Strategies Towards the New Sustainability Paradigm
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Managing the Great Transition to Sustainable Global Democracy
Dedicated to:
Da Vinci de Via Romanorum
and
Don Giovanni de Via Romanorum
Currently, humankind seems to be on the verge of a Great Transition to new political scenarios possibly involving dramatic political, economic, social, and ecological changes.

It is obvious that transnational and especially global markets require an objective and fair regulation by politics, transnational treaties, and targeted activities of civil society to be sustainable in the long run. On the dark side, further globalization involves the risk of a global anarchy or a fascist dictatorship possibly lasting several decades or even centuries. On the bright side, the current period of transition equally offers the chance for a positive, democratic development by sustainable changes on a global base – ideally leading humankind to the ‘New Sustainability Paradigm’, i.e., sustainable global democracy.

The purpose of the book at hand is to show the current political, economic, social, and ecological development on a global base. This will be done by analyzing drivers and consequences of past and recent transitions and by discussing special issues of Sustainable Development as a base for recommendations of viable strategies to different social players (i.e., civil society, independent conservation groups, politically independent NGOs, scientists, artists, business people, diplomats, and open-minded future policymakers) for the successful implementation of the ‘New Sustainability Paradigm’. Descriptive model scenarios provide the base for this book. These scenarios had once been designed by the Global Scenario Group (GSG) of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), published in three essays including ‘Branch Points: Global Scenarios and Human Choice’ (Gallopín et al. 1997) and ‘Great Transition. The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead’ by Raskin et al. (2002), further elaborated in works of the Great Transition Initiative (GTI) paper series of the Tellus Institute and updated by Raskin in more recent publications.

My interest in the model scenarios designed by the GSG goes back to 2003 when I started to write my doctoral thesis at the University of Hohenheim. Back then, the supervisor of my thesis, Prof. Dr. W.F. Schulz, drew my attention to Raskin’s essay ‘Great Transition. The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead’, expressly encouraging me to include aspects from this essay in my dissertation.
Raskin’s essay increased my awareness of the political significance of Sustainable Development in the period of globalization and helped me to see the bigger picture behind the situation on the national and international job market and the importance of the different sustainability pillars for humankind on a global base. In the years and months preceding the beginning of my doctoral thesis, there had been an unusually lively discussion about the impact of globalization on the job market. Politicians from different parties discussed possible reforms to deal with this new situation impacting the economic, social, and ecological situation in Germany.

In my professional and social environment, the evaluation of globalization was highly controversial. The majority of middle-aged and older colleagues of the international car component supplier where I worked back then stressed the risks and negative consequences of increasing globalization, e.g., a possible loss of product and service quality due to globalization-driven outsourcing, expensive and risky global IT systems, loan dumping, bad chances on the job market for the future generation, and communication obstacles due to cultural differences and foreign languages spoken within the company. In contrast, young academics including myself tended to see mainly the advantages of globalization, firmly believing that globalization would open the doors for a fruitful exchange of know-how and culture with people from other nations and ethnicities, create synergy effects across national borders in favour of product and service quality, and provide the possibility to exchange know-how with managers and employees of foreign subsidiaries.

In the studies preceding my doctoral thesis when I attended courses of Prof. Dr. Helge Majer in ‘Sustainability and Environmental Management’ at the Stuttgart Institute of Management and Technology (SIMT), I had become familiar with sophisticated international agendas developed by the UN, possibly suitable to tackle the challenges of globalization successfully and to facilitate environmental protection, social-ethical fairness, and economic well-being across the globe. Raskin’s work and the reflection about the question on which of the scenarios designed by the Global Scenario Group (GSG) might most probably come true over the next few decades inspired me to apply these scenarios to concrete examples in politics and the economy in the outlook of my thesis. Finally, I arrived at the conclusion that the ‘New Sustainability Paradigm’ seemed to be a rather improbable scenario in the light of events happening around the time when I finished my doctoral thesis almost a decade ago. In the following years when I attended many international Sustainability conferences in different countries, I happened to talk to several people who witnessed criminal acts under the cloak of environmental protection. Furthermore, I witnessed fraud in connection with CO₂ emission trade amounting to several billions of euros into which also a renowned German banking house has been involved. These experiences, along with revealing insider info from Sustainability colleagues and knowledge exchange with former FBI counterintelligence agents about greenwashing and whitewashing involving human rights violations, inspired me to found a Private Investigative Agency (PIA) focused on ecological crimes, sustainability fraud, and crimes against humanity.

Occasional insights into international conglomerates of secret societies due to accidental acquaintances made at business trips abroad over the last decade increased
my awareness of the significance of profound historical knowledge which is eagerly studied in secret societies where current and former heads of states as well as influential advisers of heads of states are located. Raised Roman Catholic, I was surprised to find out how closely powerful masonic grand lodges (e.g., United Grand Lodge of England UGLE and Scottish Rite) are linked to the Sovereign Military Order of the Knights of Malta (SMOM) and thus to the Vatican.

These personal experiences inspired me to evaluate the current situation with view to the question on what kind of changes might be needed to give humanity still a chance to implement the Great Transition to the New Sustainability Paradigm and to assess complex political and economic transformations and transitions in real life by means of the model scenarios of the GSG. I shared this idea with my scientific colleague and longtime friend Naser (Prof. Dr. Abdelnaser Omran) with whom I had done several publications over the last decade and who supported me in composing a team of highly qualified and committed authors from all parts of the globe to contribute to the book at hand. Hopefully, this book will serve humans currently seeking the path to the New Sustainability Paradigm as inspiration and practical guide for the peaceful implementation of the New Sustainability Paradigm on a global base.

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Odile Schwarz-Herion

References


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