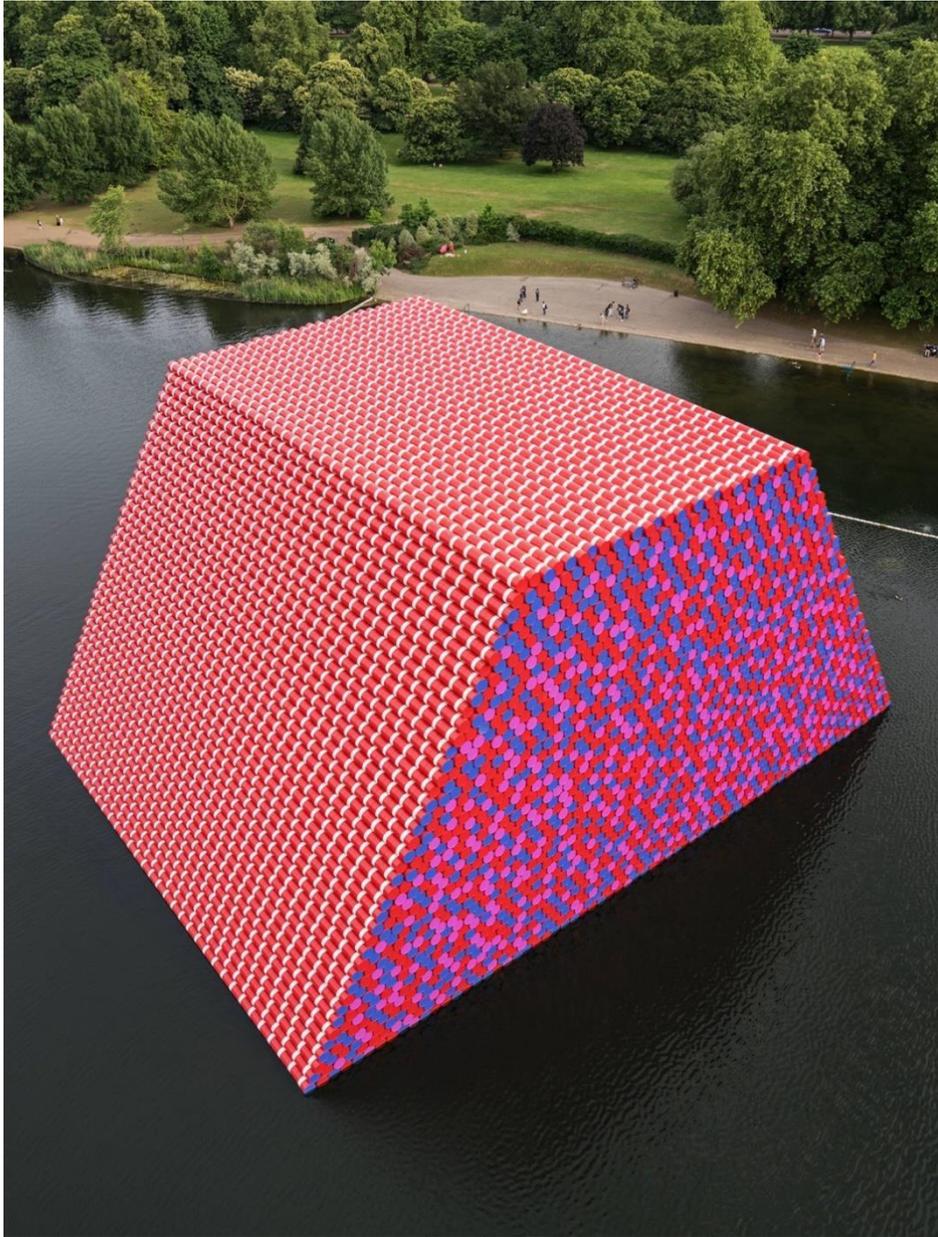
Jacob Baal-Teshuva said the following about the artist Christo:

“He began to wrap. Christo wrapped cans, bottles, chairs, a car – anything he could find, everyday objects of no beauty or interest. He implicitly assumed that any object could be worthy of the attentions of art. There were no hierarchies or distinctions any more in terms of artistic expression or content.”



In 1995, Christo wrapped the Reichstag in Berlin

A young Christo loved the theater and, in his youth, he produced pieces by William Shakespeare. This showed off his clear organizational talents. Christo studied at the National Academy of Art in Sofia and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Then, in Paris, Christos took the groundbreaking and formative steps into art. Christo wants to wrap the Arc de Triomphe in Paris as his next project.



Christos' sculpture of 7,500 oil barrels on the lake in Hyde Park, London!



Christos' "The Floating Piers" in Italy on Lago d'Iseo: The paths had no railings and it felt like you were walking on water!



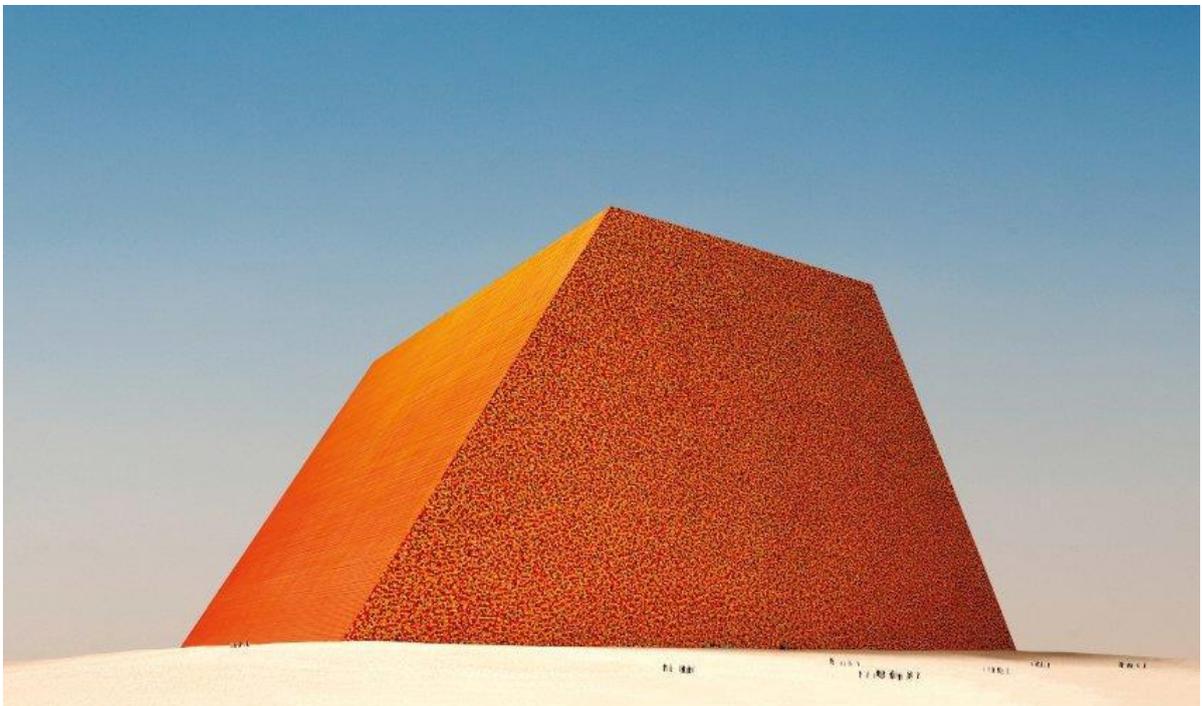
The paths were accessible – even for wheelchairs, buggies and walkers!



The paths were constructed out of 220,000 plastic cubes!



**In 1985, Christo wrapped the Pont-Neuf bridge in Paris.
40,000 cubic meters of nylon were used to wrap the sandstone!**



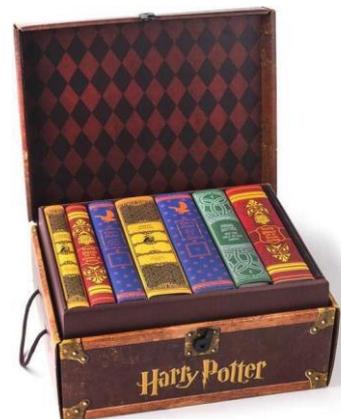
Christos' pyramid "Mastaba" in the desert in Abu Dhabi made from 400,000 oil barrels.

When dreams become reality!!!

Writers, directors, actors and comedians often kidnap us to a world where fantasies and dreams rule and where we hope that the Good on the Earth win. My favorites include the *Matrix trilogy* as well as the *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* series' that have been filmed in such a wonderful, breathtaking, exciting manner – and of course always with a happy ending.

Penélope Cruz said:

“We shape the future with our thoughts. The key is not to stop dreaming. If you don't catch yourself dreaming like you did when you were ten or 15 years old, it's a warning sign: Caution! We should start dreaming now of what we want to be.”



There are authors that write throughout their entire lifetime without ever becoming famous. This is frustrating and stressful. This was how it was for many years for J. K. Rowling. In 1990, she created the fictional character *Harry Potter* on a train journey from Manchester to London. She knew from the start that the seven-part series should revolve around a young wizard who goes to a boarding school for witches and wizards. As a single mother, J. K. Rowling was living off social welfare at the time. The Harry Potter novels have been translated into 70 languages and have sold over 500 million copies. The movie series won twelve Oscars and earned eight billion US dollars. **Dreams become true when you let your fantasies run free!**

In the same way as dreams become reality in Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter and The Matrix!!!



The Wizard

The Hobbit

The King

The Ring-bearer

The Wizard said: *"I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love."*



Prof. Dumbledore

Harry

Hermione

Ron

Dumbledore said to Harry: *"We must all face the choice between what is right, and what is easy."*



Agent Smith

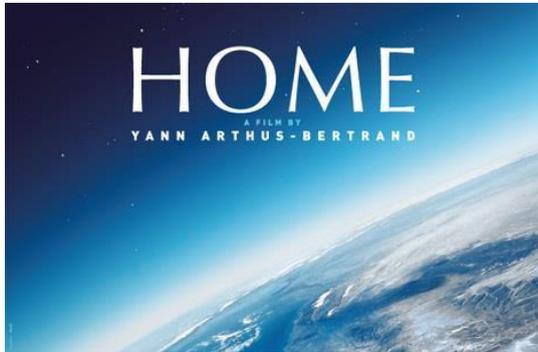
The One

Trinity

Morpheus

Morpheus said to The One: *"I am trying to free your mind, Neo. But I can only show you the door. You're the one that must walk through it. Stop trying to do it. Do it!"*

In my first book in the *Homo progressivus* series, I wrote: “Everyone who is involved in the decision-making processes around the globe, should watch the documentaries “Home” and “Our Earth.” Then you will know what needs to be done – now, together and across the world.”



I think that these two documentaries cover everything to make us reflect and give us a sense of reason. But if they are not enough, I recommend the ten-part series “**One Strange Rock.**” It tells the history of planet Earth. The narrator is the Hollywood star Will Smith. His charisma, intelligence and humanity are inspiring and help to guide viewers on a journey through space and time. Will Smith tells this unique history and the spectacular wonder of life on Earth in an unforgettable manner, and brings the point home with a joke, some humor or absolute sincerity depending on what the situation warrants. The narrator is guided on the journey by eight NASA astronauts. They present the ten-part documentary from a fascinating perspective. They tell of how their lives and perspective of the Earth changed when they viewed the planet from space. Thanks to their view of the Blue Planet, they can tell the history of the Earth in a new, exciting and thrilling way. It is a history of beauty and drama, admirable creation and shocking destruction from which new things rise. We learn in a fun way that the Earth has two protective shields: The Ozone layer that protects us from dangerous UV radiation and the heat of the Sun. And, a magnetic field that refracts a large portion of the radiation and keeps it from reaching the surface of the Earth. Plus, we also have rain and the oceans which create a unique cooling system to stop the heat from the Sun from burning the Earth and its inhabitants. Peggy Whitson spent 665 days on the ISS. Longer than any other human. She found it hard to leave the International Space Station but said: **There’s no place like home.**

Every one of the eight astronauts returned from space as a changed person. Viewing the Earth from a different perspective has in turn given them all a different perspective on their lives. But one thing changed for them all: The place they call home is and remains the Earth. For all the protagonists in this thrilling series, home is not where they were born or their country, but the entire planet. They don't think borders are important because they have seen the climatic and biological processes that surround the Earth and that aren't stopped by mere country borders.



On September 6, 2018 onboard the International Space Station,

Alexander Gerst said to Chancellor Angela Merkel:

“The Universe does not look after us. We have just one chance to protect ourselves and that is to look after our planet Earth. When you see it from up here, it is clear how shockingly fragile the Earth really is. We have no Plan B.”



Based loosely on Oscar Wilde:

It is not principles but personalities that change the world.



2

The time is right to become a better world,
in which *Homo progressivus* usurps *Homo sapiens* !



It is the start, but not the end, of good resolutions: We can all feel and see that our Earth is more than just a tolerable place. It is a pearl in the infinite Universe that is worth keeping, if the Sun shines and gives us its power. You can find more good resolutions in the final chapter of this book: **Finale**.

5. DELIBERATE ACTIONS

In 2019, we wrote: We live in an age of globalization, digitization, increasing Artificial Intelligence and man-made climate change. All in all, it shows that we stick together better in today's world with all its chances, challenges, strengths and threats, and that we must enjoy a good life together. **But what happens in many countries?** Nationalism, extremist populism, religious fanaticism, radicalism, egoism, autocracy, terrorism and corruption is widespread, and their influence is increasing. This particularly affects the USA, Russia, China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Venezuela and many other countries in the Middle and Far East as well as Africa and Central America.

But I still firmly believe: The vast majority people in the world are in favor of freedom, justice and democracy and not nationalism, authoritarian leadership and ruthlessness towards minorities. We must succeed in ending the totalitarian fanning of the flames and put out the already blazing fires. We must succeed in eradicating the nationalist right-wing radical, egotistical and terroristic nightmares from our planet. So that the **deliberate actions** resulting from our **good resolutions** prevail.

In today's world values are disappearing more and more. Values of tolerance and cohesion, respect when dealing with others, the wider picture and finally, the appreciation of a strong, living and stable democracy. If nationalist and extreme populists and autocrats come into power across the world and govern with totalitarian instruments, then democracy is at the end of the road. The reciprocal monitoring of constitutional bodies loses its importance, the media will be brought to heel or silenced, and the judicial system will be brought into line. And in the end *cyber-attacks, alternative facts and fake news* will cause World War Three.

We must understand that everything can happen, everything is possible, and that it is up to us to decide if it will be good or bad!

If we carry on as we are doing, it will be difficult:

- We live in an egotistical and deeply conflicted society in “divided states and world religions” with uninhibited brutality and violence,
- Digitization is both a blessing and a curse. The Internet offers us knowledge, education and political information. At the same time data leeches are sabotaging our security in the network. A nightmare of fading democracy and the transition to a police state.
- The disadvantages of globalization force us to find international solutions (job losses in industrial states and terrible working conditions in emerging countries, global risks from uncontrolled finance flows, increased competition on the world market, the growing divide between rich and poor countries.)
- In 2018, 55 percent of the global population live in cities. In 2050, this will be 70 percent (or seven billion people.) The rural exodus (migration) will lead to problems for those who remain behind, and to giant slums that will divide the rich and poor in the large cities.
- In 2016, eight people were as wealthy as the 3.735 billion poor people in the world. This unequal distribution of wealth has reached boiling point.
- In 1850, 1.25 billion people inhabited the Earth. This had doubled to 2.5 billion by 1950. In 2019, 7.8 billion people inhabit the Earth. If the trends continue, the Earth will be overpopulated by 2050 with 10 billion people. The projections for 2100 lie between 11.2 and 26 billion people, depending on the future global birth rate and birth controls.
- We will need six times more power compared to 1950. By 2050, our energy needs will increase ten-fold within 100 years.
- Oil, coal and gas production was directly subsidized with over 500 billion US dollars in 2015. The subsidies for 2015 were over 5 trillion US dollars including damage resulting from the burning of fossil fuels.
- The subsidies for renewable energies in 2015 were less than 100 billion US dollars.
- Unless we undertake a U-turn in the climate change-inducing energy industry, up to a billion climate refugees will flood the borders of industrial states by 2050. There will be wars fought over access to drinking water and food.

Wake up, everybody – it’s not too late yet!

The world has gone off the rails. This is clearly shown in the ten scenarios and developments detailed in the previous few pages. The figures, data and facts given show the epochal change that we need, when it comes to political, economic, energy-related, religious and humanitarian issues. We must send a wave across the world to ensure the continued existence of humanity and the species that live alongside us.

If we compress the 4.6 billion years of Earth's history into just one calendar year, Then *Homo sapiens* first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve after 23:00. Our world is both beautiful and frustrating at the same time, because *Homo sapiens* has only been on the evolutionary scale for about 30 minutes and is in danger of disappearing in an evolutionary cul-de-sac.

We should use our intelligence and negotiate with good sense, foresight, wisdom, creativity and fantasy to ensure that *Homo sapiens* will not just be a footnote on the history of our planet. The species' threatened extinction by us should heave a sigh of relief because finally Mankind is characterized by its humanity and commitment to protecting other species, and not because the human species is faced with extinction.



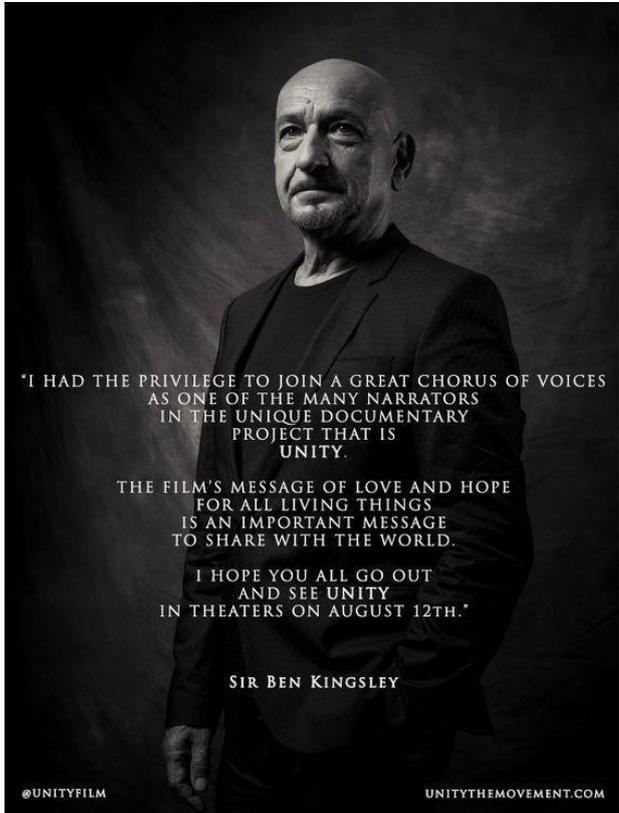
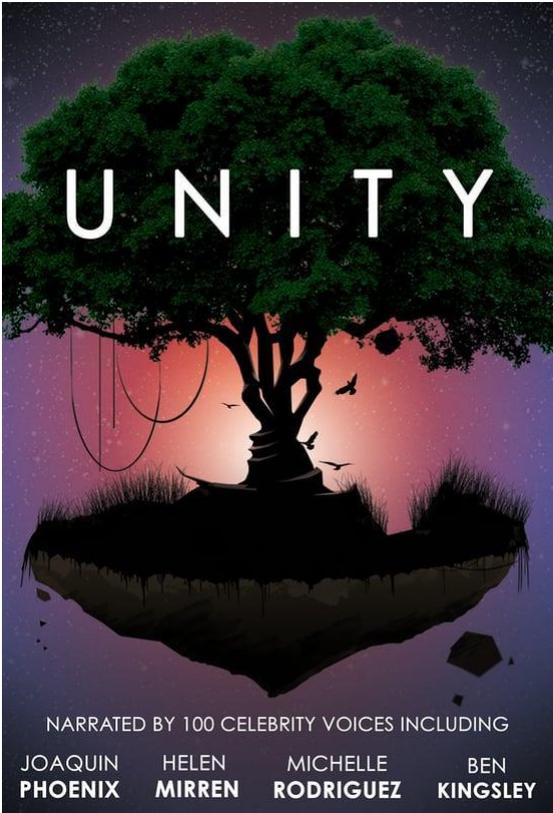
Before extinction: Tiger, elephant and the King of the Jungle!!!

“Earthlings”: The title of a 2005 documentary by director Shaun Monson. Viewers are often confronted by frightening images that often show the brutal injustice that animals across the world are subject to at the hands of humans. The original English-language version is narrated by Golden Globe Winner Joaquin Phoenix and set to music by Moby.

The term “Earthlings” refers to all living things on our planet – both humans and animals. However, human domination and exploitation of other Earthlings knows no moral boundaries. The documentation doesn’t just focus on the consumption of animal products. It also highlights the problems in how we handle animals in all aspects of our lives. Their suffering buys food, clothing, entertainment and research. The “Earthlings” movie is a wakeup call like no other. Anyone who wants to confront the issue of livestock farming won’t be able to forget it.



Shaun Monson made a sequel in 2015. The new movie is called “Earthlings Unity.” It starts where the first “Earthlings” movie finished in 2005. The transformation of humanity is detailed in the documentary and is divided into five chapters called “Cosmic”, “Mind”, “Body”, “Heart” and “Soul.” “Earthlings Unity” highlights the reasons why we find it so hard to live with one another. The film is narrated by numerous well-known actors, athletes, authors, movie makers and musicians. Among them are Helen Mirren, Maroon 5 singer Adam Levine, Oscar Winner Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Anne Moss who was made famous by the Matrix movie, magician David Copperfield, actors Martin Sheen and Olivia Wilde, musician Moby, Joaquin Phoenix and many others.



In his book “A Brief History of Mankind”, Yuval Noah Harari wrote:

“If you took all these people and put them on a large set of scales, their combined mass would be about 300 million tons. If you then took all our domesticated farmyard animals – cows, pigs, sheep and chickens – and placed them on an even larger set of scales, their mass would amount to about 700 million tons. In contrast, the combined mass of all surviving large wild animals – from porcupines and penguins to elephants and whales – is less than 100 million tons. Our children’s books, our iconography and our TV screens are still full of giraffes, wolves and chimpanzees, but the real world has very few of them left. There are about 80,000 giraffes in the world, compared to 1.5 billion cattle; only 200,000 wolves, compared to 400 million domesticated dogs; 50 million penguins compared to 50 billion chickens, only 250,000 chimpanzees in contrast to billions of humans. Humankind has taken over the world. However, wild giraffes and penguins have no reason to be jealous of domesticated cattle and chickens. From a narrow evolutionary perspective, domesticated animals are a resounding success. They are the most widespread animals in the world. Unfortunately, this evolutionary perspective does not consider individual suffering and happiness. Domesticated chickens and cattle may well be an evolutionary success story, but they are also among the most miserable creatures that ever lived. This discrepancy between evolutionary success and individual suffering is one of the most important lessons in our history.”



The best way to free us from our self-imposed chains and our mistakes is to see globalization as a chance for our planet and not a burden. *Homo sapiens* is, as far as we know, the only species that can reinvent itself as *Homo progressivus* in order to ensure its existence alongside the other species on our amazing planet.



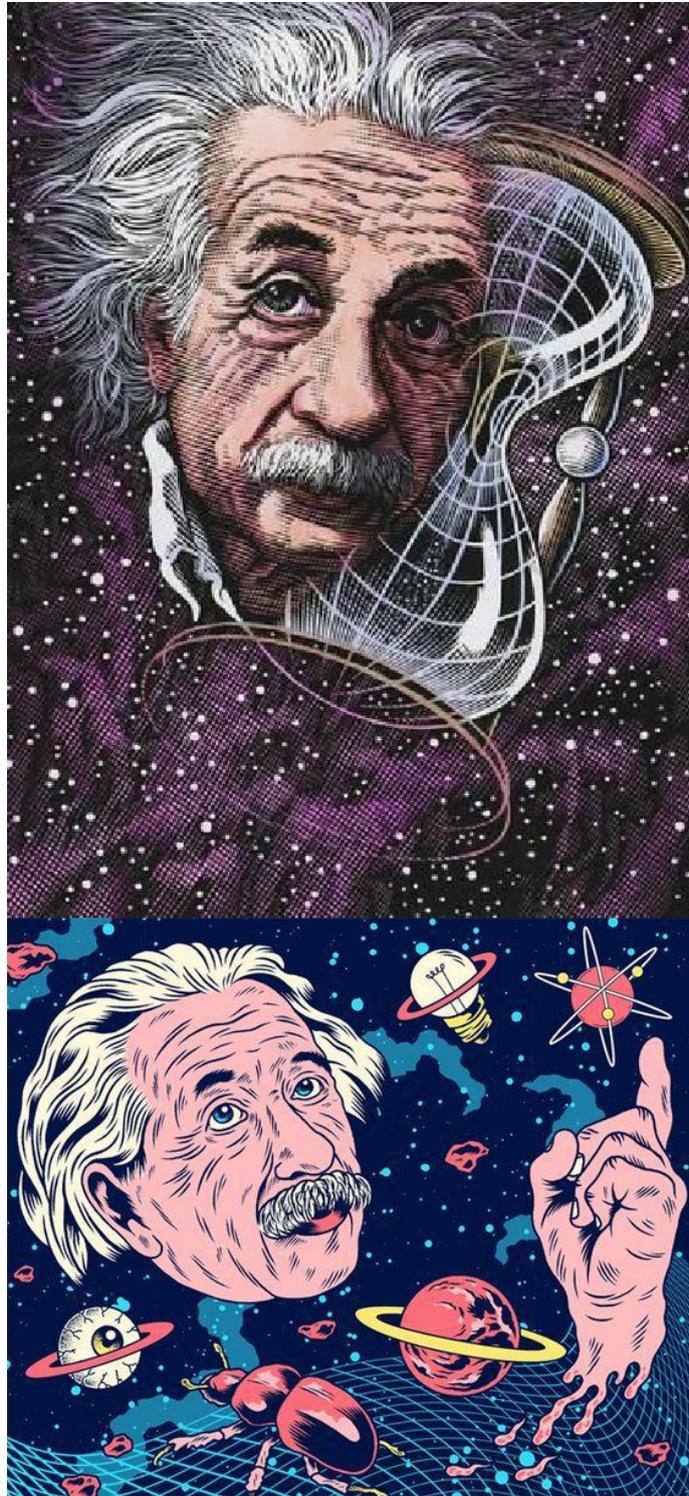
We can use the power on Earth to its fullest by not misusing it and instead understanding ourselves as **People of the Earth**, led by personalities that use their powers to serve the world. Above all, free from this cursed human cruelty that has haunted and ruled this planet for so long. We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists and realists, but no warlords, tyrants or abusers of animals. Let us conquer our hearts together, instead of our possessions. The species' threatened with extinction by us should heave a sigh of relief because finally Mankind is characterized by its humanity and commitment to protecting other species and not because the human species is faced with extinction.



All in one boat – peaceful and happy!

Albert Einstein said:

*“Only two things are infinite, the Universe and human stupidity,
and I’m not sure about the former.”*



Let us prove the opposite.

Together, here, now and across the entire world!

Imagine there is a global threat originating from beyond our world, like those in science fiction movies. Then the people, religions and leaders on Earth would stand together to protect and defend our planet.



If we carry on as we are doing, climate change will be a global threat that comes from within and not from space. We should use this knowledge to agree global, **binding** climate protection measures as well as those to stop war and procure drinking water and food.

Based loosely on Bill Pullman's speech in the movie *INDEPENDENCE DAY*:

Mankind, that word should have new meaning for all of us today. We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore. We will be united in our common interests. It is time to fight for our freedom. Against tyranny, oppression and persecution and our very existence. If we unite our positive forces, we will survive and celebrate our INDEPENDENCE DAY together across the world.



We should see our planet for what it really is: A tiny but beautiful speck of dust in an infinitely large universe. A place worth living and where its inhabitants fight for their survival.



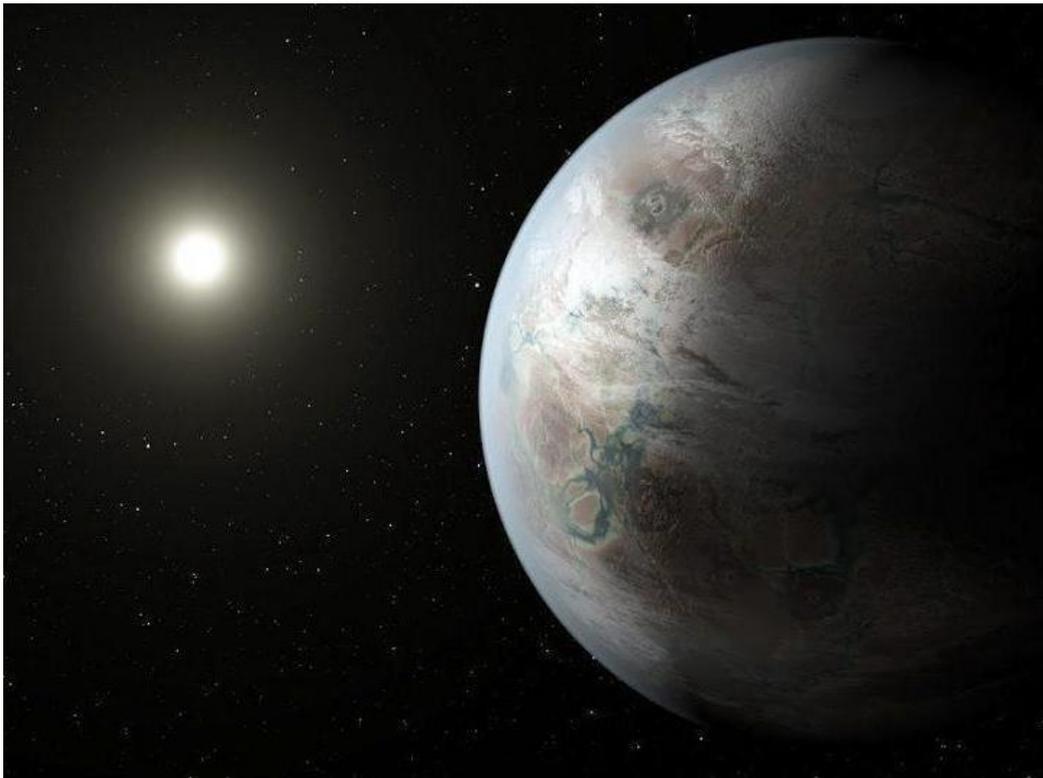
Hubble would say:

"If Mankind could see what I see, then you would know how small you are and how lucky you are to have your speck of dust. For 29 years, I have taken a fascinating look at wider Universe and let you join me. Out of everything that I have seen, I have never found a more beautiful planet (within your reach) than Earth."



In September 2018 onboard the International Space Station, Alexander Gerst said to Chancellor Angela Merkel: *“We have just one chance to protect ourselves and that is to protect our planet Earth. **We have no Plan B.**”*

Alexander Gerst also considers climate change to be a great threat. But he also thinks that the idea of humans migrating to another planet is science fiction. The following examples prove that we are both right.



“Kepler-452b”

In 2015, NASA discovered a planet 1400 light years from Earth. It is called “Kepler-452b.” Out of the planets discovered so far, it is the one that most resembles Earth. But how would we get there if it became too difficult to live here? A manned flight to Mars would take around 250 days. Mars is 225 million kilometers from Earth. For comparison: Kepler-452b is 13 quadrillion kilometers away. Even if we could travel at the speed of light, the time it would take to reach our destination would be as long as the history of the Roman Empire. This means: We should be careful without home planet before *Homo sapiens* wreaks havoc on other planets.

Greed is pure egoism!

Greed and the continuous struggle for growth and profit, as well as the associated power, are the main driving forces of human nature. This has only increased since the scientific revolution of the past 500 years. The word “lust” can also be used in positive contexts. Such as if someone lusts for something new or knowledge. It is when lust happens upon money and ownership, that it traps us and becomes greed. People become greedy for money and possessions.



Positive lust and the pursuit of new findings have been given an enormous stimulus thanks to capital-field scientific research into better understanding our lives on Earth. We can also see that growth, profit and power are not all bad. **It just depends how the growth is achieved; profit is generated, and power is used.** In the past, lust degenerated into greed thanks to unjust claims of possession. People were exploited and destroyed due to war, slavery and serfdom. It happened because unscrupulous leaders from the world of politics and the economy misused their power. The reasons for this were the uninhibited power from an uncontrollable market. **We must work together to stop this blatant nonsense – now, here and across the planet.** Growth and the use of profits in sustainable investments for the creation of sensible products are a benefit for both employers and employees. **This is how responsible employers create jobs with appropriate salaries that guarantee purchasing power for consumers.**

That is the economic cycle which, when state-controlled, can also offer a secure network for socially weak and sick without hindering Mankind's progress. With a defined functional credit system and sensible consumption, this system is called a **“social market economy.”** The social market economy and the **common good** must have priority above pure capitalism which has led to unspeakable unequal distribution thanks to its brutal rawness and harshness, as well as its egoistical and greedy characteristics, and which is **increasing unchecked.**



In 2014, the “value” of outstanding derivative contracts for banks across the world increased to over **700 trillion dollars**. In 2017, before Trump’s deregulation, the nominal value of the derivatives was still 500 trillion dollars. In 2018, US banks alone had over 200 trillion dollars of derivatives. For comparison: In 2018, the total GDP worldwide was 87.5 trillion dollars. Derivatives are “betting slips” in the financial sector and on stock exchanges. There are numerous types and subtypes of derivatives which make financial speculation possible. Greedy brokers use these to ravage the market like locusts. This is a ticking time bomb.

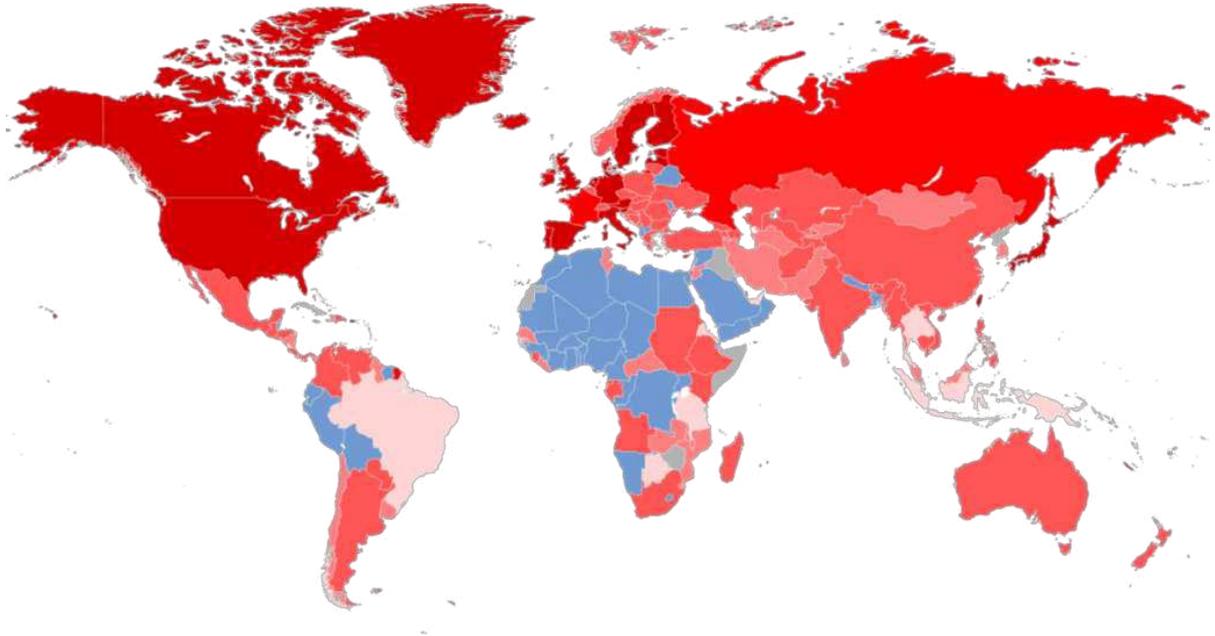
In 2003, the total value of derivatives worldwide was less than 200 trillion dollars. At the time **Warren Buffet** said: *“I think that derivatives are a ticking time bomb, both for those who use them but also for the economy.”*



Five years later the bomb went off!

And the Earth keeps on spinning like nothing happened. Instead of investing in real values, the money is pumped into shares and real estate which scoop the money up from the bottom to the top – right up to the super-rich. Small savers are being left out thanks to the measly interest rates. Those that do not own their own home suffer under the elevated, or no longer affordable rental prices. And when the blister pops, those who are the least to blame are left out in the rain again.

We can expect that bank deregulation will inevitably lead to a new global financial crisis and, therefore, lead to an even worse global economic crisis.



Extent of the crisis in 2007-2008

– The darker the red, the worse the crisis –

Many banks have degenerated into casinos where high risks are taken and there is speculation on a criminal level. It's no wonder that a large part of money that the central banks flood the market with, does not actually show up in the real economy. However, despite all of this we cannot lose our courage and hope. The shock wave caused by Donald Trump and his policies could also lead to a new system of values if we all resist together. In fiscal terms, now more than ever, we need added value that ensures that the **money is used for the common good.**



PROJEKT
BANK FÜR
GEMEINWOHL

[“Project Bank for the Common Good”]

The next **Global Economic Forum** was held on **21 -24 January 2020** in Davos. Considering the great international crises and catastrophes, we must use the time to create a new system of values for the global economic and financial community.

Instead of empty promises and missed opportunities, we need responsible employers with entrepreneurial spirit and a new system of values with an ethical and moral orientation and that puts sustainable growth principles first. The responsible persons from the worlds of politics and the economy are obligated to set out a fair policy to combat inequality and poverty across the world.



