

Leadership Will Be Key: Applying Yehezkel Dror's *Avant-Garde Politician*: Leaders for a New Epoch.

By Bob Krone

Abstract

Professor Yehezkel Dror, the co-founder and leading scholar of the policy sciences, has written 15 books and hundreds of professional articles describing the weaknesses and failures of public policymaking and prescribing theories, models, and analyses for improvements. His 2014 book, *Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch*, takes a long-term evolutionary time horizon and prescribes a radical new model for leadership to meet the challenges and to put priority on shaping the future of humanity. This article summarizes Dror's prescriptions with special emphasis on his required values, understandings, characteristics, talents, and skills for avant-garde leadership; then his hypothesis that Space offers a higher probability for the Dror Model to be achieved than does Earth.

Keywords: unprepared humanity, sleepwalking political leaders, institutional imperatives, *raison d'humanité*, metamorphosis, Avant-Garde Politician calling, personal resources and innermost philosophy, Law of Space Abundance, science's and technology's benefits and risks, national and international decision-making.

Introduction

Throughout human history, leadership has been the primary variable responsible for outcomes of good or evil, for the creation or extinction of societies, for progress or decline, for harmony or conflict, for the outcomes of war, for the advance of science and technology, for the influence of religions, resulting in happiness or tragedy. It will be the same for the outcomes of the human Space Epoch, which in 2014 has only a history of 57 years.

This *Journal of Space Philosophy* article makes four assumptions: (1) that political leadership will be the key – but not the only – variable in the successes or failures of the forthcoming Space Epoch; (2) that the improvement and survival of *homo sapiens* and its survival will largely be dependent on a successful Space Epoch; (3) that current global leadership, with a few exceptions, is insufficiently aware of the potential benefits of the Space Epoch; and (4) that the analysis and prescriptions of Professor Yehezkel Dror – making the good of humanity a priority – are critically important for the leadership of national and international decision clusters.¹

¹ Yehezkel Dror's latest book, *Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch* (Washington, DC: Westphalia Press, 2014) is the primary reference for this article. However, the life works of Professor Dror, beginning in the 1960s, are critically important to global public policy making decision makers. Dror is the co-founder and leading scholar for the policy sciences, originally proposed in the 1950s.

Leadership is the Key

Justifying assumption #1, above, is not required for this essay. Evidence for its validity can be found throughout the literature for the political, administrative, and management sciences and in literature throughout history.

The Future Space Epoch

Assumption #2 is not universally accepted in 2014. It can be found in the visions and missions of every major Space organization, including our Kepler Space Institute (KSI), which sponsors this Journal. As knowledge accumulates under the *Law of Space Abundance*,² as Earth's non-renewable resources decrease, as Earth's population increases, and as extra-terrestrial threats to Earth are better understood, disagreements with this assumption will disappear.

Current Global Leadership Awareness

As of 2014, only one head of state in history has had personal experience in the Space Sciences. That is Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (b. 1931), President of India, 2002 to 2007, "The People's President."



Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Many heads of state have supported national and international funding for Space research and missions over the past half century. President John F. Kennedy's dramatic launching of the Apollo program to land men on the Moon remains the most celebrated. There are many global reasons for the world's decision makers giving priorities to needs other than Space exploration, development, and human settlements. Readers will be aware of them all. The unknown on which Space scientists, organizational leaders, managers, investors, and advocates dwell is: **Will the potential benefits of the Space Epoch be insufficiently known by leadership beyond the time when those benefits could be captured to solve Earth's and humanity's needs?**

Assumption #4, "that the analysis and prescriptions of Professor Yehezkel Dror – making the good of humanity a priority – are critically important for the

² The Law of Space Abundance was formulated by KSI leadership in 2009 after studying the extensive research into the resources in the Solar System and beyond. These resources may be suitable for Earth capture, application to the needs of humanity on Earth, and building human Space settlements. The Sun's energy is just the most dramatic resource. The Law is defined as *Space offers abundant resources for human needs.*

leadership of national and international decision clusters,” is the focus for the remainder of this essay.

Readers should understand that the following too brief outlining of Dror prescriptions for avant-garde leaders for the future metamorphosing humanity – which he defines – are designed for Earth’s new epoch.³ Dror does not use Space as a focus, but this article uses the future of humans in Space as an illustrative example.⁴ The Space environment has many features that make the Dror assumptions more achievable in Space than on Earth. There is no history of human conflict in Space to date, in spite of the movies in the *Star Wars* series becoming top money-makers by portraying it.⁵ There is a vacuum of human settlement history in Space. International cooperation produced many of the major Space missions and projects. Dror’s primary prescription for avant-garde leadership is to make the good of humanity a priority. Earth’s historic demographics reveal no nation, society, or international entity giving humanity preference beyond the boundaries of that entity. Leaders are elected or created by swearing allegiance to people within those boundaries. Think of the legal, social, economic, and political leaps required for U.S. political leaders to transition to a governmental system that requires their decision makers to give priority to the needs of all humanity. We, in KSI, have a vision where planners for Space settlements reach that agreement and where the successes of those settlements over time become models for Earth-bound politicians.

What are Yehezkel Dror’s Prescriptions?

Dror’s book describes global leadership today as being unprepared for coping with future challenges. Political leaders have the responsibility to serve as the prime agency to deal with those challenges. But the vast majority of political leaders lack many essential qualities of the mind and are sleepwalkers as far as the future of humanity is concerned.

The book’s major conclusion is that leadership will be the key. Furthermore, continued sleepwalking by political leaders on critical issues ensures there will be disasters. The

³ Yehezkel Dror has included Space in his work, however. See his “Governance for a Human Future in Space,” Chapter 5 in Bob Krone, ed., *Beyond Earth: The Future of Humans in Space* (Toronto, ON: Apogee Books, 2006), 41-45.

⁴ Dror does reference Space exploration as an important form of creativity in his 2014 book (70); under grand policy conjectures (184), he includes in his list, “Allocation of large resources to select ‘big science’ projects and space exploration”; at 188 he includes in his rise and decline paradigm section the possibility of “much space exploration and establishment of human settlements in the Solar System, with suitable enhancement of explorers and settlers to make them fit conditions different from Earth, up to perhaps, advancing with time towards human-machine-merging Cyborgs”; and at 236, in his theses on history section, #46, “Even more awesome is the likelihood of synthesizing life, first in the forms of cells that can replicate and evolve, but progressively to more complex self-evolving creatures. If successful, such endeavor will in some respects raise humanity to the level of a Creator, doing deliberately what happened somehow on earth long ago. It is hard to image more total a transformation of humanity than acquiring the capacity to destroy itself, change its basic features, and create new forms of life. The only exception would be contact with extra-terrestrial sentinel beings, but this is extremely unlikely in the foreseeable future and perhaps for all of the lifespan of humanity, however long. But should this occur the implications are inconceivable.”

⁵ This does not mean that conflict will not arise in the future.

solution takes two major approaches: (1) a radically novel *human constitution* and (2) creating an equally novel political leadership, given the term *Avant-Garde Politician*.

There are three existential imperatives for a human constitution being the authority for avant-garde leadership:

- A. Absolute priority should be given to assuring the long-term survival of the human species and to preventing serious harm to large parts of it.
- B. The species-changing inhibition imperative. Production, diffusion, and use of species-changing knowledge and technologies and human enhancement should be rigorously controlled on a global scale.
- C. The human flourishing imperative. Strenuous efforts should be made to advance long-term pluralistic flourishing of the human species and its parts, while also taking care of the pressing short-term human needs.

