

*“The Earth has cancer
and the cancer is Man.”*
- Club of Rome (1974)

Mankind at the Turning Point

In my previous article, [The First Global Revolution](#), I described the two most well-known reports published by the Club of Rome. In *The Limits to Growth* (1972) they conclude that *“the earth is facing an imminent catastrophic collapse if human civilization continues on its current trajectory.”* Twenty years later, in *The First Global Revolution* they state that the situation is now so dire that drastic actions are required. According to the CoR *“democracy has failed and new forms of governance are required”* and *“a common enemy must be found, one either real or invented, to unite humanity.”* They then state that *“in searching for a new enemy to unite us, we came up with the idea that pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, famine and the like would fit the bill.”*

These two reports have had a profound influence on the modern green movement. However, the CoR has produced many other reports that are just as provocative and controversial including:

- MANKIND AT THE TURNING POINT (1974)
- RESHAPING THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER (1976)
- GOALS FOR MANKIND (1977)
- ENERGY: THE COUNTDOWN (1978)
- ROAD MAPS TO THE FUTURE (1980)
- THE FUTURE OF THE OCEANS (1986)
- BEYOND THE LIMITS TO GROWTH (1989)
- THE CAPACITY TO GOVERN (1994)
- TAKING NATURE INTO ACCOUNT (1995)
- GOVERNING THE SEAS (1998)
- GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE (2000)
- HUMANITY AT THE CROSSROADS (2001)
- WORLD ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ORDER (2001)
- GLOBALIZATION, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2002)
- LIMITS TO GROWTH – THE 30 YEAR UPDATE (2003)
- A NEW WORLD ORDER WITHOUT IDEOLOGIES (2003)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE (2004)
- GLOBAL FORESIGHT (2004)
- GLOBALIZATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY (2005)

- RETHINKING CIVILIZATION (2006)
- TOWARDS A GLOBAL ETHIC (2006)

In this article I will briefly discuss a few of these reports and provide the reader with some interesting quotes and excerpts. In their capacity as official consultants to the United Nations the CoR has authored many other reports for UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO etc and these can be tracked down at <https://unp.un.org/>.

Although aspects of my website may appear to fringe on the realms on conspiracy theory, remember ... they wrote these reports, not me! When you read what they have actually written and then see it being adopted as UN and Government policy it starts to get a bit creepy. And bear in mind that this is no ordinary 'think-tank', these people are top UN officials and Heads of State like Robert Muller, Maurice Strong, Bill Clinton, Javier Solana, Al Gore, Tony Blair and Mikhail Gorbachev. They possess the power to bring their vision to "*transform humanity into a sustainable global interdependent society, based on respect and reverence for the Earth*" into reality.

Mankind At The Turning Point

The second report produced by the CoR in 1974 was titled *Mankind at the Turning Point*. This report develops further the concept on the World Problematique they introduced in *The Limits to Growth*. They state that "*the world is facing an unprecedented set of interlocking global problems, such as, over population, food shortages, non-renewable resource depletion, environmental degradation and poor governance.*"

Once again turning to 'nature' for an answer the report states "*In Nature organic growth proceeds according to a **Master Plan, a Blueprint**. According to this master plan diversification among cells is determined by the requirements of the various organs; the size and shape of the organs and, therefore, their growth processes are determined by their function, which in turn depends on the needs of the whole organism. Such a 'master plan' is missing from the process of growth and development of the world system.*"

"*Such an approach must start from and preserve the world's regional diversity. Paths of development, region-specific rather than based on narrow national interests, must be designed to lead to a sustainable balance between the **interdependent world-regions and to global harmony** - that is, to mankind's growth as an "organic entity" from its present barely embryonic state.*"

"*An analysis of problems and crises as reported indicate that (1) a "horizontal" **restructuring of the world system is needed**, i.e., a change in relationships among nations and regions and (2) as far as the "vertical" structure of the world system is concerned, **drastic changes in the norm stratum** - that is, in the value system and the goals of man - are necessary in order to solve energy, food, and other crises, i.e., social changes and changes in individual attitudes are needed if the transition to organic growth is to take place.*"

"*Cooperation by definition connotes interdependence. Increasing interdependence between nations and regions must then translate as a **decrease in independence**. Nations cannot be interdependent without each of them giving up some of, or at least acknowledging limits to, its own independence.*"

*"Now is the time to draw up a **master plan for organic sustainable growth and world development based on global allocation of all finite resources and a new global economic system**. Ten or twenty years from today it will probably be too late..."*

So, the Club of Rome states that a 'master plan' must be developed to guide mankind through the plethora of 'crises' embodied in the World Problematique. It suggests that the world system must be restructured drastically into a 'horizontal system' which would involve interdependent 'world regions'. An extract from their report describing these regions in detail can be found [here](#). In fact the report even includes a map illustrating how the world can be divided into 10 regions:

The report, in a chapter called 'The Transition – A New Mankind' then goes on to list specific goals that must be achieved or humans are "*as good as doomed*."

*"1) **A world consciousness must be developed through which every individual realizes his role as a member of the world community... It must become part of the consciousness of every individual that "the basic unit of human cooperation and hence survival is moving from the national to the global level."***

*2) **A new ethic in the use of material resources must be developed which will result in a style of life compatible with the oncoming age of scarcity... One should be proud of saving and conserving rather than of spending and discarding.***

*3) **An attitude toward nature must be developed based on harmony rather than conquest. Only in this way can man apply in practice what is already accepted in theory - that is, that man is an integral part of nature.***

*4) **If the human species is to survive, man must develop a sense of identification with future generations and be ready to trade benefits to the next generations for the benefits to himself. If each generation aims at maximum good for itself, Homo sapiens are as good as doomed."***

Now I don't know about you but this seems to be a blueprint for the whole rise of Sustainable Development, Agenda 21 and the modern 'environmental ethic' which now pervades our society. In their later report The First Global Revolution they admit that Global Warming is being used as a 'the common enemy' to develop a new world consciousness and environmental ethic. Interestingly the apparent successor to the CoR is called the World Council on Global Consciousness and Spirituality. The report then goes on to say:

*"Governments and international organizations are currently too preoccupied with military alliances and bloc politics. But this problem is becoming of secondary importance... Therefore, barring suicide, mankind will face the most awesome test in its history: the necessity of a change in the **man-nature relationship and the emergence of a new perception of mankind as a living global system**."*

So, unless mankind renounces his destructive ways and returns to his place as a simple part of the great Gaia Organism then he is surely doomed. The report makes no attempt to hide it's opinion of humans, it states "***The Earth has cancer and the cancer is Man***." It also

states:

*“Being but a part of nature, man has always affected and has always been affected by his environment. However, due to the **disproportionate increase in numbers** and due to increased sophistication in man's intervention in natural processes, the interference of man is taking on a completely new dimension with unpredictable and potentially catastrophic consequences.”*

*“On certain growth issues there would seem to exist universal agreement. Consider, for example, the issue of population growth. Few would quarrel with the position that the global population cannot and should not be permitted to grow unchecked forever. That the population must level off some time, i.e., that **population growth should stop**, is the view gaining universal acceptance.”*

The report concludes:

*“The odds seem against man. Yet we are moderately hopeful. The winds of change have begun to blow. A keen and anxious awareness is evolving to suggest that **fundamental changes will have to take place in the world order** and its power structures, in the distribution of wealth and income, in our own outlook and behavior. Perhaps only a **new and enlightened humanism** can permit mankind to negotiate this transition without irreparable lacerations. In the UN, for example, new concepts such as that of **“world collective economic security”** as a necessary correlative to political security, and an innovative **“charter of duties and rights”** of member states is under consideration.”*

So ‘Mankind at the Turning Point’ gives a clear insight into the world-view and goals of the Club of Rome. Their words speak for themselves and little commentary seems necessary.

Goals For Mankind

The fourth report by the Club of Rome was published in 1976 and titled **Goals for Mankind - A report by the Club of Rome on the new horizons of global community**. The lead author was the then President of the CoR, Ervin Laszlo. This very long report basically expands on the concept first suggested in ‘Mankind at the Turning Point’ of dividing the world into interdependent super-regions.

A detailed computer model was developed (the CoR seems to LOVE computer models, there is usually at least one in each report) which assigned different ‘goals and responsibilities’ to each region, e.g. North America was responsible for 1: food production, 2: natural resources, 3: mid-tech manufacturing; Japan – 1: high-tech manufacturing, 2: fisheries, 3: mid-tech manufacturing; Europe – 1: financial services, 2: high-tech manufacturing, China – low-tech manufacturing; Africa and the Middle East – natural resources etc.

The authors stated that *“This proposed new global system is highly interdependent as, in the same manner that the human body assigns different tasks to its various organs, each region is assigned specialized and specific tasks, and is each is dependent on the others for their common survival.”* A large number of different scenarios were fed into the model which concluded that the *“resultant **ideal sustainable population is hence more than 500 million but less than one billion.**”*

The report also explored different scenarios by which these new global systems could be successfully introduced and adopted. They state:

*"Of all possible scenarios for the solution of world problems, the authors feel that the most hopeful scenario -- that group which is most likely to lead **world consciousness** to an awareness of its problems and to its solutions is contained in the 'religion science-led scenario'. The greatest hope for the Earth lies in the religionists and scientists uniting to awaken the world to its near fatal predicament and then leading mankind out of the bewildering maze of international crises into the future **Utopia of humanist hope...**"*

So they consider that an alliance between scientists and 'religionists' (i.e. all Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus) would be the most successful approach in leading humanity into a "*Utopia of humanist hope*" (their words, not mine!). This might explain the rapid rise of eco-spirituality and religious movements such as Creation Care.

This article is getting a bit long so I think I'll leave it there for now. I encourage the reader to track down and read some of the other CoR reports I referenced. Very interesting! Also the reports published by the CoR's sister and sibling organisations listed in my article [The Green Web](#).