This is aimed at breaking the power of hypocritical companies, politicians and famous people who hide their assets and live in tax havens. Those who hide behind shell companies to launder money and avoid taxes should be confronted and taken to court. A global transparency register must be introduced to stop these criminal activities. This would list all the owners of shell companies. In addition, a global “blacklist” should list all tax havens.

Journalists from the *Süddeutschen Zeitung* and an international research network reported about the so-called **Panama Papers** on April 3, 2016. They were sent 2.6 terabytes of data with 11 million files and the names of 214,000 shell companies.

The Panamanian Chancellor, Mossack Fonseca, helped the rich and powerful bring their dubious gains into his country and hide it under pseudonyms. In April 2019, three years after the Panama Papers were made public, **1.07 billion euros** of fines and taxes was claimed worldwide. Considering that countries around the world lost approximately **5,800 billion euros** in tax payments, then the 1.07 billion euros of fines and back taxes are simply a **drop** in the ocean and an invitation for criminals to carry on.



The world's poorest fight for survival on one side. And on the other, there are greedy, rich people that never have enough. Their contented peacefulness disturbed when their dark machinations are discovered. If the "Panama Papers" have done some good, then it is to educate those caught and potential lawbreakers in decency, reason and the common good. We need more philanthropists in the world and philanthropic institutions to expose and denounce illegal and criminal concealments by using their generous actions to help us to experience acceptance and popularity instead of egotistical scrooges and speculators.

I am under the impression that an increasing number of wealthy people are taking an interest in the fate of millions of desperate people. We would do well to assume that it's not just about pure PR but about their sense of responsibility at the right time.

“The Giving Pledge” is an initiative of Melinda & Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. Anyone who joins the initiative pledges in writing to give at least half of their assets to good causes. The aim is to address the most important social problems in the world. In 2017, the list of members and generous donors included 168 billionaires.

Warren Buffet said:

“No-one should be bound to their assets.”

“I promised myself that I would transfer my shares in Berkshire Hathaway one by one to philanthropic institutions. I couldn't be happier with my decision.”

Bill Gates said:

“We have been blessed with good fortune beyond our wildest expectations. Just as these gifts are great, so we feel a responsibility to use them well. Therefore, we are happy to join the other and make a clear commitment to ‘The Giving Pledge’.”



Fighting climate change – With the Sun in our hearts and the wind at our backs

The understanding that we have been on the wrong track for over 100 years with oil, coal, gas and uranium is gaining slowly in popularity.

Bertolt Brecht said:

“And they were sawing off the branches on which they were sitting and told each other of ways to saw better. And eventually they dropped off and those who watched them shook their heads and kept on sawing.”



The burning of fossil fuels is the reason for the unchecked climate change that is barreling forwards at a speed never seen before. The consequences are catastrophic. **Quite simply: we will destroy ourselves.**



The fact that we are on the wrong path is also shown by the coal, gas, uranium and oil barons. The fossil fuel companies logistically transport their fuels around the world to the power plants.

Example: Coal is mined during the day in Columbia, among other things, and transported to the surface before being loaded on trucks. The trucks drive to the port where the coal is loaded onto a ship. Then, the ship sails to the destination port in Europe, among other places. The coal is then loaded onto trucks and trains again. The trucks and trains bring the coal to the coal-fired power stations where it is burned.



Not just the wrong logistical approach! Can we be saved?

The same is true for the transportation of oil from the place of production to the place of use:



*Platform, tanker, sufferers, refinery, pipeline, storage, tanker,
filling station, incinerator – are we rational?*

Before the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, John Kerry said:

“The current drama surrounding the refugees and immigrants in Europe will be harmless one day, if we have climate refugees fleeing because of the lack of water and food, and we turn against each other and fight just to survive. Climate change is a ‘seismic challenge’ today and not in a yet uncertain future.”



Before the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, Barack Obama said:

“This year must be the year in which the world comes to an agreement to protect the planet that we have, while we still can. The UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015 must be a success. Climate change is here, it is happening now. Human actions are destroying the environment faster than we thought. For me, the fight against global warming has the highest priority. We know that humans have the resourcefulness to do something about it. We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change. And the last that can do something about it.”



We can't say that we weren't warned. *The March* is a visionary movie made by the BBC in 1990. Italian and Spanish channels had misgivings as they thought that the idea of an "ecological migration" was too close to the migration of Africans to their countries, as well as being too realistic. The movie is set in a future where a large part of Africa is uninhabitable due to climate change and racial tensions in Europe have increased. In May 1990, it was broadcast as part of the European media initiative "A World for Everyone."



[“Think a little further!”]

As the EU Development Minister, Claire Fitzgerald, in the 1990 movie

The March, Juliet Stevenson said:

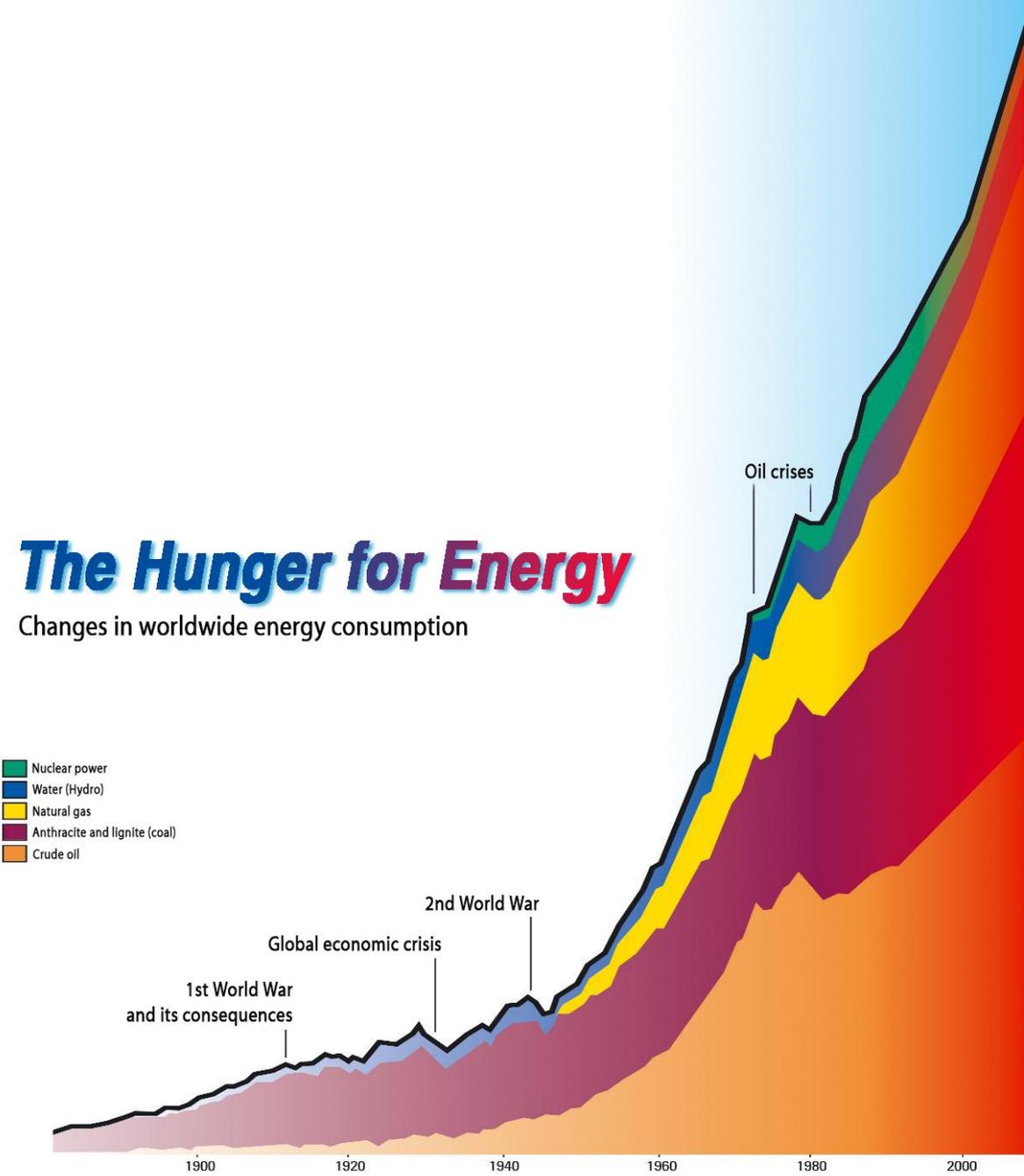
“We need you, like you need us. We cannot continue as we are. You can help us to stop the destruction we are causing. But we aren't ready for you, you must give us more time. We are not ready for you. Maybe later. Maybe one day. What kind of world would it be otherwise.”



The following graphic shows the clear, exponential increase in global energy use over the past century, and the first part of this century, and shows the shocking dependence on fossil fuels.

The Hunger for Energy

Changes in worldwide energy consumption



Leonardo di Caprio said politicians and businessmen:

“You can write history or be damned by it. Governments and industrial companies across the world must decide now and agree clear measures.

Climate change is ‘humankind’s greatest challenge’.

It’s not just about politics, but our survival.”

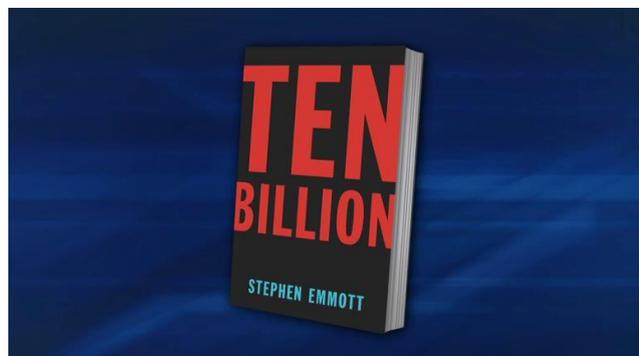
Yes, we have achieved the Paris Agreement. And that is a reason for hope. But it is not enough. Our planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels in the ground where they belong. An upheaval and massive change are required, now.”



In his book *TEN BILLION*, Stephen Emmott wrote:

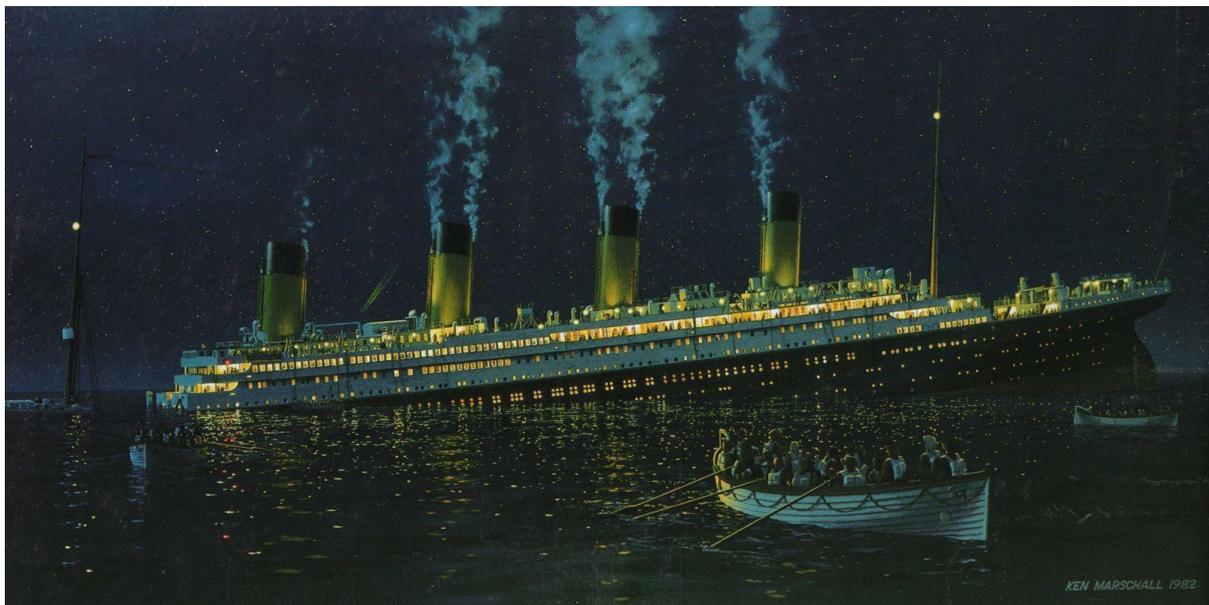
*“We urgently need to do – and I mean actually **do** – something radical to avert a global catastrophe. It’s about every one of us. It’s about failure: Failure as individuals, the failure of business, and the failure of our politicians. It’s about the unprecedented planetary emergency we’ve created. It’s about the future of us. We are faced by huge problems of great urgency. I can’t get it into my head why we don’t do more to get us out of this situation.*

I don’t think we can be saved.”



Shocking subsidies for fossil fuels of over 5 trillion US dollars per year An IMF study published on May 18, 2015 showed that the global subsidies for fossil fuels for every government in the world were higher than their healthcare costs. The estimated number of subsidies for 2015 was 5.3 trillion US dollars. This means that approximately 10 million US dollars in subsidies is being poured into fossil fuels every minute. The IMF compared the price for fossil fuels with the “true costs” achieved due to the subsidy, distribution and use of coal, gas and oil. This also included the environmental damage, damage to health and global warming.

The IMF figures revealed that the idea that coal, oil and gas are the cheapest fuels is a lie. Instead of subsidizing energy sources that have no future and thus slowing down the uptake of renewable energy sources, the ridiculous subsidies for fuels harmful to the environment must be stopped. With the money they would save, countries could improve their financial situations, the health of their people and protect the environment. Their revenue would increase overall by 2.9 trillion dollars. This could mean a decrease in taxes, less debt and more investment in the creation, retention and use of renewable energies.



***It's within our grasp: Destruction amidst smoking chimneys
or the lifeboat of renewable energies!***

Elizabeth Kolbert said:

“Life will go on. But it won’t be the world that us humans want. Many things will happen, no matter how hard we try. But there is a difference between bad and disastrous. Now is our last chance to stop a huge catastrophe. We need political action on a large scale. Across the world and in every country. We must completely change this enormous engine that runs on fossil fuels to one that doesn’t. Now there are a few sparks of hope, but nothing more. The statements made by the G7 states on June 8, 2015 to decarbonize the world over the next century are just empty promises. Because not a single head of government in the G7 will live to see the end of the century. The actions of the governments are more important. Germany is doing a lot, but it isn’t enough. Even the Germans love to drive their cars and fly. However, thanks to the energy revolution, the country is doing what it can. A strong message that might go down in history. If we don’t come to our senses, it may well be a good thing that we are just a crazy accident of evolution, incompatible with life on Earth. I think the Earth would be happy to get rid of this current incarnation of us. The Earth would think that Mars is a great new home for humanity – but it wouldn’t be for us. To be honest, I don’t understand the Mars project. Why should we move from a planet with oxygen to one without it? It’s a rather stupid idea. It would be better to use those billions to save the Earth. I foresee two extreme scenarios: Either we will trigger a mass extinction that we won’t survive, or we address the catastrophe with our resourcefulness.”



I believe there is an urgent need to convey the importance of a holistic turnaround in energy policy to television viewers; the message needs to be emphasised and constantly reinforced in a popular time slot. The public broadcasters can satisfy the qualitative requirements of their mandate as leading, opinion-forming media by maintaining a positive image of the topic on screen. “Energy without limits” on ARD and ZDF, alternating between the two stations - with the slogan “Quality improves ratings”. For ZDF, a gap created in December 2014 could be plugged and filled with new formats. Programs should be both sophisticated and fun. In the form of a show or quiz perhaps, with popular opinion-formers and mentors. These should not only be filmed in the studio; they should go to different locations with contributors from science and the real world, from art, culture, and music. A fun, playful atmosphere with tension created by competition. Different types of “competitor” can be set against one another: private individuals, experts, celebrities, communities, cities, states, or even nations. This game concept provides opportunities for multi-layered variations on the competition with intelligent content. The winners can be chosen on the Internet, by telephone, or by direct public participation. To put it simply,



Bet That ..?



“Energy without limits”

The energy revolution in practice – Simple integration of renewable energies, storage devices and consumers in an idyllic setting – including sustainable mobility

We don't just talk and write about the holistic, interconnected energy revolution. We are living it in practice. In January 2011, we moved into a former winery at Backhausstr. 33 in the municipality of Horrweiler.



Gateway to the main building

The main building was built in 1890. This was more or less habitable right away, but it was renovated completely to create a residential home in 2012. The former wine press building was built in 1800 and restored by us in February 2011. We now use it as an office and conference room for a wide range of events.



Office and conference building on the left



The conference and seminar room

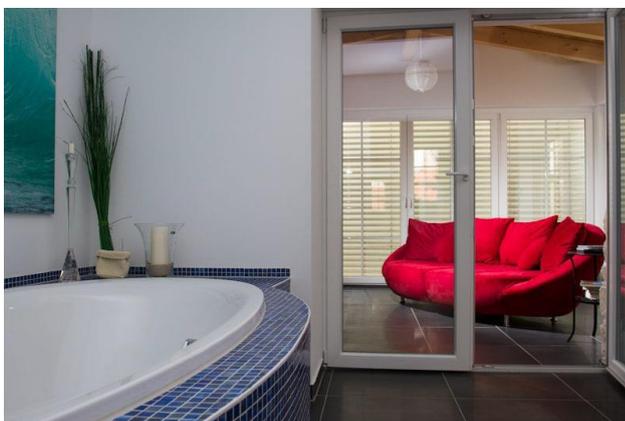
We also discovered a shell construction dating back to 2000 which we extended and converted in 2011 to create the “Villa Rustica”. Working with our architect and energy consultant, we planned and implemented the extension and conversion as a low energy house incorporating PV and solar thermal panels, air source heat pump, wood pellet stove and controlled ventilation of living areas.



Villa Rustica with vaulted cellar



Attic storey at Villa Rustica



Spa, living and sleeping areas in Villa Rustica

The pleasure and relaxation we derive from the spa and relaxation area areas at Villa Rustica are further increased by the knowledge that 100% of the energy comes either directly from the roof or is stored temporarily in batteries.

Beneath Villa Rustica is the vaulted cellar which dates back to 1795. This is accessed from the courtyard and was extended to become the wine cellar and tasting room (with visible plant room).



Vaulted cellar with plant room



Tasting room in the vaulted cellar

The “servants’ house” was originally built in the early 17th century, and was restored for our guests in 2012.



The guesthouse



With its well



Bathroom in the guesthouse



Guesthouse apartment

In 2012, when we restored the guesthouse (which is over 300 years old), we filled the crooked and sloping cavities with compressed Isoflock insulation. In tandem with the thick natural stone walls, this is a highly effective form of insulation that saves energy in the winter and keeps the rooms pleasantly cool on hot days.

The fabulous courtyard surrounded by half-timbered building walls creates an idyllic framework for the property. This delightful atmosphere, combined with the advanced technology used, makes it ideal for environmental events.



Courtyard and Villa Rustica



Courtyard with guesthouse

Since 1 January 2012, we have been using Villa Rustica, in particular, as a demonstration and reference project for the environmental aspects of our work. Visits, meetings and seminars are held there during the day, ending in the evening with wine tastings in the vaulted wine cellar and tasting room, with its visible plant room.

Here guests can clearly see the technologies that will shape our future in terms of energy generation and use. The Villa Rustica also offers our customers overnight accommodation and access to the spacious spa area. The room is kept at the right temperature by the modern ventilation system (which is not dependent on the external air) and a pellet stove to back up the heat pump in very low winter temperatures. Nature and technology are in perfect harmony.

There are PV and solar thermal panels installed and operating on the Villa Rustica's roof. These improvements to the building had one very pleasing side-effect: all the buildings are powered via the PV system first, then any surplus electricity is fed into the grid. All this is made possible by the intelligent meters.



PV and solar thermal panels



Lithium-ion battery for storing energy

Since August 2013, we have been using batteries to temporarily store our green electricity. This means we can store the solar power and then use it when the sun isn't shining.

The air source heat pump is installed on one of Villa Rustica's external walls. This system is more cost-effective than ground source heating because there is no need for a geothermal collector or deep drilling to collect the geothermal heat. The air source heat pump takes the energy from the air, even when it is cold outside, and converts it into heat energy which is used to heat water. This system is a highly efficient and environmentally-friendly alternative to heating with gas or oil. An air source heat pump is also cheaper to run than a gas or oil boiler.

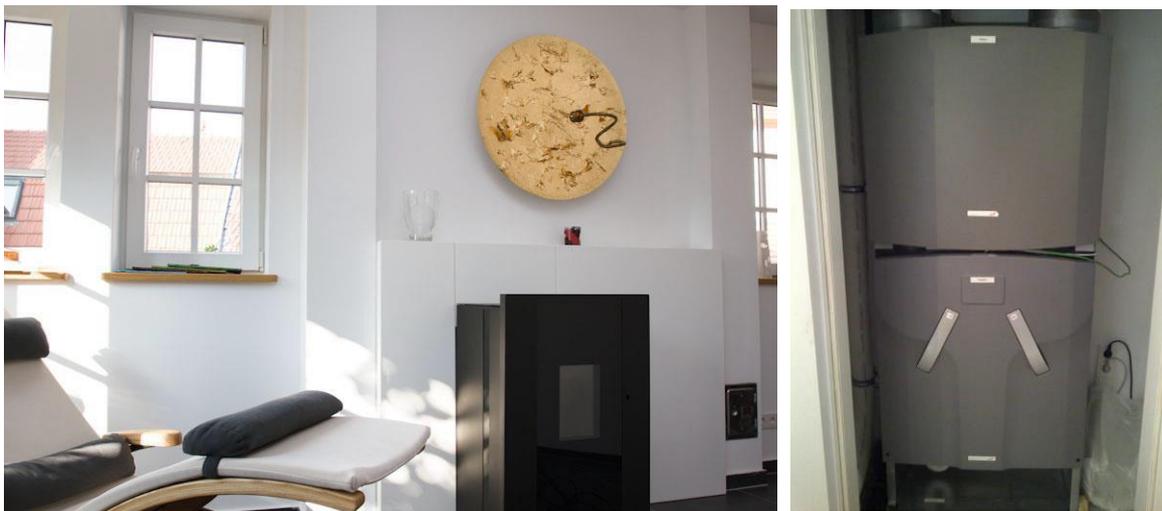


Air source heat pump



Hot water tank

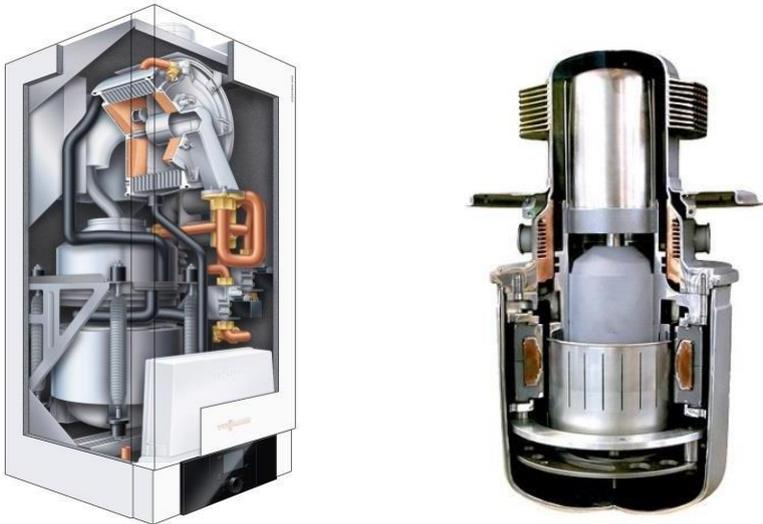
The hot water tank for the air source heat pump and the associated PV inverter were installed in the plant room of our restored vaulted wine cellar. When it is very cold outside, the air source heat pump is backed up by the wood pellet stove in Villa Rustica's spa area. Our pellet stove has a back boiler; this is both pioneering and environmentally friendly since we use pellets made from waste from the woodworking industry. Pellet stoves with back boiler are particularly efficient as the heat output can be directed to the water or to the ambient air as required.



Wood pellet stove and controlled ventilation and air-conditioning system

Using a controlled ventilation and air-conditioning system with heat recovery reduces system supply and return temperatures. The regulated climate throughout the living areas makes effective use of our solar thermal system while keeping the temperature uniformly low. The compact energy centre brings together the heating, cooling, ventilation and water heating systems. As a result, the electricity that the heat pump needs can be greatly reduced and stored electricity can be diverted to supply other important power-dependent systems as needed.

Heating and generating electricity by gas with a combined heat and power (CHP) system is an efficient alternative to conventional heating systems. We installed a CHP system in July 2012. Since then we have not only generated heat, but we have also been able to generate additional electricity for our own use, greatly increasing the overall utilisation of our system. The CHP system provides power for both the office and seminar building and the residential and guest houses. Unused electricity is fed into the national grid. If we need more heat, the condensing gas boiler takes up the slack. A time clock on the wireless remote control allows the Stirling engine generator to be switched on manually as needed. This provides a dedicated electricity supply during high demand periods, such as for washing or cooking.



CHP system with Stirling engine generator

The Stirling engine is hermetically sealed, runs quietly and is practically maintenance-free. It is particularly cost-effective where the annual gas consumption is at least 25,000 kWh and the electricity consumption is in excess of 3000 kWh per year. This corresponds to the demand of an average detached house or pair of semis. Heat is generated continuously in operation, so it needs to be combined with a hot water buffer tank.



The KNX bus system

A KNX bus system in the Villa Rustica intelligently networks our building management equipment. It provides overall control of the components and controls the heating, lighting, ventilation and safety equipment as required. All devices are interconnected via a bus, enabling them to exchange data with one another. The devices connected to the bus are controlled by their individual programming, which can be modified and adapted at any time.



Solar recharging station



Electric car

The solar recharging station has been in operation since 2013, and is available to our customers and guests to charge their electric cars. We have had our own electric car since September 2016. The Tesla S 90 D model has an actual battery range of 450 km in summer and 300 km in winter. Our own solar recharging station takes six hours to fully recharge the 90 kWh battery capacity. The supercharging stations that Tesla has installed all across Europe are faster. These stations are no more than 200 km apart, and we are able to charge our car free of charge. The battery is 80% recharged after 30 minutes.

Since 2018 we have been holding more and more “energy” events at home to demonstrate our commitment. By experiencing our demonstration and reference facilities and listening to experts and contributors from the field, guests are inspired to take their own steps towards a more environmentally sound and sustainable lifestyle.

The idyllic atmosphere combined with all the technical components makes our project entirely unique. We live and work CO₂-neutrally; surplus electricity is fed into the grid and our electric vehicle is environmentally sustainable due to the green charging current we use.

In his Leipzig speech on the freedom and future of the media on 14 October 2014, **ZDF director Thomas Bellut** said: “... *There is no political freedom without media freedom. ... The public- broadcasters have a public service remit: Their broadcasting freedom, as a ‘service freedom’, is expressly bound up with the social remit of universal coverage with information, education, entertainment, and culture. ... Geared towards offering an overall picture of German reality, and with a view to reunification as a long-term objective, over many years and decades [the TV stations] ARD and ZDF certainly played a significant role in the Peaceful Revolution. Without boasting or being complacent, we can say that reunification was a historical success of public broadcasting. It can’t be measured in terms of the viewing figures and appeal of the program. What is important is its social relevance.*”

(Source: http://www.journalistenpreise.de/?id=news_detail&newsid=609).

Decision-makers in every field agree that the energy revolution is of social relevance. The reunification of Germany cost a great deal of money. After 29 years, we can say that the investment of over **2.5 billion Euros** was worth it – in financial, cultural, social, and in human terms. Anyone who looks at and assesses we Germans and Germany from outside will agree. The turnaround needed in Germany’s energy policy will be of a similar magnitude, particularly given the window of several decades and the investment that will be needed over this period. Here, as well, ARD and ZDF can put even more effort into fulfilling their social remit to help achieve this Herculean task. **We are sitting in the front row and have a great view** – particularly for the main programs!



The importance and credibility of the media and its freedom

The credibility of the media and the information it disseminates has become the biggest challenge facing journalists. It is worth drawing a line that is clearly recognisable to consumers. It should be drawn at the “fake news” that all too often and too quickly drifts through the net. It is not simply a matter of protecting our privacy; it now involves identifying fake news and lies. It can aid and abet influence peddling, particularly in advance of political elections. The media needs to campaign for quality.

Dieter Dörr says:

“Public broadcasting is not just a pillar of democracy; it is also a part of our culture. Even in the digital world it is an indispensable component of the electronic media in the interests of information diversity and thus a functioning democracy. It is reliant upon having appropriate new transmission routes or methods because this is the only way it can continue to reach the public. In this information age, an independent, federal and non-profitmaking public broadcaster is more valuable than ever before.”



Reporting by the media sometimes make me feel very reflective. Sensationalist and greedy for a scoop, their representatives run after anything with a whiff of scandal or that looks like a disaster – to the detriment of value and reason. It follows from this that the emphasis on screen and in the print media is placed on negative headlines, and reporting about the good in the world all too often falls by the wayside. All the celebrity gossip by self-indulgent and unscrupulous reporters is equally contemptible. The people they have in their sights are often humiliated to an unbearable unbearable degree, and stripped of their privacy. For the media who simply lust after novelty and want to increase their ratings and circulations, in the morning this is all just yesterday's snow. But for the affected people and the victims, the apparent stigma often lasts a lifetime.

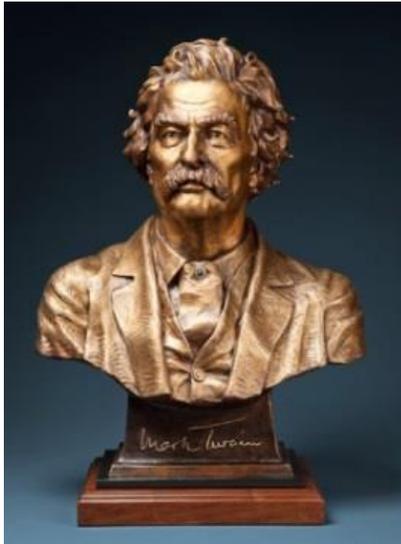
Scarlett Johansson says:

“Until the law treats the paparazzi like criminal stalkers – which is what they are – it is just a question of time before someone is seriously injured or is even killed like Princess Diana. Even after her tragic death, the law was never changed to protect the targets of the lawless paparazzi. Many paparazzi will stop at nothing to get their pictures.”

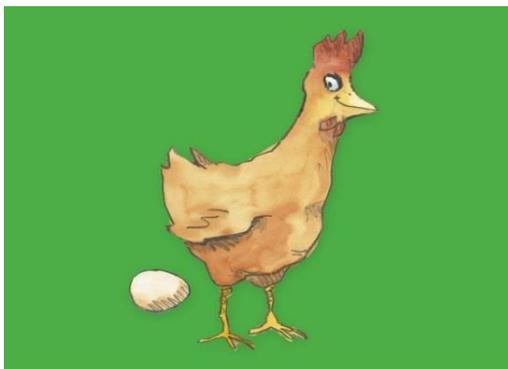


Mark Twain said:

*“A lie can travel half way around the world while
the truth is putting on its shoes.”*



I don't believe that the majority of consumers are keen on this type of reporting. Rather I believe that, in the end, it is the quality of reporting that will increase the ratings. The media and their representatives have it in their power to end this chicken and egg scenario.



Perspective Daily demonstrated one way that we can free ourselves from much of this confusion, and from the aberrations and entanglements.

Maren Urner and the authors of *Perspective Daily* say:

“We are convinced that media should do more than produce scandals, report individual events out of context and vie for attention with sensational headlines. We stand for a type of journalism that does not simply describe problems. It also debates solutions. We stand for a type of journalism that shows both negative and positive developments, and so creates a balanced and realistic picture of the world. And we stand for a type of journalism that describes background and context, and enables its readers to understand why things are as they are, how they are – and perhaps how they can be improved.”

Nora Tschirner says:

“Perspective Daily is a project that starts with us and starts from the premise that it is not just some members of some elite who are responsible for something somehow becoming better. Together we are able to break these mechanisms. This knowledge is the basis for any forward-looking social change. I find that incredibly inspiring and it gives me hope. I draw enormous strength from it and it allows me to continue working on social projects.”



It has always been important to protect press freedom and freedom of expression, but these freedoms have often been disputed. Dictators, autocrats, and monopolists, in particular, have always attempted to control the media. They have misused it to seize and maintain their power, and are still doing this. This means that consumers never see the real headlines. All they receive is greatly biased information.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said:

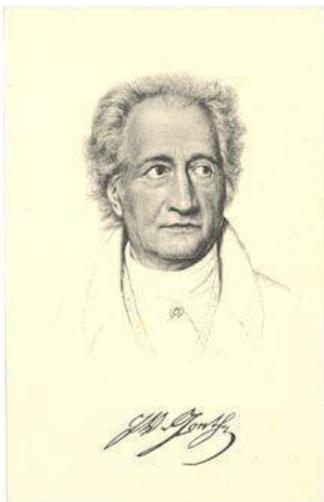
“Nobody screams for freedom of the press like someone who wants to abuse it.”

Viennese court official and dramatist Franz Grillpanzer said:

“The government should learn from the press just as much as private individuals do, which means that the government should not be able to influence the press.”

American journalist Stewart Alsop said:

“The press must be free to say anything so that certain people are not free to do anything.”



A bulwark for a living and stable democracy

What we now urgently need is a great and powerful movement in which all age groups and social strata work together. Supported by role models from all parts of society and the media who are trusted in the work they do towards the rational enlightenment of people. This can create a bulwark for a living and stable democracy that is resistant to extremist populism. German artists should increase their participation in this “bulwark for a living and stable democracy”. They not only have the opportunity to entertain us from their stages, but their fame and popularity will allow them to perform important tasks on the society’s stage as well.



**Suggested representatives from the German community of artists –
against the rise of the far right**

All artists with good intentions who want to do something need to take part in these campaigns. We firmly believe that most of the people who voted for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party are simply unsettled, irritated, feeling left behind, and angry. They are not right-wing extremists. We must work together to bring them back before the next parliamentary election.

The results of the European elections in May 2019, and the results of the State Parliament elections in Brandenburg, Thuringia, and Saxony in Fall 2019 will be important gages of how our future lives will look. The situation is serious, particularly if we take a look at the next page. For this reason we must never stop laughing at politicians and the media!

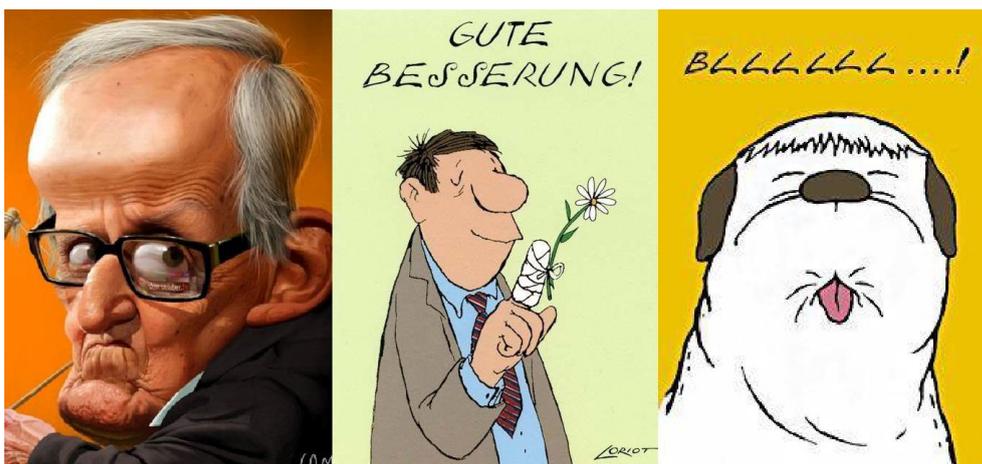
The German humorist Loriot said:

"I love to see politicians on election placards. They are portable, silent and easy to remove."

German cabaret artist, Dieter Hildebrandt, said:

*"The public broadcasters shit themselves
in any pants that are held out to them.*

The private ones broadcast what's in those pants."



So just how did Donald Trump become the 45th President of the United States? Here are the causes:

- The Trump voters who blanked out the truth, and fell for the dumb lies and obvious lies of a dangerous populist.
- Hillary Clinton’s weaknesses and errors which allowed voters to drift to the right. There was also the general trend of voting more *against* Clinton than *for* Trump.
- The American electoral system in which it is the votes of the electoral college that count, rather than those of individual voters. Hillary Clinton won almost three million more votes than her opponent... and still lost. The electoral system had already shoehorned George W. Bush into the White House in 2000, rather than Democrat Al Gore (who received half a million more votes than the Republican).
- Cyber attacks and fake news that Trump’s cunning machinery of power dangerously used to manipulate the American people, and
- Vladimir Putin as Trump’s campaign volunteer. In the report published on 6 January 2017, the secret services (CIA, NSA, and FBI) found that the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, had arranged a “campaign of influence” with hacker attacks to help Trump to victory in the poll. This potentially scandalous accusation was made worse by the initially disputed contacts that National Security Adviser Michael Flynn (who had already resigned) and Attorney General Jeff Sessions had had with Moscow - before the US election. At that time Sessions was still a member of Trump’s campaign team.



One day after he was sworn in as President, millions of people around the world took to the streets against Donald Trump. There were at least half a million in Washington alone – more than had attended the inauguration ceremony the day before. The protests were aimed at misogyny, violence, racism, homophobia, and religious intolerance.

