World Transformation:
The Creation of New Worlds for the Future of Humanity

by

Dr. Christopher R. Buchanan

The World Transformation Institute

Introduction: To Change the World

In every age, many feel that there is something special about their particular time and place, and to some degree this is true. There is always the possibility that momentous events are just over the horizon, such as catastrophic natural disasters, deadly plagues, great discoveries, or powerful revelations, which will greatly impact the course of human history. It is a common claim today that the 21st century is an exceptionally critical period, a time of great opportunities and immense challenges which have the potential to dramatically alter the human condition on a fundamental level. In many respects, it is reasonable to think that the current situation in the World is unique and substantially different from that of any previous age. Our circumstances are largely the outcome of our own choices and actions, not merely the result of happenstance or external forces beyond our control. Also, many of today's claims of danger and promise are rather persuasive because they are based upon observable, verifiable facts, not just baseless views or beliefs as was the case in earlier times. In contrast to previous ages when people simply had to react to the events and circumstances that unfolded upon them, our future will depend largely on our own choices and actions.

By many measures, it does seem that the 21st century is a truly special and precarious period for humanity. Recent advancements in our knowledge, understanding, and technical capabilities, such as artificial intelligence, space travel, genetic engineering, and automation, make profound progress to the human experience realistically achievable. It is now possible for us to substantially alter some of the most primal elements of the human condition, such as the planet that we live on or the basic

features of our biology. At the same time, a multitude of global-scale, man-made problems, such as climate change, escalating species extinction, incredibly destructive warfare, global pandemics, large-scale resource depletion, and dramatic changes in population, threaten Civilization and our very survival as a species. These issues are widely considered to be threats and great efforts have been made to resolve them, but there has been no real, long-term success on any front. For that reason, these issues are often referred to as “wicked” problems. Likewise, significant attempts have been undertaken to improve the lives of ordinary people, making it easier for them to meet their various needs and enjoy a dignified, fulfilling existence. Most people, however, have noticed little improvement in their conditions lately and must simply cope with a difficult, meager existence which has remained essentially unchanged for generations. For the average person, daily life is becoming increasingly difficult and the general situation is slowly deteriorating. The situation is clearly a serious problem for the stability of Civilization which must be addressed and somehow resolved.

It seems that meaningful qualitative change in our World is both necessary and theoretically achievable today, perhaps for the first time in human history, but we are simply unable to bring it about on a large scale in practice. Our inability to resolve these urgent problems or to improve the circumstances of most people on Earth despite the expenditure of enormous resources is perplexing and frustrating when considered through the lens of conventional, mainstream thought. A deeper understanding of the situation, however, reveals that these efforts have been ineffective because they are merely incremental, reactive measures which are based upon stale, outdated establishment thinking. Conventional efforts, in typical establishment form, have mainly

aimed to patch and repair the existing system, but the situation itself, characterized by stagnation and intractable problems, is a telltale sign that there are serious issues with the fundamental framework of that system. As a consequence, the type of thought and action which produced some results in the past is now proving ineffective and may make matters even worse in the future.

At this point, a different approach is needed to help us better understand the situation and determine how to proceed. A central tenet of this work is that our World, a dynamic, man-made phenomenon which provides the overall context for the entire human experience, is becoming obsolete and needs to be completely replaced. The seemingly intractable problems and elusive progress that we are experiencing today are in fact characteristic features of a given paradigm of the World that is approaching the end of its useful life cycle. Our current dilemma is due to deep, systemic issues, and it cannot be resolved by applying shallow, incremental, post hoc fixes in a piecemeal fashion, but this is all that conventional means can offer. It is critical to address the problems and take advantage of the opportunities of the 21st century promptly in a thoughtful, proactive manner because the consequences of continued failure will likely become more severe in the future. What is needed today is truly meaningful qualitative change in our World on a very fundamental level not just another haphazard repair job. Such deep transformative change in our World is the main topic of this book.

To be fair, the World has become obsolete not because it has failed, but because it has been successful at its primary goal, enabling the survival and proliferation of humanity. At this point, the global human population is over 8 billion, the diseases that once decimated societies have mostly been eliminated, we can produce far more food

than can be eaten, and humans are the dominant species on the planet. We have certainly come a long way since our tentative, modest beginnings as a rather unthreatening creature having no obvious physical attributes that gave us any advantage over the numerous fierce animals in our environment. If we are going to progress as a species then we must have the consciousness to recognize and accept both our accomplishments and shortcomings. Also, we must have the will to embrace substantial change and forge ahead into uncharted territory.

