

Darwin and the Battle for 21st Century Mind

by David Loye

A conference I recently spoke to raised these excellent questions in its mission statement:

What do we actually know about what it takes to make individuals healthy, happy, and fulfilled?

Do social scientists understand why some societies are healthy and others dysfunctional?

Can they tell us why some cultures peacefully coexist while others are continually embroiled in strife?

All you have to do is know something of the vast storehouse of social and systems science in thousands of books by now to know the answer to these questions is YES.

We know the answers. We know what to do. The problem we face has so many aspects we tend to flounder in confusion. To cut to the core of the problem, after considering alternatives, I believe our central challenge generation after generation is to go up against the long entrenched paradigm and mindset my partner Riane Eisler writes of in *The Chalice and the Blade* and I write of in *Darwin's Lost Theory*. The problem is the sick and dysfunctional Domination system and mindset that Eisler writes of in her many books. The problem is the seizure, corruption, and degradation of Darwin's theory of evolution by the mindset of "survival of the fittest" and "selfish genes" that's robbed us of fulfillment and given us war and every other form of misery in return.

Darwin's Lost Theory

After near oblivion for over a century for his crucial contribution, *Darwin's Lost Theory* reveals Darwin's higher order, or fully human, action-oriented completion for his theory of evolution. It tells of how in *The Descent of Man*, Darwin actually wrote only twice of "survival of the fittest"—once to apologize for ever using the term. But

of how, instead, he wrote 95 times about love, 92 times about moral sensitivity, and in contrast to the often overwhelming focus these days on the gene, 200 times of mind and brain.

He specifically states that the drive of natural selection drops off at the level of emergence for our species and “higher agencies” take over. Education. Habit. Religion — yes, along with his hatred and abomination of everything we know today as regressive religion, was his support for progressive religion. And overriding everything else is his insistence that the “moral sense,” our caring for others, *not* survival of the fittest, is the prime driver for human and planetary evolution. In page after page of what he actually wrote, it’s all there and much more in *Darwin’s Lost Theory*.

This leads to the obvious question: Why has “survival of the fittest” been drummed into us and Darwin’s insistence on love, moral sensitivity, and the mind as the prime driver been almost wholly ignored for over 100 years?

Rather than something just for the titillation of academic debate, I’ve found the answer to that question bears on whether we’ll gain the kind of world we *do* want, rather than the kind of world we *don’t* want—that is, whether we are to win or lose the battle for 21st century mind. Increasingly driven by this concern, I’ve gone on beyond *Darwin’s Lost Theory* to write five new books to further expose the negative impact of “survival of the fittest” and “selfish gene” Darwinism, and to further unfold the incredible potential for the positive impact of Darwin’s *completed* theory of love, moral sensitivity, and mind as the prime driver for human evolution.

Bankrolling Evolution: A Program for a President shows the difference this completion for theory and story can make in politics and economics. *Measuring Evolution: A Leadership Guide to the Health and Wealth of Nations* provides the scientific backup, with real world applications across all major impact areas of policies for action. Both of these books are now available through online book sellers worldwide. Both introduce the new way of getting more bang for our buck in trying to move the world ahead, to which I’ll return. But this isn’t enough. The old paradigm is so firmly entrenched that a very big jolt to the science, politics, and economics of the status quo is needed. This I hope to provide by going beyond a single book with a particularly hard-hitting trilogy: *Darwin and the Battle for 21st Century Mind*.

Revolution and Counter Revolution

First of the three new books I’m currently finishing for this trilogy is *Revolution and Counter Revolution*. It covers the story of the development of evolution theory *and* evolutionary activism throughout the 20th century.

It shows how in every area of our lives what Darwin wrote to be the revolution to liberate us from the mindset and consequences of the sick and dysfunctional Domination model and system, of which my partner Riane Eisler writes, was blanked out by the books and teaching power of a Domination system counter-revolution. In short, it provides a new look at the battle of a progressive science of evolutionary activism involving many thousands of us against a science, economics, politics, and religion entrenched in the doctrine of domination, survival of the fittest, and selfishness as the prime drivers for human evolution.

Here's a quote from the Prologue:

What's at stake in the battle for 21st century mind is this . . . On one hand are gathered those of us who, out of 100,000 years of yearning, generation after generation have worked to advance evolution—that is, to build the better world through the revolution of *higher expectation*.

On the other hand are those of us who—blind captives of an antihuman paradigm and a counter-revolution of *lower expectation*—automatically, and tragically, have worked to check us in place or drive us backward.

The chapters ahead are dedicated to everyone who comes to life in these pages, whose work in turn worldwide was—and is—dedicated to getting us back on track in evolution.