American artists state their opinions and are needed

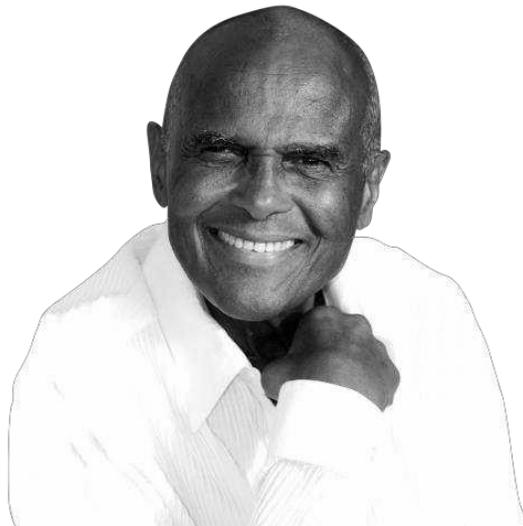
In the George W. Bush era, Robert Redford said that he had never lived through such dark times. Now it has grown even darker for both the US and the world. The American artists are needed more than ever before to defend the crumbling democracy against Trump's machinery of power.



A few American artists who could help to light up society.

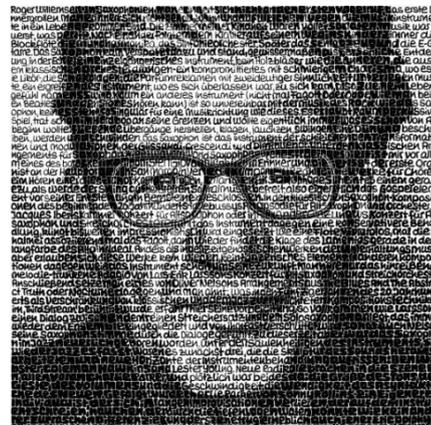
Harry Belafonte said:

“How can it be that so much chaos, disorder, and violence reigns in the world after so many have invested so much in changing it? But I remain optimistic. Without optimism, we cannot give direction to our hope. The world needs hope. It needs a vision. And those of us who still have a glimmer of hope left should communicate as much vision as possible. In recent years, I have looked out beyond our borders, and all around the world I see young people who have realized how much we need one another in our struggle. It will certainly help us on our journey to know more about one another.”



Roger Willemssen was a role model, and not just for me, I'm sure. Because he understood how to treat everyone on equal terms. Because he knew how to live in the now, and enjoy the moment. Because he was intelligent, witty, humorous, and charming. Because he didn't worry about boundaries, whether political, geographical, or social. In his last book **Wer wir waren** (Who we were), Roger Willemssen left us with the following words:

“We were those who knew, but didn't understand, full of information, but without insight, brimming with knowledge, but low on experience. So we went, without holding ourselves back.”



Edmund Burke said:

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”



**It is time to set everything back on its feet
so democracy can walk better!**

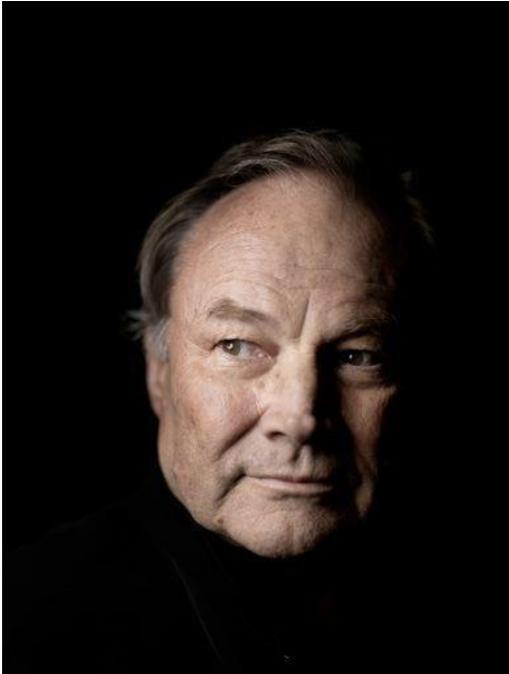
It is still up to us to decide whether we get off lightly once again or whether we all (victims and perpetrators alike) go down together in the chaos of disaster.



Reality or hope in the 21st century?

Klaus Maria Brandauer says:

"It is not enough to be a person. You are a person whatever."



And Udo Jürgens sang:

"To be a man and prove it is far more useful than any heroic act."



Udo Jürgens sang – and still sings in our ears:

*“I believe – that the fields we plough,
only belong to us for a short time. I believe – no more the old lies, it was never worth even one
man’s life. I believe – that to feed a starving man is better for him than any clever advice. I
believe – to be a man and prove it is far more useful than any heroic act. I believe – this world
must be big enough, wide enough, rich enough for all of us. I believe – this life is beautiful
enough, colourful enough, reason enough to enjoy it. I believe – that we first need to ask those
with whose blood and money wars were fought. I believe – that we would want no more war if
we at least knew how it felt. I believe – that skin and its colour does not determine the value of a
man. I believe – no one needs to starve if those who only take today were to give to the hungry. I
believe – this world must be big enough, wide enough, rich enough for all of us. I believe – this
life is beautiful enough, colourful enough, reason enough to enjoy it.”*



ICH GLAUBE

Words by WALTER BRANDIN
 Music by UDO JÜRGENS



F aith
makes everything
possible...

L ove
makes everything
easy...

H ope
makes everything
go well...

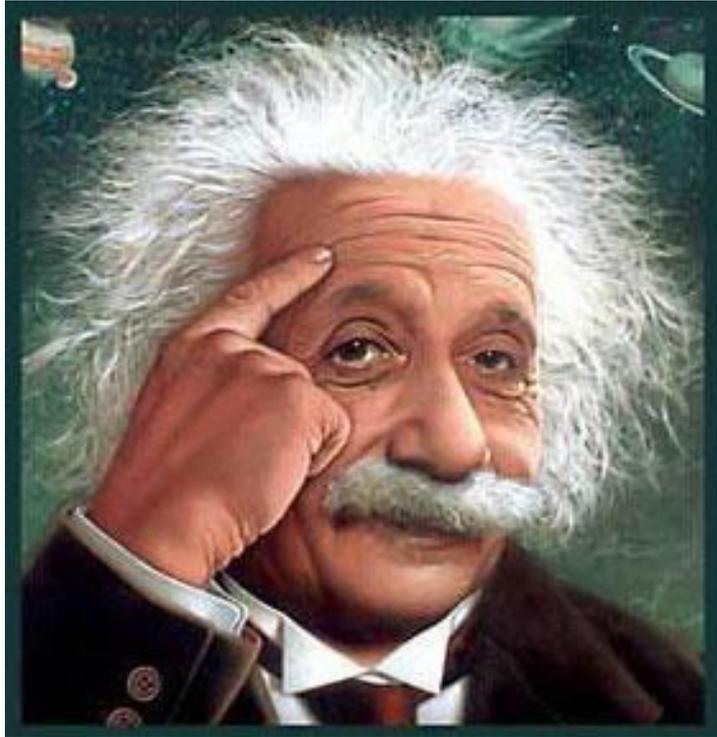
There are innumerable non-fiction books and textbooks that concentrate on specific areas. What I have always wanted is a comprehensive, global and less scientific inventory that **everyone** can understand and which shows how closely the areas are interlinked and dependent on one another. Such an inventory would also contain recommended action when injustices are identified.

This book is no collection of quotations; it is my visionary idea of how to improve the world. The people and organisations I have selected help, in the right places, to make the recommendations this book contains even bolder and more worthwhile. The guest contributions and quotations were either approved, updated or rewritten for use in this book.

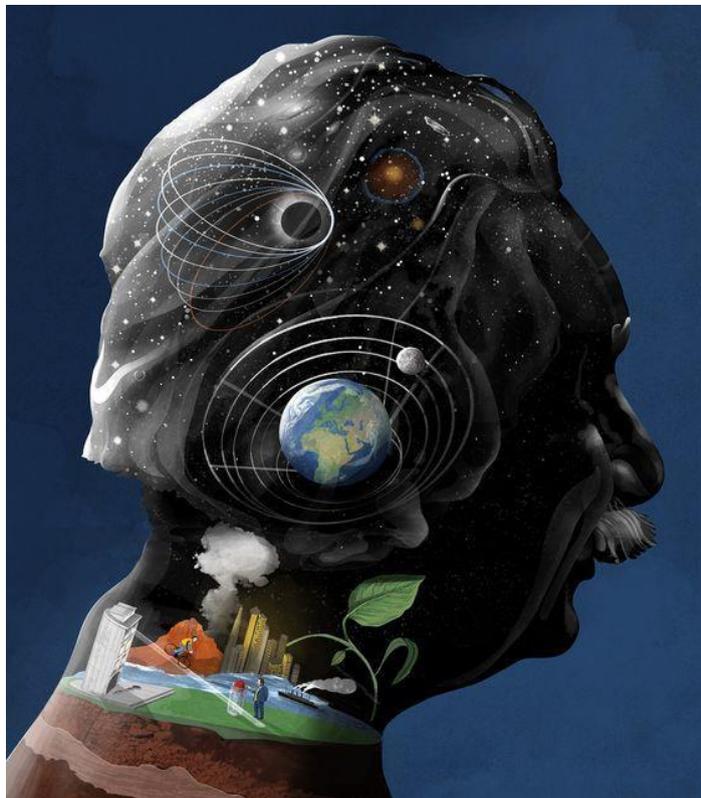
The story of *Homo progressivus* is not yet at an end, so this book takes up from where my two books listed below left off:

- ***Homo progressivus* – The Energetic Rebellion
or: Saving Earth from Its Most Vexing Virus**
- ***Homo progressivus* – The determined resistance
or: How we can liberate ourselves from an arbitrary system and of Donald Trump's poor style, as well as from autocrats and right-wing populists**

I will continue to update this book after the 2019 European election. It will act as my diary. It is my mouthpiece that I use to report on and analyse the happenings in the world – both good and bad. I will continue to inform, and keep alive the memory of those who have gone before so they can continue to surprise my readers.



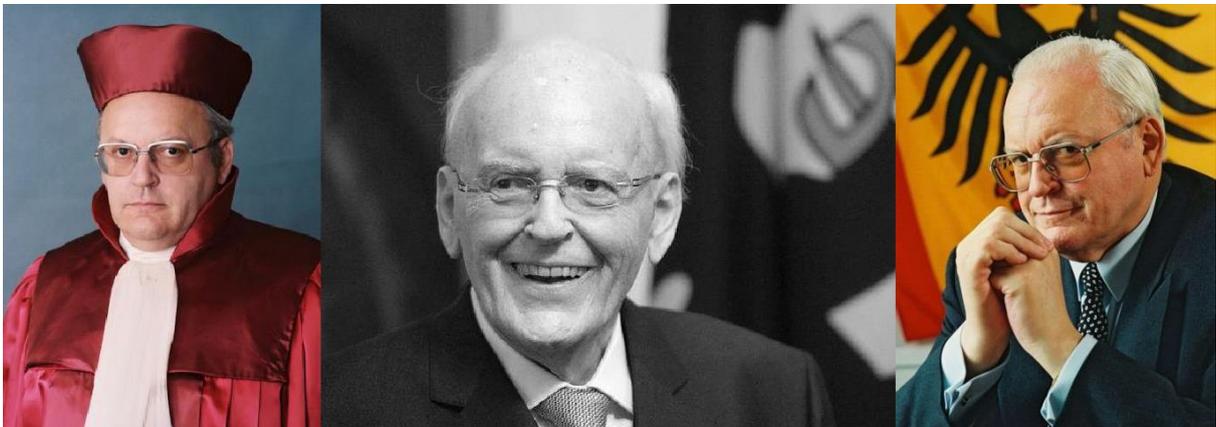
According to Albert Einstein,
"If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it."



I am bold enough to believe that we could resolve the world's conflicts and trouble spots. What it will take is for us to tackle the underlying causes **once and for all. And we need to do this together, not least because time is running out on the *Doomsday Clock*.** This can succeed because everyone with good intentions towards our planet, and all the creatures that live on it, will get together and talk to one another. Participation may even help people suffering from depression.

Roman Herzog said:

"Visions are strategies for action. That distinguishes them from utopias."



In 1997, when he was German President, Roman Herzog said: *"Germany must wake itself up with a jolt."* These words were not just aimed at politicians; they applied to the whole German population. In his famous **"with a jolt" speech**, he also said: **"This means everyone. We must all make sacrifices. We all need to play our part."** Roman Herzog died on 10 January 2017. In his memory, I will combine my vision in this book with strategic action, **so the whole world wakes up with a jolt!**

I have attempted to accentuate and underpin the works and pictures in this book with unforgettable music and song lyrics. It was also important for me to break up the more intense and emotive parts with humorous and satirical wordplay, and caricatures.

The German entertainer Heinz Erhardt said:

“Peace on Earth – hopefully there will be no more fences for people to argue over.”

“While there is still something to argue over, people will continue to argue.”

“You shouldn’t believe everything you think!”

“A paradox is to cut off your ear in the twinkling of an eye.”

“Wrinkles are a sign that your face still works.”



This book deals with the successes and progress made over recent decades. But it also discusses the challenges of our time that we will need to resolve in the future. Climate change, wasting resources, hunger and thirst, war and refugees, greed, unjust distribution of wealth, and misuse of religion. But it also discusses the possible solutions that will help us to overcome these obstacles **together**.

In Germany in 2019, we can celebrate 30 years since the Berlin Wall fell, 70 years of the German Constitution (Basic Law), and 100 years since the Peace Treaty of Versailles. These are the memories and experiences that stand out. The Good from 1989, 1949, and 1919. And the Bad from 1914 – 1918, from 1933 – 1945, and from 1961 – 1989. I look back on all of that. There are good things that the people of Germany can do to make the world a better place for all: **9 November** is a fateful day for Germans. **9 November 1918** was the **November Revolution**, when the German Empire changed from a monarchy to a republic with parliamentary democracy. On **9 November 1923**, **Hitler's Munich putsch** failed. **9 November 1938** was **Kristallnacht** when Jewish businesses and synagogues were burned to the ground. On **9 November 1989**, we celebrated the **fall of the Berlin Wall**.

And on 9 November 2003, Johannes Rau, the then German President said:

“Let us work together so that no one in Germany needs to be afraid, no matter how he looks, no matter where he comes from, no matter what his belief, no matter how strong or how weak, how healthy or sick he is; let us work together to create a Germany in which people can be different without fear.”



6. A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND

Yuval Noah Harari's book, *A brief history of humankind*, is a literary treat, and a scientific and cultural treasure of inestimable value. It belongs on every bookshelf.

In his inimitable and incomparable way, Harari describes the three milestones in the development of *Homo sapiens* through to the present day. First there was the cognitive revolution 70,000 years ago, followed by the agricultural revolution 12,000 years ago, and finally the scientific revolution 500 years ago. The book clearly describes the consequences of these three revolutions, with all the gains and losses. If we manage it well, the next revolution could be the start of something totally new. We need to reshuffle the cards that the three revolutions have dealt us and change them if necessary. The cards in the game of our life are fictions, illusions, lies, greed, resentment, power, and control, along with the human supremacy with which *Homo sapiens* has subjugated all other species. The invention of language, trade and money, combined with the creation of empires and religions, has built up walls in our heads and hearts. These keep us imprisoned. It is time to pull them down. It is also time to cast off the fetters that have bound us since the agricultural revolution. These fetters caused us to domesticate living species, resulting ultimately in today's factory farming. As a hunter-gatherer before the agricultural revolution, *Homo sapiens* was cleverer than us. Broadly speaking, this oh so modern Man has lost his natural instincts and forgotten how to follow Nature's rules of evolution. We often sit vacuously in front of the tube, exposed to a constant stream of garbage that poisons our minds. We stuff food into our mouths without asking where it comes from, or how it was produced. Yuval Noah Harari expressed this very well in his book: Agriculture is a luxury and time trap which *Homo sapiens* has blundered into. Now he is caught. He provides a numerical example: Compared to the year 1500, there are 14 times more people who produce 240 times as much, using 115 times more energy in so doing. Here is another example from Harari: Weighed in a massive balance, the weight of all people on our Earth would equal around 300 million tonnes.

The weight of our domesticated animals (such as cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens) would be roughly 700 million tonnes. **In contrast, the animals living in the wild, from porcupines and penguins, through to elephants and whales would add not quite 100 million tonnes to the scales.**

Yuval Noah Harari continues: *Our children's books and our TV screens are still full of giraffes, wolves and chimpanzees, whereas in the real world there are only a few left. There are just 80,000 giraffes in the world compared to 1.5 billion cattle, 200,000 wolves compared to 400 million domestic dogs, 50 million penguins compared to 50 billion chickens, and 250,000 chimpanzees compared to billions of people. Mankind has assumed power over the world.*

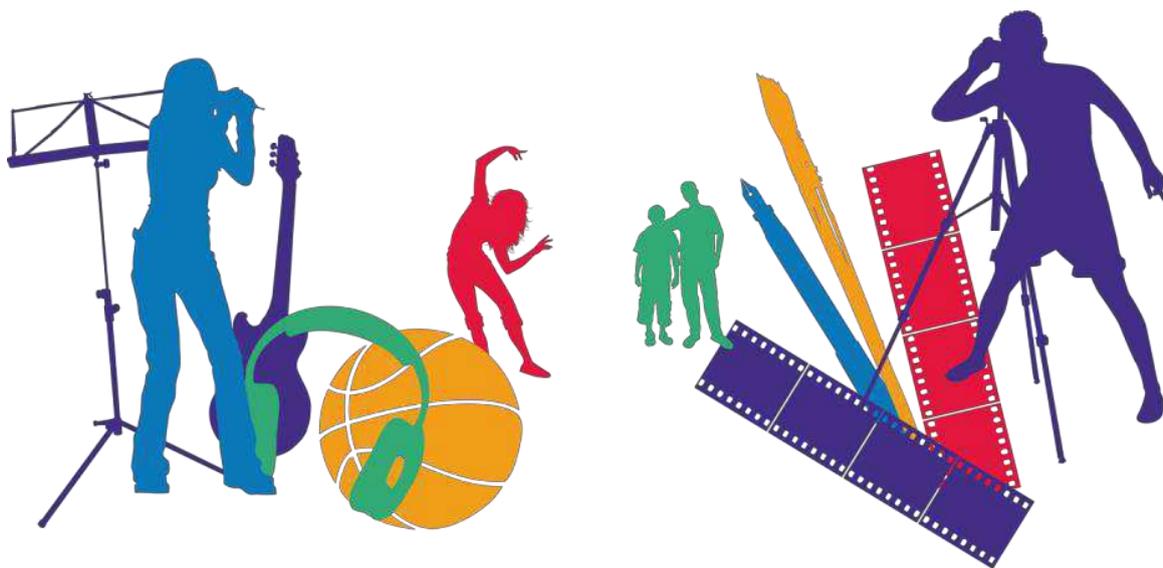
However, the wild giraffes and penguins have no reason to begrudge the domesticated cattle and chickens. From a limited evolutionary perspective, the domesticated species are an astonishing success. They are the most widespread animal species in the world. Unfortunately, this evolutionary perspective takes no account of individual suffering. Although domesticated cattle and chickens are an evolutionary success, they are some of the most wretched creatures that have ever lived. This discrepancy between evolutionary success, and individual suffering is one of the most important lessons of history.

The best way we have of breaking the chains we have created and delivering ourselves from our mistake is to perceive the globalization of our planet as an opportunity, rather than a burden. As far as we know, *Homo sapiens* is the only species able to reinvent itself; to ensure its existence as *Homo progressivus* beside the many other species on our wonderful planet.



7. GIVE ME MUSIC

In the first chapter of this book, I listed some **good intentions**. We will find implementing these good intentions easier and better if we have art and artists by our side. The artists I rate highly are personalities who have accompanied me throughout my entire life and have enriched it. For this reason, they deserve a mention in this book. Because their masterpieces reduce us to tears (of sadness or laughter) at the theater, at concerts, at the cinema, or on the couch. Actors because they entertain us and make us think. Directors because they ensure the actors brighten up our lives and offer us sophisticated entertainment. Explorers, philosophers, poets, and thinkers, artists and authors because they fascinate us, and make us forget all about time with their works. Comedians and cabaret artistes because they make us laugh with their buffoonery, stunts, and humor, even if – or precisely because – things aren't going well for us. Musicians because they leave us a musical legacy for eternity, and because it is not only the world of music that they have revolutionized in their all too often short lives. There is something for everyone in the music catalog. Music is there to make our lives easier. It is also there to enjoy. We love musicians for this. Because, with their voices, their mastery of their instruments, their passion, their energy, their stamina, and their imagination, they give us works of art – for our ears, heads and hearts. And surely, we have all tried at one time or another to emulate our idols. To try to do what they can do, and sometimes even to become better. There are role models who encourage us and get the best out of us.



Music helps us in every situation. Music that arouses passion in us, brings us comfort and courage, and electrifies us. Music that makes us jump up and dance. Music that touches us, soothes us, drives us on, and gives us strength. It may be classical, progressive, or devotional and natural. It may be rock, pop, jazz. **Music is simply magical. Just consider the music of Cecilia Bartoli, Rolando Villazón, Miles Davis und John Miles!**

In an interview with Michael Atzinger from *BR-Klassik* on 27 May 2017, during the première of Handel's "Ariodante" at the Whitsun Festival for "Meine Musik" in Salzburg, Cecilia Bartoli said:

"What do you need if you want to do the job that I do, and want to do it well?"

The most important ingredient is passion. Without passion it just won't happen. Then you need commitment, and identification with the job. Energy, of course. And discipline. But all of that comes quite naturally to me since I am happy to share my ideas with other people. And then I simply love to make good music. And we need that too. What really gives us pleasure?

Listening to music is one of the sacred moments in life. Together with other people, sometimes so different than in real life. We all just sit on our own in front of the computer.

Listening to music means sharing feelings, crying and laughing together. That is a form of religion for me. Music takes us out of ourselves. Of course! And we need that. Our souls need that. Art gives us these moments of ecstasy. That's why we need art in our lives.

And we should cherish and nurture it as much as we can."



Miles Davis was one of the most important, influential, and innovative jazz musicians of the twentieth century. He was able to realize his artistic ideas both as an instrumentalist, and as a creative spirit. He regularly added talented musicians to his band in the expectation that they would bring new stimuli. In so doing, he gave them space to develop. **Many jazz greats have this collaboration with Miles Davis to thank for their breakthrough as musicians.** Since the end of the 20th century, his compositions have achieved great recognition from music critics and fans alike. They are some of the great classics and masterpieces of jazz. Davis himself was declared to be the best trumpeter of all time. As a special appreciation of Miles Davis, on 15 December 2009, the US House of Representatives issued a symbolic resolution on the 50th anniversary of the recording of his album, *Kind of Blue*. The intention was to honor this masterpiece, and to affirm that jazz is a national cultural asset.



Kind of Blue came out in 1959. It is one of the milestones in the history of jazz. In 2013, *Rolling Stone* magazine rated it as No. 2 of its 100 best jazz albums of all time. *Kind of Blue* enjoys this legendary reputation partly because of its brilliant recording technique and its tone, the three-dimensionality and clarity of which set new standards that still apply today.

Rolando Villazón is certainly one of the best and well-loved opera singers of our age. He firmly believes that opera plays an important role today as an art form. I know that the opera star is often transported by a visit to the opera. But I never imagined that he would also be able to describe such a visit poetically and philosophically in such an extraordinary and gracious way.

Rolando Villazón said:

*"I believe that the function of opera in a society is the function of art. **People today are rapidly turning into automata.** Today we live in a world where speed is everything and we are forced, every time and wherever we are, to act and react immediately, without leaving us time to assimilate, analyze, and enjoy. Do this! Do that! Back and forth. Today it is almost impossible to keep up with this speed. In earlier times, if you wanted to express a thought or feeling to another person living far away, you would write a letter. You had to find paper, then think three times before even writing the first sentence. You had to put all the poetry and philosophy that you were capable of into the pages of this letter. Then you folded the paper and inserted it into the envelope. Then you walked to the mailbox and sent off your letter. Then you had to wait days for an answer. There was that period of anticipation that allowed you to reflect on everything you had written and imagine how the person would receive it. Then, finally, the mailman arrives, bringing your reply. You are excited. You open it, read it. Once, twice and then the whole process starts over again. Music, opera – those are the content of your letter. The singers and musicians are the ink and the pen. The media, recording companies, and opera houses are the envelope, post office, and paper. And there is a recipient – the public. Some are anticipating this letter and want to receive more of them. Others are unaware that these letters exist at all. But as soon as they get one, then they receive this fantastic thing. Food for the soul. Art and culture are the soul of society. That's why they are so important. Opera is like a living museum. It's about feelings, emotions, and genius composers who were able to capture emotions, and to arrange them in such a way that they immediately affect us as audience members.*

*I am still, even now, enraptured by a visit to the opera. I have sung in operas that were practically revolutionary for my soul. When you go to a performance, whether it is dance, opera, or theater, then you are like a bottle of water. The better the production is put together, the more this bottle is shaken. All the particles that were at the bottom of the bottle, start to move and dance about in the water. Some presentations have shaken me to such an extent that the order of my feelings changed entirely. Perhaps you have not decided to live your life differently after going to the opera. But these simple stories that are told with so much passion and such music, they bring about a revolution inside you. **They let you feel human – and not like an automaton.***

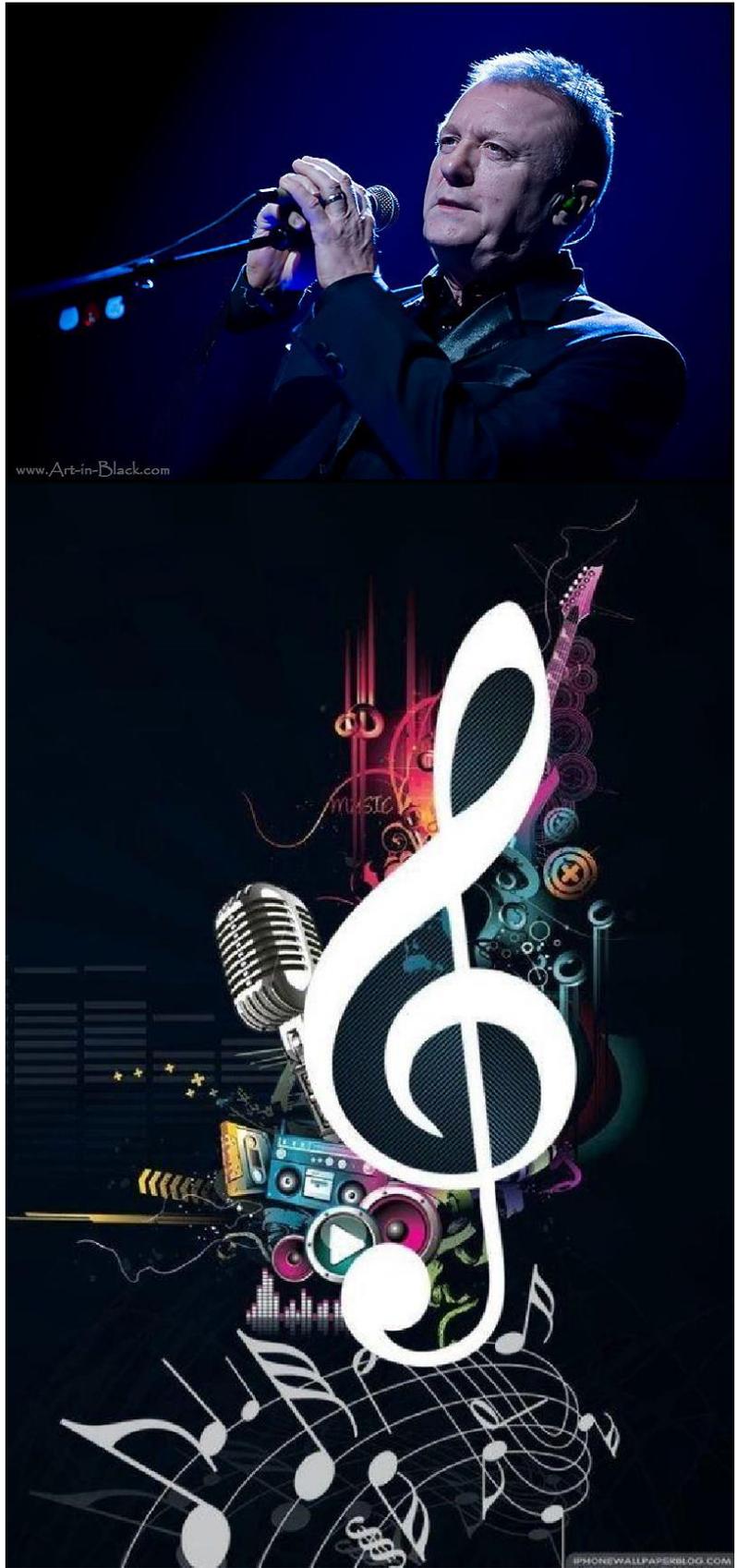


Music inspires us, making us want to embrace the whole world.

John Miles has been singing and playing MUSIC since 1976:

*“Music was my first love
And it will be my last.
Music of the future
and music of the past.
To live without my music
would be impossible to do.
For in this world of troubles,
my music pulls me through.”*







Music is there to bring body and soul into harmony. To provoke tears, celebration, and a sense of well-being. But music is not just all about casting our cares aside. The combining of musical notation to create an irresistible composition with sophisticated, inspiring, and stimulating texts can also embolden and encourage us to escape from our own bondage, and to help others to loosen their own chains.

If the artists wish, texts can also point out social wrongs and injustices with the aim of bringing them to an end.

In Germany, we have been accompanied by countless wonderful soloists, bands, choirs, and orchestras. We certainly have something to suit every taste. I could write a book containing just lists of artists and their works, and I would still not do them all justice as it would never be complete. So, I am limiting myself to one soloist and one band, both of whom have very special meaning for me. I shall let them play and speak for all the others.

The first is **Reinhard Mey** because he is witty, caustic, humorous, inspiring, touching, charming, and encouraging. And can be all of these in a single evening. The chapter in which I write these lines is entitled **“Give me music”** after Mey’s piece of the same name (“Gib mir Musik” in German). The verses in this song describe, simply and hauntingly, what music can do. So, to bring singer, songwriter, and listener together in this moment with tears of happiness...

Reinhard Mey sings **Give me music:**

*“In the windy market hall, which I'd pass on my way to school,
there was a small vinyl shop and all day it would play
the same vinyl. There was one song, the kind of song that grips you
and makes you lose your bearings on reality.*

*And I would freeze and listen, and I didn't have a choice: I had to
hear it again and again and over and over.*

*But that meant waiting: ten songs one way and then ten songs
back. Every time it took almost an hour for 3 minutes of bliss.*

*That got me in trouble at school, but I didn't complain, the music
was worth all the aggravation and the beatings!*

*Give me music! Everything mean has faded away,
all the bullying, the failures, the humiliations.*

The bitter defeat is really a victory.

Give me music! Give me music! Give me music! Give me music!



*In the early morning, the first flight between Frankfurt and Berlin, wedged
between two businessmen with my breakfast balanced on my knees.
Wearing headphones, the music is loud and clear, and I barely dare
to breathe, and I have goosebumps. The music is like a powerful stream
of warmth that flows through me and suddenly, involuntarily I have water in my eyes.
And I know I don't have a tissue in my jacket and I just start crying onto my breakfast tray.*

Men in suits to the left and right of me and I'm weeping in the middle. Can these good people imagine how happy I am?

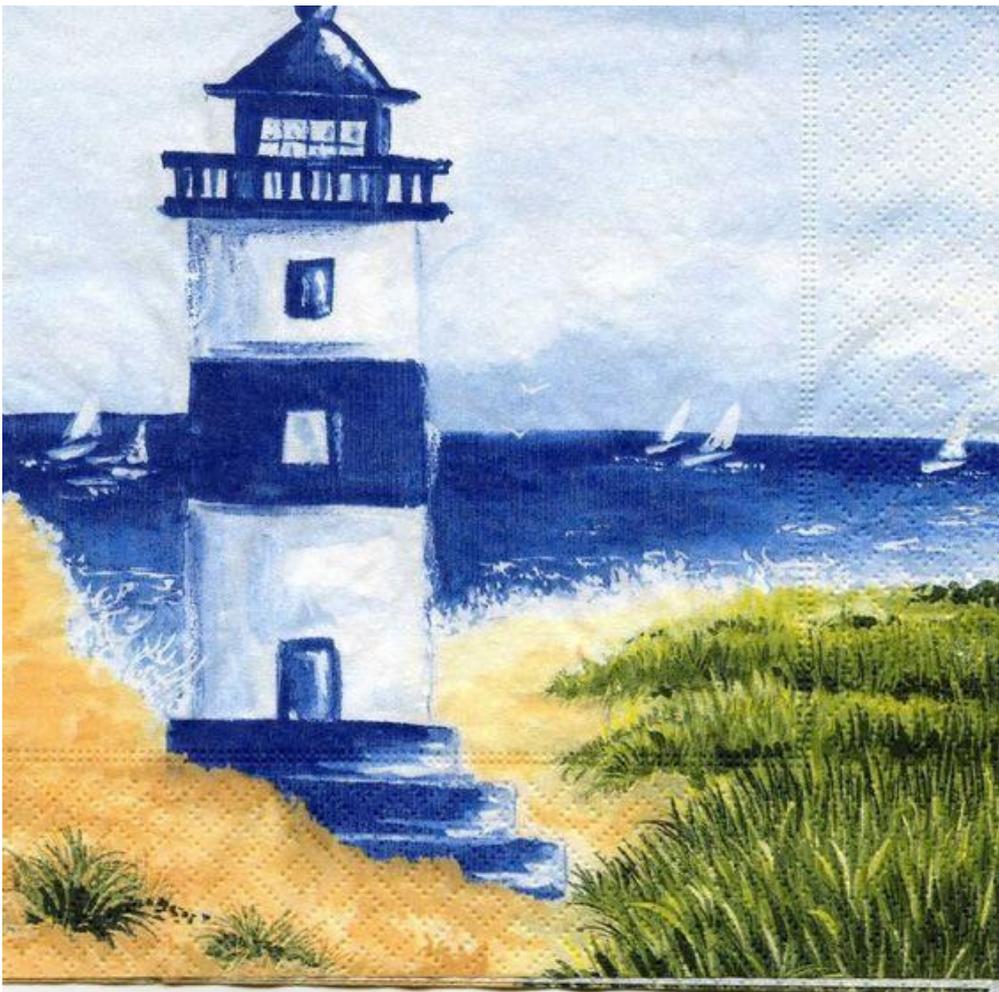
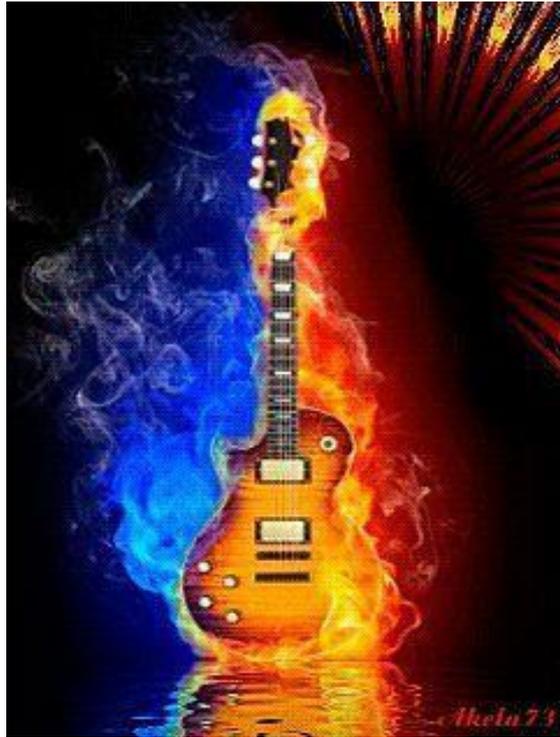
Give me music, to light a fire in me, to explore the depths of my soul, my desires and my pain, scars that I hid from myself.

Give me music! Give me music! Give me music! Give me music!



Stumbling home to the empty hotel lobby at 3am. Yet another evening full of songs, and another party is now over. The doorman is dozing behind the counter. Is that all there is to life? Just sitting together for a short while, the last, last glass of wine... and now there's this piano and my friend moves the chair closer, caresses the keys softly, starts to play, and then - he makes notes sparkle and pearl and dance in the air like stardust, makes melodies flow, makes little wonders happen. And he moves you and he stirs you and rips you apart note by note, until you believe your heart is bursting in an explosion of joy!

Give me music! The dreams I had given up, that were withering deep inside me, are starting to bloom again, and I know that I will recover every opportunity I had lost. Give me music! Give me music!



From the "Leuchtfeuer" album

The song **“Lilienthal’s Dream”** (Lilienthals Traum) by **Reinhard Mey and the Berlin Philharmonic** has a very personal tone. I discuss the meaning this song has for me and my wife, Silke-Andrea, under the section of the same name in the chapter entitled **“The Forceful Triumph”**. And in the song **“Human baby”**, Mey creates matchless poetry when he starts with the lines:

*“Human baby, this is your planet.
Here is your destination, little parcel.
Friendly bundle, welcome in.
May life be good to you here ...”*



Reinhard Mey is unbeatable when he describes, in his snappy and stylish fashion, the role of a father in his song **“I am”**. It is clear he is singing from his own experience. The smiling muscles flex, and women collapse in tears of laughter.