The following are avant-garde leadership values, understandings, characteristics, talents and skills:

1. Have a leadership calling-related inner philosophy that is freely chosen and that dominates the whole of life.⁶
2. Have moral, cognitive, and volitional qualities adequate for coping with rapidly changing challenges.
3. Have a realistic comprehension of humans and humanity.
4. Understand that your legacy for the future will be your positive impact on historic processes.
5. Have both ethical basics and utilitarian skills giving priority to bona fide efforts for the needs of humanity and measures needed to advance them.
6. Understand the potential future dangers of technology to humanity as well as its blessings.
7. Have studied past and present leaders' successes and failures to cope with serious problems.
8. Analyze and forecast the implications of continuing and increasing change in society, including global long-term political issues.
9. Be an agent to prevent science from providing an immature humanity with instruments to destroy itself.
10. Have a capability for research and evaluation of desirable scenarios for the future and for disastrous scenarios as well as knowledge of the political feasibility domains for decision clusters addressing those scenarios.

⁶ This aspect of Yehezkel Dror's model for avant-garde leadership, innermost philosophy, is the subject of Chapter 19 in his 2014 book. The chapter details the components of an innermost philosophy necessary for successful leadership. It was this chapter that made me realize that I had never done the self-examination to document my own innermost philosophy. So I did. It is in this issue of the *Journal of Space Philosophy* titled *A Personal Philosophy* (71-89).

11. Operate from the understanding that Earth's global problems are increasing, that history has no evidence of solution capabilities for those problems, and that some kind of radically innovative global regime will eventually be necessary. The unknown is whether current and near future global leaders can cooperate to create strong global governance institutions that can move progress toward the desirable scenarios. If that movement fails, the quality of life for Earth's humanity will decrease and conflicts will result in human catastrophes, ethnic genocides, and an increased probability of human-produced human extinction.
12. The preparation and training for people choosing avant-garde leadership as a career will need lifelong formal and real-world learning to a degree that has not previously existed.

Some Concluding Thoughts

Professor Dror has given the world in 2014 a brilliantly assembled study aimed directly at the elusive goal of shaping the future of humanity by leadership with radically different visions and capabilities than found currently. Governance to achieve positive transitions would be a "circumscribed global leviathan."⁷ He describes the uncertain and difficult path for those wishing to become avant-garde leaders and ends with "humanity needs you, is calling for you, and relies on you."

After 45 years of being mentored by Yehezkel Dror, of being a professional colleague, and of using his 15 books in higher education, I can share with readers my observation about the evolution of his teaching and thinking. He has provided the world the apex of sophisticated knowledge and insights on public policy making. If you read only this 2014 book, you might make the judgment that Yehezkel Dror must be an academic idealist. That would be farthest from the truth.

Over his career he has taught, written, and consulted from deep insights into the weaknesses and failures of public policy making at all levels and in all cultures. He has explicated the dangers of advancement in science and technology that raise the possibility of human extinction, combined with existing social and political pathologies that raise the probability of that happening. He often reached pessimistic conclusions while documenting the evidence.

I am going to give readers my personal view and Professor Dror can comment on it in the Spring 2015 issue of this journal. I believe that as Yehezkel Dror applied his superior research skills to what he observed in the second half of the 20th Century and as the 21st Century began, he reached the conclusions you will find in *Avant-Garde Politician: Leaders for a New Epoch*. Time is not on humanity's side: without drastic changes in global leadership that will stop the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, I doubt that his pessimistic conclusions will change. He is providing a model and hoping for a miracle.

⁷ See Chapter 2 of Dror, *Avant-Garde Politician*.

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About the Authors. **Yehezkel Dror** is a Professor of Political Science Emeritus, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As a former senior staff member of the RAND Corporation, advisor to political leaders in Israel and many other countries, and Founding President of the Jewish People Policy Institute, Dror has first-hand experience with the ways the world is ruled. He has published 15 books in ten languages.



Bob Krone is President of the Kepler Space Institute and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Space Philosophy*.



Editor's Notes: The subject of good leadership, particularly good political leadership, is always worthy of academic scrutiny and Yekhekel Dror has done us all a service by examining it. Bob Krone has also done us a service by bringing it to the attention of our readers. It is a regrettable, if not surprising, fact that politicians rarely plan beyond one or two election cycles. Anything that encourages leaders to take a longer-term and more sustainable view in forward planning should be applauded. ***Gordon Arthur.***