In the 21st century, the current World paradigm which was created millennia ago is becoming obsolete and needs to be replaced with a new one that is deliberately designed to take us all on the next stage of humanity's journey. To put it simply, if humanity is going to move forward, then we must have both the will and the ability to fundamentally change our World. Of course, perpetual change is inherent in our nature and we are among the most adaptable organisms on the planet, so this is a challenge that we can readily accept without too many reservations. An unwillingness to change out of fear or indecisiveness, which is also part of our nature, is perhaps the greatest danger to avoid because it will render us paralyzed and unable to take the bold action that is necessary.

As it turns out, the desire to change the World is nothing new or unusual. The possibility has always captivated and inspired visionaries, dreamers, revolutionaries, inventors, and ordinary people. Some have hoped to solve specific nagging problems while others have aimed to improve the overall human experience by generally making the World a better place. Certainly, many have tried to achieve these admirable goals, but there has been little meaningful, long-term success with any of the endeavors.

Throughout history great revolutions have flopped, grand experiments have failed, and countless movements have not really changed anything. The motives behind the undertakings may have been sincere and well-meaning, but the outcomes have been unremarkable, sometimes even disastrous, and the benefits to humanity overall have been rather limited. The lack of success is partially because the projects themselves were often ill-conceived, haphazardly executed, and rather superficial in nature. Also, and more importantly, it is because there has never been a coherent, common sense understanding of the World on even a basic level to help guide the undertaking. Naturally, such ignorance will hamper efforts to produce significant, lasting changes to any complex phenomenon, so the continual failure of these attempts is not surprising.

The type of profound change that is required today necessitates a detailed theoretical and practical understanding of the World, but to most of humanity it is a complete mystery, a so-called “black box.” We are thrown into the World without our consent, but the entire human experience unfolds within its domain so we must learn how to function in it to survive. However, there is little meaningful comprehension of this phenomenon that is both ubiquitous and familiar. It may seem contradictory and paradoxical that humans spend their entire lives immersed in the World and somehow have no real understanding of it, but this is the case. There has certainly been a great deal of philosophizing, speculating, proclaiming, and arguing about the World through the ages, but none of it has resulted in anything concrete or coherent enough to be of any practical use in addressing today’s complex issues. As will be explained later in this book, the mysterious nature of the World is perfectly understandable and perhaps even necessary, but it makes progress and problem solving much more difficult.

Consequently, meaningful, fundamental-level change to our World has yet to actually occur, regardless of the many attempts to bring it about, and it remains the same as it ever was, in essence, form, and function. All of its persistent, intractable problems remain and the basic human experience that unfolds within its bounds is essentially unaltered showing little qualitative development.

Despite the repeated failure of past efforts, the interest in and desire for meaningful World change persists and seems to be growing as general calls for change proliferate in the 21st century. Today, there is a widespread feeling that the World needs to be changed somehow, a sign that there is a legitimate, real need underlying the desire that keeps it alive. Some claim there is a development underway in the consciousness of humankind which reveals the need for a new, more suitable version of the World. While there is no proof of this, we are certainly becoming more aware of the fact that this phenomenon has a profound influence on our daily lives, long-term development, and evolution as a species. That awareness itself is evidence of a very powerful awakening in the human consciousness at the very least. The World provides the environment and context for the entire human experience from birth to death, and it follows that by changing the World we can affect not only the circumstances of our daily lives but our own long-term evolution as a species, as well. Thoughtful, meaningful changes to the human environment could provide a powerful and effective means for influencing our own development in the physical, psychological, and spiritual dimensions. Although there is some disagreement on the details, it is widely believed today that such change is actually possible and that we have the ability to produce it.

The poor track record of past efforts, however, makes one wonder if this belief is true. The failures highlight substantial deficiencies in our knowledge, understanding, and technical capabilities which must be overcome before any real progress can be made in the endeavor of changing the World. Examining and eliminating these deficiencies is a primary objective of this work. Numerous questions must be answered from elementary to advanced levels to help us develop a practical, common sense understanding of the World so that we can realistically go about altering it in an orderly, controlled manner. Without a detailed understanding to provide some guidance in the endeavor any future efforts will be destined to fail just like those of the past.

If the undertaking is going to be successful it must begin at the foundations and answer some very basic questions, many of which have been considered before but have never been adequately answered. What exactly is the World? What does it do and how was it created? How is it structured and how does it operate? What is the essence or basis of the World? What does it even mean to change the World and is it really possible to achieve in any meaningful way or is the World fixed in its current form? If so, then how can this be accomplished? Furthermore, why would anyone even want to change the World, the only one that humanity has ever known, and under what circumstances should this be attempted?