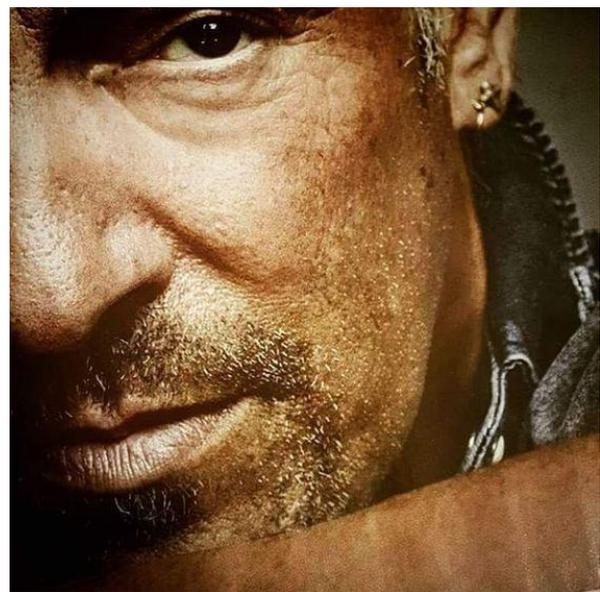
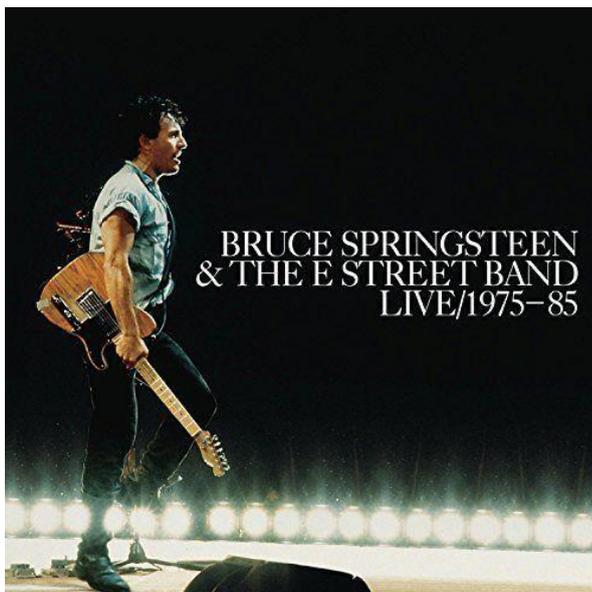
Over 40 years ago, I remember the thrill of anticipation whenever **Wolfgang Niedecken** and his boy band **BAP** “entered” the bedroom, bringing me the pleasure of simply lying down and listening, or getting on my feet to dance. I still get the same feeling today. Unwavering, straight as a die, authentic, penetrating, and thrilling. That’s how I found him, even though I could barely understand a word. The Cologne dialect seems to be from another planet, at least for me. My early roots were in Lower Saxony, far away and with a “posh” German accent. My hometown of Bad Gandersheim was the birthplace of the medieval poet, Roswitha, and was famous or infamous for its summer theater festival. But it is just a small town in the middle of nowhere. Sure! **“Kristallnacht”** and **“Verdamp lang her”** bring back

memories of my troubled youth and continue to awaken those feelings. But there are two of Niedecken's songs that will always have a place in my heart. The song "**Amerika**" sensitively describes how it must have been when the Americans liberated the Germans in 1945 and freed them from the burden of Nazism. Even if at that time there were still many Germans (trapped in their role as victims) still in denial or intentionally suppressing their memories. Many years ago, Wolfgang Niedecken placed his wife on a pedestal in the song "**Do jeht ming Frau**" (There goes my wife). Because I could never have done it as well as he did, I simply adopted the following lines from the song in order to thank my own wife:

*With your hair piled high.
Sunshine is spelled out like your name.
And set about it like a market hall worker.
Mafia-like, the way she sticks by me,
and life is simply child's play with her.
I would walk through any hell for her,
I didn't deserve her, I've no idea why.
There goes my wife, look there she goes,
there goes my wife.
She can deign to look at you and has a heart
where some only have bile.
She wears this on her tongue,
and sticks by what she says.
She swims prettily against the flow,
you can go and steal horses with her.
Twenty* years, never a boring second,
you are more stimulating than a hundred thousand volts.
There goes my wife, look there she goes,
there goes my wife."*

***) The original lyrics which date back to 1996 have "six years".**

In 1979, while I was studying mechanical engineering in West Berlin, my brother Hansi telephoned. He asked me to buy a vinyl LP by a US musician I had never heard of. And that music – “Born to Run” – really knocked my socks off! In today’s vernacular I would have asked, “Who the fuck is Bruce Springsteen?” My musical tastes in those days ran more to Jimmy Hendrix, The Who, The Doors, Eric Clapton and, of course, Led Zeppelin. Bob Dylan and Joan Baez were also welcome as protest musicians. It would probably have stayed like that for a few more years. But then came 1985 when I got my hands on the **double live album from Bruce Springsteen & The E Street band 1975 - 1985**. And the tunes and words of this music pounded in my ears, sneaked into my brain, and flowed into my heart. I was almost out of my mind with excitement. I listened to all four sides of the double album in one sitting. That was the only way I could feel the spirit and excitement packed into the four sides of those disks. It’s hard to select just one, but I simply adore the version of **“The River”** in which Bruce chats about his life at the start.

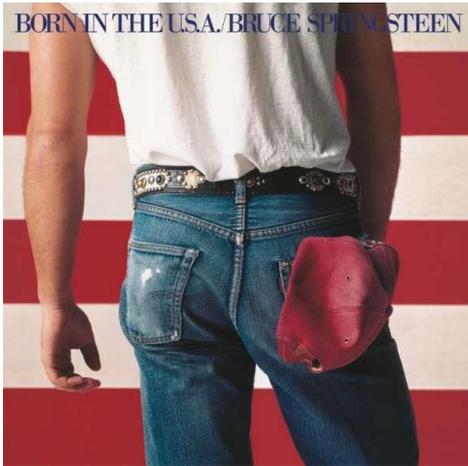


And then finally, in 1988, I went to **my first live concert with the Boss** at Frankfurt’s Wald Stadium. For over four hours, this American boy demonstrated and radiated a stage presence and boisterous power. He would certainly have continued to do so for longer if the unforgettable saxophonist **Clarence Clemons** hadn’t pulled him off the stage with his immense strength.



Or was that all just for show, and I couldn't tell because I was so far from the stage? It kept on bugging me. I needed to find out for myself. One week later, Bruce and his E Street Band were guests in my Berlin living room – the **“Waldbühne”** open-air stage beside the Olympic Stadium. The realization took shape that there was nothing rehearsed about it at all. The Boss is simply as he is. Then came certainty. Another week later in Bremen's Weser Stadium. In the front row I experienced how a musician casts a spell over his audience with his joy of playing, enthusiasm, and genuine passion. With no gimmicks, and no light show – the man lives and loves his music and spurs the artists of the E Street Band on from one incredible performance to the next. I could have hugged him. Since that was not possible, I have carried him in my heart ever since. And he is still with me. He animates me or psychs me up when I need it. No drugs. Just rock 'n' roll from the best of the best.

“Born in the USA” is probably his most famous song. Possibly because it is so often misinterpreted (whether intentionally or unintentionally) as a sort of nationalistic hymn to the US; it has been used by more than one US President without asking permission. In fact it is a song about a soldier returning from the Vietnam War to an America that has little time for men who lost their battle. This is precisely the opposite of what it is all too often taken to mean. So, once and for all, **“Born in the USA” is NOT a jingoistic or patriotic song.**



The background to his song **“The Ghost of Tom Joad”** from 1995 is John Steinbeck’s novel **“The Grapes of Wrath”**, the American author’s most famous work. He wrote this socio-critical novel in 1939 and, despite all the hostility from the ranks of the political Right and land barons, it was a massive success. The critics pulled out all the stops, going as far as banning the book, and burning copies. But not even the most controversial debates were able to prevent the novel being awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1940. And in 1962, Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. As early as 1940, the director John Ford made a film of the same name, with Henry Fonda playing the leading part of Tom Joad. The American folk singer Woody Guthrie dedicated a ballad to Joad. And then in 1995 Bruce Springsteen once again denounced the social injustices in the US with a melancholy ballad; this initially disappointed me as I was expecting a rock version. **But Bruce is always good for a surprise.** With guitarists Steven Van Zandt and Nils Lofgren, the E Street Band already had a great team. So it was an incredible surprise when **Tom Morello** walked on stage, and breathed new life into Tom Joad. I have never before or since heard or felt the elemental power of guitar playing to such an extent. Tom Morello is a virtuoso on his instrument. He masters it, loves it, and occasionally even tortures it, particularly when he gives the rapacious **loan sharks** a good thrashing. The overall result of the music, text, and interpretation is quite simply sublime. The song is a massive surprise, and a sensation for the audience. Both in the concert hall, and at home on the couch or in the kitchen. And it is a **reminder to the rich and powerful** at whom Springsteen aims his passion because they are doing nothing to eliminate the injustices.



*Men walking 'long the railroad tracks. Going someplace,
there's no going back. ... I'm sitting down here in the campfire light
Searching for the ghost of Tom Joad.*

In his introduction to the song, Bruce remembers the roots of rock 'n' roll and folk music, and mentions some important names, such as Hank Williams, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dillon, Pete Seeger, and Joan Baez. He talks about the delinquents and hard times when he sarcastically notes

HIGH TIMES ON WALL STREET AND HARD TIMES ON MAIN STREET.



At the end of the song, Tom Joad alias Bruce Springsteen sings:

“Mom, wherever there's a cop beating a guy.

Wherever a hungry newborn baby cries.

Where there's a fight against the blood and hatred in the air.

Look for me, Mom, I'll be there.

Wherever somebody's fighting for a place to stand.

*Or a decent job or a **helping hand**.*

Wherever somebody's struggling to be free.

Look in their eyes, Ma, and you'll see me.

I'm sitting down here in the campfire light

with the ghost of old Tom Joad.”



Lend A Helping Hand!



Mark Twain said: "Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government **when it deserves it.**"

Bruce Springsteen said: *"I have spent my life judging the distance between American reality and the American dream. Blind faith in your leaders, or in anything, will get you killed."*

The second sentence in the above quotation has just one target. Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, whom the Boss puts through the wringer. And he is allowed to do that because ultimately he is **the moral memory of the USA.**

Bruce Springsteen said before the Presidential elections in Fall 2016, and after Donald Trump was sworn in as US President in January 2017:

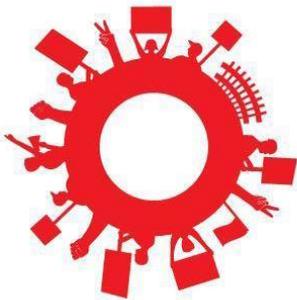
"Donald Trump is a flagrant, toxic narcissist who is intent on destroying the entire democratic process. He is not yet clear about it as he is such a non-reflective person. And he simply has no sense of decency, no sense of responsibility about him. The words he has been using in recent weeks are an attack on our entire democracy. I think he's going to make as big a mess as he can." "Our hearts and minds are with the hundreds of thousands of women and men that marched yesterday who rallied against hate, and division, and in support of tolerance, inclusion, reproductive rights, civil rights, justice for all races, and for environmental protection, health insurance, and the rights of immigrants.

We stand with you.

We are the new American resistance.

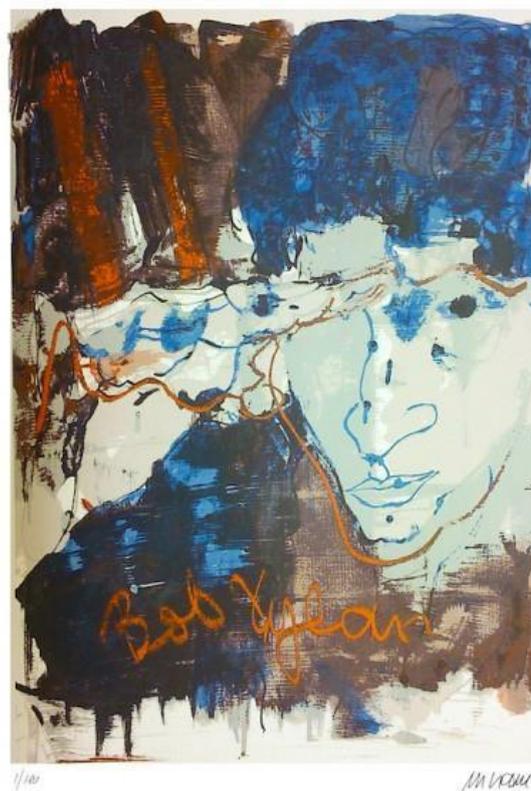
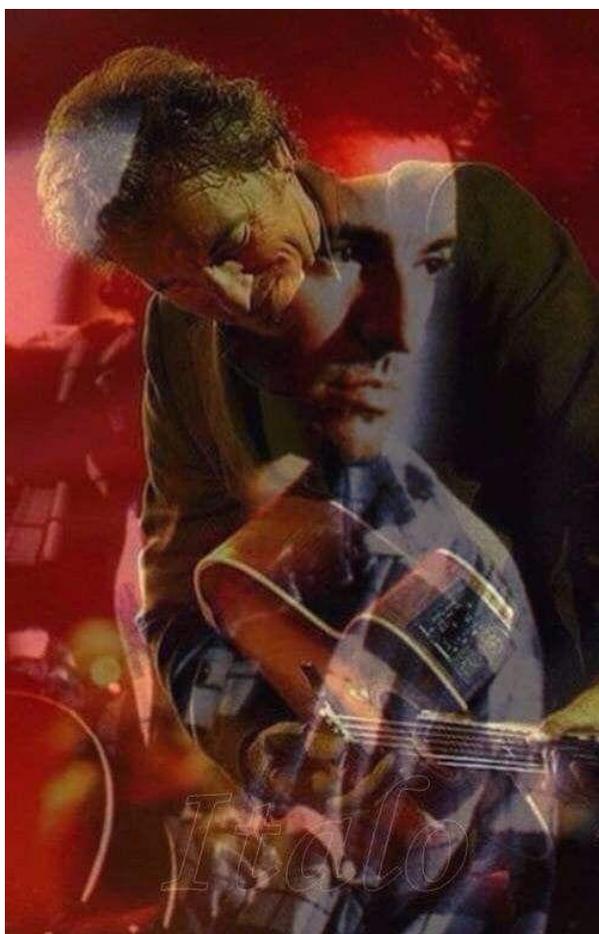


Every movement needs a **front man**. In my view, **Bruce Springsteen** would be a suitable candidate. And he needs **lots of helping hands**. The world urgently needs a **new protest movement**, that not only protests, but also has specific goals, and activities to help it achieve these goals. It can use campaigns that have already had an emotional impact on people, and inspired them. The last such that I remember was the **Occupy Wall Street movement** which filled New York's Zuccotti Park near Wall Street from mid-September to mid-November 2011. It was triggered by the financial crisis, while the Arab Spring was a clarion call for the Occupy movement in New York. All the *Occupy* movements demanded an end to social inequalities and speculative trading by the banks. They also condemned the influence that business has on politics. The demonstrators regarded themselves as representatives of the bottom **99 percent**, compared to the richest **1 percent** of the population.



In the introduction to his album **“Wrecking Ball”** in 2014, Springsteen said:
“You can never go wrong pissed off in rock ‘n’ roll. And yes, the first half of the album, particularly, is very angry. The genesis of the record was after 2008, when we had the huge financial crisis. People lost their homes, and I had friends who were losing their homes, and nobody went to jail. Nobody was responsible. There was no outcry of indignation, no voices of protest like those which were heard later from the Occupy movement. Occupy was therefore very powerful because it addressed for the first time the inequality in society, turning it into a national debate. That had never been possible before. All attempts to conduct this debate about inequality and injustice in our society were choked off by the right, particularly the Tea Party movement. That put Barack Obama under enormous pressure. Now it is being discussed everywhere. Why is this? Because the people went onto the streets. It works. I can see that in the fact that, for example, Republican Newt Gingrich

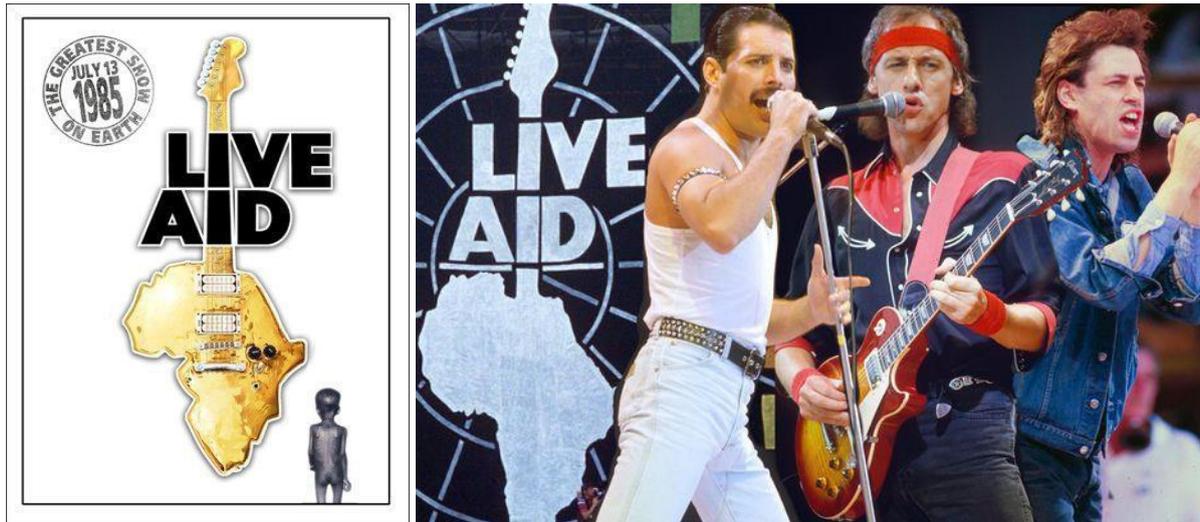
insulted his party colleague Mitt Romney, calling him a “financial vulture”. That would have been unimaginable before Occupy. Now the debates in the US are 99 percent about this topic. That is important. In my songs on ‘Wrecking Ball’ I berate the bad bankers and fat cats because they have stolen our ideals and values. The greed of these people is directed against everything the American ideal stands for. I have always tried in my songs to compare the ideal of the American dream with the American reality. I always wanted to know how far the vision and reality are apart. In my songs, I would like to absorb what is happening in society, and on the streets. I have always admired Bob Dylan for that. I want to achieve it too. The Bush government was so frightful, I just had to do something.”



Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan would be a great team in a new protest movement!

The Bob Dylan illustrations were drawn by Armin Müller-Stahl.

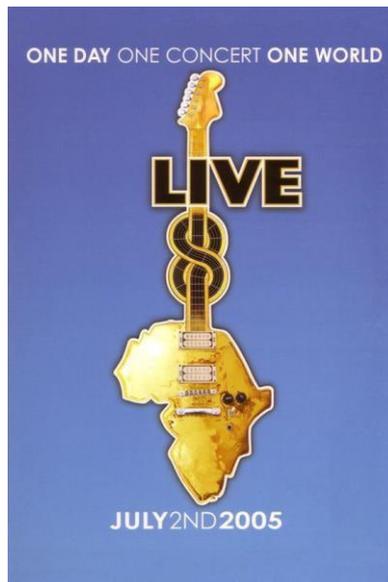
I have great memories of the biggest music festival of all time – **Live Aid** in 1985. **Bob Geldof and Midge Ure** organized and staged the largest ever music event to raise money for famine relief in Africa. The two Live Aid venues in London and Philadelphia saw acts such as Queen, U2, Bob Dylan, Madonna, Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney, and David Bowie. And with the aid of *Concorde*, Phil Collins appeared in both Philadelphia and London.



The parallel charity concerts in London’s Wembley Stadium and at the JFK Stadium in Philadelphia lasted for 16 hours in total. They brought together an unprecedented number of stars who called for donations towards famine relief in Ethiopia. Two billion people watched the shows in 150 countries. Live Aid was also particularly notable because of appearances from a number of bands who reformed for the event. Most famous was the group Led Zeppelin, which had broken up in 1980 after the death of drummer John Bonham. The Who had also not appeared together since 1982. The requests for donations brought in over 200 million German Marks.

On 2 July 2005, the G8 summit in the Scottish capital Edinburgh saw a follow-up to the Live Aid concerts, this time under the name of **Live 8**. On this occasion it was signatures that were collected, rather than donations. They were intended to encourage the decision-makers from the G8 nations to increase development aid, and to write off African debt.

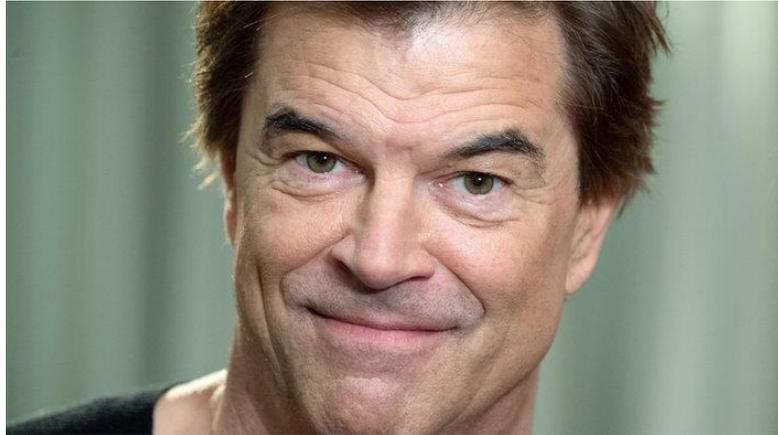
One high point was the one-off reunion of Pink Floyds in its original line-up with Roger Waters. Live 8 was a rock concert that spanned the world under the slogan “**Make poverty history**”. The concert took place at ten locations in the G8 member states (including Russia), plus South Africa. The concert was initiated and organized by **Bob Geldof and Bono**.



Bob Geldof had demanded financial aid amounting to 25 billion US Dollars from the heads of the G8 countries. Twice that amount was then granted as development aid **for the whole of Africa**. They also approved a partial cancellation of debt for 18 of the most debt-ridden African states. But this simply took the **form of a non-binding promise**. The financing remained open, and no repayment term was mentioned. The total was also offset against the development aid for these countries that was already scheduled. This is how politics works: On the Sunday, we basked in the tabloid headlines, then **on Monday, the wallets were sewn up again**. In Germany, the promoter Marek Lieberberg strongly criticized the German government and the Senate of the City of Berlin. He reproached them for their lack of support for the Live 8 concert. For example, the event could not be held in front of the Reichstag building because of the grass sprinklers. There would have been plenty of space. As a result, the audience was limited to just a narrow strip of land.

Campino, front man of the *Toten Hosen*, said:

“Holding a world-shaking event like Live 8 on a narrow 24 meter strip, rather than allowing it to be held in the large square around the Victory Column, is an unbelievable disgrace. Any of the multipurpose halls on our tours provide more space for the audience in front of the stage.”



The Occupy movements, and the Live Aid and Live 8 events were great, but they are not part of history, and are fading into oblivion. We should now capture the spirit of these mass movements, and create something new.

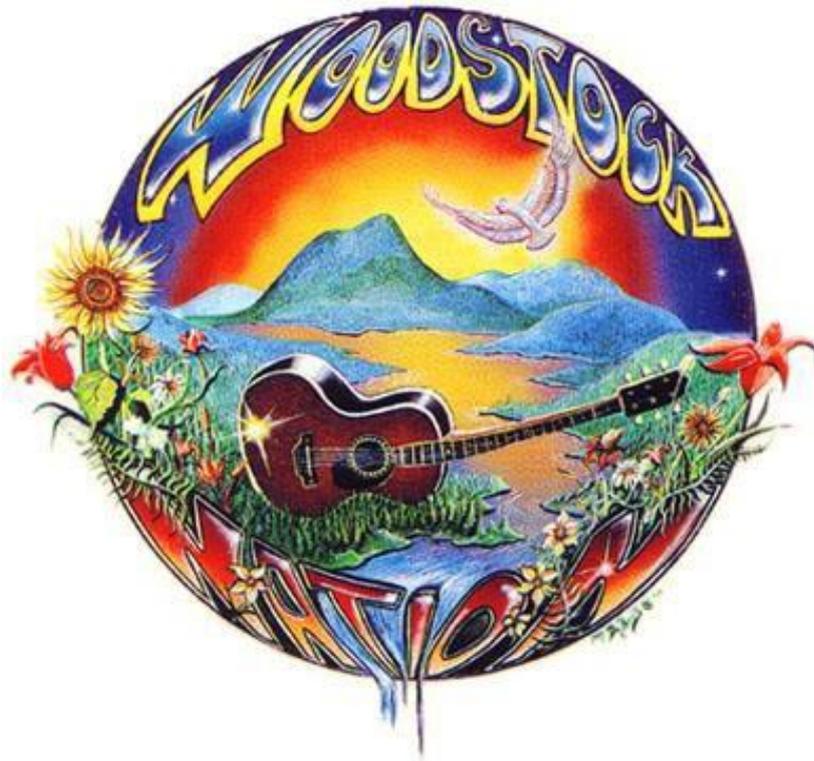
But this new movement should not just be about taking control of Wall Street, or the needy people on the oppressed African continent. This time it needs to be bigger. It needs to address the state of the world, and the corner into which the extremist populists, autocrats, and egoists have maneuvered us. If we look carefully we see that many countries of the world on several continents are governed by sadists. For me, sadists are people who love doing things to hurt other people. We need to call them out for this, or expose them to scrutiny so that they can no longer disguise their egoistic natures and actions.

This movement should include people who are recognized as leading figures, and have symbolic power, such as **Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg**. These two remind me of the maid Jeanne from Orleans who entered the history books as Joan of Arc. The link between these three extraordinary young women is described in this book under **Greta, Hanna, and Malala – the story of three girls**.

The Boss will take us out of the field

A few pages back in this book, Rolando Villazón said that great music presented with a big heart can trigger or awaken a revolution in us.

It is now 2020. And the revolution in the field took place 51 years ago. **Woodstock**, the legendary rock concert on 15 – 18 August 1969 made history. It was actually held in pastures on a dairy farm in White Lake, a town in upstate New York, 70 kilometers to the south west of Woodstock (which was the originally intended venue). 32 bands performed in front of 400,000 visitors, and wowed the crowd with folk, rock, blues, and country music. They included stars like Jimmi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and The Who.



Joe Cocker launched his world career with the song *“With a little help from my friends”*. This had already been recorded by The Beatles in 1968, with Ringo Starr on vocals.

The expected audience figures at the four-day Woodstock were more than doubled. The conditions during the event were almost disastrous due to the horrendous weather and poor organization. But despite the unfavourable circumstances, **Woodstock became famous for its peaceful atmosphere.**



“With a little help from my friends”

Woodstock still embodies the style of a free-spirited, artistic America that is very different to the America of 50 years later. It contrasted the USA that was divided by the Vietnam war, and shocked to the core by the assassinations of John F Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy.

The Oscar-winning film Woodstock, which was filmed at the festival, proved to be one of the most successful documentaries of all time, and helped to carry the **myth of Woodstock** out into the world.

Live Aid, Live 8, and Occupy congratulate Woodstock on its 50th birthday. And as a gift, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Bob Geldof, Bono, Sting, Harry Belafonte, and many others declare **the establishment of a new and unprecedented global movement.** The name of this movement could be **“With a little help from my friends“.**

Even supermodels like Kate Moss, Heidi Klum, Claudia Schiffer, and Carla Bruni can show that there is more to them than just their jet-set lifestyles and outer appearance that they put on show on the catwalks of the world. Headed by **Gisele Bündchen**, who understands how it feels when the world crashes down around someone.



I am bold enough to believe that we could resolve the world's conflicts and trouble spots. What it will take is for us to tackle the underlying causes **once and for all. And we need to do this together, not least because time is running out on the *Doomsday Clock*.** This can succeed because everyone with good intentions towards our planet, and all the creatures that live on it, will get together and talk to one another. Participation may even help people suffering from depression. I am often asked why I believe so strongly **in democracy?** My answer is always the same: I don't want to live in a country in which I am controlled and monitored around the clock. I don't want to live in a country in which the government knows everything about me, and assesses me on that basis. I don't want to be assessed on an autocratic rating scale that will be used as the basis for rewarding, or punishing me. I want to live in a country in which I can move around freely, and give free rein to my imagination. I want to be at home in a country in which the weakest are helped, and in which freedom of opinion and of the press are unassailable. I will feel comfortable on a part of the Earth that is home to vibrant, colourful, and established democracies. **And I want to live in a world in which the forces of democracy are strong enough to outstrip the egoistical autocrats and extremist populists.**

What can we do now? It certainly isn't enough to simply tweak individual symptoms or make a few adjustments. The first thing we need is to realize that we can't go on like this. What we now urgently need is **a jolt that passes through the whole world.** A jolt that triggers a new and widespread mood of optimism. We now need a **sense of unity** with people who have good intentions and want to act. That is how we can create - and then live in - a new world order. There are four major aspects that we need to tackle first:

- **Beat the coronavirus pandemic, especially with vaccines and drugs.**
- **Immediate, meaningful and targeted measures to prevent further climate change.**
- **Nuclear disarmament, not nuclear proliferation**
- **First the common good and social market economy.** This needs to be a worldwide movement against naked capitalism which, in its brutal barbarism and harshness, and its egoistical and rapacious form has resulted in an unspeakably unjust distribution of wealth.

And all that was presented during the marvelous festival for love, forgiveness, sharing, peace, and freedom.

“For love, forgiveness, sharing, peace, and freedom” is the central message. It will give us renewed energy to end wars and greed, hunger and thirst, with educated people and one belief, under the umbrella of the **“United peoples of the world”**. And yet we will retain those cultures, customs, and practices that are worth loving and living, and are vital as essential roots.

We call upon the artists to seize power ... for a short time.

And that time has come.

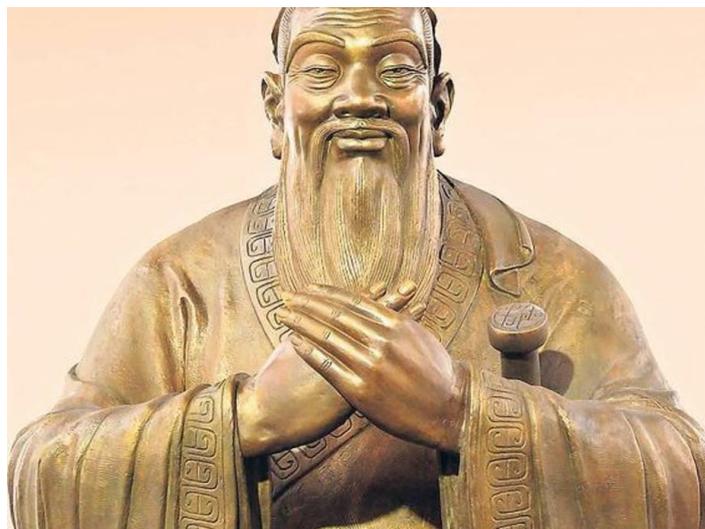
It is *up to us* to give birth to the second generation of *Homo sapiens*. This generation will be smarter, wiser, and fairer than the first, which for so long has been living in its own shadow and is now looking to cast light on its darkness.

Confucius said:

“It is better to light one small candle of gratitude than to curse the darkness.”

“Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may remember.

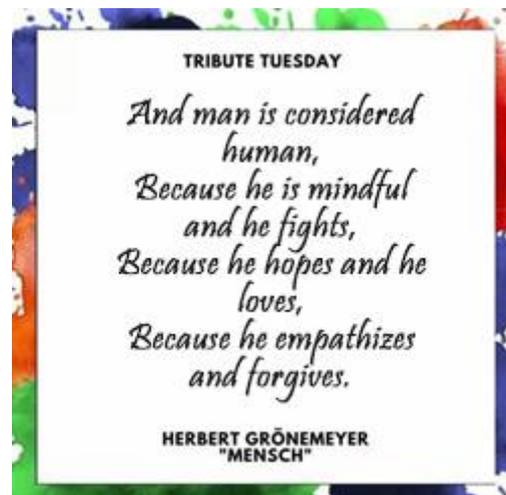
Involve me and I will understand.”



It is often better to see the world through children's eyes if we are looking for good, simple solutions. The German musician and actor Herbert Grönemeyer has written two songs describing how that can look, and what people can do. He still sings them today:

"Children to power" (Kinder an die Macht) and *"People"* (Mensch):

*"Armies made of jelly bears
Tanks made of marzipan
Wars are all eaten up.
Simple plan – childishly genius.
There's no good, there's no evil
There's no black, there's no white. Happy teeth instead of oppression ...
... They are the true anarchists. Loving chaos, setting free.
Don't know any rights or duties.
Still unbowed power in masses. Savage pride.
Give the command to the children.
They don't calculate what they're doing.
The world belongs in children's hands.
An end to sadness.
We'll be laughed into the ground.
Children to power."*



Astrid Lindgren said:

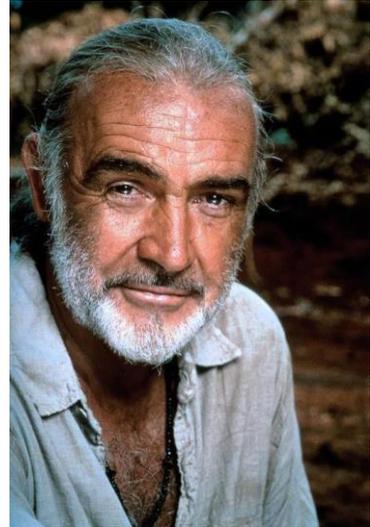
“You can’t beat anything into a child, but you can hug a lot out.”

Desmond Tutu says:

“To forgive is actually the best form of self-interest.”

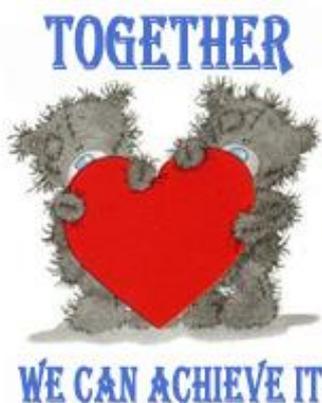
Sean Connery says:

“There is nothing like a challenge to bring out the best in man.”



We should accept the challenge, and bring out the best in ourselves, for love, forgiveness, sharing, peace, and freedom – and for the benefit of our children. We should give children their freedom; a child who can do lots will grow into an adult who can do lots.

It is 100 seconds to twelve on the Doomsday Clock. It is time for collective action by all people who have good intentions and want to act. **This is a wake-up call, a signpost, and an invitation to participate.**



Homo sapiens has developed into a dichotomous creature. On the one hand he loves, forgives, and shares. He learns, believes, and lives in peace and freedom. Yet on the other hand we see infinite suffering as the consequence of wars, looting, and greed, combined with misuse of religion, hunger and thirst, and an irresponsible waste of all types of resource. The condition in which the world finds itself is enough to make you cry. The only good thing about it is that we don't have to go to the bathroom so often because someone has blood or water pouring from their eyes.



We should remember each individual tear so, hopefully, we will soon be able to laugh together once more.

The goals and messages of the proposed festivals would be aimed at all people, particularly the decision-makers and those in positions of responsibility in this world. They will be aimed at their summit meetings too. We are all small individually and cannot straighten much out ourselves. **But together** we can achieve much more **for the great big whole**, ideally **by adopting the principle of swarm intelligence**. Swarm intelligence is a concept that is gaining ground in the natural sciences. The principle of swarm intelligence is propagated across the entire universe. It applies to planets, solar systems, galaxies, galaxy clouds, and to the entire visible and invisible universe. Even the nerve cells in our brains follow the principle of swarm intelligence, creating incredible capacity to act and perceive. The positive force from above is still in each of us. We can strengthen this force by increasing our awareness, both individually, and within our sphere of influence. Those people who, through their lives, want to make the

world a little bit better, can join, and so create a swarm. And from this interaction between individuals will come something bigger and better: ***Homo progressivus*** – **The forceful triumph!**

The many voices calling for peace, freedom, and justice demonstrate the need for new values and new rules. They encourage us to object to dusty, parochial, and selfish behavior. They are a powerful driving force for us, and a great stimulus for the future that starts today! According to the futurologists' famous motto, the best way to predict the **future** is to **invent** it. We need an epoch-making change. For this we will need millions of people to swarm and work together, and so fill billions of people with enthusiasm for peace, freedom, and justice. I hear from all sides that the system of justice as we understand it is an illusion. The worlds of finance, economics, politics, and religion are far too enmeshed with one another – and with criminal and corrupt spin-offs that extend deep into all segments of society. Against this background we should remember that we the people have ourselves invented and shaped this world with its hierarchies, and the associated discrimination, separation, and other injustices. We need to jettison the superfluous bureaucracy and narrow-minded thinking. We can, and must, reinvent ourselves. Free association and holistic thinking based on ethical principles will help us to do this. **Without ethical principles, there is no point in thinking about the meaning of our lives, and we would descend into an even deeper morass of uncertainty and apathy.**



The scales of justice!

To summarize: The time is ripe for a new world order that works for our times in the political, economic, social, and religious respects, all under the umbrella of the “United peoples of the world”.



If we want to be convinced by something, we mustn't hold back, or allow ourselves to be dissuaded. We must keep going through to the end. We will reach our destination if we travel there together, and **move forwards in a massive, but non-violent swarm.**

According to Albert Einstein,

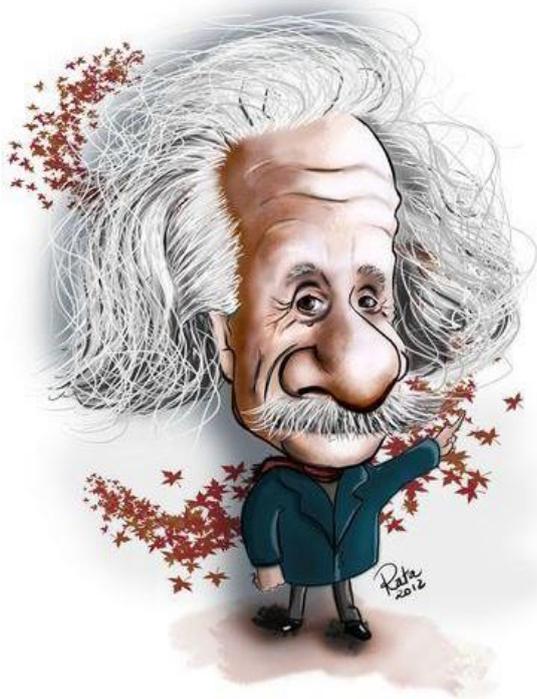
“Life is like riding a bicycle.

