

Our Quest for World Peace

Paul Hague

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For the past forty-two years, since resigning from my marketing job with IBM in London, I have been working on the strategy that if we could collectively complete the final revolution in science—just as Isaac Newton completed the first in 1687 with *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*—then this would lead to World Peace. Sadly, however, I have now realized that such a quest, which I began as a seven-year-old in 1949, is highly unlikely to be realized, despite all the endeavours of the alternative movement.

Robert Reich, a United States Secretary of Labor in President Bill Clinton's cabinet, said much the same thing in *The Observer* on 13th March 2022,¹ even though we live in quite different worlds. For instance, before Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin came to power, he thought that the 'new economy' made possible with information technology would bring an end to nationalism and territorial wars and "Civilization will never again be held hostage by crazy isolated men with the power to wreak havoc." Furthermore, Reich thought that in an open information economy, where people can freely share knowledge, autocrats would no longer be able to control what people know and that an awakened democracy would thus be inevitable.

Albert Einstein well summarized the situation humanity has been facing since the middle of the last century, when the first electronic computers came into operation. At the fifth Nobel anniversary dinner in 1945 in New York, he said, "The war is won, but the peace is not. The great powers, united in fighting, are now divided over the peace settlements."

Then, in the following year, on 23rd June 1946, the *New York Times Magazine* published an article that Einstein had written, titled 'The Real Problem Is in the Hearts of Men'. He began with these words: "Many persons have inquired concerning a recent message of mine that 'a new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move to higher levels'." He then went on to write, "Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking must prevent wars." To paraphrase, you cannot solve a problem with the mindset that created it. We cannot bring about World Peace with the deluded thought processes that lead to conflict and suffering.

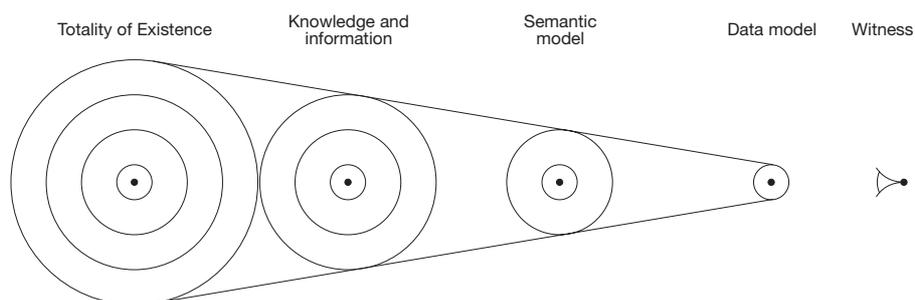
For myself, I have been able to transform my fragmented mindset into Wholeness, necessary to find Inner Peace, by engaging in a thought experiment, not unlike those that Einstein visualized to develop the special and general theories of relativity. To discover the essential nature of human intelligence, vis-à-vis so-called artificial intelligence, I imagine that I am a stored-program computer that switches itself off and on again so that it has no programs within it, not even a bootstrap to load the operating system.

However, I did not embark on this revolutionary experiment in learning through an act of conscious choice. Rather, I set out to solve the ultimate problem in human learning because a big bang erupted in the utmost depths of my psyche at 11:30 on 27th April 1980, as I was strolling across Wimbledon Common to the pub to lunch. By starting afresh at the very beginning, the creative power of Life, emanating directly from the Divine Origin of the Universe, has freed me from the misconceptions about God, Universe, and humanity that have plagued human learning for thousands of years.

With the invaluable assistance of David Bohm, a friend and colleague of both Einstein and J. Krishnamurti, I have been able to solve the problem that Einstein spent the last thirty years of his life trying

¹ Robert Reich, 'Putin and Trump have convinced me: I was wrong about the 21st century', *The Observer*, 13th March 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/13/putin-trump-ukraine-russia-invasion-war-21st-century>.

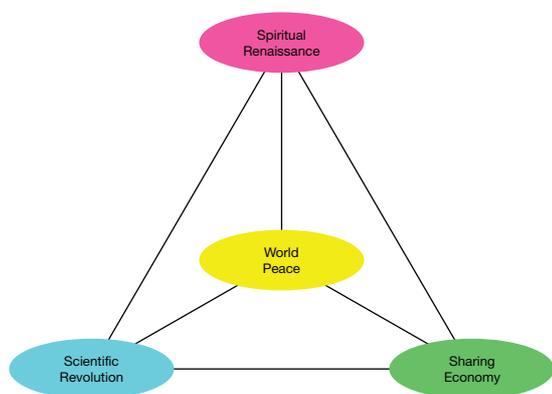
to solve. This has happened because Life has taught me to take the abstractions of mathematics, computer science, and information systems modelling methods to the utmost level of generality, explained in a 100-page memoir on *Humankind* that I wrote last autumn, illustrated here:



I thus look at the business world through the eyes of an information systems architect, as a ‘master builder’, acknowledging that *information is data with meaning*, rather than the financial modelling methods of accountants, bankers, and economists, which tell us little about why we humans behave as we do and hence why the authorities instruct us to fight each other for a slice of the finite monetary pie.

Accordingly, to walk my talk, since 1980, I have adopted the most radical change to the work ethic since our forebears began to settle in villages to cultivate the land and domesticate animals some 10,000 years ago and since the invention of money around 4,000 years ago. Being free of attachment to money enables me to stand outside myself, as the Witness, looking at the psychodynamics of society through the semantic modelling methods underlying the transcultural, transdisciplinary Internet.

From a Cosmic perspective, the business function of information systems architect has evolved into that of Panosopher, closely related to the dream of Jan Ámos Komenský (Comenius) in the mid 1600s to set up a Pansophical Academy, based on ‘universal wisdom’. Sadly, however, the founders of The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge rejected Comenius’ proposals in the early 1660s, leading to the war between science and spirituality, which is still raging today.



Given this situation, I have spent much of the last forty years in the quest for World Peace, attempting to make manifest Comenius’ vision, in what I call today the Alliance for Mystical Pragmatics, whose purpose is to integrate four major global movements in the world into a coherent whole: Spiritual Renaissance, Scientific Revolution, Sharing Economy, and World Peace, as this diagram indicates. For, as Matthew Spinka, Comenius’ biographer, wrote in 1943, “Were the grandiose project accomplished in our day, what a boon it would be!

But alas! the world is still waiting for its realization, and we seem to be further away from it than ever.”

However, it seems that I have been rather ingenuous in my aspirations. Although millions of decent folk are seeking to live in love, peace, and harmony with each other, they are mainly doing so within an inherently unstable global economy, not generally realizing that money has become the principal immortality symbol in society, as Ernest Becker, the Pulitzer prize-winning author of *The Denial of Death*, has pointed out, to be protected at all costs. This means that World Peace is only possible if we break the most fundamental taboo in society today, healing the experiential and cognitive split between humanity and Divinity, opened up over 5,000 years ago, before the birth of the first civilizations in the patriarchal epoch. So, all I can do today, as I interact with my fellow human beings, is trust that Life will keep guiding me back Home to Stillness, knowing that Love is the Divine Essence that we all share. For I don’t know any other way to heal the existential longing within me to make a therapeutic contribution to society.