

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

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Title:

Future World and Goals of Education

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Summary/ Abstract: After studying Attali (2009) and Harari's books on future world (2016), I propose some basic goals of 21st century education.

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Future World and Goals of Education

(A) Future World Scenarios

Take a look at two interesting books:

(1) Jacques Attali (2009)

A Brave and Controversial Look at the Twenty-First Century

Book summary:

A French economist and historian, Attali saw economic history in three orders – religious (natural) military (imperial) and economic (merchant). She saw the successive flourishing of capitalism through technological innovation in nine core literatures from 1200 – 1980.

The author identifies each of the cores by the name of a port city – Bruges, Venice, Antwerp, Genoa, Amsterdam, London, Boston, New York, Los Angeles – or by the defining technological innovation of the time – the stern rudder, caravel, printing, accounting practices, reed instrument, steam engine, internal-combustion engine, electric motor, microprocessor. (from book summary, Kirkus reviews) Her crystal ball shows the fall of US empire in 2035 in a new era of hypercapitalism, hyper conflict and hyperdemocracy (world government).

(2) Yuval Noah Harari (2017)

Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow

Book summary:

Y.H. Harari (1976 -) teaches history in Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A flamboyant writer following the footsteps of Jared Diamond, Harari wrote: *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (2014), *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (2016), and *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (2018).

In his *Homo Deus*, he saw humans acquiring god-like outlook in the future with:

1. Humans will become Gods. Homo Sapiens (wise humans) is evolving into Homo

Deus (god humans) with god-like mastery over our environment and the ability to create (and destroy) life.

2. **Wellness and Wellbeing will Dominate.**
3. **The Rise of the “Useless Class”.**
4. **The Death of Humanism.** The dominant religion of the early 21th Century – humanism (celebrating human intelligence, human experience (sensations, emotions and thoughts) and human values) – will be eroded by advances in science and technology.
5. **The Rise of Techno-Humanism.**
6. **AI Sapience Beats Human Sentience.**
7. **I’m in Love with your Algorithms**
8. **Dataism becomes the New Religion.**
9. **The Internet of All Things (AKA The Matrix).**
10. **The End of Humanity.**

(B) Goals of 21st Century Education

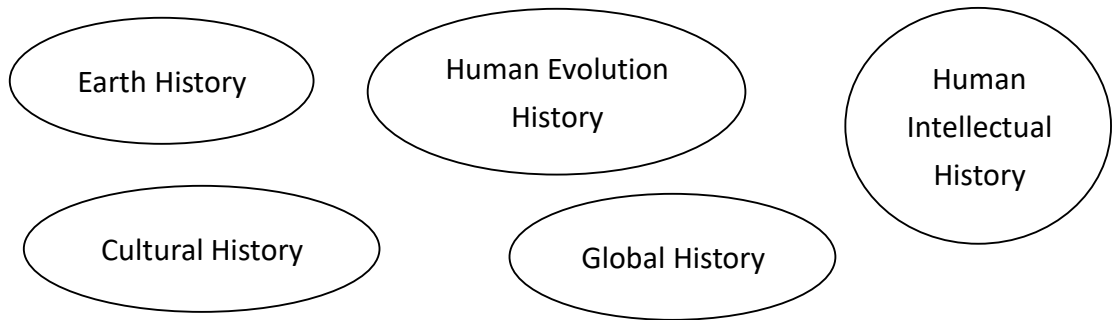
Below are my initial views:

To nurture educated persons for a better world

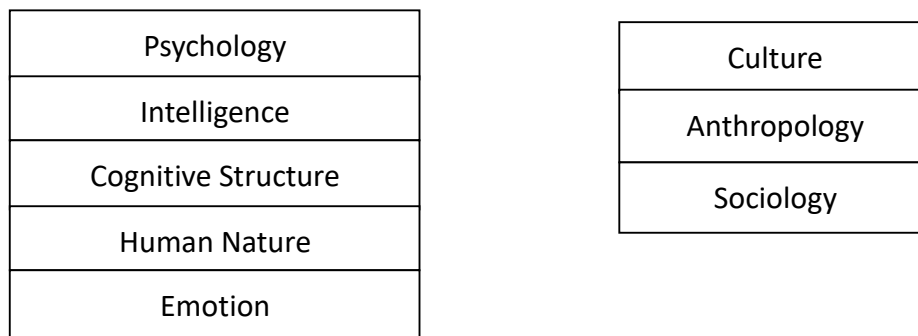
(1) Understanding and Appreciation of Human Culture

Ideas	Artifacts
Science, Philosophy	Music, Art, Literature

(2) Narratization of Human History and Humanity

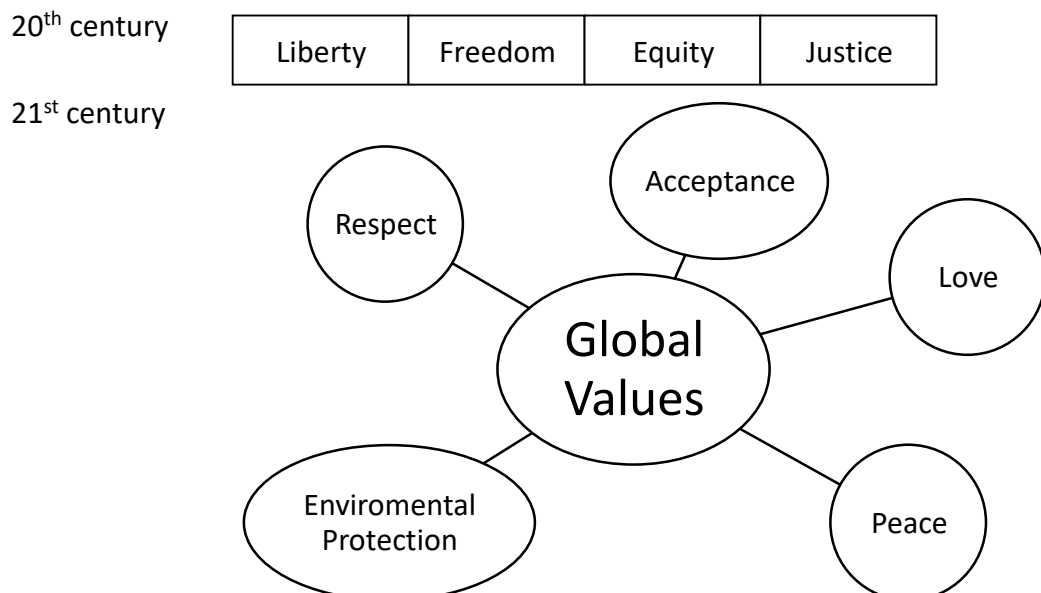


(3) Understanding of What We Are and Who We Are



(4) Reflection, Self-understanding and Growth

(5) Living in Global Values



(C) New Curriculum of 21st Century

Based on the 6 levels of existence, a new curriculum of 21th century can be formulated as:

