

Positive Signs of an Emerging New Era

[Reframing is shown as footnotes]

Positive Signs of the Birth of a New Era in 2013



Posted December 13, 2013, By Stephen Dinan

While it is true that much of the world seemed to go about business as usual in 2013, we also saw remarkable signs of a tectonic shift now underway in our world, with a growing movement towards a **unified global culture**.¹ I trust that the literally hundreds of prophecies related to 2012 as a turning point in the birth of a **new era of global peace**² are pointing towards something profound - a **shift in the very foundation of human consciousness**³ on planet earth.

Like all tectonic shifts, though, the changes are slow at first and only register as the kind of rapid evolution that we associate with times like the Renaissance in the rearview mirror of history. Whether we're looking at the unprecedented rise of women through organizations like [One Billion Rising](#), the epochal shift in public opinion and legal status for gay marriage, the sea change in the Catholic church with Pope Francis, the averting of a war with Syria at a late stage, or a truly unprecedented year for African-American themed films, there are remarkable signs of the emergence of a positive new culture.

On the deepest level, I see 2013 as the first year of what we will eventually call the "global era" of human history, when we truly **begin to unify consciously as one global family**.⁴

Part of this process of creating oneness means *addressing where there have been ruptures*.

First and foremost, for a **unified global era** to emerge, we need to **rebalance between masculine and feminine**⁵ on the planet. We are transitioning from patriarchy to masculine-feminine balance and that means women are surging into power like never before.

¹ There does indeed appear to be a growing number of folks Paul Hawken considers the "Blessed Unrest" around the world.

But there of course is also a growing opposition to any change in the status quo. One might trace this resistance back to the over emphasis of human greed – hoarding because the current social system condones if not encourages such behavior. In other words, the U.S. political/economic/legal/educational/ethical system has been contorted to favor the rich and perpetrate their incessant addictions to hoarding (wealth, power, resources, fame, accolades, etc.) And we know this to be a mental illness, but we allow the sick to drive the bus.

Nor so sure I see the desire for a unified global culture that Dinan sees. Nor do I believe it is something to strive for. Adaptability through diversity is a key to long term evolution on this planet – in this dynamic Universe – because the niches are ever changing.

I'd rather see an emphasis on learning how to respect our current diversity – in fact strengthen it. We observe that the distinct (diverse) organs in the human life form create a highly complex (and adaptable) living system. Using the lessons learned by diverse biota, we might be well advised to pursue ways this cultural diversity can be fashioned into a new integrated system. Not a homogenized system, but an emergence of something more from these diverse – equally valued – equally essential cultures. There are many humans who have a deep seated fear of any hint of a "world order." They understand it to be subjugation to a higher (worldly) authority which they refuse to accept at the outset. They equate a new "world order" to communism or socialism or some other demonic dreadful freedom destroying construct.

It's not clear that the well intentioned Stephan Dinans express a goal to include all life forms in this unified global culture. Until we humans can get our heads, minds, and hearts into the idea that all life on planet earth is **interdependent**, then I'm afraid the human experiment in evolving consciousness is a lost cause.

² Global Peace is essential for a sustainable planet. A living organism cannot be at war with itself. Auto immune diseases are at best debilitating, at worst lethal.

³ Totally concur that a "shift" in human consciousness is a cornerstone for building a sustainable future.

⁴ The interdependent network of Life - how the energy of the Sun is transformed into ever evolving consciousness

One Billion Rising called forth February 14th as a global day for dance in opposition to violence against women, which was a beautiful new kind of revolution. Women senators lead the way in ending the US government shutdown, ushering a new recognition of the power of the feminine way to transcend stalemates. We saw a parallel surge in provocative women entertainers stretching the boundaries of permissible female behavior. I see this as all part of women reclaiming their full power and standing as co-architects of this new era in partnership with men (who also are reintegrating their feminine sides).

