



Religion and Governance

by Harlan Cleveland

During 1998 we will be collaborating with the European Union in exploring the complexity of religious factors in politics, inside nations and among nations.

Noting that religious overtones and undertones are inherently part of the harmony, or dissonance, of national governance, the World Academy agenda set forth in our January 1996 Newsletter projected an inquiry about "how the differing ways the great religious teachings are interpreted will play out in world affairs."

Since then, workshops in Minneapolis and San Francisco (Newsletters, September 1996 and March 1997) have helped clarify the issues, including a guess that major world conflicts are increasingly likely to occur not so much between as within different cultures and religions.

One sentence from the San Francisco workshop summary described why it seems important to push this inquiry along: "[T]he polarization of certainties (what one participant called 'cynical relativism and exclusivist absolutism' and another called 'Macworld versus jihad') creates a growing need, and opens a large slice of the spectrum, for ways of thinking that appeal to those, probably a large majority of the human race, who don't want to flock to either pole yet feel the need to satisfy an abiding hunger, shared with others, for inspiration, comfort, and certitude."

In April 1996, meanwhile, the European Commission's Cellule Prospective (Forward Studies Unit) had assembled in Florence an International Colloquium on "The religious factor and the European and World

geostrategy."

In one of the several thoughtful papers presented in Florence, Marc Luyckx of the EC's Forward Studies Unit proposed that Europe "tell our partners outside Europe, belonging to the other great cultures of the world:

"We, for our part, are products of a secularized industrial society and we realize that one can no longer discuss political issues without also discussing the questions of meaning, spirituality, and cultural identity. We are therefore asking you to join us in a debate concerning the future of our societies. To do so we must set aside our superiority complexes and our 'rational' intolerance. You, on the other hand, must also abandon your dream (which is clerical rather than mystic) of imposing your view of the world."

In October 1997, I wrote to Jerome Vignon, who heads the Forward Studies Unit, suggesting that "The hypothesis of parallel conflicts within organized religions, and the need for reconciliation that averts destructive clashes between certainties, combine to produce a puzzle to which forward thinkers in the European Commission and the World Academy might fruitfully bend their combined energies."

The reaction of the European Commission was prompt and positive. Marc Luyckx now has the responsibility to arrange a follow-up of the Florence conference, this time co-sponsored by the World Academy. The participants will be European policy analysts and experts, together

(continued on pg. 3)

Evolutionary Psychology

by Walter Truett Anderson

In September of 1997, a far-reaching exploration of recent findings in evolutionary psychology was undertaken during a meeting in Portugal, co-sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the World Academy of Art and Science. Organizers of the two-part event, entitled "From Biological Identity to Social Behavior," were Drs. **Horácio Menano** and **João Caraça**.

The first part, held in the resort town of Curia, coincided with the annual meeting of students of the Gulbenkian Graduate Program in Biology and Medicine. The students, and other invited conference participants, heard reports on "Major Transitions in Evolution" by Prof. John Maynard Smith of the University of Sussex; "New Approaches in the Study of Neural Systems" by Matthew Wilson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; "Emergence of the Brain in Vertebrates" by Nicole LeDouarin of the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Embryology, College de France; and "Public Understanding of Science" by Lewis Wolpert of University College, London. In a closing presentation, WAAS President **Harlan Cleveland** spoke on "Leadership in an Information Society."

The second part was an open meeting on "Brain, Language and Communication," held before a large audience in the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon. Speakers in the morning session, introduced by Dr. Caraça, included Alexandre Castro Caldas of the University of Lisbon on "Brain and Cognition Adaptations to Formal Learning;" Gabriel Pereira Lopes of the New Uni-

(continued on pg. 3)



The Expanded Role of "Civil Society", The Wider Dimension of "Politics"

by Harlan Cleveland

In May 1997, a seminar on the concept of "civil society" was convened by Fellow **Andrzej Sicinski** in Jachranka, just outside of Warsaw.

