

The following authors suggest major social changes are due:

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William Strauss and Neil Howe, in their 1997 book, *The Fourth Turning: What the Cycles of History Tell us About America's Next Rendezvous with Destiny*", made the National Bestseller lists. At that time, Strauss and Howe placed America in the third Turning of an immutable four turn cycle. Each cycle of 4 turnings, lasting about 80-100 years, a unit of time called the saeculum by the ancients, comprises history's seasonal rhythm of growth, maturation, entropy, and destruction. The First Turn is called a high; an upbeat era of strengthening institutions and weakening individualization. The second Turn is a passionate era of social upheaval, when civic order comes under attack from a new values regime. The Third Turn is an unraveling; a downcast era of strengthening individualism and weakening institutions, when the old civic order decays and the new values system implants. The fourth turn, which the authors predicted in the first decade of the twenty-first century, is a crisis; a decisive era of secular upheaval, when the values regime propels the replacement of the old civic order with a new one. The authors state that Americans have been thru these cycles before, and see the First Turning of the current saeculum beginning with the end of WW II thru the Kennedy administration. The Second Turning was the Consciousness Revolution from 1964 through the mid 80s. The Third Turning has been the Culture wars. Strauss and Howe are saying, that the coming era of secular upheaval will be triggered by a single incident, and may be disruptive.

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Fritjof Capra, in his 1983 book *The Turning Point* presents a sketch of the current social problems, including the military budget, nuclear arms, environmental degradation, environmental and chronic health problems, crime, economic disruption and gross maldistribution of wealth, and notes the inability of the academic (or political) mainstream to offer any solution. He made an urgent plea for action.

The coming transition, Capra argues, may be more dramatic than any preceding one, because the changes are global, and several transitions are coinciding: The decline of patriarchy, the end of the fossil fuel age, and Sarokin's predicted paradigm shift away from materialism.

Fritjof Capra received his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna, and has done research in high energy physics at several European and American Universities. He has written and lectured extensively on the philosophical implications of modern science. .

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Sociologist Paul H. Ray and psychologist Sherry Ruth Anderson in their 2001 book *The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People Are Changing the World* propose that a new culture is silently shaping within America, and that the change is manifesting everywhere. According to this book, one quarter (fifty million) of all Americans, as well

as a corresponding number of Europeans, have made a comprehensive shift in world view, values, and way of life. These people are not aware of the potential power of this collective body.

The book points to visionaries in the 60's and 70's who saw a convergence of various "fringe" movements, including feminist, ecological, spiritual, human potential, to form a coherent new politics. Mark Satin, a draft resister, identified "an entire third force in politics in the 70s. George Leonard's "transformation" in 1972 predicted that a civilization wide social shift was coming. Marilyn Ferguson's "The Aquarian Conspiracy", Alvin Toffler's "The Third Wave", Fritjof Capra's "The Turning Point", Hazel Henderson's "The Politics of the Solar Age", and Theodor Roszak's "Person/Planet" made similar predictions. So far the predicted transformation has not occurred.

the Battle in Seattle of 1999 gave another hint that something was happening. Richard Flacks, sociologist at U. of California, Santa Barbara (who helped form the radical 1960's anti-Vietnam war group Students for a Democratic Society) noted (San Jose Mercury-News: "This was historic, cutting edge...The linking of groups that have rarely been in coalition before-the labor and the environment- is a real breakthrough in social movements in American History.

Social and consciousness movements flow together. (social movements: direct action in conventional political or economic areas is focused on changing action and policies in the real world; consciousness movement: change to the individual psyche, culture, worldview; change is private and apolitical.

A sense of the general movement in culture is supported by author Ralph H Turner, who argues that over the past generation a large general social movement has unfolded in western Europe that encompasses all of the new social movement's concerns: "a sense of personal worth, of meaning in life, is a fundamental human right that must be protected by our social institutions". Ray and Anderson believe that the people at the center of the general movement for change are a particular set of people that are the shared constituency of the social and consciousness movements.

Why don't we see it? The authors suggest business as usual; government, corporations, media, and movements caught in narrow specialized viewpoints.

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Marilyn Ferguson, in her 1980 book, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, discusses a new, ecologically friendly paradigm shift, which is a spontaneous change in consciousness and perception. This change of perception, the book argues, would bring about a total renewal of our society.

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Edward O. Wilson, in his 1988 book, *Consilience*, argues that the enlightenment, with its emphasis on rationality and science, basically had it right. He supports the enlightenment concept of unity of knowledge, based on reductionism, as the best means of protecting the environment, as well as humanity. Wilson is among the most respected and honored of scientists, as well as one of the most dedicated to environmental stewardship. His views are in direct opposition to some ecology movements: specifically Deep Ecology.