These are very important matters and some of them have been considered by others in the past taking different perspectives and approaches. Their findings are helpful and insightful, but they are ultimately just rather vague claims based upon subjective views, opinions, and beliefs. Some describe the World as an extensive collection of objects that exists separately from one's own body and consciousness.

Others proclaim that the Universe does not even exist and everything that we perceive is merely an illusion. Still others say that all things were created in their finished form, thus progress and development are impossible. Some argue that the World humans experience is purely a simplified mental construct produced by our consciousness, not the real thing in its full complexity. Such claims, if taken as true, can certainly provide some comfort and guidance to many in life. However, they do not offer the type of detailed, objective information that is needed for the complex, practical task of creating entirely new Worlds. This undertaking should not be merely an academic matter that only results in vague, abstract talk, but must be a focused, organized process that produces very practical, coherent, and useful information. Previous investigations on the topic have not produced any clear, consistent idea of what elements actually constitute the World and its boundaries are never specified. Their descriptions of the World are not necessarily wrong, but they are very inconsistent, vague, often contradictory, and incomplete. A more precise, consistent, and comprehensive idea of what constitutes the World is needed before meaningful work on the topic can begin.

This work was undertaken expressly to garner this critical information and present it in a brief, well-reasoned, comprehensible manner in this book. The final products of the project are a clear, concise description of our World and a coherent, organized means for making systematic changes to it. The amassed knowledge serves as the basis for a revolutionary, new discipline, which has been given the fitting name of World Transformation. This discipline offers a rigorous theoretical description of our World so it can be comprehended more fully and accurately than ever before. Also, it offers a detailed technical means for creating and implementing entirely new paradigms,

or models, of the World. A basic tenet of the discipline is that through a paradigm shift from one model to another the World can be transformed on a fundamental level into something that is qualitatively different in essence, form, and function, making it better suited to current human needs and contemporary operating conditions on Earth.

World Transformation is an inherently transdisciplinary field which incorporates philosophy, history, the sciences, the arts, engineering, spirituality, and more. However, it is not a conventional academic or professional field which is mainly concerned with the abstract study of preexisting phenomena in fine detail. It is intended primarily for practical, creative application, and its ultimate purpose is to provide the means to create something that does not currently exist, i.e., an entirely new World. The discipline could be thought of as a type of engineering or art which enables the design, construction, and implementation of new paradigms of the World, which is a powerful technological innovation in itself. This badly needed invention will give humans the ability, for the first time ever, to deliberately create a World that is custom-made for their needs and use it to replace one that is obsolete and problematic. With this technology we will have the ability to consciously drive and guide our own progress, development, and evolution and to simultaneously resolve a constellation of seemingly intractable, global-scale problems. In fact, most of the current issues that are viewed as problems will likely fall away on their own post transformation. They will simply become irrelevant in the new World paradigm just as issues concerning the horse-drawn carriage were quickly forgotten once the automobile replaced it as the dominant mode of transportation.

This book is divided into two separate parts, a first section concerned with theoretical matters and a second section concerned with technology development and

application. In the first part of the book, fundamental concepts, terminology, and arguments are established that provide a theoretical framework for the discipline. A detailed description of the World is offered which explains, among other things, what it is, what it does, how it was created, and how it can be changed. This understanding serves as the foundation for the subsequent technical work. In the second part, a practical technical means for creating and implementing new World paradigms is described. The principal tools and techniques of World creation are examined, including their design, operation, and use. Also, the capacity to transform the World by replacing an old, obsolete paradigm with a thoughtfully designed, more appropriate new one is developed. A practical means for implementing a new paradigm is formulated which includes identifying exactly why, when, and how to perform a global-scale paradigm shift.

It is important to realize that this is original, groundbreaking work which is intended to be seminal in nature. Only a basic framework is provided in this book, but it will be further developed in subsequent work. The intention of this project is to establish a revolutionary new discipline and provide an overview of an advanced technology, not offer an incremental extension or refinement of some previous line of work or a preexisting, conventional field. This work stands on its own and there is little in terms of relevant sources or related work to mention. Only a handful of sources, which are highly relevant, are cited in this book, and they are mainly classic works that should be familiar to most readers. This is not a conventional academic-style project which attempts to cite every piece of other work that could potentially be relevant and devotes an inordinate amount of time to discussing them. There are simply too many potentially

relevant other works to consider and providing a detailed literature survey is not the purpose of this brief book. The readers are free to examine other sources according to their own interests and can interpret them as they see fit. However, it should be obvious to astute readers that the discipline of World Transformation complements and supplements many conventional fields of research and application, such as guided cultural evolution, evolutionary biology, systems engineering, and social philosophy. Additionally, it complements many unconventional fields, such as futurism and spirituality.

In fact, this work generally dovetails well with any projects that aim to bring about deliberate and substantial change to the human experience with the intention of qualitatively improving it. Unlike most conventional work on the topic, however, this project is not very concerned with some fanciful, utopian destination for humanity, i.e., how things *ought to be*. There is a little philosophizing in the book, but the main concern is with providing a coherent technical means to produce the changes in the World that are needed to arrive at the chosen destination, something that is currently unavailable and badly needed. However, some predictions and suggestions are offered about the development of our World and our species in the future, but they are derived from a fairly objective assessment of our needs and how they can best be addressed. The predictions are more of an objective matter of technological progression than a subjective issue of how things should be according to someone's whimsical views or beliefs.

World Transformation is a highly adaptable technology with far-reaching applications that are not limited to uses on Earth. It can be applied wherever humans

venture. As we travel off Earth the ability to create and implement new world paradigms will be crucial since the operating conditions and our needs will be much different in the new environment than on our home planet. It would be naïve, and potentially disastrous, to think that an Earth-based world paradigm could be implemented in a setting that is so drastically different. If our attempts to live beyond Earth are going to be successful, we must have the capability to design and construct customized Worlds as they are needed. World Transformation will be an invaluable tool in humanity's long-term effort to explore and colonize space. It would be wise to establish a capacity to design and implement new world paradigms ahead of time on Earth in familiar surroundings than to attempt it impromptu in distant space. To develop some skill using this technology an ongoing project which applies the principles of World Transformation in an isolated, controlled environment on Earth in a similar manner to the Biosphere 2 project could be established. Also, the techniques could be applied in one or more less isolated community-scale projects that have some interaction with the outside World. This type of experience would not only help to improve the technology itself by making it possible to find and address any technical issues, but the practice would also give us the opportunity to become more adept at using it.

Reinventing the World from its foundations in a thoughtful, controlled manner is undeniably a profound, monumental task and nothing like this has ever been attempted before. Critics of such a bold endeavor will understandably ask if a project like it is really necessary or if it is even possible. Also, the very predictable, cliché arguments will be made that this work is simply attempting to create a utopia or to perfect upon Nature, both of which are impossible tasks. Whether such a dramatic transformation in

our World is utterly necessary at the moment is clearly a matter of opinion, but there are currently growing worldwide calls for exactly this type of change. In any case, it would be prudent to at least have the capabilities already established and ready to implement when they are indisputably required. We should realize that there will be no time for lengthy debates or long-term development projects when the call to action finally comes. Furthermore, this work does not attempt to create a dreamy, perfect society, nor does it try to perfect or improve upon Nature. The goal is to provide an objective, technological innovation which will allow us to make badly needed improvements to our World and the human experience that occurs in it.

Some argue that the creation of any technology is an inherent attempt by humans to perfect upon Nature, but this is incorrect. Technologies are merely human-created tools that we use to help build our World, a phenomenon which is completely distinct from Nature. Humans have the ability to build something on top of Nature, but it is not being suggested that we have the power to perfect or improve upon it, at least not at this time. In this work, there is no notion put forth of a perfect World which would be its finished, permanent form. The World is an evolving phenomenon which must change as human needs and operating conditions change. The intention of this project is to provide a technology that can be used repeatedly in an ongoing process to create new Worlds as they are needed in the future. This capability would allow us to update the World on a regular basis, so it never becomes obsolete again.

World Transformation is based upon the powerful realization that our World today is not broken and in need of repair, as is commonly claimed, but is actually obsolete and must be replaced sometime soon. The failure of conventional efforts to resolve any of

the serious global-scale problems that we currently face or produce any recent meaningful improvement in the lives of ordinary people is evidence that this is the case. It is argued in this book, that substantial qualitative change in the World actually is possible and it can be produced by humans in a thoughtful, organized manner. The overall purpose of this work is simply to improve the human experience of life in the World and to move us forward in our development as a species. With this very simple and powerful goal as motivation, a detailed understanding of our World and a means for creating new ones are described in this book.