The seminar was organized, jointly with the World Academy, by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. It was co-sponsored by the Stefan Batory Foundation (Warsaw) and the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam). Prof. Sicinski gave it the intriguing title *"Between Cultural Chaos and Uniformity: Perspectives for Integration of Civil Societies."*

His focus from the start was wide: on the "transformation processes ongoing in the post-communist countries, but considered in a cultural context much larger . . . of European integration and changes at the global level."

(What follows is not a summary of the seminar; it is more like a personal reflection on a very rich discussion.)

It was in the nature of communist governance that the "political" authorities -- national governments and the communist parties that provided them with mass support and an ideological sense of direction -- resisted the growth of "grass-roots" civic organizations. They also brought into the government those business and financial operations that seemed essential to the economy, and did their best to co-opt and control scientific academies, universities, and organizations of creative artists where independent thinkers might threaten the power monopolies of the rulers and their "central planners."

When communist governance was quite suddenly swept away, there was thus a large vacuum to be filled. In

each of the "post-communist countries," the vacuum is attracting a wide variety of new enterprise.

In the economic sphere, the initial absence of public regulation -- and a flood of free-market advocacy from Western advisers who didn't explain the role of fair-market regulators in healthy Western economies -- created a free-for-all in the newly freed markets of Central/Eastern Europe.

Some criminal enterprisers, well-grounded in black marketeering, naturally took early advantage (and came to be called "Mafia" even if they had no connection with Sicilian-type conspiracies elsewhere). But so did many entrepreneurs anxious to make profits by providing people with goods and services they needed at prices they could afford to pay. And as governments, local as well as national, adjust to the new environment, economic enterprise begins to be "free" when it is constrained to be "fair."

In the politics of dissidence from communism, "civil society" (as a Romanian commentator put it) had meant "escape from public life. Civil society under communism meant flight from the ubiquitous state into private forms of organization." But once free elections become the order of the day, as Fellow **Alina Mungiu** has written, "The practice of power by those disgusted by it poses some serious issues."

Where "civil society" plays an important role, "politics" is no longer just a struggle for governmental power. It encompasses an enormous range of systems outside government for influencing decisions, making decisions, and carrying them into action. It includes the "office politics" in big organizations both "private" and "public," the "social responsibil-

ity" functions of corporations, the policy-relevant studies and statements of think-tanks and university faculties, and the activities of thousands of non-governmental organizations inside nations and among them.

The expanded role of "civil society" raises questions about international politics that were highlighted in the Jachranka seminar.

In the European Community, the complexity of nongovernment interactions helps push many kinds of "European integration" farther and faster, and implicitly questions the relevance of nation-states in ways no political leader yet dares to explore.

The proliferation of intergovernmental organizations, dealing with everything from weather forecasting and telecommunications to peacekeeping and disarmament, is matched by an extraordinary growth of global non-governmental "nobody-in-charge systems" ranging from currency exchange markets to the Internet.

They, too, make nation-states look ineffectual by comparison. Yet these "nobody-in-charge systems" have not brought into being international public regulation that is remotely comparable to what may need to be regulated.

Both inside political states and beyond them, "civil society" is developing fast. In some ways and in many places, the networking among "private" people and organizations is overmatching what is being done, what even can be done, by "diplomacy" negotiating agreements among governments that are losing their relative influence.

Inside countries and among them, "civil society" will clearly become a major player in the wider politics of the century to come.



Religion and Governance

(cont. from page 1)

with relevant analysts and experts nominated by the World Academy from outside the EU area. We hope to finalize plans when I visit Brussels in January, and schedule the meeting, probably in Brussels, during the Spring of 1998.

Any suggestions from Fellows of the World Academy would be more than welcome, including ideas for how we might conduct comparable consultations in other parts of the world.

Evolutionary Psychology

(cont. from page 1)

versity of Lisbon on "Computational Logic;" **Walter Truett Anderson** of the Meridian Institute, San Francisco, on "The Evolution of the Self;" and Tod Machover of the MIT Media Laboratory on "Brain Opera: an Unusual Look at Musical Creativity." The afternoon session, introduced by Antonio Coutinho of the Gulbenkian Institute of Science, featured further presentations by Profs. Maynard-Smith, Wilson, LeDouarin, and Wolpert, as well as a closing paper by Jean-Pierre Changeaux of the Pasteur Institute on "Artistic Creation and the Neurosciences."