To keep your balance, YOU MUST KEEP MOVING FORWARD.”

Charlie Chaplin said:

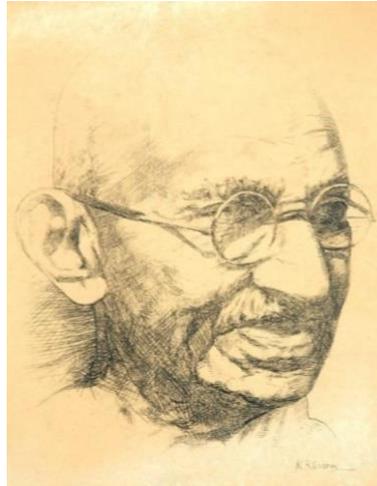
“At the crossroads of life there are no signs.

You have to believe in yourself, that’s the secret.”



Mahatma Gandhi said:

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."



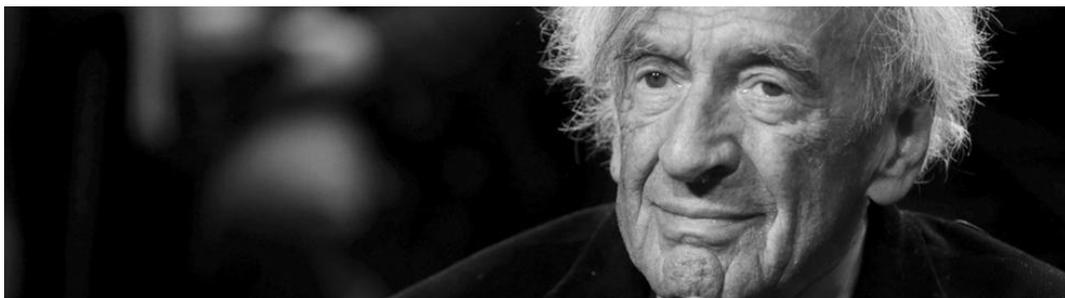
Nelson Mandela said:

"It always seems impossible until it is done."



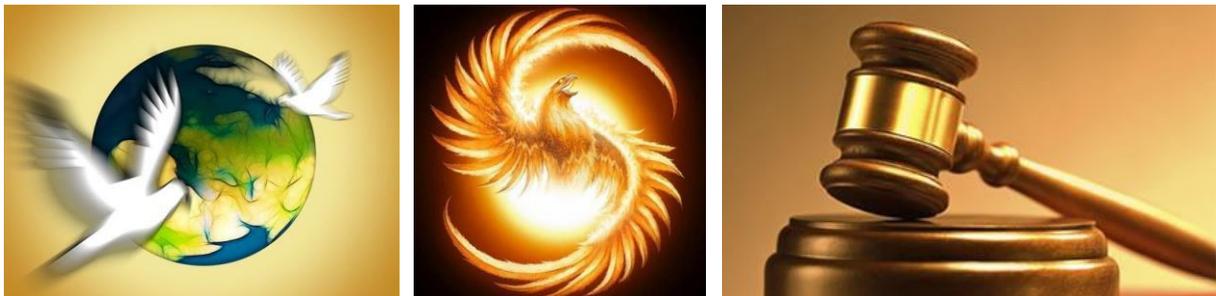
Elie Wiesel said:

"None of us can do as much as when we all work together."



With all the forces of a vibrant and stable democracy, we should be able to bridge the chasm between rich and poor. If we take away the worries from the troubled and careworn people, then there is no space left for extremist populism, autocracy, demagoguery, egoism, religious fanaticism, terrorism, or corruption. Not in Germany, nor in Europe, nor in the world.

If the demagogues, war criminals, and warmongers can seduce and abuse millions of people, sending them headlong into misery or even death, then surely if we **work together** then we can create enthusiasm for peace, freedom, and justice in billions of people.



It is time to give the downtrodden and oppressed people back their dignity. In this way, we will lay the foundations for humanity and justice, and ensure the basic essence of democracy. **“Human dignity is unassailable. That doesn’t mean the dignity of the German or European people, but the dignity of every person living on this Earth.”** wrote Hans-Dietrich Genscher in his last book *“Meine Sicht der Dinge”* (How I see it).

Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, and Leonardo da Vinci have taught us: The Earth is not flat, and not at the center of the Universe or our solar system. But for us it is a tolerable place that we and our descendants should preserve. For as long as the sun continues to shine and lend us its power.



Our **Hubble** space telescope would say:

"If you people could see what I can see, then you would know how small you are. You would also know how lucky you are to live on this speck of dust known as 'Earth'. For 29 years I have been looking with fascination into the vastness of space and allowing you to share in this. From what I have seen, you won't find a better place (that you can actually reach) than planet Earth."



On 23 April 2019 it was perhaps no accident that I was listening to **Purple Rain** in my headphones. It was the version by Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. In April 2016, Bruce and his band interpreted Prince's unforgettable classic in their own special way – both melancholic and powerful – with the incredible Nils Lofgren on guitar. It wasn't only the Prince fans who had goose bumps. Two days after Prince's sudden death, Bruce Springsteen paid a very moving tribute, and said goodbye to the star with the words "Prince forever".



And the thought came to me that Springsteen, as front man of the new resistance, could also reinterpret the song **With a little help from my friends**. More so if this title which Joe Cocker made famous around the world were to become the name of the movement.

I can just hear the Boss singing:

I get by with a little help from my friends.

To make the sated newborn babies laugh again.

I will keep my head up high to help bring justice to victory.

*I will encourage people to fight for a place to stand,
or find a decent job. Wherever somebody's struggling to be free,*

*I offer my **helping hand**. We must keep our eye on the ball!*

We will achieve our goals with the helping hands of my friends.

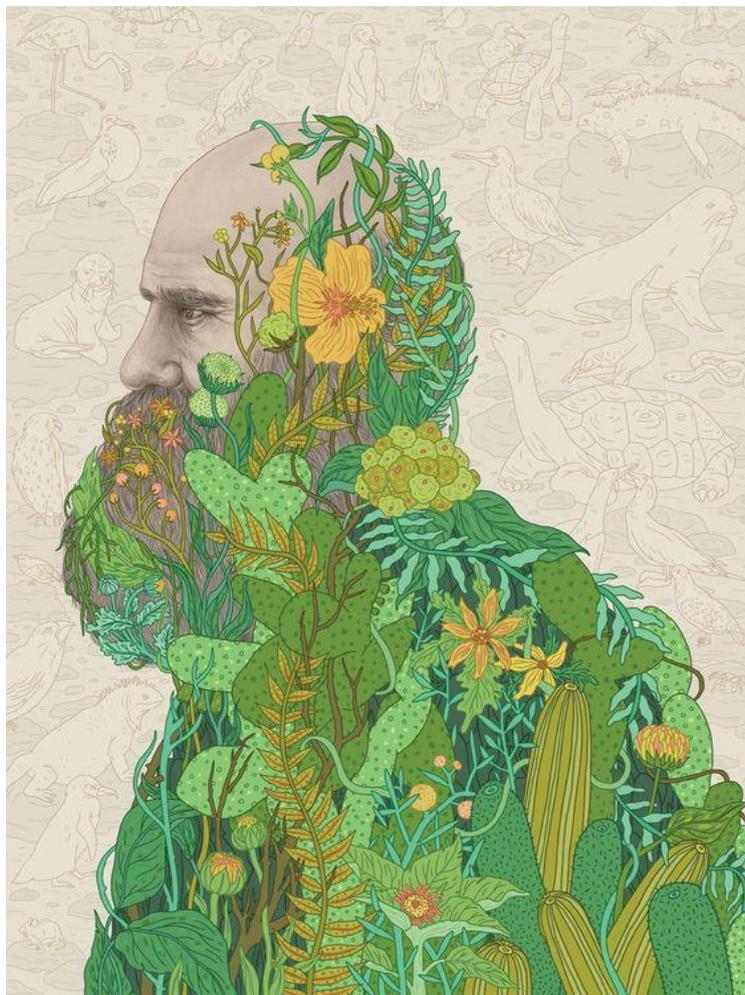
FOR A WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS!



Lend A Helping Hand!



It's a shame that the many role models mentioned in this book did not all live at the same time, and were not able to work together, and achieve so much that is positive. Just imagine if those role models who have already died were to meet up and look down on what we are getting up to here on Earth. Just imagine if those role models who have already died were to come back to Earth. All at the same time. They would drag us over the coals and rid our bodies and spirits of all that garbage. And then they would call for world revolution. Particularly because we have been so wasteful with resources over the last 150 years and have treated the life on Earth so cruelly. **We shouldn't wait to be shamed in this way.**



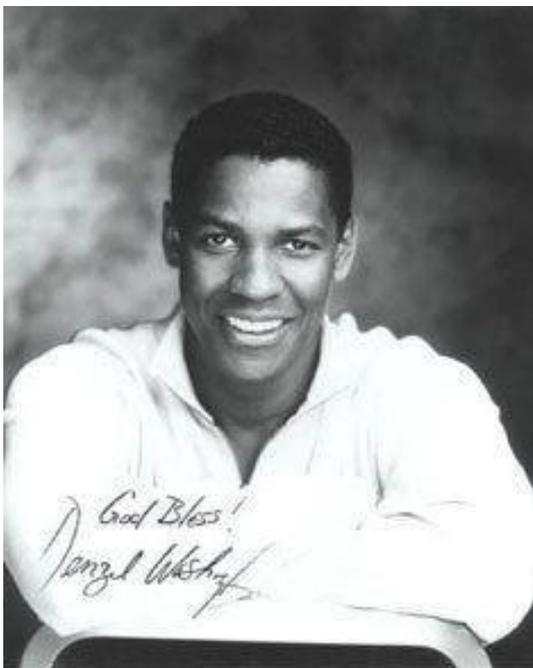
We should finally do ourselves a favor and undergo the metamorphosis together. By increasing our individual feeling of self-worth, and supported by the collective impulse for improvement, we can transform ourselves from *Homo sapiens* to *Homo progressivus*.

Denzel Washington says:

“With so many things coming back in style, I can’t wait until morals, respect, and intelligence become a trend again.”

Stephen Hawking said:

“Mankind’s greatest achievements have come about by talking, and its greatest failures by not talking.”



Helmut Schmidt said:

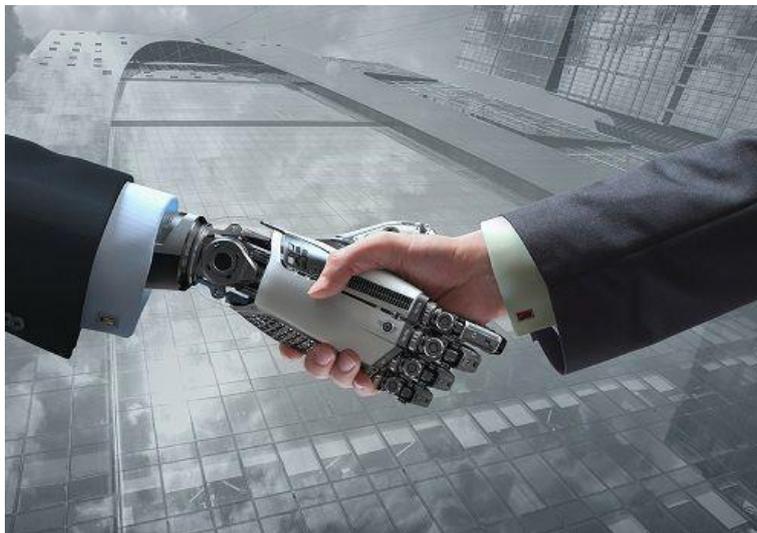
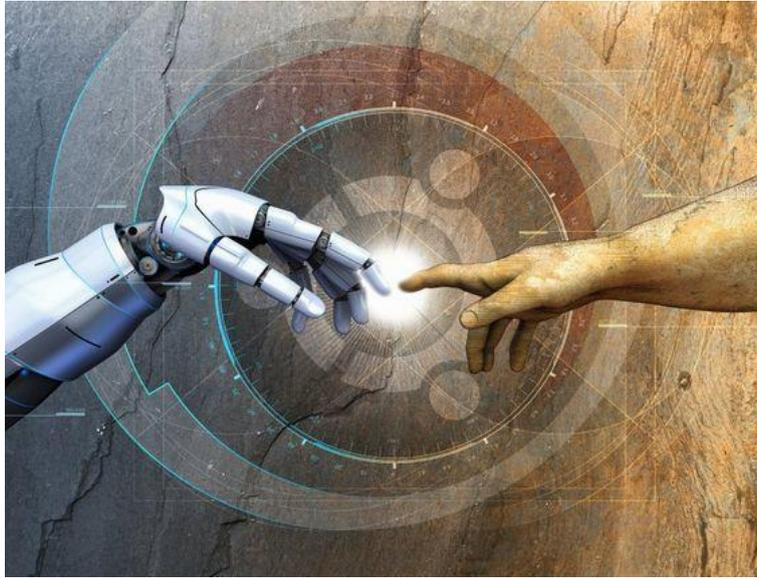
*"If we don't study the past,
we will repeat its mistakes.*

And character is proven during a crisis."



There are so many people who would be suitable leaders. It is a matter of averting the threats and dangers and joining together to find solutions **that promote the common good**. The leaders would be supported by recognized experts from every field. The role models of today and tomorrow could be found in their ranks. They could also be democratically elected as decision-makers by all of us. **They need to be credible, charismatic personalities with great leadership skills. We will give them our votes, trust them, and place positive power in their hands.**

Given the current state of the world, we need **a global *Revolution 1.0*** immediately. And that is still before complete digitization, and the future project *Industry 4.0*, which is already running, and in which we will rationalize ourselves out of existence before AI (Artificial Intelligence) takes command.



Pulling together is better than pulling apart.

If the outcome of Revolution 1.0 is particularly good, the moment will come when the leadership can pass the new movement into the right hands. The best way to use our power over our planet is to use it together. We need to see ourselves as **one nation of the Earth**, led by personalities who use their authority to the benefit of the world. Particularly without this accursed human cruelty that has afflicted and controlled our planet for so long.

We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists, philanthropists, and realists – not warlords or tyrants. We need to win each other’s hearts and minds. It isn’t worldly goods that we need. **And we need one person to wear the hat!**

Jean-Claude Juncker said in April 2019:

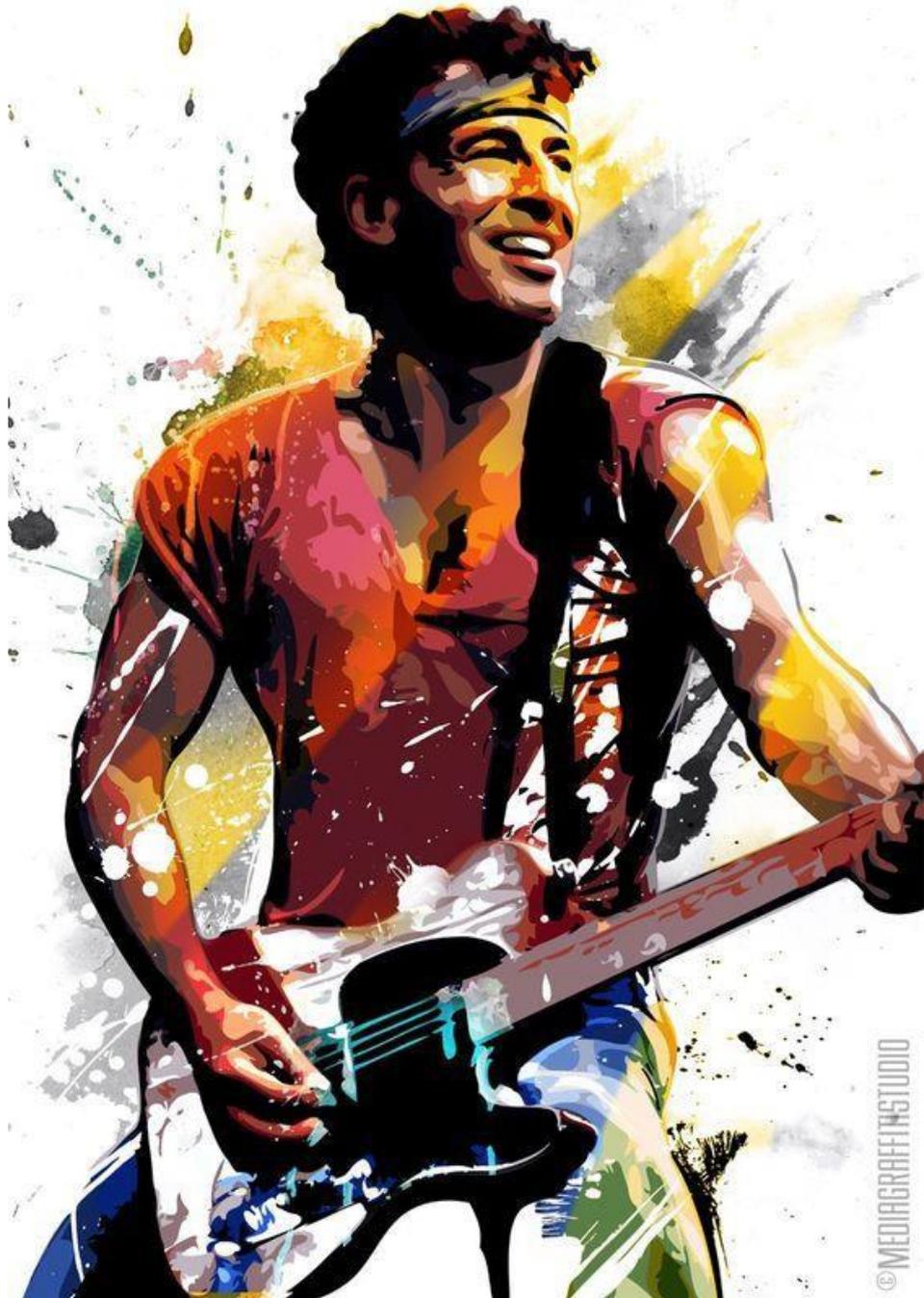
*“I really cannot imagine that **Angela Merkel** will sink into obscurity. She is not only a person who commands respect, but a likeable and complete treasure.”*

Angela Merkel said in April 2019:

“The stabilization of the Ukraine, and a peaceful solution to the conflict are just as important to me as the implementation of central reforms to the justice system, decentralization, and fighting corruption.”



Wouldn't it be great if she would do that job for the whole world? I can well imagine that Bruce Springsteen would be happy to pass on the baton to Angela Merkel. And then we would all be in the same boat. Peaceful and happy.



"I hope that all barriers will be torn down one day."

*Springsteen said that on 19 July 1988, at the concert
for more than 300,000 people in East Berlin.*

In the chapter entitled **With empathy and energy we can do this!** I discuss why we still need Angela Merkel in her role as German Chancellor. After the next German parliamentary elections, she will be free. It would be a dream come true if the quartet shown below were to start world revolution 1.0, with support from many other quartets.



Lend A Helping Hand!



I GET BY
with a little help
FROM MY FRIENDS
- john lennon

Lend A Helping Hand!



Four bearers of hope who have nothing to lose. But still have so much to win.

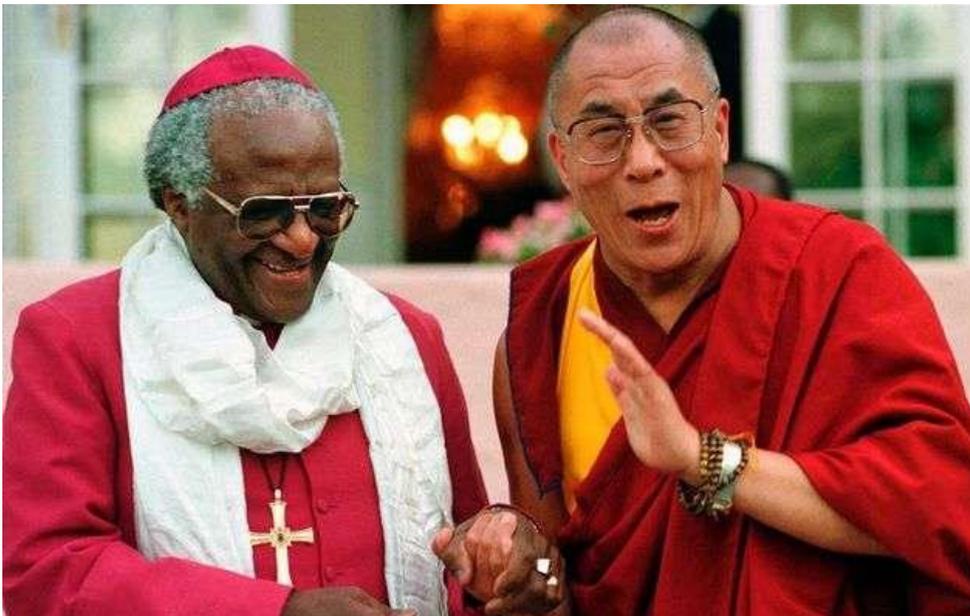
For all of us who are here now. And all who are to come.

Let's join and take control of our own destiny.



The Dalai Lama also said to Desmond Tutu:

“We all share this tiny planet called Earth and need to learn how to live together in peace and harmony. This is a necessity, and not simply a dream. We cannot survive without the fundamental human values of love and goodness. Peace is not created by God; it is in the hands of man himself. What we really need today is a feeling of unity between all seven billion people. Human resolve and truth will win overpower and suppression in the end. In the end, peace, reason, and freedom will win the upper hand.”



Every astronaut tells us that seeing the Earth from space has changed their lives. And they all emphasize that everyone would feel the same if they were to be able to look down on the blue marble from this perspective. This view of the Earth made all of them want to protect this wonderful dot in the infinite vastness of space, because it is unique, because it is our home, and because it is home to all of us. And that we could agree to share this wonderful place fairly, and to use it with great care, but not to consume it all. We would understand that climatic and biological processes encompass the entire planet, and cannot be stopped by razor wire, walls and national borders.



We need to keep better tabs on the Earth.



Sometimes, when I start to dream while listening to beautiful music, I think that it would be nice to wander as an astronaut through our solar system. Then I could get to know our neighbors and energy suppliers better. Then I also think about Neo, the Chosen One, how he gave up his life outside the Matrix in order to save mankind.

How dreams come true

The authors, directors, actors, humorists, and comedians often carry us off to a world that inspires us to daydream and imagine, where we hope that Good will win in the end. My favorite films include **The Miracle on 34th Street** (a family essential at Christmas) and the **Matrix Trilogy**. I also love the **Harry Potter** books, and **The Lord of the Rings**. Both these series were transformed into wonderful, breath-taking, exciting movies, always with a happy ending.

Penélope Cruz says:

“With our thoughts, we help to shape our future.

The key is never to stop dreaming.

If you find that you are no longer dreaming

as you did when you were 10 or 15 years old, that is an alarm signal.

Be careful! We should now start to picture what we want to be.”



The Miracle on 34th Street, with Harry Potter, the Lord of the Rings, and the Matrix



How dreams come true

Kris Kringle, his attorney, and his judge say in *The Miracle on 34th Street*:

"I'm not just a whimsical figure who wears a charming suit and affects a jolly demeanor.

*You know, I'm a symbol. I'm a symbol of the human ability to be able to suppress
the selfish and hateful tendencies that rule the major part of our lives.*

*If you can't believe, if you can't accept anything on faith,
then you're doomed for a life dominated by doubt."*

"I ask the court to judge which is worse: A lie that draws a smile or a truth that draws a tear."

"Case dismissed! Mr. Kringle has won!"



Most people believe in a supernatural power.

**It certainly helps if we adults still believe in the values of
Father Christmas, and other good icons. We would then be able
to overcome the real evils. We have already invented
so much, so why can't we make the dreams
and stories in which we smile come true?**

Gandalf said:

*"I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay.
Small acts of kindness and love."*

Bilbo said:

*"I often think of Bag End. I miss my books. And my armchair. And my garden.
See, that's where I belong. That's home. That's why I came back, cause you don't have one.
It was taken from you. But I will help you take it back if I can."*

Aragorn said

*"This day does not belong to one man but to all. Let us together rebuild this world
that we may share in the days of peace."*

Frodo said:

*"Now not day only shall be beloved, but night too shall be beautiful and blessed
and all its fear pass away."*



The Wizard

The Hobbit

The King

The Ring-bearer

**They drove the dark clouds away from Middle Earth.
We also drive them out of our minds, hearts and away from the Earth
and let hopes and dreams come true.**

Professor Dumbledore said in *Harry Potter*:

“While we may come from different places and speak in different tongues, our hearts beat as one.”

“It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be.”

“We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”

“Have you any idea how much tyrants fear the people they oppress? All of them realize that, one day, amongst their many victims, there is sure to be one who rises against them and strikes back!”

“Those that we love never truly leave us, Harry. There are things that death cannot touch.”

“We must all face the choice between what is right, and what is easy.”

“For in dreams we enter a world that is entirely our own.”



**Harry, Hermione and Ron learned much from their teachers
and used it to defeat the Dark Lord!!!**

In the first installment of the Matrix trilogy, Agent Smith said to Morpheus:

“I’d like to share a revelation that I’ve had during my time here. It came to me when I tried to classify your species and I realized that humans are not actually mammals! Every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment but you humans do not. You move to an area and you multiply and multiply until every natural resource is consumed and the only way you can survive is to spread to another area.

There is another organism on this planet that follows the same pattern.

Do you know what it is? A virus. Human beings are a disease, a cancer of this planet. You’re a plague and we are the cure!”



Agent Smith



The One

Trinity

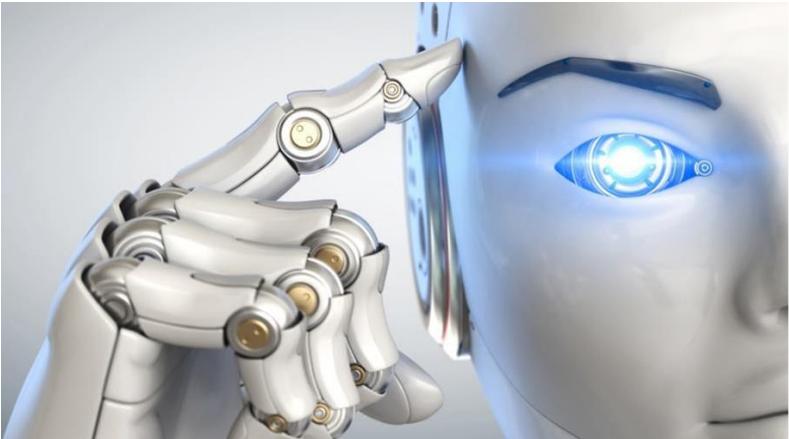
Morpheus

At the beginning, Morpheus said to Neo: *“This is your last chance. After this, there is no turning back. You take the blue pill – the story ends, you wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe. You take the red pill – you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit-hole goes.”* Morpheus said later *“Stop trying to hit me and hit me!”* Later Neo becomes “The One”. At the end of this revolutionary masterpiece, Man triumphs over machine because Trinity and *The One* let them live. Is this scenario purely fantastical? Many people already live like they are trapped in a computer program. And in the end “Artificial Intelligence” will take control of us humans. To stop it, we should look for The One to guide us in our daily lives. We still have a chance to not destroy this unique planet of ours like a virus or plague.

It's a shame that the many role models mentioned above didn't live in the same time period and couldn't inspire or bring about more positive actions.

Imagine that the deceased role models are in contact and are watching what we are doing here on Earth. Imagine that the deceased role models came back to Earth together. They would lecture us and free our bodies and souls from the trash before declaring a world revolution. **Because we have been so wasteful with the resources over the last 150 years and have treated life on Earth so disgustingly.**

We shouldn't wait until we get a certificate of poverty like that, or for "Artificial Intelligence" to take control like in The Matrix trilogy. Given the current status quo in the world, we need **a global, sustainable *Revolution 1.0*** – in fact before the already-delayed future project *Industry 4.0*.



The people included or quoted in this book, as well as those who feel it speaks to them, can deflect threats and dangers together as well as find and implement solutions with the support of well-known experts from all industries. The role models of today and tomorrow can rise from their ranks. They can be democratically elected as decision-makers by us. **They must be believable, charismatic personalities with leadership skills that we can lend our vote to, trust and place positive power in their hands.**

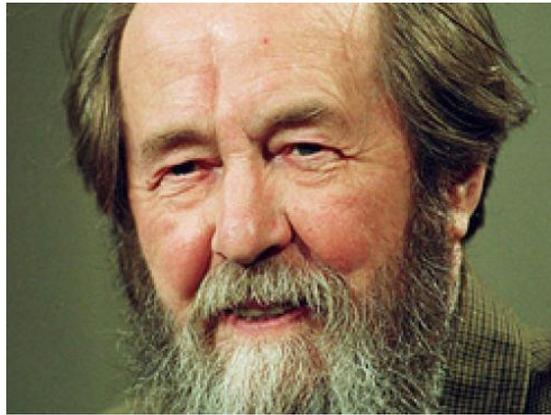
We can use the power on Earth to its fullest by not misusing it and instead understanding ourselves as **People of the Earth**, led by personalities that use their powers to serve the world. Above all, free from this cursed human cruelty that has haunted and ruled this planet for so long. We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists and realists, but no warlords or tyrants. Let us conquer our hearts together, instead of our possessions.



All in one boat – peaceful and happy!

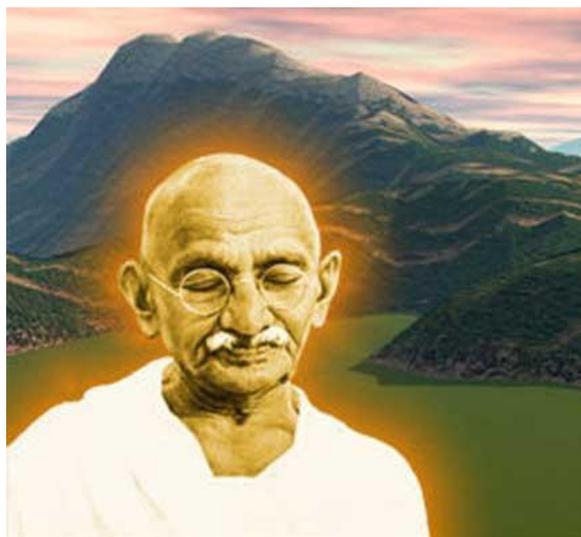
Alexander Solzhenitsyn said:

*“You can survive any economic, governmental and physical catastrophes,
but not spiritual ones. If we give up, if we stop believing
in our future, then we are finished.”*



Mahatma Gandhi said:

*“When I despair, I remember that all through history
the way of truth and love have always won.
There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time,
they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall.”*



Imagine that all the people included or quoted in this book, as well as those who feel it speaks to them, stand together with the ambassadors and agents and march arm in arm, like politicians from all over the world did after the shootings in Paris on January 7, 2015, and pledge together:

*“We stand for the United Nations,
united in a belief
in peace and freedom.”*

On this day, we shall celebrate the Declaration of Human Rights.

“INDEPENDENCE DAY – IN THE WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS”

(in the style of Bruce Springsteen)

All together – all over the world – every year.



This could also be the **‘Day of Global Solidarity’** that Hans-Dietrich Genscher recommended in his last book. No-one could ignore this signal, this message, **this energetic fight**. If the well-being of our planet and their lives are important to them, then they can’t ignore it. The role models above would pat us on the back for this and support us emphatically with all their might.



***Homo progressivus* – The Energetic Fight!**



The true United Nations!

**Game Without Borders -
With the Power of Consumers**



Game Without Borders - With the Power of Consumers



Consumer power can also be exercised and expanded through the channels of the World Wide Web. As a multiplier of the good!

Reinhold Messner says:

*"It is only possible to change the world if each individual changes himself."
"The path emerges as we walk, and those who risk nothing cannot even fail."*



10 tips for things to do by yourself or with others, with three exhortation marks!!!

1. We all have influence and power even in our own small sphere. That is why each of us can achieve something on a small scale.
 - If everyone joins together, the crowd has a lot of influence.
2. We can protect the environment when we go shopping. Example:
 - Avoid plastic wherever possible. Start by doing without plastic bags when shopping.
3. What we don't need, we don't need to buy. Boycott can change markets.
 - The buyer has the power to say no. No one can force us to buy everything the market offers.
4. Don't let yourself be intimidated.
 - No matter what the issue is, take heart and show moral courage, even when things seem to get a little too hot for you. Get information yourself and don't let yourself be spoon-fed. Journalists and politicians, too, are only people with personal opinions.
5. Stay curious about everything.
 - That way, everything remains exciting and will never become negative. Always ask questions if you don't understand or don't know something. When we were children, we did it automatically.

CURI OSI TY IS ALWAYS
AT THE BEG INNI NG
OF A **PROBLEM** THAT
NEEDS TO BE SOLVED

GALILEO GALILEI

*»He who is not
curious
learns nothing.«*

Johann Wolfgang v. Goethe

6. Do as much as possible consciously and not mindlessly.
 - Start by eating less meat. It should be something special. Or would you be able to kill the animal yourself that you are eating right now? Unpleasant, but we all have to ask ourselves this question.
7. Switch to providers of eco-friendly products if possible (electricity, gas, food).



8. Buy regionally, seasonally and consciously. Example:
 - Do I need strawberries from China in the winter? Who knows what they spray on the crops in China? Do I really need the latest mobile telephone, or can I live with the one I have? Let's enjoy looking forward to things again: the first strawberries of the season, the day we buy our next mobile phone.
9. Help wherever you can. Example:
 - Take on sponsorships, work as a volunteer or barter with friends or neighbors: I'll help you with the painting and you can help me in the garden – that's free of cost.

10. Make proposals and offer ideas again and again. Example:

- Whether on local, regional or national level: The simplest ideas are the best, because no one has come up with them yet. If you believe in something, don't let them get of you.



8. LEARN FROM ROLE MODELS WHO HAVE SHAPED OUR HISTORY

Günter Bentele says:

"Protagonists are perceived as credible if they can be expected or have proven themselves to be correct, true and consistent in their statements or their entire communicative action."

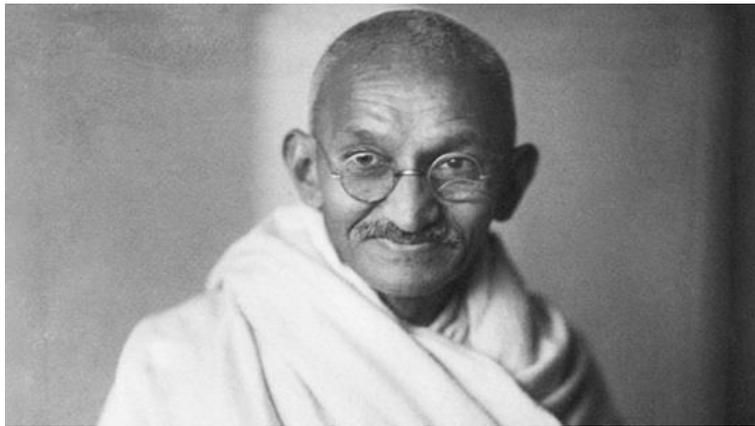


Let us reflect on living and departed role models from different areas who can serve as orientation.

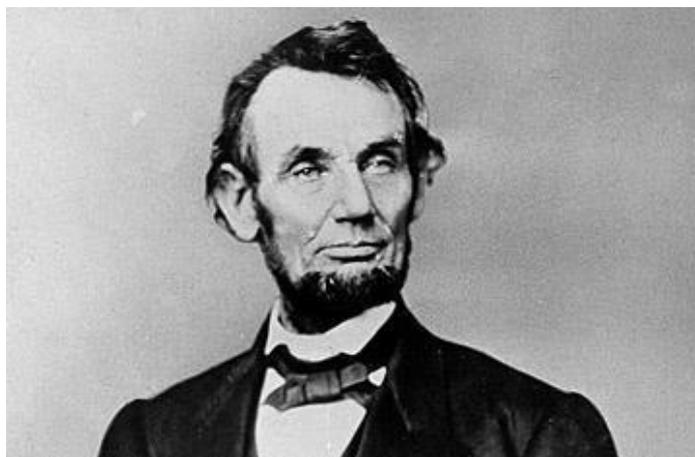
- **Nelson Mandela** ended Apartheid in South Africa peacefully with his policy of reconciliation and forgiveness as well as his charisma and disarming smile. After his death in December 2013, he was compared with Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln.



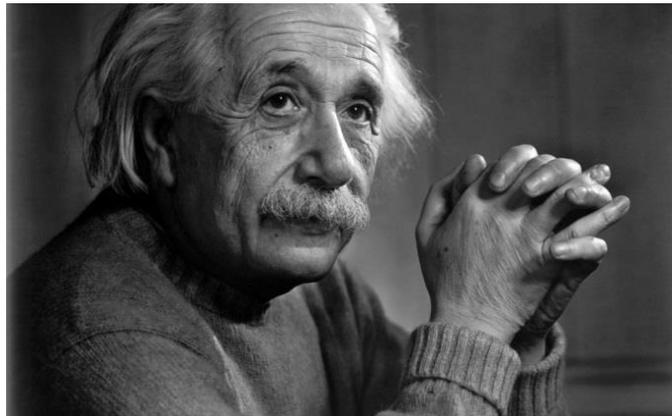
- ***Mahatma Gandhi*** – The man of slight physical stature from India lead an immense country of 400 million people at the time into independence thanks to his truthfulness and nonviolence, but also to his slyness and tenacity.



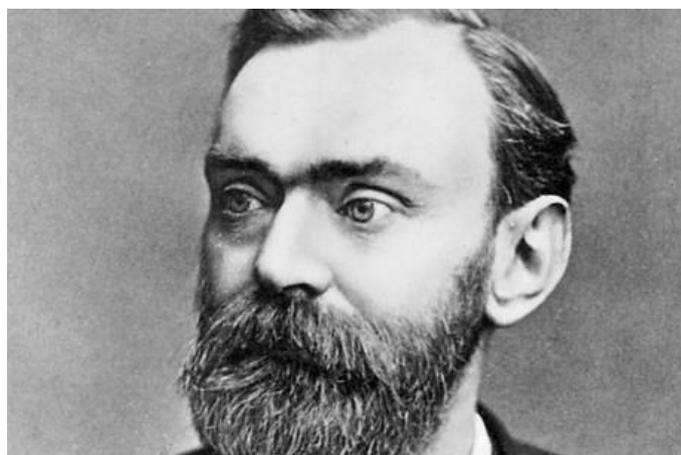
- ***Abraham Lincoln*** successfully abolished slavery in the USA. Under his government, the country embarked on the path of becoming a centrally governed, modern industrial nation, creating the basis for its ascendancy to world power in the 20th century.



- **Albert Einstein** – The unforgettable nuclear physicist and inventor of the theory of relativity ($E = m \times c^2$) remains memorable also because of his quotes. Among these in particular: *"The meaning of life does not consist in being a successful person, but a valuable one."* *"If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it."* *"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world."* *"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."*



- **Alfred Nobel** – The inventor of dynamite was already famous in his own lifetime. But he achieved worldwide fame after his death. In his will, the childless chemist, inventor and industrialist bequeathed his entire fortune of some 31 million Swedish crowns to a foundation. The interest earnings of this foundation were to be allocated "as prizes to those who in the year past had contributed the most benefit to mankind." Nobel's will was carried out for the first time in 1901. Since that time, the Nobel Prize is the most famous and most important award in science and society.



- **Bertha von Suttner** – In 1876, Alfred Nobel met the Austrian pacifist Bertha von Suttner, who then worked for him for a short time as his private secretary. Nobel admired von Suttner's commitment as a pacifist. She encouraged the industrialist to create a peace prize, and in 1905, she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Bertha von Suttner died seven days before the outbreak of World War I.



- **'Abdu'l-Bahá** was born in Teheran in 1844. Although he never attended school, he was well-read and author of various writings himself. He could read and write Persian, Arabic and Turkish. 'Abdu'l-Bahá spent most of his life with his father and his family in prison and exile. It is said he was finally freed at the age of 64, in 1908. In 1910, 'Abdu'l-Bahá began a long lecture tour which took him to Egypt, Europe and the USA. In Vienna he met, among other people, the later Nobel Peace Prize winner Bertha von Suttner. His followers describe him as a champion of peace, religious tolerance, social justice, women's rights and racial equality. His many speeches were written down and published in book form. In recognition of his humanitarian commitment during World War I, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was dubbed Knight of the British Empire in 1920.



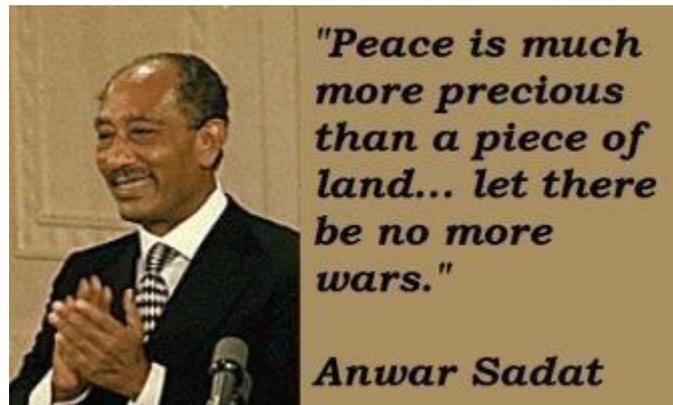
- **Oskar Schindler** wore a ring with the engraving: "Whoever saves one life, saves the entire world." The Jews on "Schindler's list" gave him the ring with this Talmud saying engraved on it. Made of real dental gold, the ring was all they had on May 8, 1945 to thank Schindler for saving their lives. This famous list had on it the names of 1,200 people who consequently survived the atrocities of the Nazis. *"The list is an absolute good. The list is life. All around its margins lies the gulf."*



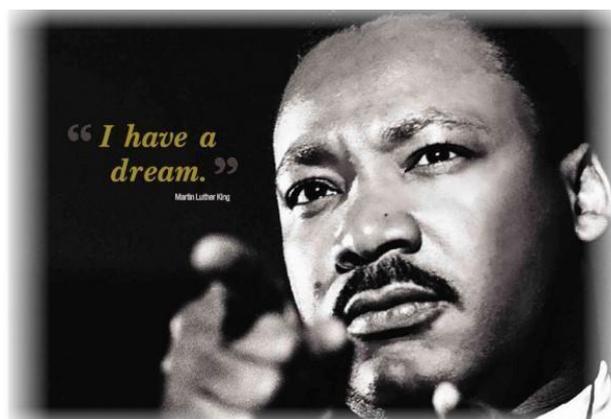
- **John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev** agreed in 1962 that a possible third world war, unleashed due to the threat of stationing Russian nuclear missiles on Cuba, had to be prevented at all costs, because the use of atomic weapons from both sides would have had catastrophic consequences for the planet.



- **Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat** was an Egyptian statesman. As president he led Egypt into the Yom Kippur War against Israel in 1973. Sadat later loosened the country from its close ties to the Soviet Union and concluded a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Together with Menachem Begin he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978 for his efforts in the peace process with Israel. Sadat's policy of reconciliation with Israel was his downfall: In 1980, he was assassinated by fanatical opponents of his policy.



- **Martin Luther King** was an American Baptist pastor and civil rights activist. He was among the most important proponents of the fight against social repression and racism. He promoted civil disobedience in the 1960s as a tool against the political practice of racial segregation in the Southern States of the USA and participated personally in these actions. His commitment and fervor unleashed a mass movement which ultimately succeeded in having racial segregation abolished and introducing the unlimited right to vote for the black population of the South. Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize prize in 1964 for his work. King was assassinated in April 1968.



- **Albert Schweitzer** was a German-French physician, Protestant theologian, organist, philosopher and pacifist. He founded a hospital in Lambaréné in Gabun in Central Africa. His numerous and well-regarded works include theological and philosophical treatises, essays on music and autobiographical writings. In 1953, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1952, which he then received in 1954.



- **Max Schmeling and Joe Louis:** When they fought each other for the first time in 1936 and Schmeling achieved his fabled victory, no one would have guessed that the two legendary boxers of different skin colors would remain friends until the end of their days.



- **Jesse Owens and Luz Long** – an example of tolerance and fair play. In the *Neue Leipziger Zeitung* of August 11, 1936, the following news appeared: "The battle of colors is over. *Black was the best, irrefutably the best with 19 centimeters ahead of white.*" The entry was extraordinary, courageous and extremely dangerous. In the battle of colors, the white athlete Luz Long was the loser. Jesse Owens, the black competitor, was the winner. But later, whenever Owens described how he had become one of the greatest Olympic heroes, he never forgot to mention the other contender, his spiritual brother, who was supposed to defeat him, so to speak by orders of the *Führer*, to prove the superiority of the Arian race. Instead they became friends, right under the eyes of Adolf Hitler. Owens later said: "*You can melt down all the medals and cups I have and they wouldn't be a plating on the 24-carat friendship that I felt for Luz Long at that moment. Hitler must have gone crazy when we embraced each other.*"



- **Udo Jürgens** loved and enjoyed his life. With his sophisticated, pioneering texts and catchy melodies, he left us a musical legacy we will remember for a long time to come.



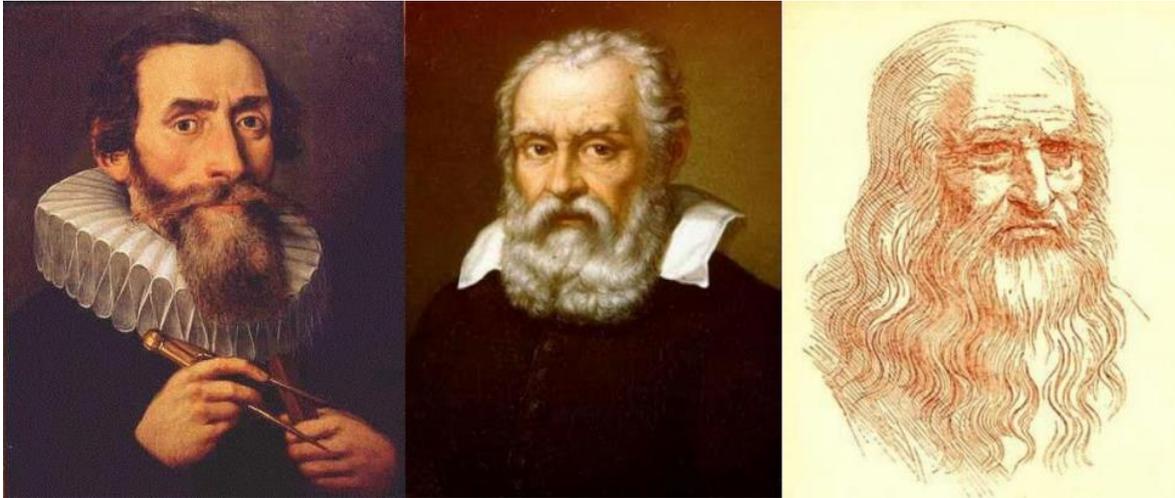
- *Janis Joplin, Amy Winehouse, Jimmy Hendrix, Jim Morrison, John Lennon, Elvis Presley, Bob Marley, Joe Cocker, Freddy Mercury, Kurt Cobain, Jon Lord, Rory Galagher and Michael Jackson* – because they revolutionized not only the world of music in their often very short lives.



- *Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* left us a musical legacy for all eternity.



- Universal geniuses like **Kepler, Galilei and da Vinci** have taught us: The Earth is not a disk nor is it the center of the universe or even of our planetary system. But for us it is a livable place which is worth preserving - as long as our sun shines and bequeaths its power to us.



- **Johannes Kepler** was a German polymath and lived from 1571 to 1630. As a mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, he discovered, among other things, the laws of planetary motion.
- **Galileo Galilei** – Born in 1564, his discoveries changed the entire world. He announced his most important research results in 1615: The planets revolve around the sun and the sun is at the center of the system. People previously assumed that the sea was the beginning of the end of the world and that the Earth was the central element of the universe. Galilei's discoveries were not acknowledged by the church until 1757 and taken off the Index only in 1835.
- **Leonardo da Vinci** lived from 1452 to 1519. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mechanic, engineer, philosopher and scientist. The universal genius is famous for the Mona Lisa, his anatomical drawings and his study of proportions, *The Vitruvian Man*. In addition to art, various inventions contributed to his fame, among them the parachute and the diver's suit. With many of his inventions, Leonardo was a visionary.

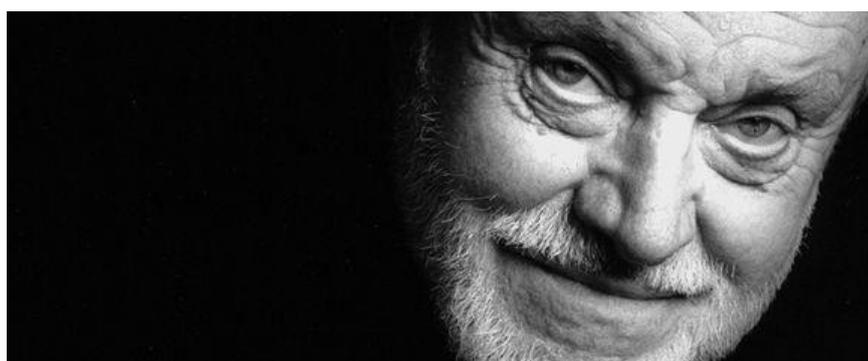
- **Goethe, Schiller und Shakespeare** – because they wrote even better than **Marcel Reich-Ranicki** critiqued.



- **Kurt Masur** not only conducted great symphony orchestras in New York, London, Paris, Dresden and Leipzig, he was also the “Conductor of the German Revolution” in the fall of 1989. We will remember him as a great humanist and champion of the good.

Kurt Masur said:

“The masterworks of music give hope to the hopeless, courage to the sad, to the lonely the feeling of living in a community after all. If you could put everyone in the world into a concert hall, they would be peaceful, at least for two hours.”

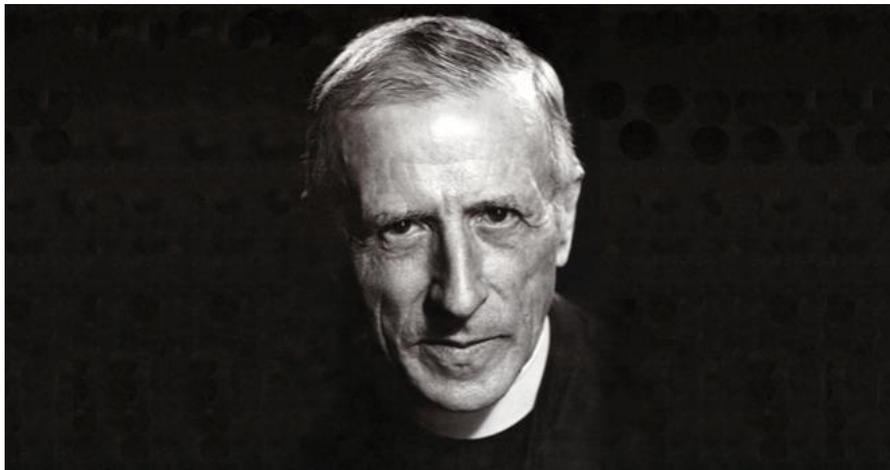


Then let's turn our whole lives into a concert !

- **Winston Churchill** stood as a bulwark against Hitler. Together with the Allies, he freed the German people and the world from the nightmare of fascism in World War II. He was a dazzling figure who left his mark on the last century - with ups and downs as well as depressive phases in periods when he was not serving in government. Winston Churchill today would build bridges, especially between Islam and Christianity, which he considered equal. As Prime Minister in October 1940, Churchill approved the plan for a Mosque in the center of London and made 100,000 pounds available to build it.



- ***Pierre Teilhard de Chardin***, French Jesuit and scientist, lived from 1881 to 1955. His particular interests were philosophy, anthropology, geology and paleontology. After decades of scientific research (he lived and researched for many years in China) he developed “unorthodox theological views” and therefore clashed with the Catholic Church, which banned the publication of his works and even saw to it that he was exiled from France. He then lived in the USA. His books were published only after his death, and millions of copies were sold.



- ***Charlie Rivel*** – because with his clownery and humor, he could make people laugh, even when they were down in the dumps.



- *Audrey Hepburn, James Dean, Marlene Dietrich, Charlie Chaplin, Marlon Brando, Lino Ventura, Greta Garbo, Paul Newman, Jean Gabin, Rock Hudson, Elisabeth Tayler, Richard Burton and Romy Schneider – because they brought us pleasure and have inspired us to reflect.*



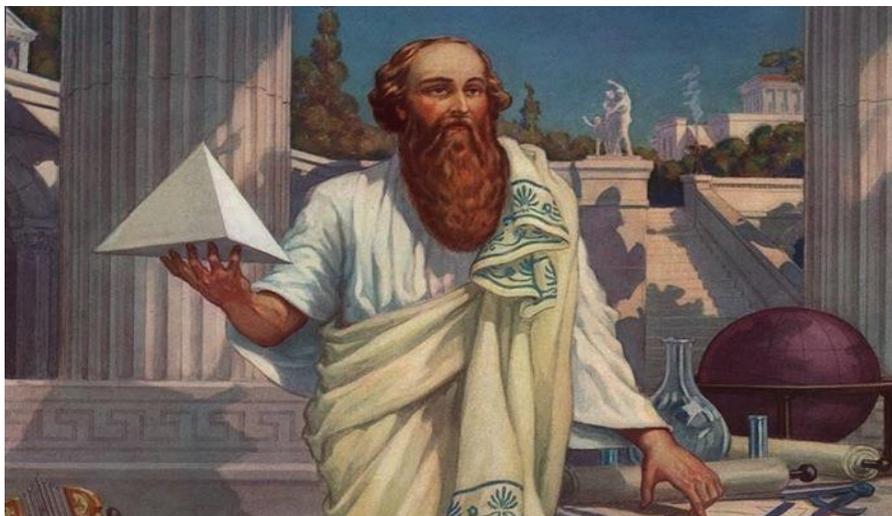
- *Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrik, Ernst Lubitsch, Billy Wilder, Ingmar Bergmann, Luchino Visconti, Sergio Leone, François Truffaut, Richard Attenborough, Elia Kazan, Federico Fellini, Howard Hawks and Sergei M. Eisenstein* – because they made sure that the actors provided marvelous and sophisticated entertainment for us.



- **Hoimar von Ditfurth** explained the world in a simple but exciting way. In his books *Im Anfang war der Wasserstoff* ["In the beginning was hydrogen"], *Der Geist fiel nicht vom Himmel* ["The mind did not come out of a clear blue sky"], *Children of the Universe* and *The Origins of Life - Evolution as Creation*, he describes the chaotic and incredible creation of the universe, of the Earth, of life, and the evolution of our consciousness. He investigated the question of how the theory of evolution can be reconciled with religious ideas.



- **Pythagoras** lived 580–495 BC. In his philosophy of nature, the harmony and order of numbers were the essence and structure of all things. He knew that the Earth was spherical. As a mathematician he developed the geometrical formula for calculating the surface of right-angled triangles ($a^2+b^2=c^2$).



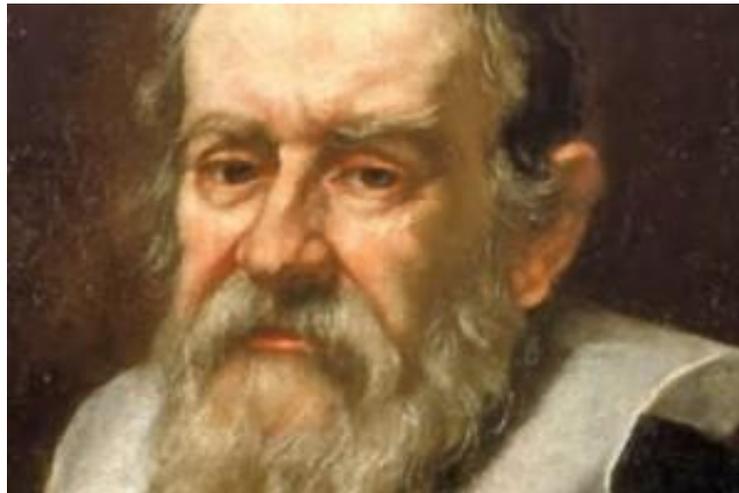
- **Confucius** lived 551-479 BC and taught the five virtues (kindness, righteousness, truthfulness, loyalty and wisdom) and three social obligations (rectitude, morality, respect).



- **Huan Kuan** lived in the first century BC. This Chinese was far ahead of his time. He compared traditions in different cultures, essential for mutual understanding based on the teachings of Confucius, and very instructive – at any time.



- **Ptolemy** lived 87-150 AD. He was a skeptic, an all-round genius and, in addition to being a philosopher, also a mathematician, geographer, astronomer and astrologer. As such, he developed the geocentric system that was considered valid in the Middle Ages. In addition, Ptolemy wrote a comprehensive work consisting of 13 volumes on mathematics and astronomy.



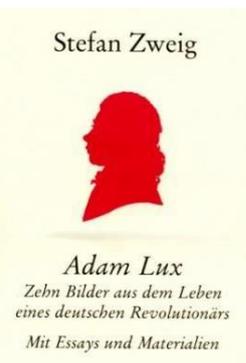
- **Martin Luther** was a reformer and the founder of Protestantism. In his 95 theses (which he nailed to a church portal in Wittenberg in 1517) Martin Luther objected to letters of indulgence, buying of ecclesiastical offices, pilgrimages and mortifications. Luther translated the Bible into German in just 11 weeks.



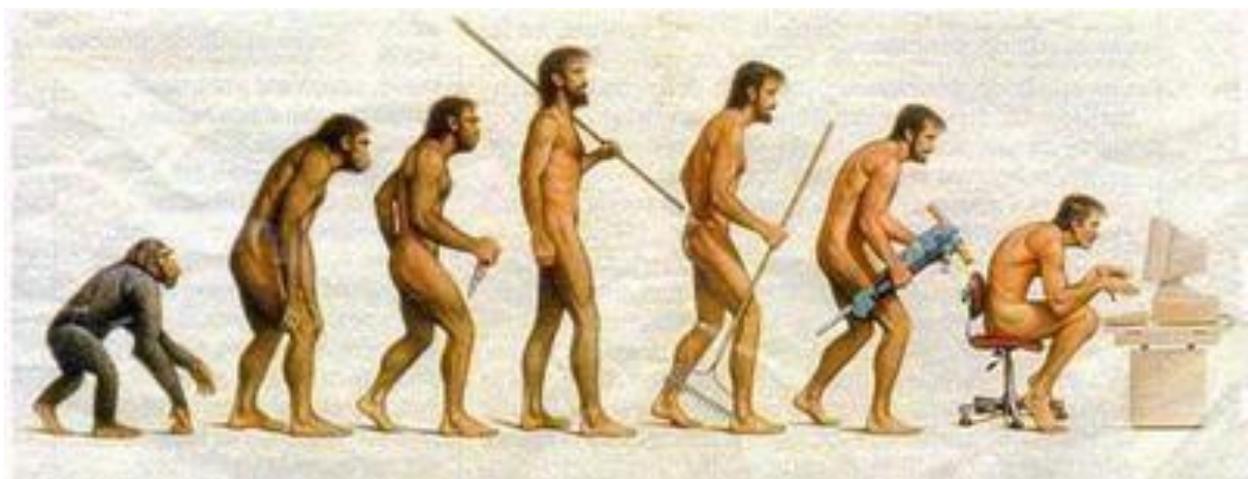
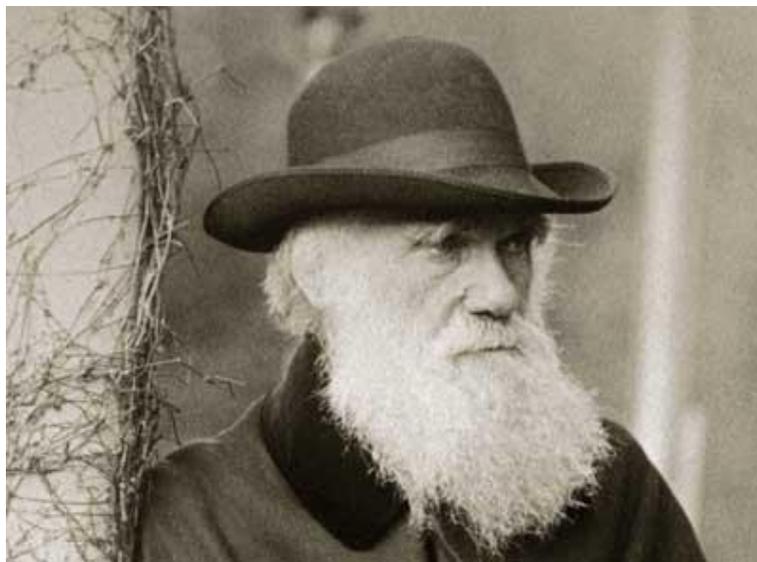
- **Voltaire** was a French author and a philosopher of the Enlightenment who lived from 1694 to 1778. He was the greatest intellectual authority in Europe of his day: "Knowledge instead of belief" was his maxim, which meant that claims had to be supported by empirical evidence. He fought for religious freedom, tolerance and human dignity and advocated the separation of Church and State.



- **Adam Lux** – Born in 1765, he went to Mainz when he was seventeen years old to study philosophy. In 1792, he left for Paris as a deputy to represent the interests of the Rhineland republicans at the National Convention there. However, the revolution devours its children. Adam Lux witnessed the cruel confirmation of this famous saying about the French Revolution on the streets of Paris. Liberty had become despotism, equality had become intolerance, fraternity had become murderousness. He saw only one way to reactivate the fundamental values of the revolution: by suicide on the guillotine. Lux provoked his own death by distributing pamphlets against the radical Jacobins' reign of terror. His macabre plan succeeded, and soon thereafter he was arrested and executed. Even his contemporaries saw Adam Lux as a "martyr of truth." We owe thanks to Stefan Zweig for retrieving the tragic life and failure of this German democrat from oblivion.



- **Charles Darwin** – In the 19th century Darwin made the essential contributions to the theory of evolution which to this day is considered to be the explanation for the emergence and development of life. The foundations for the theory of evolution were laid: Living beings progress in their development by gene mutation. Positive changes prevail, negative developments are doomed to extinction. The survivors of a species are those best adapted to their environment. Since the environment changes gradually, the type of survivors also changes, which leads to evolution. Darwin published his discoveries in *On the Origin of Species*. The book was sold out the very day it appeared in 1859.



- **Peter Ustinov** – because he made us dissolve into tears, both from laughing and from crying.



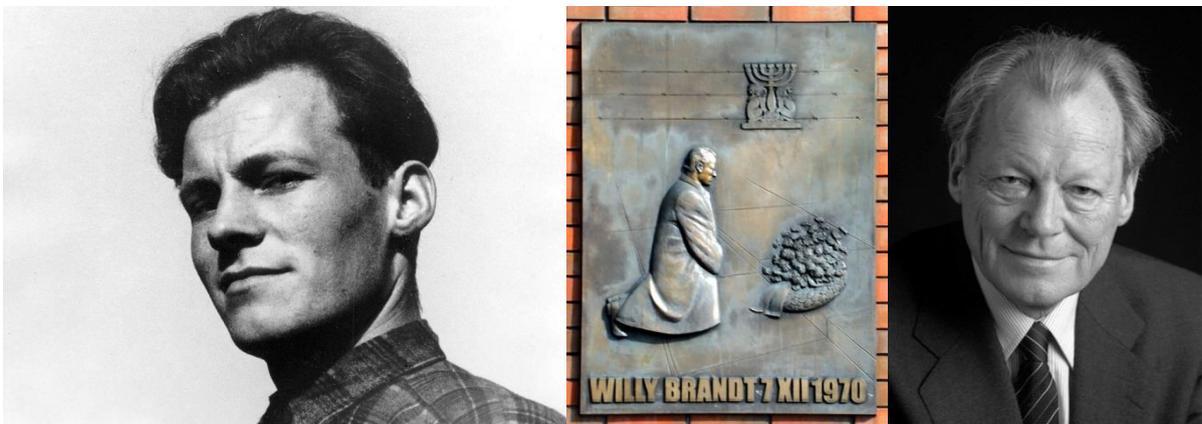
- **Audrey Hepburn** withdrew from the stage after several successful films such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *My Fair Lady*, and devoted herself to charitable causes. She travelled all over the world to support the U.N. Children's Fund UNICEF. She visited disaster and famine areas and used her fame for people in need. For that reason she was made Special Ambassador for UNICEF in 1988.



- **Hans-Dietrich Genscher** was not only the architect and builder of German unity. He was a European and a citizen of the world who believed in freedom and the rule of law before everything. The following excerpts from his last book, *Meine Sicht der Dinge* ["My view of things"], are an impressive illustration of this: *The world is a survival community. Together, a great deal is possible. We need each other. In view of the global challenges facing us, we must solve and overcome enormous problems. What is needed is a global peace order which would be perceived as a world order of good neighbors and which would be considered as just all over the world. This new world order must be based on the equality of nations in every respect as well as on the ground rules of coexistence as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, according to which there can be no peaceful world without global solidarity. Every year there should be a “Day of Global Solidarity” which focusses attention on overcoming hunger and poverty, discrimination and lack of education; which calls upon the world to act in solidarity, and which encourages us to treat mass exodus movements, such as that from Africa, not as a border issue of the neighboring regions or a transportation problem, but as a matter of survival for helpless people seeking protection. For Europe, the continent which has carried so many wars into other parts of the world, it would be a magnificent vision to be a driving force of this global peace order. Globalization has turned the world into a survival community, a challenge that concerns all of us, and which we as Germans and Europeans must recognize and accept. “Human dignity is inviolable.” That does not mean the dignity of German or of European humans, but the dignity of every human being on earth.*



- **Willy Brandt** was a charismatic figure, astute and sly – similar to Mahatma Gandhi – showing empathy and warm-heartedness. His personal magnetism was felt by all age groups and layers of the population – and its echo is still felt today. In 1969 he brazenly declared that the SPD had emerged victorious from the 1969 parliamentary elections because the sister parties CDU and CSU, each on its own, had won fewer votes. Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel of the Liberals (FDP) quickly agreed that this meant they had a mandate to form a new federal government. Willy Brandt opened the door to the East: Kneeling down at the memorial to the victims of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on December 7, 1970, was acclaimed worldwide as a gesture of humility. This sudden impulse, this spontaneous act of humanity calling for reconciliation was one of the reasons he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1971. At the award ceremony in Stockholm, he quoted Friedjof Nansen: ***"Fort dere – før det er for sent å angre - Make haste, lest it be too late to rue."*** Mikhail Gorbachev must have heard and understood this. The Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall fell, **because two people had an internal compass and were on the right spot at the right time.** *"Now what belongs together will grow together."* Who but he could have expressed this more credibly – the mayor of Berlin, the German Chancellor and the Elder Statesman renowned and esteemed the world over? As in this quote, Brandt himself became one with Germany, the country that placed heavy demands on him all his life. Unfortunately, the Guillaume espionage affair cut Brandt's chancellorship short. But the call to "Elect Willy" before the parliamentary elections in 1972 and the results thereof will always remain imprinted on our minds.



- **Loki and Helmut Schmidt**, who reached the age of 91 and 96 respectively, accompanied us throughout our lives and brought us great joy. They knew each other for 81 years and were married for 68 years. They seemed to radiate their deep affection for each other making it visible to their surroundings. At her husband's side, Loki maintained her independence and authenticity. She always kept her feet on the ground and never lost touch with the common people. Helmut Schmidt's nickname, "Schmidt Schnauze" ("Schmidt the lip") referred to his habit of not mincing words. When the going got tough, he kept a stiff upper lip and got going. *Salus publica suprema lex*, "The public good is the chief law." This remained his motto at all times, no matter what the challenge – the Great Flood in Hamburg, the worldwide oil crisis and economic recession, Red Army Fraction terrorism or the NATO Double-Track Decision – and also during his time as a journalist and author after the end of his political career. Whether as a citizen of his home town, his region, his country, Europe or the world, he felt at ease on all platforms and was appreciated wherever he appeared. Straightforwardness, single-mindedness, steadfastness, honesty, the ability and the power to create and to lead, as well as his acumen, willpower and firm hold on reality – all these qualities united in one person is surely unique. His intelligence of the first order allowed him to master all the ups and downs, without scandals tarnishing his impressive life and career. **"War is shit,"** he said, and continued: **"The Second World War and the German catastrophe can be called a tragedy of our sense of duty. As individuals, we are for the most part not guilty, but we must bear the political legacy of those who were."** Helmut Schmidt did not go into politics because he wanted to make a career for himself. Due to his experiences as a German with some Jewish heritage and as a soldier in World War II, he wanted to contribute to preventing Germany and the world from ever reliving such horror and atrocities. And he did his bit. Helmut Schmidt stood side by side with Willy Brandt. They left their mark on their party, our country, Europe, the world and on us, sometimes together and sometimes as competitors. One was a realist, the other a visionary. Knowing that exactly this combination was needed, they took leave of each other with a deep bond of friendship when Willy Brandt died in October 1992. In 1996, Helmut Schmidt said: **"On fundamental issues, one must be naive. And I am of the opinion that the problems of the world and mankind are insoluble without idealism. I believe, nevertheless, that one should be realistic and pragmatic at the same time."** [This quote has greatly influenced our approach to this primer. The second sentence goes hand in hand

with our **realistic** approach: An unbridled climate change will make life on earth impossible for us human beings. The first sentence of this quote goes hand in hand with our **naivety** and **idealism**: *Homo sapiens* can develop further and prevent the worst from happening, as described in this primer]. The little confession at the end of his life (as to a romantic affair he had) did him no harm. It showed instead that he, too, had human weaknesses that he sometimes succumbed to, as most of us do. Loki had, at any rate, forgiven him this lapse decades ago. Loki and Helmut Schmidt are and remain genuine role models for us, also in regard to their long and loving relationship. Perhaps Helmut Schmidt will succeed in explaining the world to God so that we can work on improving it with him. Loki believed that at least through our molecules we continue to live. This was their common conviction. Their molecules will continue to exert a positive influence, wherever and in whomever.



What a pity that many of the role models mentioned did not live at the same time, and were thus not able to show us the positive and help us to achieve more together.

Imagine that the role models who have already passed away were to return to the Earth once again, all at the same time. They would read us the riot act, make us get rid of the junk in our bodies and souls - and then call for world revolution. **Especially because we have been so wasteful with our resources and so cruel to life on this planet – during the past century in particular.**

Since this, unfortunately, will not happen, the ambassadors and mediators proposed in this Book and many more, must step into the breach. Given the current condition of the world, we now need **a global sustainability revolution 1.0** – actually even before the already initiated *Industry 4.0 future* project.

The ambassadors and mediators proposed in this book live on our planet today and can ward off threats and dangers together and find solutions promoting the common good, supported by acknowledged experts from all fields. The role models of today and tomorrow may emerge from their ranks. They can be democratically elected by all of us as decision-makers. **They must be credible, charismatic personalities with strong leadership qualities to whom we give our votes, in whom we trust and in whose hands we lay positive power.**

We will best be able to use the power over our planet by seeing ourselves as **one people of the Earth**, led by personalities who use their authority wisely as servants of the world. And above all without this cursed human cruelty which has been haunting us and ruling our planet for so long. We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists and realists, rather than warlords and tyrants. Let us win each others' hearts, instead of usurping our wealth and property.



All of us in one boat - peacefully and happy!

Let us imagine that the people proposed in this primer stand together as ambassadors and mediators, marching arm in arm like the politicians from around the world after the shooting in Paris in January 2015, and announce together:

*"We stand for the "United Peoples of the World,"
united in one faith,
in peace and freedom."*

On this day we shall celebrate the Declaration of Human Rights.

"INDEPENDENCE DAY - IN THE WORLD OF HOPE AND DREAMS"

(in the style of Bruce Springsteen)

All together - all over the world - every year.



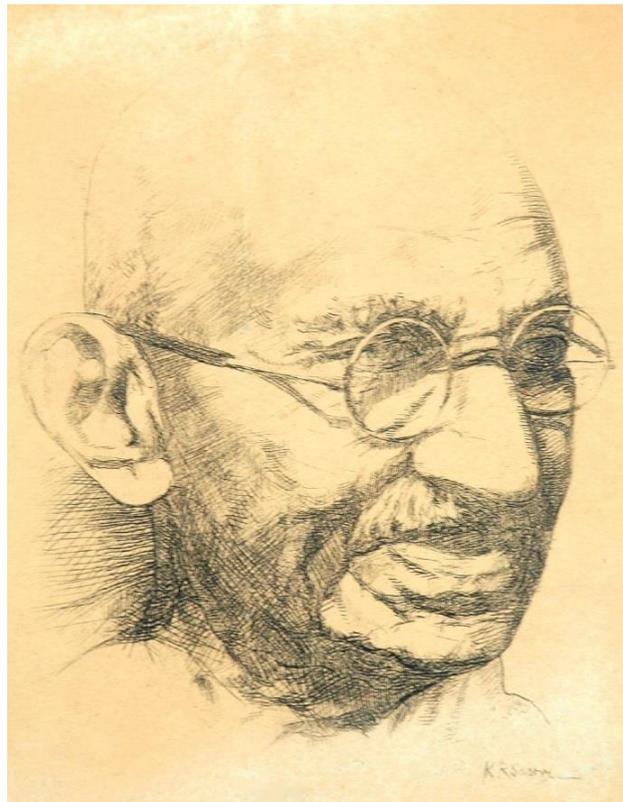
No one could overhear this signal, this message, ***this energetic overcome***, and no one with the wellbeing of our Earth and its living creatures in mind could escape it. The role models mentioned above would pat us on the back and support us with all their power.

The Special Playing Card - The Joker with an Exemplary Afterthought

Mahatma Gandhi said:

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."

It is a pleasure for us to live according to this example.



Letter from Albert Einstein to Mahatma Gandhi:

"Honorable Mr. Gandhi!

You have shown through your works that it is possible to succeed without violence, even with those who have not discarded the method of violence. We may hope that your example will spread beyond the borders of your country, and will help to establish an international authority, respected by all, that will take decisions and replace war conflicts.

