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Is there an elevation of the world's consciousness?

Cultural creatives in USA and In EU.

In September 1997, the European Commission at the request of the "Forward Studies Unit" used a questionnaire invented by the Californian sociologist Paul H. Ray¹ to do a preliminary enquiry on positive value shifts among the citizens of the Union.

The Forward Studies Unit was indeed intrigued by Ray's discovery of a third political group of citizens in USA, that could not be classified as republicans or democrats, and which he was calling the "cultural creatives" in the sense that those 24% of US citizens were indeed creating a new culture, a new paradigm.

The outcome of the European preliminary inquiry² is interesting and challenging. It concludes by saying that *"It is very probable that a similar group of US "cultural creatives" could be identified in Europe.... It seems very possible that an important minority of Europeans, for example between 10 to 20%, present very similar characteristics to those of the American "cultural creatives."*

Who are those citizens? What are their interests? The first very important element is that 66% of this group is composed of women. Twice as many as the men. They watch less TV, they read 80% of the books, prefer homeopathy and other alternative medicines. They are seriously concerned about ecology, climate change and the challenge of sustainable development. They are also very interested in alternative economic thinking, sustainable economics, knowledge economics, and some are involved in the "knowledge society". They have frequently fled away from "workoholism" and decided to take time for their families and neighbourhoods. Sometimes if one in the couple is not going in the same direction, the couple could break or be reinvented completely. They are also rediscovering their bodies, their souls, their relation to nature and the cosmos. In brief they are not at all corresponding to the stereotype of the US citizens reproduced by the media. They are elsewhere, and although they are numerous they are still quite invisible.

Why are they appearing today? It seems that the root cause is the deep crisis of the "modern-patriarchal" system of values. This cocktail of values has helped Humanity to expand and to conquer. Our science and technology for example has taken us to the moon. It does not at all appear to be able to help Humanity to invent a civilization of respect and care for nature, and for the environment. Thus the ruling values are more and more perceived as a danger for our collective survival. Indeed pollution, depletion of resources and the poverty gap are increasing every day. We still try to believe that economic growth and technology will be able to solve all problems. But it is increasingly difficult to believe.

¹ Paul H. RAY & Sherry Ruth ANDERSON : *"The cultural creatives: how 50 million people are changing the world"* Harmony book New York 2001.

² Jean-François TCHERNIA : *« Les styles de valeurs des européens »* octobre 1997. Research International Paris.

In February 2003, we saw millions of citizens taking to the streets in the USA, Europe, and also China, Asia, India, South America, Australia, New Zealand, etc. With the exceptional possibilities of Internet, manifestations have been seen in many capitals and cities of the world. It was like the first appearance of a global citizens' concern for our planet. The opposition to the world as linked more than before to a deeper opposition to the set of values proposed by Bush and other war-like politicians, on both sides of the Atlantic. Those million of citizens could be the first public appearance of the "cultural creatives" worldwide.

A worldwide phenomenon: rise of consciousness?

This rise of a new silent minority coming up is thus not restricted to the so called developed world. It is a worldwide phenomenon. This is the very important new evidence which the February 15 demonstrations worldwide have put forward.

Toynbee the historian explains that in times of civilizational and cultural shifts, it is always a small minority of individuals who are preparing the future. And they are usually strongly motivated spiritually.

Conclusion:

I am deeply convinced that we are assisting at this rise of collective consciousness. And the most important proof for this rise, are probably the deep clouds of shadow, through which Humanity is going through for the moment.

The clearer the light the darker the shadow. This is the only way to real spiritual transformation.

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