



Humanity First!

Towards an Ethical Civilisation

New History Association

Humanity First!

Towards an Ethical Civilisation



The program of the New History Association 2021

Publisher: Uusi historia ry / New History Association

© Uusi historia ry 2021

ISBN 978-952-7352-10-6

Cover photo: A manifestation against racism in Helsinki, 24 September 2016.

© LEHTIKUVA / JARNO MELA

Cover and layout: Heli Santavuori

Humanity is now facing an era more turbulent than ever before. For the first time in human history, social upheavals and turmoil will occur almost simultaneously in all continents, in all different circumstances and political systems. (2003)

How does humanity know itself? All information relevant to the existence of humans must be re-evaluated.

The time of reassessing all values, the great era of redefining all concepts has begun. (2016)

- Matti Puolakka

Preface

The 2.5-million-year journey of the *Homo* family is coming to an end. It can end in two ways: either humanity will destroy itself or find ways to unite on the basis of its self-knowledge. Then our new history will continue in a global society, that is, in an ethical civilisation.

In this program bulletin, we present the most common perspectives on how humanity has come to this day, as well as some suggestions for the way forward.

That is our view – what is yours?

Helsinki, 13 June 2021

New History Association

The program of the New History Association is a summary of our views, based on the lifework of the Finnish philosopher Matti Puolakka. It is edited by Heli Santavuori with the help of other members of the Editorial Team.

Contents

Part I

In Which Era Are We Living?

- The Crucial Question of Our Time, 11
- The Past Era and the State of Ideological Debates, 12
- The Change of the Era, 13
 - The State of the World Economy
 - Democracy in a Crisis
 - Cultural Globalisation
 - Basic Communities, Social Alienation, and Identity Politics
- The Formation of a Global Society, 18
 - The Basics Elements of Global Society
 - Central Authority
 - States and Political Parties
 - Ethical Civil Society
- New Institutions of Global Society, 22
 - A Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a Permanent Institution
 - Ethical Citizens' University

Part II

What Is to Be Done?

- Principles of Discussion, 29
 - Ideologically Rational Debates
 - The Most Important Human Right: the Right to Get Paid for Speaking the Truth
- Human Path Debating Encyclopedia (DE), 32
 - How to Organise the Debate
 - The Central Theme: The Human Path
 - Guidelines for a Fair Debate
- Citizens' Truth Forum, 35
 - The Themes of the Truth Forum
- A Great Discussion on the World Economy and Economics, 38
 - Proposals for Banking Reform

Part III

Why Do We Need a New History?

The Evolutionary Phases of Human History, 43

Introduction

Our Evolutionary Psychological Roots

Bands of the *Homo* Genus

Hunter-Gatherer Tribes

Stateless Civilisations

State Societies

Global Society

Decentralisation of Power, or Hierarchical Fractionalism, 49

Basic Human Communities

Appendices

About Matti Puolakka's Lifework, 53

What Do We Mean by the Philosophy of History? 58

New History Association, 59

PART I

In Which Era Are We Living?



- The Crucial Question of Our Time
- The Past Era and the State of Ideological Debates
- The Change of the Era
- The Formation of a Global Society
- New Institutions of Global Society

PHOTO: Graffiti on the remains of the Berlin wall. Pxfuel.



In Which Era Are We Living? What Is to Be Done? Why Do We Need a New History?

We are living in the era of the unification of humankind. Humanity will survive or perish together. So far, self-destruction seems more likely than survival.

What is the reason for the self-destructiveness of the human species? This is the crucial question of our time. Finding an answer to this question is the most important ethical and intellectual challenge of our era.

Humankind can survive only by building its internal relationships on the basis of self-knowledge. Only in this way we can live in harmony with nature. Our sole survival strategy is the knowledge of human history and human nature.

This program pamphlet contains a new and original view of the world today: the change of era, the crisis of democracy, and how we can see features of the future global society already in the present.

Humankind ought to come together to study and discuss the basic teachings of our history. To that end, this program provides some practical suggestions.

The program relies on the lifework of the Finnish philosopher Matti Puolakka. It makes use of his text archive, notes and speeches, which he left to the New History Association for safekeeping, editing and publication. A short presentation of Puolakka's lifework and a summary of his view of the entire history, i.e. the 2.5-million-year journey of the *Homo* family, are attached.

The program is available also on the web site of
the New History Association: newhistory.fi