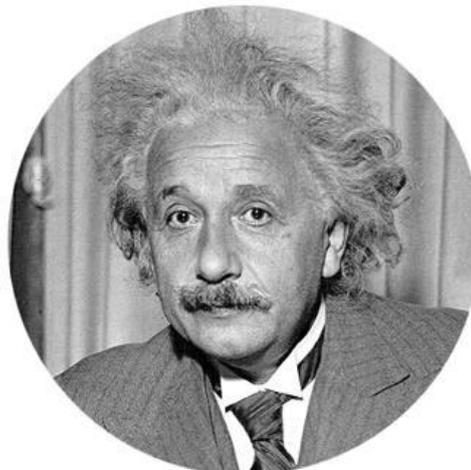
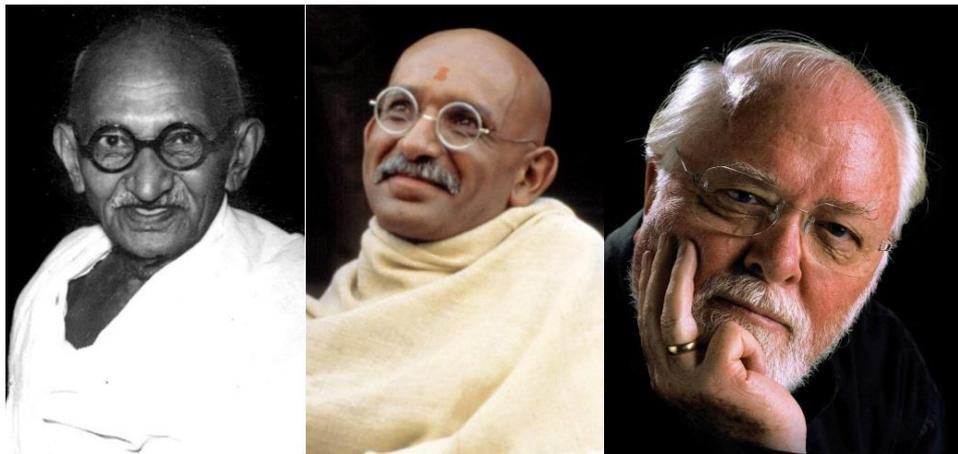
With sincere admiration,

Yours, Albert Einstein"

On the occasion of the funeral of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1948:

"The man, honored by hundreds of thousands, died as he had lived – a private man without wealth, without property, without official title or offices. Mahatma Gandhi was not a commander of great armies nor ruler of vast lands. He could boast no scientific achievements nor did he have artistic talents. Yet heads of state, governments and dignitaries from all over the world have joined hands today to pay homage to this little brown man in his loincloth who led his country to freedom. In the words of General George C. Marshall, the American Secretary of State, "Mahatma Gandhi had become the spokesman for the conscience of mankind... a man who made humility and simple truth more powerful than empires." And Albert Einstein added, "Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a man as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Source: Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* from 1982 with Ben Kingsley as Gandhi.



To the 100th birthday of Annemarie Bartels

On my first day at school, Annemarie Bartels said to me:

"My dear boy,

Now the serious side of life is starting for you. But it really won't be so bad if you mix up me and I once in a while. But if you mix up mine and yours, or want to take something that doesn't belong to you, then you will make me very, very cross!"



Without your influence, I would definitely have been a slacker and amounted to nothing since the slumbering talents inside me would have continued to sleep. In 1972, she devoted herself to ensuring that I received a high school graduation certificate, despite the fact that I already had three Fives on the certificate in major subjects. On the first visit to our head teacher Walter Rügge, she met with a clear rebuff when he said, *"I cannot make an exception for your Eckhard. If the school were to do that, then others would have the same idea."* And the second attempt didn't have the desired result either. It was only at the third attempt that the head teacher gave in. *"For heaven's sake",* said Walter Rügge. *"Let the boy have his graduation certificate. I've been teaching Eckhard for four years now. He isn't stupid. He's just bone idle. He will start to make his own way if you are able to tease out his hidden talents."* Without that graduation certificate, the path through adult education would have remained closed to me, and I would have stayed a country bumpkin on my parents' farm. **Thanks Mum!!!** What would I give for it to dance once again with you on a stage – like Bruce Springsteen with his Mother:

Dancing in the Dark

9. CONCLUSION – THE JOKER WITH THE EXEMPLARY POSTSCRIPT



Our demise remains undetermined. It is up to us whether *Homo sapiens* loses,
or *Homo progressivus* wins.



Bertolt Brecht said:

“There must, there must, be some end that would fit.

Ladies and gentlemen, help us look for it!”

“Change the World: It Needs It.”



Thanks to the Earth’s position in the solar system, millions of land and water species have evolved over billions of years. This time scale is unimaginable for us humans and over this time life has been constantly changing through evolution, mutation and other effects and has been **rediscovered** multiple times.

Animals, plants and humans were perfectly adapted to their environment over this period of time and had the best chances of survival – before *Homo sapiens* underwent cognitive changes around 70,000 years ago and then 12,000 years ago took its first steps into agriculture, **the chains for which we still carry around today.**

In order to better understand the time span and milestones, I compressed the Earth’s 4.6 billion years into one calendar year for this book.

Then *Homo sapiens* first saw the light of day on New Year's Eve after 23:00. Within this short period of time, *Homo sapiens* evolved into a two-faced creature. On the one hand, it is loving, giving and sharing and learns, believes and lives in peace and freedom. On the other hand, there is unending sorrow because of war, plundering and greed, as well as the misuse of religion, hunger and thirst, and an irresponsible waste of all kinds of resources. *Homo sapiens* has turn the Earth into its subject and in such a way that it doesn't just threaten the diversity of species' but also the continuation of its own species.

The proven and visible threats and danger to life, in all its forms, on our planet does not come from aliens, asteroids or comets, but from the senseless behavior of the *Homo sapiens* species. The hands of the Doomsday Clock stand at two minutes to twelve. It is time for all humans who want to do good to take collective action. **This is a wake-up call, a sign and a call to do something, to send a wave across the wall to combat our apathy and to stop hell on Earth!**



The messages and recommendations in this book are aimed at all humans and particularly the decision-makers and those in positions of responsibility in this world, and their summits. Individuals are small and can do little. **Together** we can achieve much more **for the greater good** , especially with **swarm intelligence**.

Stefan Mancuso taught us that plants without organs can develop a type of swarm intelligence to ensure their survival. We can see the survival instinct of swarm intelligence in the animal kingdom, e.g. anthills and shoals of fish.



Swarm intelligence is a term that has increasing importance in science. The principle of swarm intelligence exists throughout the universe. It applies to planets, solar systems, galaxies, interstellar clouds, as well as the entire visible and hidden cosmos. Even the nerve cells in our brain follow the principle of swarm intelligence and gives us an amazing capacity for action as well as perception skills. The positive power above is (still) in all of us. We can strengthen this power by sharpening our consciences, both individually and in our sphere of influence. People who want to use their lives to make the world a little better can connect with each other and build a swarm. The interaction of individuals creates something bigger and better: ***Homo progressivus* – The Energetic Fight!**

The countless cries for peace, freedom and equality show how much we need new values and rules. They challenge us to oppose contradictions, as well as dusty, narrow-minded and self-serving behavior. They are a real driving force and motivation for the future – it begins today! A well-known saying among futurologists says that the best way to go into the **future** is to **invent** it. I have given it my best with this book.

We need a revolutionary change. To do this, millions of people must swarm together and work together in order to inspire billions to peace, freedom and equality. The system of equality as we understand it, is an illusion. I hear this argument from all sides. The worlds of finance, economy, politics and religion are too entangled with criminal and corrupt aberrations running deep into all facets of society.

Based on this, we should remember that us humans invented and developed this world with all its hierarchies and associated discrimination, separation and other inequalities. Let's throw unnecessary bureaucracy and narrow-mindedness overboard. We can and must re-invent ourselves. Free association and holistic thinking based on ethics will help us. **Contemplating the meaning of our lives is worthless without ethics and we would sink even further into the chaos of insecurity and apathy!**



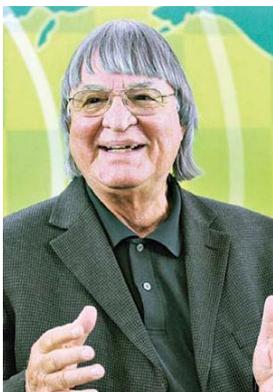
The scales of justice!

It's time for a new world order relevant to our time taking political, economic, social and religious considerations into account under the umbrella of the 'United People of the World.'



Jim Dator says:

"Any useful statement about the future must appear ridiculous. In the unknown lies true innovation, not in trendy technologies that merely disassemble old business models."



Us humans must invent a new business model. This model is called *Homo progressivus*, a model that buys from the *globe* and protects it!

If we believe in something, nothing can keep us from it or distract us. We hang on until the end. We will reach our goal by walking the path together and moving forwards together in an enormous, non-violent swarm.

Ulrich Beck defined a 'risk society' as follows:

"The term 'risk society' describes a systemic and revolutionary change in three areas: First, it concerns the relationship an industry society has with the resources it uses. The second area is society's relationship with the dangers it creates which shake the basic assumptions of the current social order to the core. The third is the process of individualization because all of the collective sources of spirituality are exhausted."



It our joint task to forge a peaceful and fee society out of this precisely defined Risk Society!

Pope Francis says:

“Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. An outsider looking at our world would be amazed at such behavior, which at times appears self-destructive. The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. This notwithstanding, recent World Summits on the environment have not lived up to expectations because, due to lack of political will, they were unable to reach truly meaningful and effective global agreements on the environment. [Climate change] represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. The rapid growth in rich countries is paid for by the poor. This often rampant growth must be slower and re-structured.”



Hans Küng and the Global Ethic Foundation says:

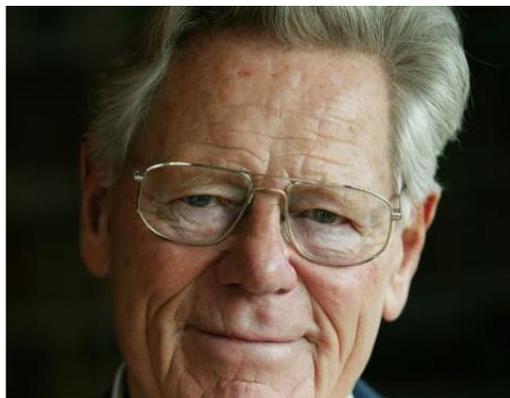
“Our world is experiencing a fundamental crisis: A crisis in global economy, global ecology, and global politics. The lack of a grand vision, the tangle of unresolved problems, political paralysis, mediocre political leadership with little insight or foresight, and in general too little sense for the commonweal are seen everywhere: Too many old answers to new challenges.

Hundreds of millions of human beings on our planet increasingly suffer from unemployment, poverty, hunger, and the destruction of their families. Hope for a lasting peace among nations slips away from us. There are tensions between the sexes and generations. Children die, kill, and are killed. More and more countries are shaken by corruption in politics and business. It is increasingly difficult to live together peacefully in our cities because of social, racial, and ethnic conflicts, the abuse of drugs, organized crime, and even anarchy. Even neighbors often live in fear of one another. Our planet continues to be ruthlessly plundered. A collapse of the ecosystem threatens us. Time and again we see leaders and members of religions incite aggression, fanaticism, hate, and xenophobia—even inspire and legitimize violent and bloody conflicts. Religion often is misused for purely power-political goals, including war. We are filled with disgust. We condemn these blights and declare that they need not be. An ethic already exists within the religious teachings of the world which can counter the global distress. Of course, this ethic provides no direct solution for all the immense problems of the world, but it does supply the moral foundation for a better individual and global order: A vision which can lead women and men away from despair, and society away from chaos. We are persons who have committed ourselves to the precepts and practices of the world’s religions. We confirm that there is already a consensus among the religions which can be the basis for a global ethic — a minimal fundamental consensus concerning binding values, irrevocable standards, and fundamental moral attitudes. We need a dialog between religion and cultures, regarding the similarities in ethos.

We needed intercultural values education.

Children must learn that a peaceful existence at all levels is dependent on compliance with elementary rules. No society can function without a binding foundation of values.

We need ethical and intercultural competence in our business enterprises. Those involved in international competition are bound more than most to intercultural norms. We need an international politics that is based on the law and ethics: cooperation and integration instead of military confrontation. We are all responsible for a better world order. In conclusion, we appeal to all the inhabitants of this planet. Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed. We pledge to work for such transformation in individual and collective consciousness, for the awakening of our spiritual powers through reflection, meditation, prayer, or positive thinking, for a conversion of the heart. Together we can move mountains! Without a willingness to take risks and a readiness to sacrifice there can be no fundamental change in our situation! Therefore, we commit ourselves to a common global ethic, to better mutual understanding, as well as to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and Earth-friendly ways of life. We invite all men and women, whether religious or not, to do the same.”



The well-known children's author, Astrid Lindgren, was awarded the Peace Prize by the German Publishers & Booksellers Association in 1978. In her acceptance speech on 22 October 1978 she said:

*"To speak about peace is to speak about something that doesn't exist. Genuine peace is nowhere to be found on this earth and has probably never existed except as a goal that we are evidently unable to achieve. For as long as humans have lived on this planet, we have been indulging in violence and war, and the fragile peace that sometimes exists is constantly under threat. At this very moment, the whole world is in fear of a new war that will destroy us all. In the face of that threat, more people than ever before are working for peace and disarmament. That could be hope. After all these centuries of constant violence, is it not time to ask ourselves if there is some inherent fault in the human condition? Are we doomed as a result of our aggression? We all desire peace. So, is there any possibility at all that we can change, before it's too late? Can we learn to distance ourselves from violence? **Can we try to become a new kind of human beings?** But how could we do that, and where should we start? I believe that we should start from the beginning. With children. The children of today will eventually take over the running of our world, if there is anything left of it. They are the ones who will make decisions concerning war and peace and the kind of society they want to have. If they want a society in which violence continues to grow, or if they prefer one where people live in peace and harmony."*



Homo progressivus – A new kind of human!?

When I was searching for a title for this book, I stumbled across a congenial and like-minded person: the French Jesuit priest and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. He lived from 1881 to 1955 and was far ahead of his time.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote in his “La planétisation humaine”

(The Planetization of Mankind) essay:

*“A new, extraordinary element is rising out of the community of man. We might call it **‘Homo progressivus’** the **man to whom the terrestrial future matters more than the present**. The first representatives of this kind of human being already live among us. (...)*

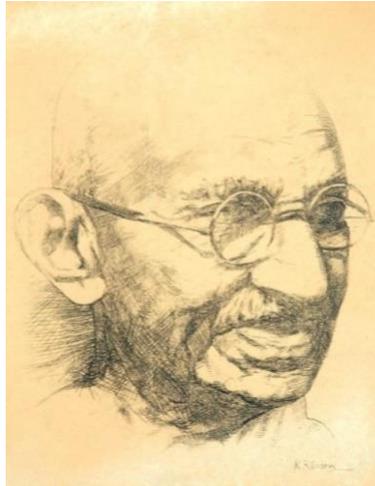
I can’t see any other explanation for this phenomenon, other than it came about due to spiritual and social earthquakes that have shaken the world over the past century and a half. A radical change at the heart of human nature. It happened as a conscious awakening of all those who strive to move forwards, an irresistible increase and unification of forces in which the spirit of the future has awakened. These are the true effective forces for the unification of the world. They will shape the humankind of tomorrow.”



Pierre Teilhard de Chardin understood the future as a moment in the present that can be reshaped every moment. The future inevitably begins every second after the present, which is now the past. Now, 60 years after his death, we should finally implement his legacy and evolve into *Homo progressivus*!

Mahatma Ghandi said:

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."



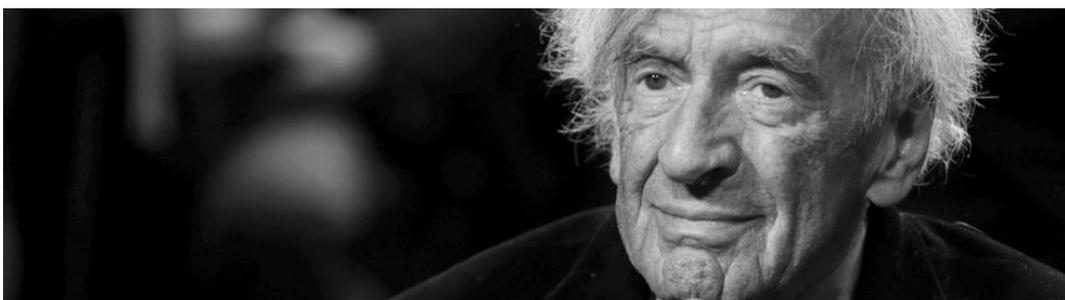
Nelson Mandela said:

"It always seems impossible until it is done."



Elie Wiesel said:

"None of us can achieve as much as we can together!"



In the film *The Adjustment Bureau*, John Slattery plays the role of a heavenly “clerk” and said to Matt Damon, a presidential candidate:

“Most people live life on the path we set for them. Too afraid to explore any other. But occasionally people like you come along and knock down all the obstacles we put in your way. People who realize free will is a gift, you’ll never know how to use until you fight for it. I think that’s the Chairman’s real plan that maybe one day, we won’t write the plan. You will.”



I have linked the messages and recommendations in this book to ten books, ten films and ten songs. Let's put together all the figures, data, facts and recommendations in this book with those from the following ten books: *A Brief History of Humankind* (Yuval Noah Harari), *Jerusalem* (Iris Berben), *Our World's Future. An Ecosocial Perspective* (Franz-Joseph Radermacher & Bert Beyers), *The Sixth Extinction (An unnatural History)* (Elisabeth Kolbert), *Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity* (Ulrich Beck), *Ten Billion* (Stephen Emmott), *Greed and Happiness* (Friedrich Schorlemmer), *Manifesto for the Earth* (Mikhail Gorbachev), *Spielball Erde* (Claus Kleber) and *Meine Sicht der Dinge* (Hans-Dietrich Genscher).



And now with the figures, data, facts and recommendations from the ten films: *Home*, *Earth*, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*, *The March*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Power to Change*, *More than Honey*, *10 Billion – What will we eat tomorrow?*, *Sing your Song* and *The Adjustment Bureau*



and combine them with the power of music – the interplay of music and text from the following ten lyrics: *Menschenjunge*, *Stück vom Himmel*, *Amerika*, *Hello*, *Ich glaube*, *Masters of War*, *Sag mir wo die Blumen sind*, *With a Little Help from My Friends*, *Independence Day* and *Imagine*.



When we understand what is written, said and sung here, and internalize and use it **together**, then *Homo progressivus* has won. But *Homo sapiens* does not lose here, because the human species has evolved in a positive way. Even **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin** and his like-minded followers would celebrate this.

The German-speaking contemporaries quoted in this book have, in different ways, given us an understanding thanks to their public guest contributions and quotations. The guest contributions are in their original form, or they have been updated, changed, abridged, supplemented or rewritten for this book. What is important to me is the non-profit support for the ideas in this book through the guest contribution and quotes.

The entire net proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated in full to existing charitable foundations and organizations.

Due to the ambitious time frame I set myself, I haven't been able to acquire all the rights to the images used. I have ignored the applicable rules and prevailing conventions. As I do not want to earn any money by marketing this book, I hope that the holders of the image rights understand that I can only comply with their claims after the fact. Of course, I would be very pleased if these images could be provided for use in this book on a single use basis. In the vein of "Fridays for Future", "Scientists for Future" and "Pictures for Future".

Imagine that the future will be wonderful, and it is our fault.



Daily news reels show us a world in which the negative outweighs the positive all too often. Let's take a realistic look at the world news. On one page we see good and beauty, and on another page the cruelty and hatred that we humans commit and do to each other.

It doesn't have to be like this. And it can't stay like this. If we implement the suggestions and many good pieces of advice given in the 20 books and films listed above; develop and propagate this with a new philosophy of life – then it is time for *Homo progressivus*. Then it is time to celebrate in the brightest **colors** and with the most beautiful songs:



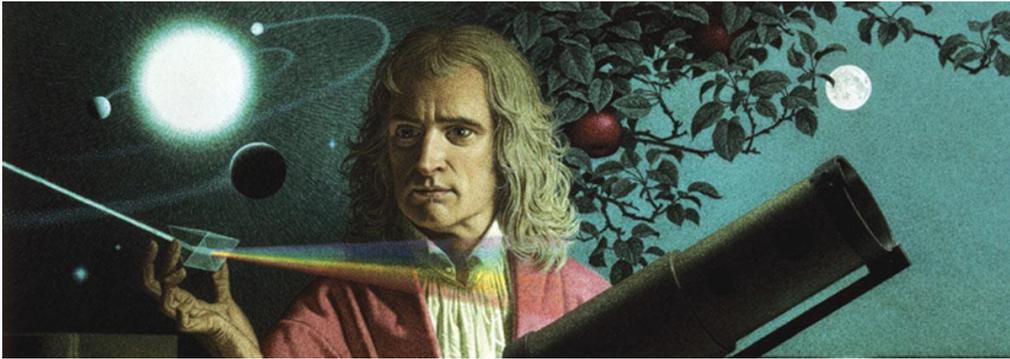
Music inspires us and empowers us to embrace the entire world!

The idea works if it is implemented. The idea lights up if it is lit up like a torch and passed on; if it enthuses and hooks in its readers. The idea should electrify its readers and make them want to encompass the globe like a warm, comforting blanket. We are under starter's orders. We hope that together we will achieve our goal soon. If the idea is alive, then it can be a protective blanket for our Earth.



Isaac Newton (1642-1727) said:

“What we know is a drop, what we don’t know is an ocean.”



I think that we are a drop cleverer now. I firmly believe that every good deed gives us a drop.

Film quote from Cloud Atlas: *“What is an ocean, but a multitude of drops.”*



Maybe I haven't always been able to find the right images or words. Maybe I have made spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. But I deliberately chose an unconventional approach beyond simple reporting. I find it more important to convey the messages and suggestions in this book and to choose to *make a point*. Not everyone will like the messages and suggestions, but most people will. It is more about my desire to promote the long-desired metamorphosis of *Homo sapiens* with lots of positive energy. The soup of poisonous ingredients cooked over fossil fuels should be removed from the menu. It comes down to our survival.

John Lennon sang, and still sings to us:

"Imagine there's no heaven.

It's easy if you try.

No hell below us.

Above us, only sky.

Imagine all the people living for today.

Imagine there's no countries.

It isn't hard to do.

Nothing to kill or die for.

And no religion too.

Imagine all the people living life in peace.

You may say I'm a dreamer.

But I'm not the only one.

I hope someday you'll join us.

And the world will live as one.

Imagine no possessions.

I wonder if you can.

No need for greed or hunger,

a brother hood of men.

Imagine all the people sharing all the world.

You may say I'm a dreamer.

But I'm not the only one.

I hope someday you'll join us.

And the world will live as one."



**10. FINALE – THE DAY THE EARTH ROSE AND THE BLUE MARBLE
BECAME A SYMBOL**



The photo shows the Earthrise, as Man had never seen it before. The picture was taken on December 24, 1968 and was presented to the world six days later. It was taken during the first orbit of the Moon by Apollo 8.

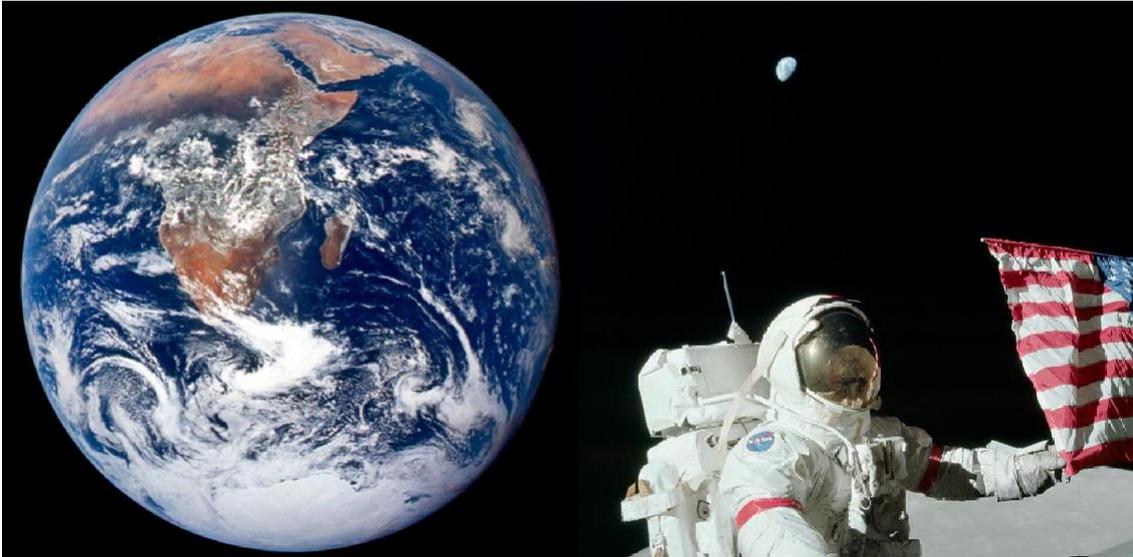


Astronauts Frank Borman, William Anders and James Lovell didn't plan on seeing the Earth like this. On the voice recorders from Christmas Eve 1968 they said:

"Oh, my God! Look at that picture over there! Hey, don't take that, it's not scheduled. (Laughter) You got a color film, Jim? Hand me that (...) Oh man, that's great!! Hurry, quick! Hurry up. Got one? Take several of them! Here, give it to me. Calm down, Lovell. Well, I got it. Oh, that's a beautiful shot. Now vary the exposure a little bit. I did. I took two of them. You sure we got it now? Just take another one, Bill."

The photo went down in history. The moment that mankind saw the Earthrise with their own eyes and became aware of their own fragility. The choice of word **"Earthrise"** has an optimistic ring to it. Over 50 years since this fascinating and beautiful event, we should realize that this view can be the dawn of something new – if we want it to be – **together!**

'The Blue Marble': The Earth was named the Blue Marble by the crew of Apollo 17 on 7 December 1972. We have the US astronauts Eugene Cernan, Ron Evans and Harrison Schmitt to thank for this hit. The photo was taken from 45,000 km and is the first photo to show the Earth in all its glory.



On December 14, 1972, Eugene Cernan was the last human to leave the surface of the Moon. In my opinion, there is nothing stopping Man from going to the Moon as a tourist in the near future and to marvel at the Earth 'suspended' in the expanse of the universe; for them to grasp how lucky we are to live on the Earth with such a strong and indispensable partner behind us.

But what we have allowed is the industrialization of the Moon in our search for the raw materials and resources that 'rest' on the surface and at the center of the Moon. Only the American flag stands on the Moon. How long will it be before China and Russia follow and stake their claim? Together, we must stop a race to the Moon to exploit and plunder it as we have allowed to happen on the Earth over the past 150 years. We can't unbalance the Moon because it would have existential consequences for us. Consequences that most humans know nothing of, and nor can they comprehend them.

Our Moon is the first celestial body we set foot on. But, how did it come into existence and how significant is it for us? The Moon was created when a planet around the size and mass of Mars collided with the Earth around 4.5 billion years ago. This planet was named 'Theia'. On impact, masses of glowing rocks and vapor were ejected into space and orbited the Earth. This material was mainly from the planet Theia and formed the Moon. The iron core of Theia sank to the core of the Earth within a few hours and became part of the Earth's core.



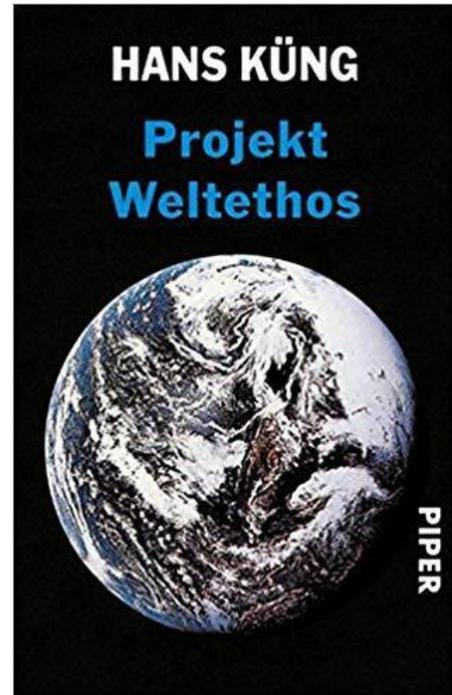
Earth and Theia



Earth and Moon

The mass of the Moon is 81-times less than that of the Earth and it is approximately four times smaller. However, its importance and influence on the Earth and its living organisms is enormous. Without the Moon, the Earth would spin three-times faster on its axis as the Moon's tidal effects slow the Earth's rotation. That means that if we had no moon, an Earth day would be eight hours shorter! A planet that rotated that fast would see hurricane winds of up to 500 kilometers per hour. Without the Moon, the summer temperatures in Central Europe would be around 60 degrees Celsius, and the winter temperatures around minus 50 degrees Celsius. The tidal effect of the Moon was why life crawled out of the sea and onto the land around 500 million years ago. So, the Moon played a decisive role in origin of Man. Approximately 30,000 years ago, Man created a lunar calendar. Months were created based on the moons. And Man understood the Moon's cycles as seasons and adapted to them. With the Moon, the Earth would rock into positions on its axis that would threaten our existence. The pull of the Sun, Saturn and Jupiter would dominate. **Our Moon shows us how valuable a good companion is, how they get along and protect one another. This should be a role model for us!**

The image of the 'Blue Marble' was printed on posters, flags and t-shirts and is very popular. Even environmental protection organizations use it to make people aware and to mobilize them. The image also became a symbol for the 'Global Ethic' project.



The 'Global Ethic' project was founded and brought to life by Hans Küng. Hans Küng said: *"No peace among the nations, without peace among the religions. We commit ourselves to a common global ethic, to better mutual understanding, as well as to socially beneficial, peace-fostering, and Earth-friendly ways of life. We invite all men and women, whether religious or not, to do the same!"* The Global Ethic project is set up and described in such a way that everyone can understand their aims and so that everyone can work together on the Global Ethic project. The project is a treasure trove for all those that mean well and want to help.

With the power of a living and stable democracy, we should be able to close the gap between the rich and the poor. If we took away the fears of afflicted and worried people, then there would be no room for extremist populism, autocracy, demagoguery, egoism, religious fanaticism, radicalism, terrorism and corruption – neither in Germany, nor in Europe or across the world.

If demagogues, war criminals and warmongers can entrap and abuse millions of people, and throw them into misery or death; then is it not time for us to inspire billions **together** to peace, freedom and equality?

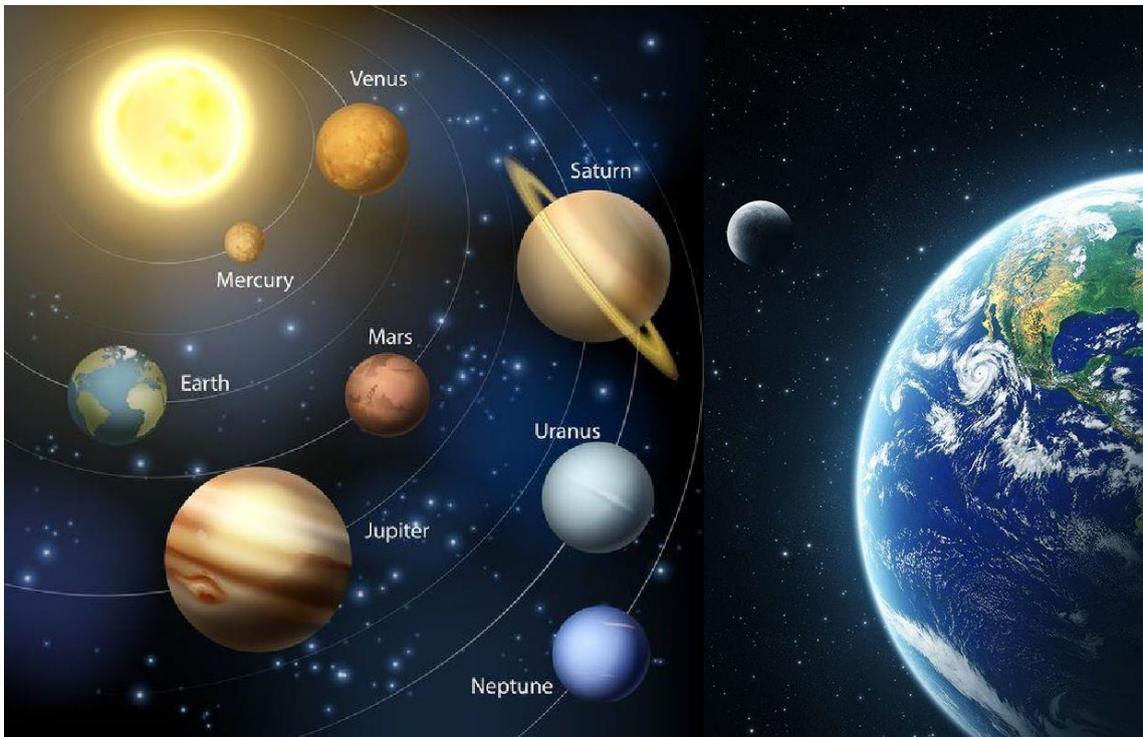


It is time to give tormented and ill-treated people their dignity back. This is the foundation of humanity and equality and secures the essence of democracy. ***“The dignity of Man is sacrosanct. Not just the dignity of Germans or Europeans, but the dignity of all those who inhabit our Earth”*** (wrote Hans-Dietrich Genscher in his final book *Meine Sicht der Dinge* (My Vision of Things)).

Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei and Leonardo da Vinci taught us: The Earth isn’t a disk and is also not at the center of the Universe or our solar system. But for us it’s a livable place that is worth saving for us and our descendants – if the Sun is shining and gives us strength.



Our home galaxy, the Milky Way, covers approximately 100,000 light years. There are over 100 billion suns in the Milky Way.



It's good that we can manage with just one sun, and that there are experts and scientists among us that can explain the chaotic and amazing birth of the Universe, the Earth and life, as well as the linguistic mutations and evolution of our consciousness.

As far as we know, the Universe is 13.8 billion years old and the Big Bang expanded it exponentially. The radius of the visible Universe is over 45 billion light years. Astrophysicists think that our Universe is comprised of more than 100 billion galaxies with a total of 10 trillion stars.



Hubble investigates deep space

The start and end of this book gives NASA and ESA's Hubble telescope a voice. It has seen many things in its 29 years.

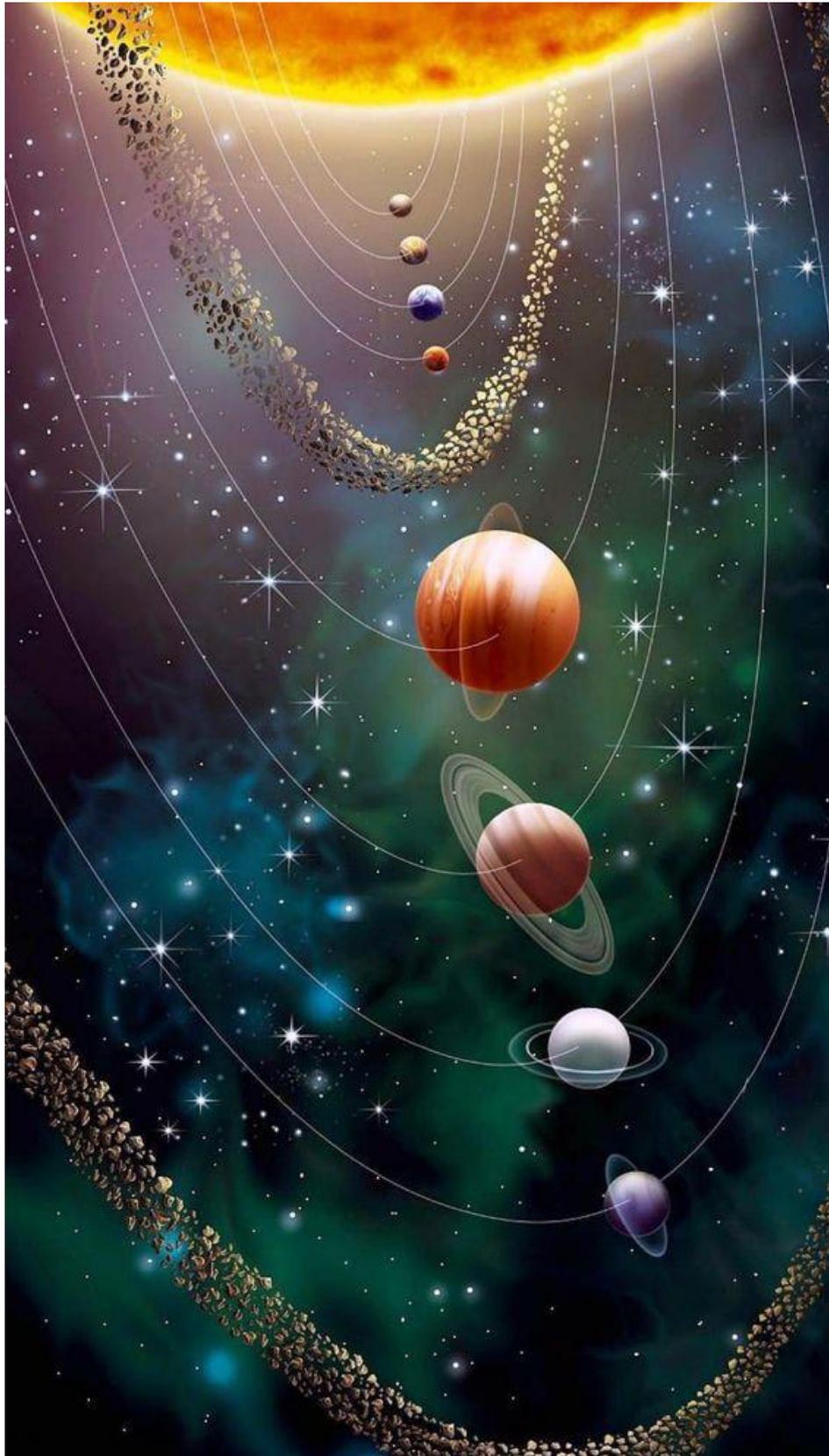
Hubble would say:

"If Mankind could see what I see, then you would know how small you are and how lucky you are to have your speck of dust. For 29 years, I have taken a fascinating look at wider Universe and let you join me. Out of everything that I have seen, I have never found a more beautiful planet (within your reach) than Earth."

