



**WORLD PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM**

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**Greek National Branch**



**Philosophical ideas educate, consolidate and unite Humanity**

**Athens Easter, 2022**

“If there is a science, man really needs, that is philosophy, which teaches how man can reach an appropriate to him place in the world – and from which everyone can learn what to be to become a MAN.” Immanuel Kant

## **Easter thoughts of the World Philosophical Forum 2022**

### **We are all Ukrainians**

### **Safe passage for the Ukraine is safe passage for Humanity**

- Wayfarer do go tell, of voices, you have heard from those who fell...that every shred of good that comes with life, was freely given by those now dead. Wayfarer, tell, what you have heard, through tears and from the many voices from the ground. S. Rotas, Voices from the earth, trans JL
- The great deliverance on the 8th May 1945 ended war in Europe but did not end fascism. JL

We are living at a time when the unexpected should be awaited, when uncertainty and mindlessness characterize a significant portion of our current moment in history and when reason is overwhelmingly rejected. Golgotha gets steeper and the Stations of the Cross to salvation, increase exponentially. We call this social dementia! The horses of the apocalypse gallop over the world today as they have always galloped driven by social dementia. To rein them in will take a significant change in the universal mindset necessitating a youth driven antiwar movement worldwide and a return to applied practical classical philosophy. After there gallop over the European continent, 1914-18 they were followed by the collapse of financial systems and the deployment of cruel ideologies.

In the early days of the Soviet Union Nikolai Vavilov a brilliant geneticist, plant geographer and man of public health looked to a future in which world hunger would be eliminated. He travelled the world on what he called a mission for all humanity collecting and storing seeds at the Institute of Plant Industry. Ironically, he died of starvation in the Gulag eating frozen cabbage and moldy flour before being tossed into an unmarked grave. Vavilov was an opponent of Stalin's favored scientist, Lysenko who rejected Mendelian genetics and quack theories to improve crop yields were applied following on from famine and a significant loss of productivity resulting from forced

collectivization in several regions of the Soviet Union. With millions of children growing up in conflict zones in horrific violence and with extremely limited food, the invasion of the Ukraine has and is making things worse.

Geneva 2021 was a fantastic chance to avoid the dangers that threaten humanity. It left no signposts to the future. In its aftermath, the Ukraine is being destroyed, its people brutally killed and displaced, its children deprived of any tomorrow while its knock-on effects take our world to the brink of annihilation. The cost in human life and the destruction of any war is always difficult for the human mind to wrap itself around.

In WWII Kiev was destroyed as part of the Soviet scorched-earth policy and suffered almost a million casualties while close by Babi Yar saw the largest massacre of the Holocaust. Mr. Putin with your invasion of the Ukraine you are pushing the world towards a more aggravated state of social dementia, which saps global empathy and shrouds it with a pervasive madness not entirely of today's choosing. You are responsible for your supporters now behaving like fascists, in the streets and on the battle field as you claim to erase fascism. Your recent Nobelist was attacked while on a train. Drawing on your country's traumatic experience fighting Hitler cannot justify brutal militarism. Its continuation further undermines your political, economic, and moral foundations. As a permanent member of the Security Council, charged with upholding peace, you have flagrantly abandoned the principles of the United Nations Charter. Unfortunately, you are not the only one. You threaten use of nuclear weapons, diminish the status of your own people and squander its tremendous cultural heritage.

As social dementia depletes consciousness, the more the danger to democratic society and to human existence while its growing persistence can precipitate WWIII. It is the shame of the civilized world. Its greatest tragedy were the death camps in WWII, a Nazi policy instrument for mass killing of Jewish, Slav and Roma populations.

World War I was expected to be short-lived, it wasn't! WWI was the war to end all wars. It didn't. It was a war of horror, abominable trench and chemical warfare; killed, maimed, crazed and demented. George Barnes first British minister of pensions rose to speak to men with war casualties (1917). British victims of war trauma, now patients at Britain's largest limb fitting center were assembled on the lawn waiting with crutches, eye patches, head bandages and in wheelchairs, with empty sleeves and trouser legs and in silence. With tears streaming down his cheeks the minister stood for a long while and left without saying a word. At the end it left societies without women. At the beginning organized propaganda emerged as a means of changing British sympathies from German (the humbled power) to French, (the defeated power). It did! It was a demonstration of the plasticity of the brain and massive behavioral modification. As youth was lost it poetry evolved they grow not old as we that are left grow old.

In the absence of or a limitation of education and in a disruptive learning environments the brain can be molded in destructive ways. Human brain en-cephalization has developed in such a way to create both phenomenal ways of thinking, music and poetry age shall not weary them nor the years condemn and neural centers and networks that enhance the craving for power and profit from unsanitary conditions,

ripping up the earth and from armaments. It has given rise to intelligent technology, an overwhelming rejection of reason and heart wrenching sentiment and at the setting of the sun and in the morning we shall remember them. Decision making is shifting to lower cortical levels and empathy is losing out. The brain continues to be molded in destructive ways.

Logic tells us that the longer war goes on the more damage is done and more profit results. Logic tells us that the more guns there are in homes the more deaths on the street will occur, the more miles driven by a fleet of vehicles on a given network of roads the more accidents take place, and the more arms produced for profit the higher the likelihood of conflict. As the world is being driven by positive feedback of authoritarianism, climate change is undermining eco-biological negative feedback systems. Human brain en-cephalization has developed in such a way to create both phenomenal ways of thinking and neural centers and networks that enhance the craving for power and profit. It has given rise to intelligent technology and an overwhelming rejection of reason. Decision making is shifting to lower cortical levels and empathy is losing out. The brain continues to be molded in destructive ways. The result is social dementia and the solution is practical classical philosophy.

Nothing though can compare to the potential devastation posed by nuclear weapons. They are the greatest hazard to life on earth. The risk of absolute disaster is close to one or close to certainty. Should a button be pressed, by accident or intent, time will have run out on humanity; any planning of disaster preparation and the protection of people and society for tomorrow will have no meaning. At the dreaded moment, millions of years of evolution will unravel and human consciousness and culture will disintegrate. Then, there will be no further need for the olive branch.

At the end of WWII a spirit of forgiving but not forgetting surfaced. Now with war in the Ukraine neither forgiving nor forgetting is emergent. But we must remain optimistic.

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**Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and  
to mutual edification. Romans 14:19**