As a special added attraction, visitors to the Gulbenkian Foundation were able to see and interact with a display of the electronic music-making apparatus of the MIT Media Lab's "Brain Opera," which The New York Times described as "a piece of participatory musical theater, a high-tech arcade, a celebration of technological possibility and an attempt to demonstrate a theory of intelligence."

News of Fellows

In 1973 **Don Michael** authored the book *On Learning to Plan--and Planning to Learn*. Recently this acknowledged classic has been republished, edited to be more reader-friendly and including a new Foreword. As the President of the Global Business Network observes in a quote on the back cover of the new edition, "There is still no more profound guide to the difficulties an organization encounters as it takes the reality of uncertainty seriously."

In the new Foreword, the emphasis is on the challenge of establishing learning and planning in the organs of civil society: local grassroots groups, NGO's, national advocate groups, and local governments. In examining these complex and imperative challenges Michael looks carefully at the interplay between information overload and the function of boundaries - boundaries of all sorts - temporal, conceptual, ideological, multicultural, and individual. Boundaries are not disappearing, he contends; rather they are shifting and changing. What we must learn is how to structure boundaries and information to be constructive rather than, as is increasingly the case, confusing and complicating matters so that neither learning nor planning happen.

On Learning to Plan--and Planning to Learn is most easily obtained directly from the publisher by calling 1-800 -767-1501 or by writing to Miles River Press, 400 Madison St., Suite 1309, Alexandria, Va. 22314. The cost is \$29.95 pb and \$44.95 cloth bound.

The New Wealth of Nations: Taxing Cyberspace Between The Lines, Toronto, 1997. ISBN 1-89637-10-5 **Arthur J. Cordell, T. Ran Ide, Luc Soete, Karin Kamp**.

The widening gap between rich and

poor and the problems of governments struggling to provide citizens with basic services have been exacerbated by tax systems that haven't kept up with globalization and the new economy.

Managing the new economy using old tools threatens to lead to an outcome of more losers than winners. With the wealth from new technology flowing to the few, more and more people, in rich and poor countries, worry about jobs and run faster and faster to keep up.

The authors propose a "bit tax" on the trillions of bits of information pulsing daily through digital networks. Such a tax would enable governments to redistribute some of the new wealth. Social programs can be maintained; the hard-won gains of economic development can be enhanced.

A "bit tax" can also aid tax collection in cyberspace. With electronic commerce, governments everywhere are concerned about tax evasion and tax base erosion. A "bit tax" offers a simple, easy to administer way of collecting taxes in a global, networked market economy available from the same source.

The Future of The Self: Inventing the Postmodern Person, **Walter Truett Anderson**, New York: Tarcher/Putnam

This most recent book by political scientist/futurist Walter Truett Anderson explores the Western concept of the self, and the alternative concepts that are being presented by the transition into a postmodern global information society.

The book begins by examining some of the historical and philosophical developments -- such as the work of René Descartes -- that contributed to
(continued on pg. 4)



News of Fellows

(cont. from pg. 3)

the construction of the modern idea of the self as a singular, bounded, integrated and durable entity. Subsequent chapters survey challenges to that idea that are emerging from various fields of contemporary thought and actions -- such as psychology, brain research, medicine, cyberspace, economics, global politics and spirituality -- where fundamental assumptions about personal identity are being reexamined, and new ways of experiencing human life are being invented.

The closing chapter presents four scenarios of possible world futures, involving different concepts of social and political identity.

In June 1997 **Harlan Cleveland** helped launch the U.N. University's International Leadership Academy in Amman, Jordan. An edited version of his six lectures for that program has since been published, jointly by the World Academy and UNU/ILA, as a booklet entitled *Leadership and the Information Revolution*. A copy of this booklet has been mailed to all Fellows, Associate Fellows, and Junior Fellows of the World Academy.