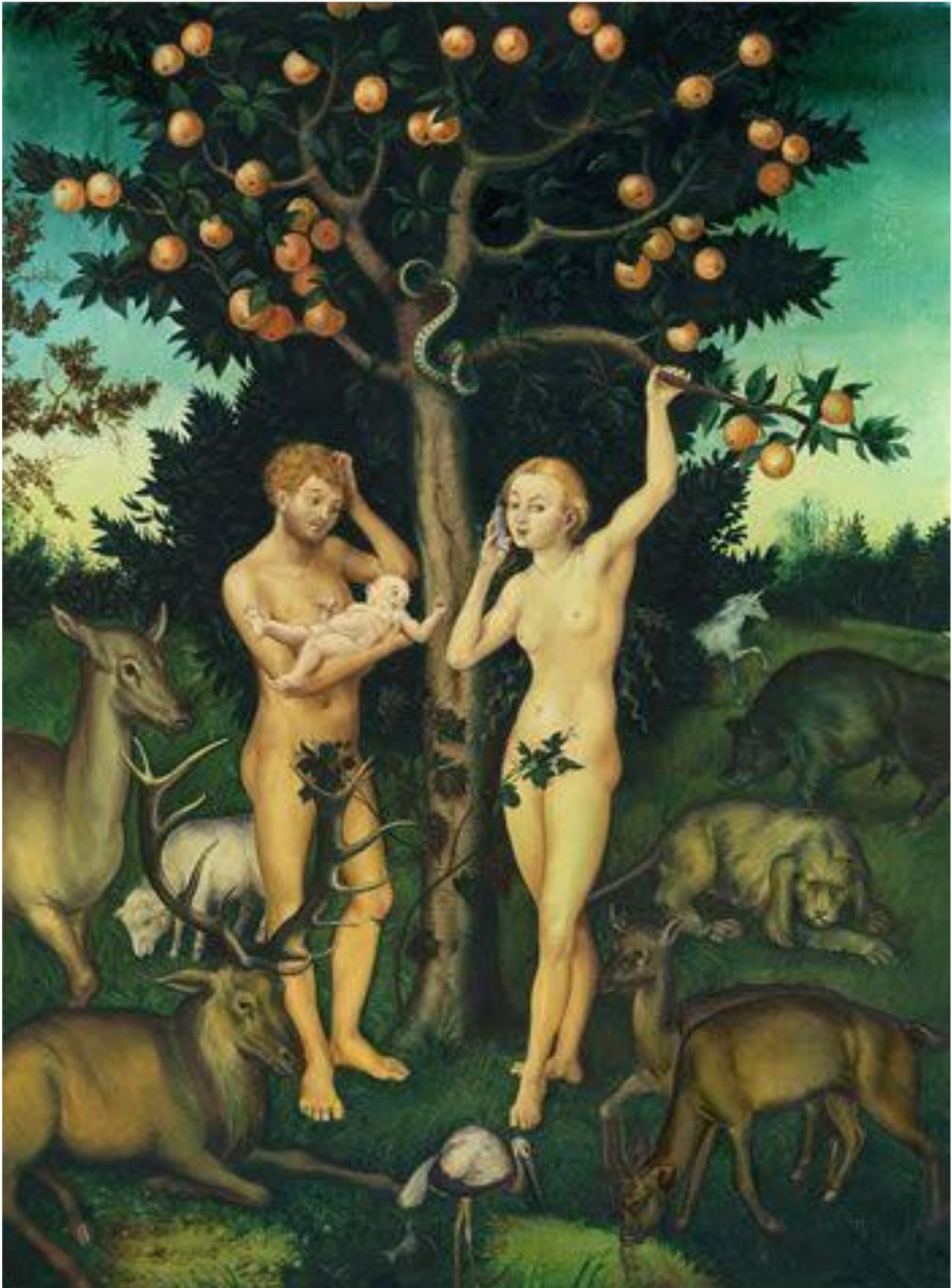




OUR TIME IS IN YOUR HANDS



**The Blue Marble is the third planet from the Sun – a paradise
and we should treat it as such so that
Adam and Eve may continue!**



**Adam and Eve – who work to ensure a good future for their children
and the species who live alongside them!**

Short and concise – Content and aims of this book

This book is a manual and non-fiction book. And it would be suitable for use as a school textbook. It starts with good resolutions and a host of improvements that most people can experience, live and enjoy. This book is more gripping than any crime novel, because everyone is a part of it. It jumps in at the deep end and starts with a galactic firework without which we would not exist. Then comes Adam and Eve who got trapped long ago by following the snake. And in third place, an immovable clumsy oaf is waiting. This being hasn't even earned the customary bronze medal, instead it gets a red card for acting so badly from the beginning and not being a team player.

This book consists of pages, rows, notes and images – both breathtaking, shocking, evocative, path-breaking, bolstering and a call to action. All is present in this book and rise from it. **It is a book for the present looking to the past for the love of the future.**

The book is a visionary's story with fantasy-inspiring contents and great role models that have shaped the history of Mankind and can do the same for its future together with people who mean well and want to help.

Readers are immersed in a 450-page tragicomedy with many charlatans and scoundrels. It is about the future of a species. The earthlings who live on a breathtaking and amazing rock. Of course, it is about Man on Earth and what we have done to the Earth, how we have abused and plundered it. We do it every day, every hour, every second – without a break. We act as if we own the Earth and see it as our property. We hog everything that we see, touch and smell without thinking about the consequences or the other species that live alongside us. **We are heading into the abyss with our eyes open and aren't doing anything to stop our descent!**

This current version of ourselves is almost commanding “our” planet to get rid of us, to reject us to benefit the other species living alongside us. It’s no wonder that the Earth is tired and wants to stop a sixth extinction of a species. The human species is lying in the ICU along with other species that are caught in their wake. The survival chances are low if we don’t rise and fight **together**. It is time to give tormented and ill-treated beings their dignity back.

The species’ threatened with extinction by us should heave a sigh of relief because finally Mankind is characterized by its humanity and commitment to protecting other species, and not because the human species is faced with extinction.

With the power of a living, vivid and stable democracy, we should be able to close the gap between the rich and the poor. If we took away the fears of afflicted and worried people, then there would be no room for extremist populism, autocracy, demagoguery, egoism, religious fanaticism, radicalism, terrorism and corruption – neither in Germany, nor in Europe or across the world.

The visionary’s idea will work if it is implemented. The idea lights up if it is lit up like a torch and passed on, if it enthuses and hooks in its readers. The idea should electrify its readers and make them want to encompass the globe.

I firmly believe that the vast majority people in the world are in favor of peace, freedom, justice and democracy and not nationalism, authoritarian leadership and ruthlessness towards minorities. We must succeed in ending the totalitarian fanning of the flames and put out the already blazing fires. We must succeed in eradicating the nationalist right-wing radical, egotistical and terroristic nightmares from our planet. So that the **deliberate actions** resulting from our **good intentions** prevail.

It's time for a new world order relevant to our time taking political, economic, social and religious considerations into account under the umbrella of the REAL United Nations

This is a wake-up call, a sign and a call to do something, to send a wave across the world to combat our apathy.

I am brave enough to believe that we can get rid of the conflict zones and trouble spots in the world. The prerequisite is that, together, we take underlying causes seriously. Because the time on the *Doomsday Clock* is counting down.

There are four main things that we must do first:

- **We need effective and acceptable drugs and vaccines against the coronavirus which will certainly become available over the course of the year 2021.**
- **Take immediate, targeted and measurable actions against climate change.**
- **Put the common good first – instead of pure capitalism which has led to unspeakable unequal distribution thanks to its brutal rawness and harshness, as well as its egoistical and greedy characteristics.**
- **Atomic disarmament instead of rearmament.**

On September 6, 2018 onboard the International Space Station, **Alexander Gerst said to Angela Merkel:**

“The Universe does not look after us.

We have just one chance to protect ourselves and that is to look after our planet Earth.

When you see it from up here, it is clear how shockingly fragile the Earth really is.

We have no Plan B.”

I hope that Angela Merkel, as a scientist and valued and cautious politician, knows what needs to be done.

If demagogues, war criminals, warmongers and autocrats can entrap and abuse millions of people, and throw them into misery or death; then is it not time for us to inspire billions together to peace, freedom and equality?

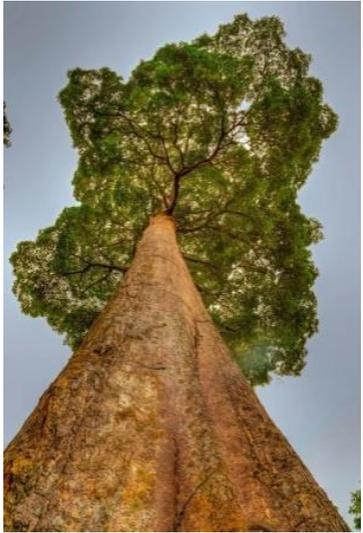
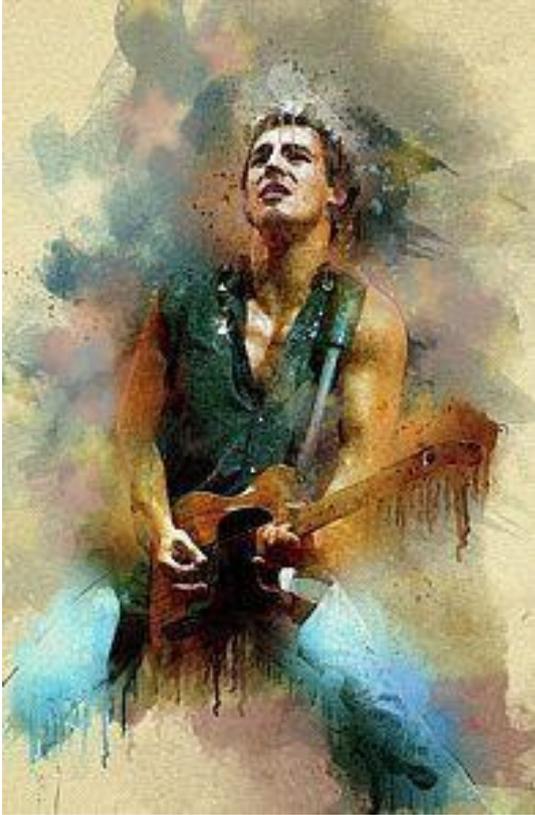
The hands of the *Doomsday Clock* stand at 100 seconds to 12! This clock represents the countdown to the end of the world. On January 2020, a committee of scientists and technical authors told the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* that the Doomsday Clock would remain at 100 seconds to 12. This committee is not made up of neoliberal angels of peace, but well-known experts including **15 winners of the Nobel Peace Prize**. The researchers warn of global threats from nuclear weapons, climate change and social polarization. And the researchers have come to the shocking conclusion: ***“We are playing Russian Roulette with Mankind.”***

This shows that most State leaders across all the continents have **COMPLETELY** failed. With AMERICA FIRST, CHINA FIRST, RUSSIA FIRST and a dangerously weak EU, the prospect of **“TOGETHER”** has slid even further away thanks to the current incumbents. **Trump and friends** are ticks that suck the rest of the empathy and compassion from their voters and are out to get their opponents.

CUT!

I recommend that we change leadership. People have had enough of being led into disaster by short-lived, autocratic and nationalistic politicians. **For a moment of reflection and to promote a global feeling of “US”**, we should give command of planet Earth to our treasured artists who can be free to draw attention to it and have the methods to do so. **After that has happened**, it is up to us to vote for new leaders who are passionate about the entire human race and living species. They must be believable, charismatic personalities with leadership skills that we can lend our vote to, trust and place positive power in their hands. The time for us as People of the Earth to act led by personalities that use their powers to serve the world is overdue. Above all, free from **this cursed human cruelty** that has haunted and ruled this planet for so long.

We need reliable politicians, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists, realists and **artists**, but no warlords or tyrants. Let us conquer our hearts together, instead of our possessions.



The boss wins and 'Hyperions' the city of the future is built with the tallest tree on Earth, the 'Hyperion', as a role model!

I have given music a main role in this book in the **“Give me music”** and **“In the pasture with the boss”**. In 2000, Angela Merkel said: “I would definitely go to a Bruce Springsteen concert.” There’s nothing stopping her. **50 years after Woodstock**, 34 years after Live Aid and 14 years after Live 8 it’s time for artists to set an example again and intone a change **“With a Little Help from My Friends”** in a worldwide concert, or better yet a concert that embraces the world. In this way, great movements like **“Fridays for Future”** and **“Scientists for Future”** have international support.

Rolando Villazón said in this book:

“Perhaps it is not that you decide to change how you lived your life based on a concert. But these simple stories that are told with so much passion and great music awaken a revolution in you.”



Music inspires us and empowers us embrace the entire world! We should unite the revolutions within us and present them to the outside world in an enormous worldwide movement. “The Earth is friendly – but we are not”, sang Herbert Grönemeyer in his song “A Piece of Heaven”. We can't leave things as they are!!!

A courageous, bold, persistent and genuine young woman of just 16 years old has read the leaders the riot act and demanded they take immediate action against climate change – at the Climate Change Conference in Katowice, the World Economic Forum in Davos and the European Union. Millions of people across the world follow Greta and over 20,000 scientists support her movement **“Fridays for Future”** and have founded **“Scientists for Future”**. **Greta** threw a pebble in the water and created huge waves. It is time that all of Mankind ride these waves. It is a matter of life and death.

Leonardo di Caprio said:

“You can write history or be damned by it. Governments and industrial companies across the world must decide now and agree clear measures. Climate change is ‘humankind’s greatest challenge’. It’s not just about politics, but our survival.”

Greta Thunberg said:

“Our civilization is being sacrificed for a small group of people who want to make more money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the suffering of many that pay for the luxury of the few. We are here to tell you that the change is coming regardless whether you want it or not. The real power belongs to the people. Thank you.”

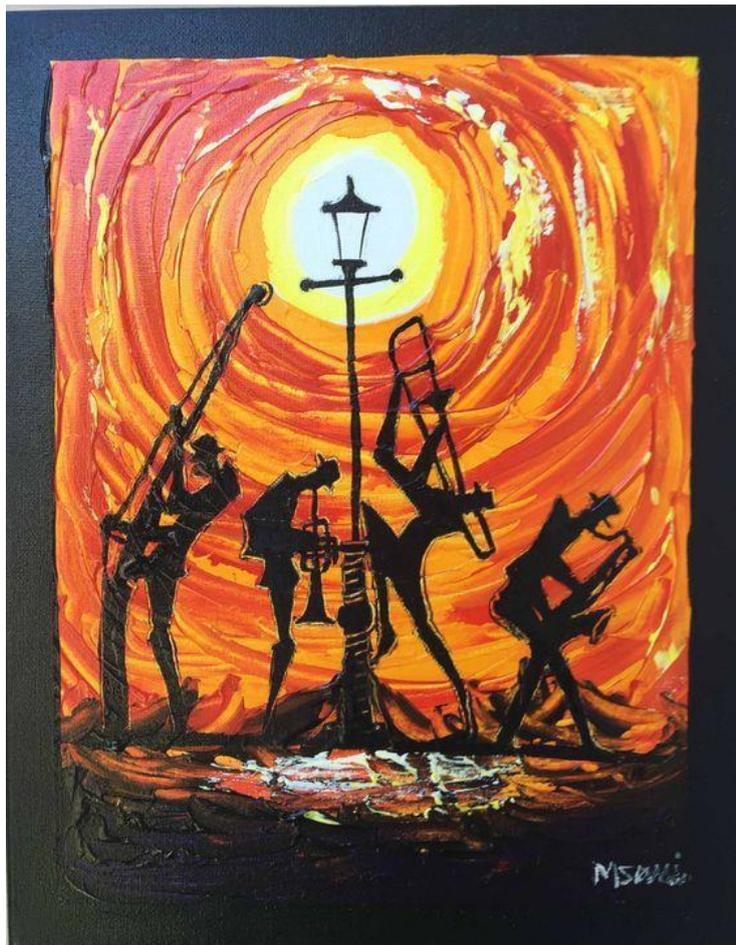


**WE WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT! WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!!
A SECOND ARK WHICH YOU WANT TO ABSCOND IN – WE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO!!!**

*... The Earth is friendly
Why aren't we?
She is friendly
Why aren't we?*

It says at the end of Herbert Grönemeyer's song "**A Piece of Heaven**". Lyrics and music flow together in this song. Using vocals and instruments, Herbert Grönemeyer and his band created a piece of art that puts the focus on our lives on Earth with all its **highs and lows**, in such an amazing, powerful and precise manner. It shows the intelligence of our artists in sharp relief against the failures and conmen in politics and business.

The final line of the song encourages us to take an active role, especially with **swarm intelligence**.



In **"A Piece of Heaven"** (orig. in German), Herbert Grönemeyer sang:

"Why in His name?

We have names too.

When will we stand up for our tragedies?

He is needed all too often.

Everything is endless, endless.

Which army is holy?

You think you are better than me!

The Bible is not isolating,

the Earth is our obligation!

She is friendly, friendly –

we're not always.

A piece of heaven,

a place from God,

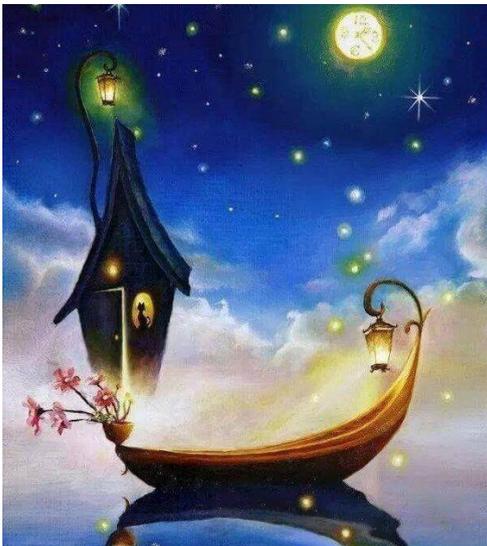
a chair in orbit,

we are all in the same boat!

This is your house,

this is what counts.

You're sheltered from a magnificent world.



*Religions are to be preserved,
they are made for morals.
It's not a noble teaching,
no God has thought smarter,
has an advantage, advantage.*

*What ideal justifies the means?
Who puts out the fire?
Legions of crusaders have blindly gone
on the wrong track.
Everything is endless, endless?
A crude time.*

*A piece of heaven,
a place from God,
a chair in orbit.
We are all in the same boat!*



*Here is your home,
this is your goal.
You are unique,
and are your own oracle.
Too much is believed,
too little told.*

*It is history,
it unites this world.
Hardships, legends, fates, life and death,
happy endings, pleasure and sadness.*

*A piece of heaven,
the place from God.
There are billions of colors,
and each is its own red.*



*Here is your home,
this is your time.
We're doing lots right,
but us we don't make it easy.
This is my house; this is my goal.*

*Who doesn't prove anything,
proves a lot already.*

*There is no enemy, there is no victory.
Nothing can be spoiled for anyone,
no-one must earn their life.
There is enough for everyone,
there is lots of fast money,
we have and abundance of it,
and we share this world,
and we have an obligation.*

*The Earth is friendly, why aren't we?
She is friendly, why aren't we?*



Astronauts unanimously say that the view of the Earth from space has changed their lives. And every one of them says that it would be the same for everyone if they saw the Blue Marble in this way. This view of the world would give anyone the feeling that they want to protect this wonder in the middle of the infinite space of the Universe. This is because it is unique for us because it is our home where we all live. And we could agree to share this wonder equally and care for it, but not use it up. We would have a better understanding and grasp of the climatic and biological processes on the planet and not stop them with barbed wire, walls and borders.



We should keep a better eye on the Earth!

And we should throw down the gauntlet to egotistical autocrats and extremist populists
and put them on the run. Because they are



Dangerous



poisonous



corrosive



environmental hazard



explosive



and contaminated

Their best-before dates lie between one or two terms of office and a lifetime. I am often asked why I stand up for **democracy**. My answer is always the same: I do not want to live in a country where I am controlled and monitored 24/7. I do not want to live in a country where the government knows everything about me and evaluates me. I do not want to be rated against an autocratic scale and then rewarded or punished according to it. I want to live in a country where I have freedom of movement and can let my imagination run wild. I want to be at home in a country that helps the weakest and where freedom of the press and freedom of opinion are sacrosanct. I will feel at home on an Earth where a living, vivid and stable democracy exists. **And I want to live in a world where democracy is so powerful that it can overwhelm the egotistical autocrats and extremist populists.**

A recommendation for those who want to live in freedom!!!

GEH WÄHLEN! 

["VOTE!"]

DEINE 
DEMOKRATIE

["IT'S YOUR DEMOCRACY"]

...

It was my pleasures to live and work with Silke, Bagheera and Paulchen in Horrweiler in Bingen am Rhein. In an idyllic atmosphere at a winery, in harmony with nature and technology. We have lived here since the energy revolution in 2012 – in the harmony of the four pillars and connected in four lovingly-restored buildings: www.efa-batt.de.



Someone once told me that you can be what you want to be. I decided to become a *Homo progressivus*. I asked myself, what are the chances that *Homo progressivus* will win? My answer was: The same as the lottery: “6 out of 49”: 1:14,000,000. Since then, I have renewed my belief in the “six numbers and the power ball”.

Who would have believed on January 1, 1969 that six months later Neil Armstrong would walk on the Moon? After the moon landing, who would have believed that the galaxy that we call home has 100,000,000,000 suns. Who knew that the Universe is 13.8000,000,000 years old and its radius spans over 45,000,000,000 light years? Who knew 50 years ago that there are more than 100,000,000,000 galaxies in the Universe with a total of 10,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars? Who believed on January 1, 1969 that a concert held in the same year on a pasture would become famous across the world? Who knew that Joe Cocker’s performance would go down in history?

Audrey Hepburn said:

*“Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, It’s at the end of your arm.
As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself,
the other for helping others.”*



Lend A Helping Hand!

Lend A Helping Hand!



Lend A Helping Hand!



Most of the people on this Earth know it, sense it and feel it: it cannot carry on as it has. The Earth is suffering under the *pride of creation* and the eight million species who call it home. The Earth needs us to protect it – it is in our own interest. If we don't, the Earth will find its own ways and means to rid itself of us.

We will be saved when the species' threatened with extinction by us heave a sigh of relief because finally Mankind is characterized by its humanity and commitment to protecting other species, and not because the human species is faced with extinction.

Over 60 years ago, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin wrote that the first members of the *Homo progressivus* species are already among us. How wonderful it would be if millions of visitors came to the concerts suggested in this book, in the manner of swarm intelligence, to inspire billions of people to peace, freedom and equality.

This book began with bang and should end in the same way. In a symphony of voices and wonderful sounds that will go down in history and last forever:

With a Little Help from My Friends

The leaders of industry and business have failed and will do so in the future if we let them continue. So, it's the task of free-thinking and independent artists to call a revolution.

We need reliable politicians, public welfare companies, sociologists, philosophers, economists, idealists, realists and philanthropists, but no warlords or tyrants. Let us conquer our hearts together, instead of our possessions.

The world revolution will happen if the idea lights up like a torch and is passed on, if it enthralls and hooks in its readers. The idea should electrify people and make them want to encompass the globe. We can ensure that the world revolution because a protective blanket for our Earth.



Us earthlings live on a wonderful rock. We are children of space.

We shouldn't leave our mess here until the *Last Judgment*.

It is better to be rewarded for the good things we have done

Grand finale with a metamorphosis

With climate change by the scruff of the neck! With war-mongering demagogues, dictators and autocrats, greedy financial jugglers and loan sharks in hand! With a slippery, immovable, combat-hungry real estate tycoon in hand, and a toothless hunter out of the Neanderthal in our feet! With Brothers in Arms, Purple Rain, Tom Joad and **With a Little Help from My Friends** in my ears, heart and head, I was able to overcome a year of writer's block.

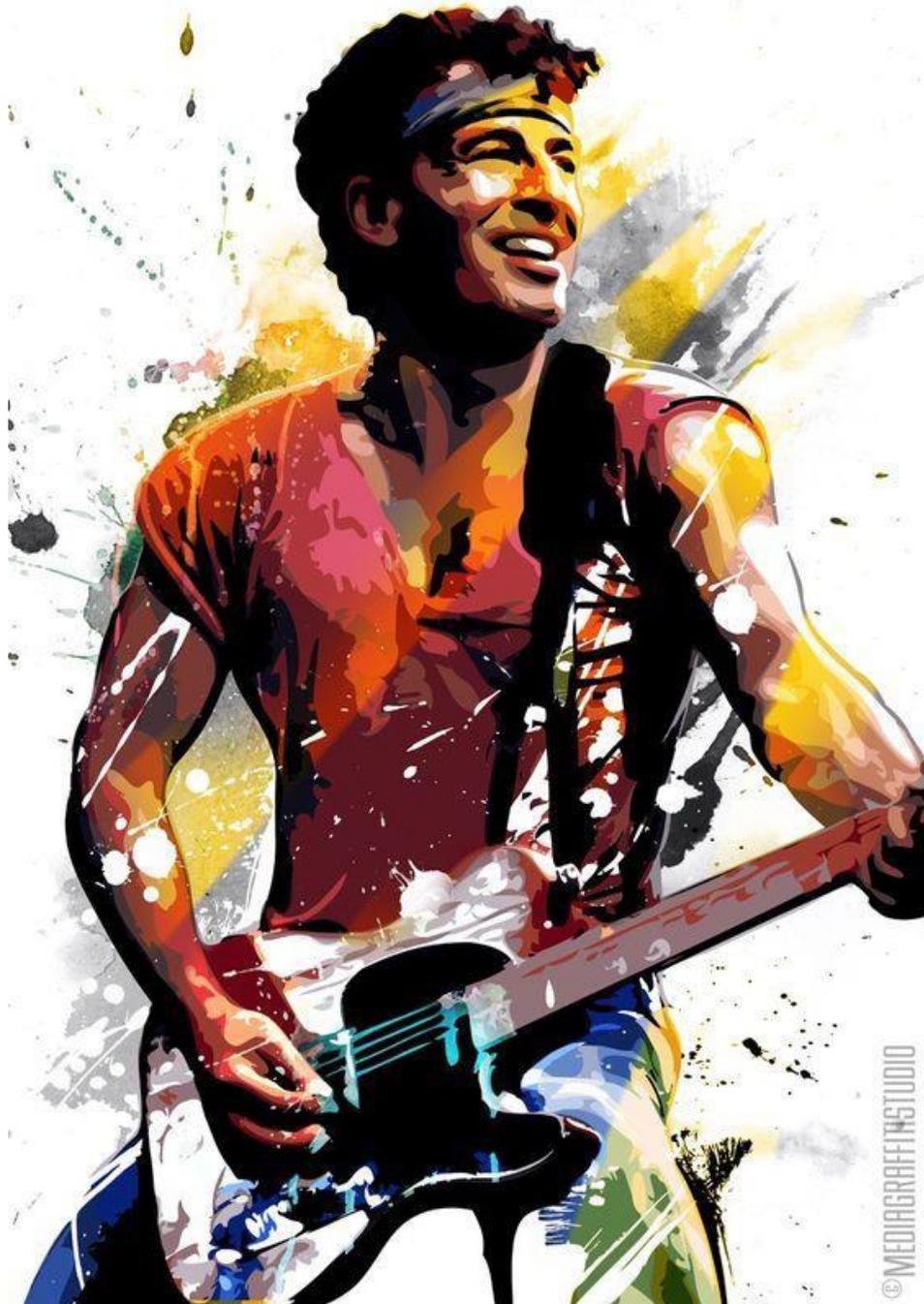
On April 5, 1944, Anne Frank wrote in her diary:

"Oh yes, I do not want to live for nothing like most people. I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met.

I want to go on living even after my death!"



Anne Frank lives on through her diary. She wanted Mankind to go through a **metamorphosis** (diary entry from May 3, 1944.) But *Homo sapiens* is stuck in fog half an hour after evolution and is in danger of disappearing down an evolutionary cul-de-sac. The ills of the world all have their roots in the **mistakes of *Homo sapiens***. Let us dig them up **together** and free us of these ills in **one fell swoop**. By increasing our sense of self-worth, supported by the collective push towards improvement, we can change. If needs be, we can cut a deal with evolution and make sudden **mutation**. Finally, the mutation is one of the most important factors in evolution as it can introduce new and good characteristics to our gene pool. This would be the end of *Homo sapiens* and the beginning of a more developed human: ***Homo progressivus***.



“I hope that all barriers will one day be torn down.”

Said Bruce Springsteen on July 19, 1988
at a concert for over 180,000 people in Berlin.

In the **“We can do it with empathy and energy”** chapter, I explain why we still need Angela Merkel in her role as Chancellor of Germany. She is out after the next parliamentary elections. What a dream it would be if the four people below called a world revolution and were supported by all members of ***Homo progressivus*** .



Lend A Helping Hand!



I GET BY
with a little help
FROM MY FRIENDS
- john lennon

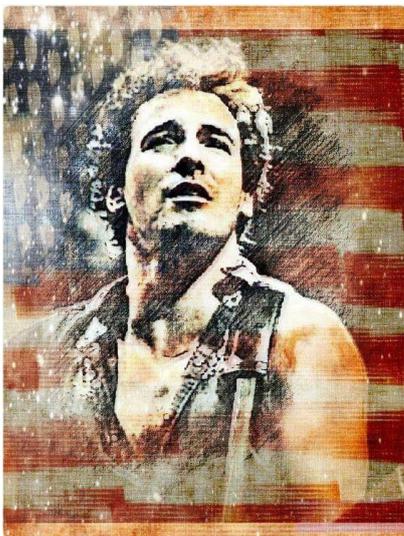
Lend A Helping Hand!



Four people on whom hope rests, who have nothing to lose but so much to gain!

For everyone here with us, and everyone who will follow us!!

Let's take our fate into our own hands and make it so!!!



We are not only of this world
We are Children of the Universe
In memory of Hoimar von Ditfurth

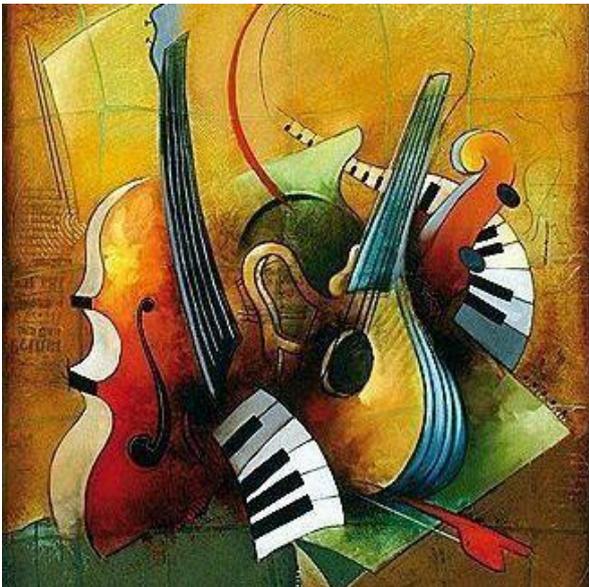
Dancing in the Dark

*We can weather any storm and
keep each other warm
if there's love*

Let's Start A Band

*Put a ribbon round my neck and
call me a libertine.
Give me a stage and
I'll be your rock and roll queen
Give me a festival ...
Singing songs about dreams, about hopes ...
Oh, they just came true!*

Let's start a band



I'm thinking of Amy, Bruce and Reinhard. And the millions of dazzling performers.
I'm remembering Marlene Dietrich, Pete Seeger, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.
Give me music. Give me music. Give me music. Give me music!

Marlene, Pete and Joan used to sing and are singing yet, with ever increasing volume:

“Where have all the flowers gone? Long time passing.

Where have all the flowers gone? Long time ago...

Where have all the young men gone? Long time passing.

Where have all the young men gone? Long time ago...

Where have all the young men gone? Gone for soldiers, everyone.

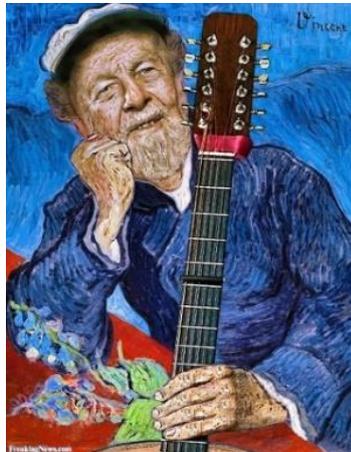
When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn?

Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time passing.

Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time ago...

Where have all the soldiers gone? Gone to graveyards everyone.

When will they ever learn? When will they ever learn? ...



Back in 1961, at the height of the Cold War, a wall was built. It separated not only East and West Berliners from ... one ... an ... other. 13 years earlier, there was a 5-star general who organized an airlift for the city. And 14 years later there was a crisis in the Caribbean, at the end of which the two antagonists declared:

***“Mankind must put an end to war, or
war will put an end to mankind.”***

***“In the next war
the survivors will envy the dead.”***



Jaw, jaw is better than war, war!



There he sits as representative of all the extremist populists, egoists, and autocrats.

Every time you move, in every lie, every broken oath, every false smile,
and every claim you make ... we are watching you!

**– 10 WOMEN – 10 MEN – 10 BLACK PEOPLE – 10 WHITE PEOPLE –
– 10 MUSICIANS – 10 ACTORS –**



We stand as representatives of all performers with
good intentions who want to do something!

What we now need is a “bulwark for a living and stable democracy”. And German performers should be part of this as well. Performers who have made us cry tears of sadness or laughter – at the theater, at concerts, at the cinema, or on the couch. They not only can entertain us from their stages, but their fame and popularity will allow them to perform important tasks on the society’s stage as well.



EMBODYING DEMOCRACY!

**Active against far-right extremism,
abuse of power and inhumanity to man!**

The hawks are on the wing again, on both sides. They create a scenario of threat and menace, and people are afraid. The people perceive a growing danger. If it makes the first strike, it could destroy life on Earth as we know it. **Thunderball**: Sean Connery, the first James Bond, made one of his first appearances 49 years ago. His final performance came 19 years later: *Never say never again*. After filming, Connery claimed that Bond's opponent **in the game for domination of the whole world** was one of the best actors of all time. I hope Klaus Maria Brandauer will forgive me if I draw parallels between his performance and a certain immovable real estate speculator who will soon be tamed when the cobblestones are torn up. This Austrian actor, master of his art, not only puts Hollywood into the shade. It is a real pleasure to watch and listen to him – both on the stage, and in his roles in *Mephisto* and *Out of Africa* (alongside Meryl Streep and Robert Redford). And then there is another man who, with *glasnost* and *perestroika* was responsible for pulling down more than one wall. In his book *Manifesto for the Earth*, Mikhail Gorbachev wrote (and his words continue to resonate today):

“The three major challenges that face us today are the preservation of peace, the struggle against poverty, and ecological good sense. (...) The time has come for every inhabitant of the Earth to think about what his or her individual contribution might be. (...) Humanity resembles passengers on board the Titanic carrying chairs from a lower to a higher deck while the ship was sinking into the sea. (...) It will be necessary for us at last to grasp that we are not alone on the Earth and are not here solely for our own sake, that human beings are not the rulers of nature, but a part of it. (...) [Our Earth Charter] is directed in the first instance to the global community of citizens. I am quite convinced that if the global community does not take its fate into its own hands, all the suggestions will rest for years on the shelves of the United Nations, gathering dust and being suffocated by endless discussions and financial delaying tactics. (...) With the help of the Earth Charter we want to rouse people and mobilize them to fight for their own future. Our Charter gives people the ethical and moral points of orientation so urgently needed at the threshold of the new millennium. (...) We have succeeded in setting the planetary ‘anthill’ in motion. (...)

But on the basis of our good sense and our feelings, our knowledge, our love of life and our neighbor, our faith and our ability to work we can endeavor to retain most of what still remains and learn to respect life rather than destroying it, and thus ensure the survival of humanity. (...) Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.



Hans Küng is now 92 years old. He established his foundation for a *Global Ethic* in 1995.

He does not simply denounce and indict. Rather he offers refreshing and emboldening possible solutions and advice:

“Our world is experiencing a fundamental crisis: a crisis of the global economy, ecology and politics. We are stymied by the lack of a grand vision, by mediocre political leadership lacking in insight and foresight, and generally too little sense for the common good. Too many old answers to new challenges. Hundreds of millions of people on our planet are increasingly suffering from joblessness, poverty, hunger, and family breakdown. The hope of permanent peace between peoples is dwindling once more. Tensions between the sexes and generations have reached an alarming level. Children are dying, killing, and being killed. (...) Even children need to learn that peaceful coexistence at all levels depends on the observance of basic rules. No society can function without a foundation of values which binds it together. We need ethical and intercultural competence in commercial enterprises. More than ever before, the stakeholders in international competition are dependent upon cross-cultural

standards. We need international politics to be rooted in law and ethics: cooperation and integration, rather than military confrontation. We all have a responsibility for a better world order. So, we are appealing to all the inhabitants of this planet:

*Our Earth cannot be changed for the better unless
the consciousness of individuals is changed first.*



Mahatma said to us all:

“You must be the change you want to see in the world.”

Madiba said to us all:

“It always seems impossible until it is done.”



Surely the drumming and singing that could start a massive festival spanning the globe has to be better than bombs and rockets that could transform the Earth into a huge battlefield.

So just as Anne Frank lived on in her diary, the Mahatma and Madiba will also live on when we protect the life on “our” Earth. That must be better than destroying the planet.

The world revolution will succeed when the idea catches on. When it is taken up and passed on like a flaming torch. When it inspires and hooks the people – starting with a festival that encompasses the globe. **With a little help from my friends!** The idea should electrify people, making it race around the world like wildfire.

The species we have tormented, and which are on the brink of extinction ought to breathe again because man is finally distinguishing himself by his humanity and species conservation efforts, and not because humanity is dying out.



Given the unholy mess we are creating down here on Earth, it is probably not a good idea to wait for **Judgment Day**. Surely, we want to be rewarded for our good deeds. We are children of the Universe who are fortunate enough to share in the bounty of this marvelous rock. **GOOD LUCK EARTHLINGS – SEE YOU LATER ...**





Stairway to Heaven!

If we show empathy & compassion down here, it will be much better for us up there.

And there are no religions in Heaven ...

Robert Plant says: This is a song of hope!

I say: This is a song for all eternity!

With an excellent and magnificent guitar solo of Jimmy Page:

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN