

A Stellar Revolution

By Kim Peart

The Arab spring revealed how determined action by ordinary people can reshape national governments. Is there a lesson here that can be applied to our future beyond Earth?

Anyone with a good knowledge of the post-Apollo era will appreciate that in the 1970s, if the political will had been on fire, the United States could have launched a future beyond Earth that would have built the foundation of a stellar civilization.

The key action would have been to build solar power stations in space, to access the unlimited energy-well of our star. With this energy industry could have been launched in space, orbital space settlements constructed, robot explorers dispatched to the stars and planning begun for the first stellar migration.

Instead of building a celestial future, the human focus has been entirely on digging and drilling ever deeper into the belly of the Earth for energy and as a consequence, so much fossil carbon has been released into the biosphere, that it is now changing the Earth. The health of our amazing global civilization may now be at risk, along with the spectre of humanity being permanently trapped on this planet.

With depleted terrestrial resources, we may not get a second chance at star-faring and when the next giant mountain from space comes calling, that may be lights out for our species.

As leading economies struggle to maintain growth in the continuing global economic crisis, their attention will be more tightly focused on solving Earthly problems and less on entertaining space adventures. Unfortunately, this will be the completely wrong response and direction in which to be heading.

All current economic and environmental strife could have been entirely avoided if we had begun building the highway beyond Earth in the 1970s and by now, there might also be no poverty to speak of on Earth. This is because, by accessing unlimited stellar energy to process celestial resources, the wealth of human society would be increased without bound.

Though the cost of building the foundation of a stellar civilization would be high, it can be appreciated that a line in space development would be reached where there would

be no further cost to Earth. I have described this as the Liberty Line,[1] beyond which the return on the investment would be infinite, from across the Solar System and among the stars.

Facing the night of our own demise through decades-long delay on serious space investment, if we keep trudging down the same low road, where will we end? We need to lift our game and rally the human spirit to stake a claim on the stars.

It is fantastic that Planetary Resources are looking to access near-Earth asteroids, but will this be enough to secure our future beyond Earth, before we lose the chance completely?

Rather than looking to a few business leaders to solve Earth's problems, should we, the citizens of this planet, awaken to the lost opportunities of the post-Apollo era and begin a drum-roll around the world to reach to the stars to save our Earth and get back to the future that we have all been denied?

If our cosmic survival matters to you, if you want a future for your children and grandchildren, then take the time out to understand our predicament and prepare to get angry. We should all be very angry that we have been frog-marched into a survival predicament.

Zen Gardner has the following image on his web site:

<http://www.zengardner.com/the-venus-transit-and-the-lost-civilizations-of-earth/>



It is a metaphor for the birth of the Stellar Revolution.

The Arab Spring began in Tunisia when a young man was denied the ability to earn an income and, totally humiliated, committed suicide. His desperate act sparked an uprising that has rolled through the Middle East and still continues. People who once felt

helpless in the face of overwhelming power found their voice and demanded change.

We can also awaken to our survival plight, find our voice, and begin demanding change. Why shouldn't the resources of this planet be directed toward building the foundation of a stellar civilization, beginning with solar power stations in space?

There is now a unique way to mobilise a global campaign, by using an extension of the Internet called the virtual world, where using an avatar, people can meet, communicate, plan local actions and prepare global strategies. There has never been an opportunity like this in human history, to mobilise globally and act locally, toward becoming a celestial society.

There may need to be a movement of ten million and more empowered individuals demanding action, if we wish to change the current stagnation into space mobilisation. With survival on the line, simply advocating space futures may not be enough. There will be a need for determined people to put their shoulder to the wheel of this future and get it moving, raising funds for research and development and driving investment opportunities toward creating our stellar civilization.

The future is in our hands. If we will awaken and act, we can be the shapers of history and through visionary action, determine that humanities future history is written.

Notes

[1] "Creating A Solar Civilization," 2006, revised in 2012 (www.islandearth.com.au).

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About the Author: Kim Peart first became engaged with space advocacy with the L5 Society in 1976, wrote his vision for space futures with "Creating a Solar Civilization" in 2006 and is currently the director of Space Pioneers. In March 2012, working with research scientist Dr Jennifer Bolton, Kim identified a way to build a working model of an orbital space settlement in the virtual world, called the VOSS (Virtual Orbital Space Settlement), which will allow any number of people to be involved in a space-like virtual environment. The VOSS is located above their island called Sprite in the virtual world called InWorldz, where interested people can participate in the virtual space program planning globally for local action toward building our future among the stars (www.islandearth.com.au).



Editor's Notes: Kim Peart, who has pioneered virtual Space simulation and education from Australia, gives us the “*Why*” for human Space settlements leading to a Stellar Revolution. Then he opens readers to his years of research to build the world's first Virtual Orbiting Space Settlement (VOSS). I encourage you all to join him, Dr. Bolton, and his group of enthusiasts, via InWorldZ on the VOSS (www.islandearth.com.au). You will find Kepler Space Institute's classroom there when you send your avatar on your simulated adventure. The Journal of Space Philosophy is proud to have Kim Peart on our Board of Editors. *Bob Krone, PhD.*
