

## **DESTRUCTIVE SOCIETY AND FRIENDS**

(Is there hope for MAN AND NATURE?)

### **INSTEAD OF A FOREWORD**

This is just to give a brief answer to the question from the book's title. Considering the place of SCIENCE in society, the CLASS IN POWER and the relationship between the two on the one hand, and the relationship of the rest of society with respect to nature, it seems as though there is NO HOPE!

In order to show that this is not only my subjective conclusion, I shall quote from the 1993 UNEP (United Nation Environment Protection) report, drawn up by Dr Mustafa Tomba and handed to the United Nations:

"May the facts compel us to double our efforts. It is high time we came down to earth. Hunger is becoming more and more of a world-wide problem, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Every day, 35'000 children die from hunger. In the next twenty years, the world-wide population is going to grow by 1.7 billion people, the majority of whom will be born in undeveloped nations. In this period, the poor will be getting poorer and the rich richer. By the year 2000, the ozone layer is expected to diminish by five to ten percent per year in our latitudes. Owing to this, an increase in skin cancer and blindness due to cataracts will occur. Moreover, our immunosystem will weaken, and a decrease in herb variety and quantities will take place. The announced climate change, on the other hand, may cause a drastic fall in crops, an exacerbation of droughts and a rise of sea levels which will surely endanger inhabited coastal areas. 900 million city-dwellers already are subject to the unhealthy influence of sulphur dioxide, and likewise, more than a billion city-dwellers are subject to excessive quantities of other unhealthy substances. Furthermore, erosion jeopardises land

under cultivation, and since the foundation of UNEP in 1972 to this day, the consumption of chemical fertilisers has doubled. Over the next twenty to thirty years, at least a quarter of world-wide species will disappear, and every day between one and three hundred living organisms become extinct. All this is a CONSEQUENCE OF AGGRESSIVE HUMAN ACTIVITY which shows that we do not care about tomorrow. For example, about 99 million tons of sulphur dioxide and 125 million tons of carbon monoxide are released every year, and in the USA alone, 32'000 potentially dangerous disposal sites were registered. Moreover, 1.3 billion people are consuming firewood more quickly than forests are able to replenish themselves. Generally speaking, the forests are in danger, and in Europe, this percentage is 35%. Over the last fifty years, the soil of many forests has become acidic, approximately 75% of forests are jeopardised by sulphur, and 6.5 million tons of waste are dumped in the sea."

The author of this report raises the alarm. For whom? There is nobody he can address, which is best shown by the outcome of the Berlin Climate Conference in April 1995. The conference confirmed that nothing had been done with respect to the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, where the most responsible people in power from all countries of the United Nations signed a declaration on environmental protection. This is an indication of sheer inertia - and the logic question to mankind's ongoing destructiveness is: CAN IT BE HALTED? OR CAN MANKIND'S AND NATURE'S AGONY ONLY BE PROLONGED?

You will wonder why I am writing all this. There are several reasons. Beside the possibility that science finds some solution (it may not yet be too late), there is certainly a possibility that agony lingers on. This is one of the reasons.

The second reason is given in the book's dedication. One generation of Ex-Yugoslavia has perished, but so have other generations elsewhere before and after mine. WHAT FOR? They are led by people and parties with the slogan that a revolution will solve all the problems of this world, inclusive of destructiveness!

Where we - and the others - are standing today is clear: HUMAN SOCIETY HAS FALLEN TO YET GREATER DESTRUCTIVENESS AND HOPELESSNESS! After the 1968 rebellious generation and the breakdown of our "self-managing socialism" and "real socialism", subjective powers claim - as previous powers have - that they not only know WHAT TO DO AGAINST SOCIETY'S DESTRUCTIVENESS BUT ARE ALSO ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY MEASURES. THIS RESULTS IN A GENOCIDE PERPETRATED BY THE PARTY ON THEIR OWN PEOPLE! THEY DIE FOR IDEAS WHICH ARE NOT REALISED!

The third reason can be found in an anecdote about Nasradin Hodža:

"Nasradin Hodža lived in the town of Akšehir on the shores of a lake. One day, some locals saw Nasradin Hodža pour yoghurt into the lake, and they asked him:

- Good heavens, Hodža, you are so learned and intelligent. You surely don't believe that the entire lake is going to turn into yoghurt?
- Indeed, I am not as stupid as to think that the lake will become yoghurt, but don't you know that YOU SHOULD TRY EVERYTHING IN LIFE."

Likewise, I try and test. There have been a great deal of attempts and endeavours throughout the past five thousand years and to this day. Amongst others, the following have tried to prevent the destructive movements in society: Moses, Zoroaster, Confucius, Hesiod, Mu'awiyah, Theocritus, Heraclitus, Plato, Christ, Vergil, Montesquieu, Hsun-Tru, Buddha, Mohammed, Lao-Tzu, Rousseau, Owen, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Marcuse, Fromm and others. For most people, it is clear that these attempts have failed. But few people know our prospects for the future.

First, this text aims at informing, in a popular way, the majority of those interested in mankind's future from an earthly viewpoint. And if they WANT TO DO SOMETHING, they will learn WHAT TO DO IN ORDER TO AVOID ANOTHER GENOCIDE. Second, this text aims at analysing the causes of society's situation and the failing of all ideologies which tried to halt society's destructive drifting. There is a great deal of causes for their failing, but it is my conviction that the main reason why they failed is that they have proposed partial solutions. Here, an integral - holistic - perspective of society will be assumed, and this will avoid the pitfall of deterministic and historic approaches which have mainly been used so far. The approach here will leave space for a comprehensive holistic perspective of the global movement of, first, mankind as a species, second, society and, third, of nature practically from the origins of life to this day.

This work is not only an analysis, i.e. my viewpoint of *the* problem of mankind. It also comprises a final account of what, in my deep conviction, needs to be done in modern society in order to change destructive society drifting and how. I am aware that this represents only one of several possibilities, as well as that there are better solutions. However, for the time being, I do not see any, and I leave them to other authors.

I have read a great deal of works and articles by various authors. They are mainly listed at the end of the book. Some personal experience has helped as well: as a director, I was able to apply the individual authors' knowledge in practice. My part in this piece of work consists only in organising this knowledge and applying it in analyses, as well as composing a new entity in view of possible future changes in practice. There are topics which seem to be beside the point in this context. I tend to think that this is mainly due to the fact that the approach is completely different, and I could not see any solution without including them.

This is not a scientific work, and I therefore apologise to the authors and the readers for not mentioning the authors in the text. The authors will recognise their ideas, and the readers will remember having read the relevant sections somewhere. The italics are basically mine.

Thank you for your understanding