

Creating the Future
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Chapter 7: Conclusion

7. Conclusion

We have come a long way from Australopithecus Afarensis, Archaic Sapiens, and Cro-Magnon. By geological and biological standards our species has developed at an astonishing rate. Cultural evolution has now come to the fore, and a new generation Homo Sapiens is necessary and has begun to emerge. What that generation will become is up to us. The future is affected by the past but is not determined by it. We humans can and must shape its direction. We have gained evolutionary consciousness, and with it comes the responsibility of conscious evolution.

We stand at a threshold, the end of one evolutionary era and the beginning of another. It is a time when small things can have profound impact. What we do now will have dramatic consequences for future generations. It is an ethical imperative that we act with those generations clearly in mind.

To cross the threshold we must accept the responsibility to guide evolution. This requires several things of us: global systems thinking and an understanding of dynamic complexity; the will to design and the capacity to continually let go of the past and embrace the new; and widely agreed upon ethical norms to guide our actions.

Ours is a time of great confusion and great possibility. The future of humanity is in our hands.