

Humanity First! Towards an Ethical Civilisation



The program of the New History Association 2021

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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.

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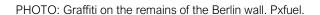
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PART I In Which Era Are We Living?



- 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





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