Any Fellow who has not received a copy can repair the omission by getting in touch with Associate Fellow **Keith Vargo**, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA, (612)624-5592, fax (612)625-3513, e-mail KVargo@hhh.umn.edu. Extra copies of the Leadership booklet are also available from the same source.

Vancouver Gathering Set for November 4 - 7, 1998

The first-ever WAAS Pacific Basin assembly -- bringing together Fellows from Asia and North and South America -- will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Nov. 4 - 7, 1998.

Under the general theme of "The Global Century," participants will continue the exploration of globalizing forces that has been a major WAAS activity in recent years, and consider the Academy's role as a member of an emerging global civil society.

Chairman of the assembly will be Prof. **Ivan Head** of the University of British Columbia. Drs. Knute and **Paz Buttedahl** of Buttedahl R&D Associates in Vancouver are co-organizers. Meeting facilities are being reserved at the Harbour Centre of Simon Fraser University, and participants will be housed at a new hotel just across the street from the Centre.

News of Junior Fellows

Dr. Kathryn A. (Kate) Foster, Assistant Professor of Planning at the University at Buffalo (New York) and WAAS Junior Fellow, has recently published her first book, *The Political Economy of Special-Purpose Government* (Georgetown University Press, 1997).

The book is the first comprehensive examination of the causes and consequences of special-purpose governments in the United States. Specialized governments have proliferated in recent decades as municipalities increasingly turn functions over to autonomous agencies as varied as parks districts and transit authorities. Professor Foster examines why this trend toward specialized governance is occurring and how it makes a difference.

Her study is based on quantitative analysis of government structure and finance of special-purpose governments in more than 300 metropolitan areas. The analysis challenges prevailing perspectives with findings that metropolitan areas that rely on special districts spend more for these services than metropolitan areas that rely on multi-purpose governments, and that reliance on specialized service delivery jeopardizes the ability of social welfare functions to capture scarce public resources.

Several Junior Fellows were active during the past year participating in, and helping to organize, events sponsored or co-sponsored by the World Academy. **Darius Gawin** assisted Fellow **Andrzej Sicinski** in coordinating a discussion (May 22-25, Jachranka, Poland) about the prospects for the integration of civil societies in Central and Eastern Europe. **Andrew Lam** joined in a discussion in San Francisco (February 17, 1997) on Religion and Governance. **Philomene Verlaan** has been working in Apia, Samoa, as the Chief Technical Adviser for the coordination of a Strategic Action Programme for International Waters of the Pacific Islands Region. The September issue of the journal "Marine Policy" carries an article by Philomene Verlaan which discusses the consequences of scientific developments which have the effect of clarifying treaty provisions originally, and often intentionally, left unclear by states-parties of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. **Calin Gurau** was admitted into the M.Phil./Ph.D. project at Southampton Institute, England, where he will do coursework and research for the next three years.

Junior Fellows should submit news of their activities to **Keith Vargo** by e-mail at: kvargo@hhh.umn.edu



New Fellows

New Fellows elected since the March 1997 Newsletter:

Prof. Mary Catherine Bateson
Clarence J. Robinson Professor
in Anthropology and English,
George Mason University, Fairfax,
Virginia, USA

Dr. Clement Bezold
Political Scientist, Futurist, President of
the Institute for Alternative Futures,
Alexandria, Virginia, USA

Prof. John S. Bis
Professor and Associate Dean,
School of Architecture and Planning,
Buffalo, New York, USA

Prof. Christopher G. A. Bryant
Director, Institute for Social Research,
University of Salford, Salford, England

Prof. Denise Dresser
Professor of Political Science, Instituto
Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico,
Mexico

Prof. M. H. Hashmi
Environmentalist, consultant to UNEP,
Lahore, Pakistan

Dr. Crawford S. Holling
Zoologist, Department of Zoology,
University of Florida, Florida, USA

Dr. Pierre Marc Johnson
Lawyer and Physician,
Former Premier of Quebec,
Professor of Law, McGill University,
Montreal, Canada

