

A Grand Revolution

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A decade has passed since the academic sectors started exploring Convergence in mid-2000s (See for example, the MIT White Paper by Phillip Sharp et al. 2011. "The Third Revolution: The Convergence of the Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Engineering"; Sharp et al have been focusing on life science revolutions *). Now, more and more scholars in the world are recognizing that a new round of scientific and technological revolution is ongoing (See "New Scientific Revolution of Convergence - Three Breakthrough Areas" by Chun Yang. 2015. Energinity.com. Yang has been more focusing on the current new scientific revolution in general). Here I report that not only scientific sectors, but also leaders from other disciplines such as economics, art and culture, politics, religion, etc., all are now joining this great course. It deserves to be called a Grand Revolution. Let me give some details.

1. This year, Davos 2016, the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting is dedicated to the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" (Industry 4.0). It attracted attendees from a wide variety of sectors, making it among the most visible events this year in this field.

2. If you think this grand revolution is a liberal agenda, you may well be wrong. The grand revolution is in fact more of a conservative agenda at its current stage. Since last year, Pope Francis from Vatican, has been calling for "the urgent need for us to move forward in a bold cultural revolution" in his Encyclical (released on May 24, 2015). Thus, the religious sector has not been behind at all. A more careful reading would find out that the Pope is elaborating "global environmental deterioration" in both natural and societal perspectives. The term "bold cultural revolution" certainly means fundamental changes of our current cultural and societal environment (humanity). Also the Pope is encouraging the religion and science interactions - "with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both".

3. The United States of America is in its year of change - Election 2016. Whether a candidate called it a political revolution (Bernie Sanders), a political movement (Donald Trump), or a woman president (Hillary Clinton), by the end the most revolutionary candidate is chosen by American people. President-elect Donald Trump, an outsider of Washington DC and US government, successfully shook the America's political establishment. Congratulations to all of us! This is a vital victory for the preparation of a fundamental change of American and world politics. There are, however, much more challenge and much longer way to go in building up a new system (or at least a better one). This is, of course, a great opportunity. The Reagan revolution has ended cold war, but cold war thinking remains to be revolutionarily changed.

4. China also has taken this great opportunity of grand revolution. Although it is more pragmatically in its recent decades, ideologically, China seems also opening a door - at least in methodology and also in practice in some content. For instance, President XI Jinping is calling -

"We should approach traditional native cultures and cultures of all countries in a scientific manner, and arm ourselves with all outstanding cultural achievements humanity has created". (See "Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the International Conference in Commemoration of Confucius' Birth" by Xi Jinping. Sept 24, 2014).

5. Since President Xi encourages approaching all cultures "in a scientific manner", which would include the great topic of science and religion, and Pope Francis also calling for "a bold cultural revolution" as well as for "an intense dialogue" between science and religion, an ideologically unified world may eventually be possible as long as we have continued our successful steps. (See the work of energinity - it can be an example for a grand unification between cultures and science, or science and religion). At global faith level, we can predict and design a three step direction: coexistence → common truth → unification. This is the best way of coexistence of different faiths of good cultural traditions.

6. A revolutionary world is calling for great world leaders from various sectors. Indeed, great leaders are emerging with their great works. Works at various levels can be appreciated, from an individual's master piece, to a nation's role model, and to an international organization's initiative and development.

7. Multinational effort becomes indispensable. For example, the contemporary China revolution of Deng's reform and opening up which has been continued by several generations of leaderships and which is welcome by the world, has made China, together with many other countries, among major leaderships in this grand revolution. In particular, America and China, these two super economic world powers must play a leading role in new world directions, although how to lead together may remain a great challenge and opportunity.

8. A grand revolution is a grand differentiation. A grand differentiation leads to a grand unification. Therefore, a new world model will eventually become acceptable to all.

* "The life sciences are in the midst of a revolution." See 2016 book, "Convergence: the future of health". Co-chaired by Phillip Sharp, Susan Hockfield, and Tyler Jacks. June 2016.