This process of masculine-feminine balancing is evident in the historically unprecedented surge in acceptance of gay marriage and gay rights in general, not only in the United States but spreading more globally. In a masculine-dominant culture, gays are more threatening to strict gender identities and thus the rise of acceptance of gays goes hand in hand with the fuller embrace of masculine and feminine qualities in EITHER body, including in who and how we choose to express love.

We also witnessed a reclamation of what I would call the authentic **Christ consciousness**⁶, which is more balanced, rooted in sacred love, less judgmental, and not caught up in doctrinal differences.

Pope Francis offered us a beautiful example of how to be a humble evolutionary within a religious structure. On a far smaller scale, Shift showcased a number of pioneers in who are reclaiming a more global, masculine-feminine balanced understanding of what Christ consciousness really is. This is part of a surge in **Interspirituality and global interreligious dialogue that is erasing some of the polarization between religions.**⁷

Part of creating a unified global culture means **social healing** of some of the biggest wounds.

This year was a landmark in indigenous rights movements such as [Idle No More](#) in Canada (which began in late 2012) and it also was probably the most remarkable year for African-American films. Movies like *42* (focused on Jackie Robinson), *The Butler*, and *12 Years a Slave* offered powerful ways to continue the process of healing racism and slavery.

Internationally, **diplomacy and peace movements**⁸ took a stronger role in defusing the situation in Syria, which was perilously close to a larger war, and recently in Iran, with a tentative agreement on nuclear enrichment after decades of standoffs. In both cases, the **movement towards cooperative solutions** triumphed over wars and threats.

Edward Snowden also became a polarizing figure for his disclosure of government spying. Without passing judgment on his acts, I see this as part of an inevitable acceleration of **bringing more transparency**⁹ to old power structures, something I think will keep increasing as part of the “shedding” of the old patterns of power.

Technologically, it is also significant that 2013 is when which **commercial space efforts**¹⁰ began to accelerate in earnest, with Virgin Galactic coming close to the first paid commercial flights and Space X advancing their work as

⁵ This is another way of saying a human being, a person, is intended to have the opportunity to reach their full potential as a living system – restricting their thoughts and actions to those of a particular subculture (be it religious, political, economic, or any other human-created culture – including gender culturalization – is a form of structural violence and to be avoided. Years ago someone coined the term androgynous as the ideal for a human – being able to empathize with, to respect, to participate in both masculine and feminine cultural roles

⁶ Pope Francis is indeed putting Christ back into Christian as someone posted on their Facebook page.

⁷ Again, it is not clear how to define this “surge” – the movement is at least as old as the the 1500s and the roots of religious initiative to find the oneness in world religions – the unity, the universality of these human created systems.

⁸ Viable alternative to military force must be developed – actually they have been developed – they just haven’t been implemented. And we definitely need a U.S. Department of Peace.

⁹ “**bringing more transparency**” is another way of saying “eliminating secrecy” and eliminating the hoarding of power through access to information. How often have we heard “government officials” in effect say, “If you knew what I do, you would understand – but I can’t tell you because you do not have the proper clearance – and I have no intention of giving you access to the information you need to check up on what I’m doing – that way I don’t have to take public responsibility for my decisions and be held accountable. Trust me (and don’t worry about verification).”

¹⁰ The lack of a global space exploration plan is disconcerting – what is driving these “commercial” endeavors is of course the hope of making a buck – of making a profit – of the rich getting richer. There does not seem to be any thought being given to the sustainability of

well. It's interesting that *Gravity* was also one of the top films, beautifully illustrating the perils of such a shift. As we unify our world, it is natural that we begin to turn our attention more to traveling into space more regularly as the next frontier. This is definitely part of the shift to a global era.

There were, undoubtedly, many sad, horrifying, and depressing events as well, which on the surface may seem like we're regressing. I am not a Pollyanna in seeing 2013 as an overwhelmingly positive year on the whole. While there is truth in the tragedies, I do see great evidence that, to use King's words, **"the arc of the universe bends towards justice" and, I believe, a unified planet.**¹¹

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http://theshiftnetwork.com/blog/2013-12-13/positive-signs-birth-new-era-2013?inf_contact_key=4ecdd2e68e786d432edee950fd806aa09a3130ffc4544e719eb9c014985ca439

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this effort, to whether this is contributing to evolving consciousness. We can no longer "afford" from numerous perspective – to do whatever the hell we want without being mindful of the consequences of our human behavior – we are too many and too destructive to blunder around this planet trampling whatever gets underfoot. It is not just our carbon footprint, it is our total footprint that must be reduced. I am so un-enamored with the billionaire justifying their accumulation of wealth by becoming a dictatorial philanthropist and then giving away the annual interest they "earn" on that principle to a cause(s) of **their** unilateral liking. Sorry, but buying into the erroneous myth that Bill and Melinda Gate are so great because they donate (to avoid taxes) large sums of what was once our money to their favorite causes is just another dog that don't hunt. Why should Gates get to decide what form of education is best? what educational topics are best? what medical research is best? what technology is best? How did the billionaires accumulate /hoard such a large amount of wealth – pure and simple – the system allows it – the unconstrained free market of course encourages and the political system we created in this country NOW allows it because thanks to Reagan, and successors, the progressive tax structure has been eliminated – even turned on its head. GE pays zero; Romney pays less than 15%, and the middle class pays at least 28% to support the social order (government). And the rich believe they should pay less.

¹¹ The Universe Story seems to describe an ongoing process of "emergence" - the creation of something more from nothing but (what already exists) as a result of new relationships formed by a gentler, cooler environment and a source of energy. What the Universe seems to be interested in is sustainable emergence – the evolution of consciousness to the point where Life can truly accommodate the inevitable changes – including the cyclical birth/death process.

The arc of the Universe bends toward sustainable complexity – meaning complexity that has an evolving consciousness and ever increasing adaptability. Adaptability to an ever changing Universe can be attained in several ways: being impervious like an atom or a rock; or being clever as a fox. Humans walk the path of the fox.

As a result we see locally on our planet the emergence / evolution of more and more complex forms of life – with the human being among that group. Animals and even plants seem to come together and form something new we can only describe as a herd, flock, hive, swarm, school, etc. – but the emergence of that collective is the creation of something more – something we humans do not yet fully comprehend by can observe as a unified behavior – as a flock of birds of school of fish seem to move as one. In any case, the human species is so capable and so complex that's it is overwhelmed by its freedom for individual and seemingly independent behavior. – so much so that from human collectives emerges a construct we call society/culture/social structure - something humans, as a collective, create to help provide boundaries on their enormous range of behavior – boundaries that are intended to sort out good (life serving) behavior from bad (life destroying) behavior. We love our freedom, but we also know intuitively and intellectually that limits and boundaries on behavior are necessary in a civil society. – what may seem as an infringement on a single individual who may feel like killing someone that such behavior is not acceptable in a civil society, is not consistent with the further or long term evolution of the human species and hence such behavior is to be avoided. Humans create rules, laws, traditions, ethics, morals, restrictions, regulations, superstitions, religions, legal systems, political systems, economic systems, etc. - all intended to turn utter anarchy into some form of social order while retaining as much individual freedom as possible. So we humans continue to follow the arc of the Universe and continue to come together in new relationships and evolve "better unions", "more civilized societies" - even the concept of "development" seems to get involved and mistakenly becomes equated to "civilized" - in truth they are quite different – a profit seeking hoarder who is addicted to acquiring more money manipulates the civil system to his ends, "purchases" a piece of the planet and calls it "mine" – we refer to the general behavior as "mine-ing." This mentally ill person then proceeds to further "develop" this "mine- ed" piece of the planet in a way that maximizes their profit. With no human created rules/regulations to stand in the way, this person would blow off the top of a mountain, destroying everything around it, to "mine" a relatively thin seam of coal so that other "mine-ers" can "buy" that coal – that one-time-only resource and then burn it to meet their energy needs to operate their tools.