The Battle of the Books

In the next book, *The Battle of the Books*, I show how this battle between revolution and counter revolution unfolded throughout the 20th century in terms of the books that served as weapons. My strategy here is to deliberately stoke the flames of controversy that can build the kind of book sales needed to at last get across this all out thrust at what ails us.

Prominently displayed on the cover—which can be seen on my website www.davidloye.com—*The Battle of the Books* pits progressive against regressive heavy weights. On one side you see the faces of my much lamented late old friend, the crusading anthropologist Ashley Montagu, paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould, biologist Richard Lewontin, psychologists Mihaly Csikzentmihalyi and Robert Ornstein, and biophysicist Stuart Kauffman. On the other: the still highly popular icons for sociobiology and evolutionary psychology E.O. Wilson, Robert Trivers, Richard Dawkins, Michael Ghiselin, Daniel Dennett, and Stephen Pinker—all bright men with by and large good intentions, but whose emphasis on selfishness, biological determinism, and the wholesale distortion of what Darwin actually wrote and believed

played hell with 20th century mind.

What I've tried to capture in this book is a portrait of a science and a society going through the crazy time of transition between the deadly grasp of an old paradigm and the liberation of an expansion of mind into new, more hopeful territory.

Here's a quote from the chapter *Mind at the End of Its Tether*:

By now I must ask whether the reader shares with me this at times overwhelming sense of the surreal...For isn't this the fundamental unsettling we have been looking at? That in all these books by all these people, to whom in one way or another Darwin has been meaningful, we have been looking at a sampling of some higher order minds of the 20th century ...

And is not the most unsettling message this? That no matter how brilliant we are, how well educated, how brave, strong, or independent-minded we think we are, the invisible power of an over-riding paradigm that still enslaves so many of us from birth to death can lead us around like a dancing bear with a ring through its nose?

In advance of print publication, key chapters from both *Revolution and Counter Revolution* and *The Battle of the Books* are now available online for free reading or download on my new website: www.davidloye.com. Both books will be published this fall and winter, with availability through online book sellers worldwide.

Up Against the Paradigm

The third book for the trilogy, *Up Against the Paradigm*, is scheduled for mid-2010.

At this point it's still only an outline, scraps of manuscript, and a head full of memories of what for scores of us were, and still are, the most exciting years of our lives.

For my partner Riane and me it began with a secret meeting behind the Iron Curtain in Budapest in 1984. The Cold War was still raging, with the U.S. and Russia piling up enough nuclear overkill on hair trigger alert to wipe out millions if not billions of us. Surreptitiously systems scientist Ervin Laszlo called in a handful of scientists from both sides, Riane and me among them, to secretly meet in Budapest to discuss what will always seem to me one of the grand visions of the 20th century. From a scientific viewpoint an underlying objective for Laszlo was to explore new ways of updating and expanding the theory of evolution to break the hold of the paradigm of "survival of the fittest" and "selfish genes" then driving the U.S. and Russia toward

mutual annihilation.

Out of this tiny but historic gathering behind the Iron Curtain came our formation of the multinational and multidisciplinary General Evolution Research Group. Through our sharing of new ideas and perspectives through conferences and a global network came the entre for us into the inside development of cybernetics, chaos, complexity, quantum and self-organizing theories as a source of new concepts and a new language for evolution.

I wrote these five new books to bring back to life not only the lost Darwin. I wrote them to bring to life the works and inspiration of all the progressive scientists and activists who, without knowing it, in point after point were and still are fighting for the same ends as Darwin was earlier.

In these five books I show how throughout the 20th century hundreds, indeed more accurately thousands of us, have gone up against the Domination mindset to battle for control not only of 20th century, but even more so, and of ever great urgency in our case, of 21st century mind. For what all of these books address is this life-threatening problem for our species and our planet: the challenge of going up against the “survival of the fittest” domination paradigm that gave us practically every disaster of the 20th century—which threatens even worse for the 21st century

The Global Sounding

It’s all very well to lay out what went wrong, and what we can and should do about it. We do this over and over again. But how can we go beyond all the books, committees, conferences, and manifestos to effectively bridge the gap between writing and talking about the problem *and doing something it?*

During my fifty some years as first a psychologist and then a systems scientist, I’ve found that one of the most powerful tools out of the doctor’s satchel of science is the development of useful measures.

On the surface that’s likely to seem vague, too mild, and questionable. But think of the impact of the development of the thermometer on medicine, of the sextant and barometer on sea transportation, of the invention of opinion polling on politics and leadership, the IQ and the SAT on education, the MMPI and other psychological measures on psychotherapy, and moving to the global scope, the now rapid emergence of all the new measures of global health and wellbeing I write of in *Measuring Evolution*. This is only a fraction of the development of measures that have shaped our world mainly for the better, but also, when short sighted, for the worse.

