



Abstract



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The future evolution of humanity: cutting-edge issues for present and future generations

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The future evolution of humanity is a huge topic. There are a number of factors that will influence the future evolution of humanity, including ways of viewing and dealing with change; and different processes of evolution and change, as well as different substantive stages and areas of evolution – physical, biological, cultural, and consciousness – which it is argued all work through us as human beings and will influence our ongoing evolution. Additional factors influencing future human evolution include: negative trends and dangers, including global megacrisis issues and dangers of nuclear and other types of warfare; positive breakthroughs and opportunities, including in many areas of technology – all with important societal implications; unexpected events or “wild cards;” the emergence and integration of increasingly complex system levels over time, including the integration of increasingly diverse cultures and civilizations; the movement of humanity out into space, to explore and eventually settle in space; military interests in space; the extinction of species and dangers to ecological systems – on earth and in space; interspecies interactions and possible offspring from humans and “alien” species (if other intelligent species exist in the universe); the evolution of humanity remaining on earth; and the evolution of consciousness – on earth and in space. All of these and other factors will be briefly dealt with.