Prof. Seung-Kuk Kim
Department of Sociology,
Pusan National University,
Pusan, Korea

Dr. Morley Lipsett
Physicist, Managing Director
Institute for Business and Innovation
Bowen Island, British Columbia, Canada

Prof. Ernő Marosi
Art Historian,
Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
Budapest, Hungary

Prof. James L. McGaugh
Director, Center for Neurobiology of
Learning and Memory, Research Professor,
Psychobiology and Pharmacology,
University of California, Irvine, Calif. USA

Dr. Harold Mooney
Paul S. Achilles Professor of
Environmental Biology,
Stanford University, California, USA

Prof. Jiří Musil
Sociologist and Philosopher
Faculty of Sciences, Charles University,
Prague, Czech Republic

Ruben F. W. Nelson
President, Square One Management,
Lac Des Arcs, Alberta, Canada

Dr. Maureen O'Hara
Psychologist,
Executive Vice-President and Dean,
Saybrook Graduate School,
San Francisco, California, USA

Dr. John R. O'Neil
President, Center for Leadership Renewal
San Francisco, California, USA

Dr. F. David Peat
Independent researcher, writer, consultant
Grosseto, Italy

Senator Santanina Rasul
Senate of the Republic of the Philippines,
Pasay City, Philippines

Dr. James N. Rosenau
University Professor International Affairs,
George Washington University,
Washington, DC, USA

Prof. F. Sherwood Rowland
Professor of Chemistry,
Foreign Secretary National Academy of
Sciences, University of California,
Irvine, California, USA

Dr. Roseann Runte
Writer, poet, teacher.
President of Victoria University,
Toronto, Canada

Dr. Vera T. Sós
Mathematician,
Fellow, Hungarian Academy of Sciences,
Budapest, Hungary



Servant of Peace

by Ivo Slaus

The name **Abdus Salam** means "servant of peace." On November 21, 1996, the distinguished scientist who bore that appropriate name passed away in Oxford. He left behind many medals and awards. He was a Nobel Laureate in physics, a fellow of the World Academy and of many national academies. His lasting legacy is a web of key scientific links between developing and industrial countries.

Born in Pakistan in 1926, Abdus Salam was marked for intellectual achievement very early in life. In Pakistan he broke all previous university records, then studied in England, then returned to teach in Pakistan -- and faced the dilemma so many scientists face in developing countries: whether to escape to the West to do great research, or stay "home" with uncertain prospects.

The way Abdus Salam squared this circle in his own life helped countless others to maintain links both with world-class science and with "home." He became, as Prof. John Ziman once said of him, "a man who connects."

In physics he connected two forces: electromagnetic forces and the weak forces -- a major achievement toward the grand unification of all forces in nature. For this he was awarded the Nobel Prize, shared in 1979 with Steven Weinberg and Sheldon Glashow. The experimental work of Carlo Rubbia and collaborators in the early 1980s provided a final proof of Salam's theory. Salam continued to pursue a grand unified theory, working on supersymmetric field theory and showing that in order to incorporate all known fundamental forces in a higher dimensional version of the general theory of relativity, one would need 10 dimensions.

He also connected the world's South and North, trying hard to use science as a force to reduce the widening rich-poor gap, a key to "development." In 1964 he founded the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, which enabled many thousands of scientists to remain on the scientific frontier without breaking ties with their home countries. Its success led him to form the Third World Academy of Sciences in 1983, and thereafter the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations, his vision of 20 international centers of excellence as the drivewheel of science-led development.

I first came to know him in the 1950s, visited him many times in Trieste, and welcomed him several times to Zagreb, where he was a member of the Croatian Academy. All of us who knew him are missing his enthusiasm, his brilliant mind, his penetrating thoughts, his love of humankind and especially his determination to keep doing what it took to make that love operational. He was indeed a "servant of peace."

Deceased Fellows

Reported deaths since the March 1997 Newsletter:

Dr. Karl Carstens

Professor Kazimierz Dziewonski

Professor Felipe Herrera

Professor Marian Mushkat

Dr. Heinz Paul Seeliger

Sir Stephen Spender