

BIOPOLITICS – METHODS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AN ECUMENICAL MESSAGE

Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, 1985

Human history can be traced back to a few thousand years only. During this period, several political models have been developed. Tyranny and democracy are among the older ones; and now new terms like socialism, communism, capitalism, are added as alternative models of human society. The history of life, however, extends into unlimited varieties and the most viable species have survived through the powerful selection of evolution. It is for this reason that “bios” can become the model for attaining the desired dimensions and expanding strategies for future society.

The survival of man will depend on increased respect for life. In order to promote the correct perspectives and constructive future trends, more information about “bios” will be required. The appreciation of life through global education may induce nations into dialogue and co-operation.

Rapid technological advances have induced a decline in values and a feeling of uncertainty. Most people fear the winds of catastrophe in this shrinking world, and foresee dim prospects for the future. This wave of pessimism and fearful approach to life needs to be disrupted. Mankind requests its rescue and feels the need to anchor on to new ideologies.

Spiralling progress may be channelled to provide new orientation and a vivid dream for the future. A request will be extended to acknowledged world leaders to participate in Biopolitics and to re-examine the positive aspects of technological contributions so as to shift the centre of gravity from fear to hope.

“Bios” provides a field of credibility for international co-operation and allows for the penetration of technological progress into all aspects of future society. New values may flourish and lead to perspectives of evolution in every aspect of human endeavour. The ramifications of “bios” may enter into reorganisation of social structure and restoration of erosion by establishing a link between technological progress and ethical values.

Biopolitics proposes international co-operation for better understanding for “bios.” Parallel to national problems, nations will have an international task. Advanced nations may undertake a world educational campaign through communication satellites to increase public awareness on issues such as health and the environment. A leadership arena will be required with an increased feeling of responsibility. Leaders in respective fields may meet to re-examine values.

Greece may serve as an ideal international centre for the re-examination of technological contributions on a multinational basis. The willingness to cooperate and the respect for life may act as a catalyst for discussing the implementation of technology. The cultural contribution, as well as the geographic location and climate, provide the ideal meeting place for the exchange of views. For example, Patmos, the island of St. John, the Apostle, may serve as the meeting place for theologians to reassess the effect of technology on religion and propose up-dated values of “bios”; Kos, the island of Hippocrates, may attract medical specialists; Ikaria, the island of Icarus, aeronautical engineers; Epidavros, the site of the

Ancient Theatre, theatrical studies; Lesbos, the mathematics; Olympia, the site of Olympic Games, athletics; and Knossos, near Minoan site, architecture. Meeting places will also be arranged for fields, such as politics, legislation, genetic engineering, economics, archaeology, etc. Specialists will meet to assess progress, and convey a message of hope by indicating the contribution of technology to “bios.” Thus, Greece may provide a forum for the recommendation of future trends in respective fields.

This ecumenical message will open the road and incorporate the evolution of values so that man will feel technology is harnessed for his well-being and respect for creation. The role of man in the future may be placed on a perspective of optimism.

Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, PhD in Biology, studied at Barnard College, Columbia University (BA), New York University (MS), University of California Berkeley, University of Paris and University of Athens (PhD). She is a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the National Education Association, the Greek Philosophical Society, the Greek Literary Society and Fellow of the International Biographical Association and International Academy of Poets. She is listed in World Who's Who of Women and the International Biographical Dictionary. She has taught Biology and Genetics at the University of Maryland and the Academy of the American Community Schools. She is a recipient of the United Hospitals Volunteer Award, the Leadership Award by the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership, the plaque for distinguished service to "the Teaching Profession" International Biographical Roll of Honour, USA As vice-president of the International Science Foundation she participated in the organisation of 21 international conferences and the publication of the volumes of proceedings. She is the editor of a book on Molecular Biology published by Gordon and Breach. She has published works on the molecular function of the brain and the effects of hormones on serotonin binding. Her literary books, both in English and in Greek, have received international appraisal and have been translated in Iranian and French.