In *Bankrolling Evolution: A Program for a President*, I make the case for using a new measure that out of my background in measurement development I’ve designed

to provide an easy way of evaluating the potential impact on evolution of practically everything we do in politics, economics, and in practically every other area of our lives.

This new scientific tool for evolutionary advance is called the Global Sounding. Growing out of the lost Darwinian perspective, it brings together much of a century of natural, social, and measurement science to make it possible to use the Global Sounding to evaluate everything from policies for child raising to world-impacting policies for governments and businesses.

It does this by providing us for the first time with a way of measuring the degree to which plans and policies are likely to move us ahead, to check us in place, or to drive us backward in evolution. It's literally the world's first "user friendly" measure for doing this. It's explained in detail, with scenarios for many applications, in *Measuring Evolution: A Leadership Guide to the Health and Wealth of Nations*.

The Global Sounding Moral Code

The Global Sounding's potential for advancing the cause of a better world lies in its grounding in fifteen basic indicators of evolution.

It's grounded first in the relevant basic fields of natural science, then moves on up through social and cognitive science to provide a way of evaluating positive or negative impacts of policies and actions for governments, businesses, religions, indeed all activities of life in terms of the following fifteen levels and activities for evolution.

First come positive and negative indicators for cosmic, chemical, and biological evolution; then for the pivotal evolution of the brain; then for psychological, sociological, cultural, political, economic, educational, and technological evolution. Then to answer the increasingly vital need for a recognition of common ground in facing what lies ahead for our species and our planet, the new measure moves on to fill what's been a disastrous gap in science to include moral and spiritual evolution; and finally positive and negative indicators for the evolution of consciousness and the evolution of progressive *action*.

This structure suggested the idea of going still further to see if it might be translated into a scientifically grounded Global Ethic. For in keeping with the primary thrust for Darwin's lost theory and increasingly insistent new work, it's at last being hammered into us that the greatest need we face to make anything better of the 21st century is our need for *moral* evolution. Hence, my experimental development of a Global Sounding Moral Code.

To encourage the exploration of the wide range of possibilities for both of these new measures, free copies with simple "how to" instructions for initial use by

hopefully avid pioneers are now available on my new website: www.davidloye.com.

An Appeal

I hope it can be seen that in tackling this new trilogy and setting out to test the Global Sounding and the Global Sounding Moral Code I've bitten off a huge chunk of something to do at my or any age. I hope it can be seen why I need help to get the case for what I write of out into the world where it could make a difference.

I'm 84. I'm running out of steam. I think I've opened a trail to a better world, but to push on through calls for dozens of bright people half my age — as well as oldsters with plenty of bang still left. I need to rouse the first dozen, then scores more, then in the scenario of dreams thousands to explore what I've uncovered. And to *own* it. And run with it!

I realize that measures are not everybody's cup of tea. Most of them look too complicated and call for tedious instruction or expensive consultant expertise. So most of us keep scrambling from book to book looking for the ultimate answer in more enticing words and flow charts. But I cannot close without one last appeal to those looking for an easy project to which one can contribute as a pioneer in meaningful ways.

I urge readers even slightly impelled in this direction to take a look at the free downloads for both the Global Sounding and the Global Sounding Moral Code on my website www.davidloye.com.

There you will find measures that for the first time provide an easy way to grasp and put into action what's at stake in this last quote from the Epilogue to the first book for the new trilogy, *Revolution and Counter Revolution*:

At issue in the battle for 21st century mind is whether we are to be guided:

- *socially*, by a theory and story of subhuman, inhuman, and inhumane evolution— or a theory and story of a *fully human* evolution.
- *politically*, by a theory and story of adaptation and accommodation—or a theory and story of assertion and aspiration.
- *economically*, by a theory and story of selfishness and greed as the key to wealth for the privileged—with, of course, a noble trickle down to the many. Or a theory and story of caring and sharing to spread the wealth of Earth to the many.

- *scientifically*, by a truncated theory and story oriented to the deep past, applied spuriously to the present — or a fully human, action-animating theory and story oriented to today and the future.
- *morally*, by a theory and story of survival of the fittest and selfishness *uber alles* as the driver for human evolution, or a theory and story of love and moral sensitivity as the driver of human evolution.
- *spiritually*, by a theory and story of original sin and a ferocious God of my people versus your people, a God that must without question be obeyed. Or a theory and story of original blessing and a merciful God of all people. Or no God at all, good will from on high and below, just favoring an abundant life for all.

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