

TOWARDS A BIOETHICS OF THE POLITICAL BIOS HAPPINESS, HEALTH AND ILLNESS OF POLITICAL BODIES

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The complex adaptable system [CAS] of BIOS is pluriperspective, integrated and integrating; it includes: fungi, microbes, plants, animals, humans, microbial colonies, various complex and modular environments, human geographic and non-geographic biotopes, cultural and religious territories, corporate bodies, social and cultural bodies, political bodies. Individual bios is terminal but the stream of bios modifies and goes on.

Abraham Bosse, 1651: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan or the Matter, Former and Power of a Common-Wealth Ecclesiastical and Civil

BIOETHICS IS PLURIPERSPECTIVE, COMPLEX, INTEGRATING, INTERACTING

BIOS AND BIOETHICS INCLUDE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL BODIES

'Traditional Bioethics is about interaction between people and people; bioethics is about interaction between people and biological systems. Political bioethics is essential for healthy political decision-making and for the creation of sound policies. In other words, action will have to be constrained and guided by biological knowledge as bioethics emerges and is finally turned into voluntary agreements or into regulatory law in specific cases' Potter to Segota for the International Bioethics Symposium, Rijeka, June 2001

HEALTH AND HAPPINESS, DISORDER AND DISEASE OF POLITICAL BODIES

- Matter of Bios
- Former of Bios
- Power of Bios
- Common Wealth
- Ecclesiastical and Civil

'Respect every living being as an end in itself and treat it, if possible, as such' Fritz Jahr 1926
 'Tat Tvam Asi' – 'This is also You' Upanishads
 'Love your Neighbor as you love Yourself' Jesus
 'Make Love, No War' John
 'He er bu tong, similar, but not identical' Confucius

Matter of Bios

All bios is complex, integrated and integrating: quantum physics and microbial colonies, archaea, fungi, plants, animals, humans and human clans, companies and corporations, natural and cultivated biotopes, religious, social, cultural, corporate and political bodies, human geographical and cyberspace cultures.

Individual bios is terminal, but complex, interacting, adaptable bios goes on. Political, social, cultural and economic bodies are essential elements and properties of the human bios; they also share essential properties, prospects and risks with all other forms of bios.

The 'I Ching', 'Book of Change', authored by the mythological prehistoric dragon Fu Xi with a human face, offered eight times eight hexagrams, based on the eight simple trigrams of 'earth, mountain, water, wind, thunder, fire, lake, heaven'. For thousands of years they have found different interpretations and became most prominent and successful in explaining essential taxonomies of the bios of the universe, in advising great political rulers, in teaching prominent philosophers mostly of the East, in guiding ordinary people in living ethically and according to the rules of bios, also most cherished in oracles of forecasting personal fortunes and avoiding risks in life. Today, we know more about the forming properties in bios and how they govern human individual, social and political bios as well.

Former of Bios
 Communication and Cooperation, Competence and Competition, Contemplation and Calculation, Compassion and Cultivation

Communication and Cooperation are necessary conditions for group based clans, communication by body language and sound language, by books and oral traditions, cooperation in division of labor, bringing up the next generation and protecting the clan. **Competence and Competition** are refining skills, providing expert services to the community by ever improving expertise in competition with others who also strive for success and social recognition in the same territory. **Contemplation and Calculation** are essential for the soft-wired 8 C's of the human species: **Contemplation** about our own destiny, fate, life and afterlife, God and the world, angels and devils seems to have been with us for a long time; so has **Calculation** as a property to figure out the best way to do things competently and competitively, but also to respond to perceived requirement such as following divine commandments or to honor and remember the dead, or make the best out of laws and regulations and of social and cultural norms. **Compassion and Cultivation**: Compassion seems to be an essential heritage centered on longtime childhood, lovemaking, and protection and care for the weak members of the clan. All these properties culminate and integrate in a unique and human-species specific model of cultivation; varieties of cultivation are found in all cultural, social, religious, and political traditions and geographic and non-geographic territories.

Power of Bios

Power and strength of bios depend on good internal metabolism and successful external interaction; they define health and survivability of individual and collective bodies, including corporate, social and political bodies. Survivability and power of modern states and communities is endangered by vulnerable 'feet of clay', which were of no concern to previous generations and political bodies. Traditionally, political bodies were threatened by criminals from the inside and aggressors from the outside, by loss of harvest and hunger, by pestilence and cholera, by inequality and discontent among citizens, and by corrupt leaders. Globalization and technology bring new dimension to former risks and also new and additional risks, in particular **Electric Risk, Biological Risk, Risk of Revolt and Repression, Risk of Loss of Trust, Risk of Territorial Mix-Up, Risk of Loss of Control**. All six may cause the impressive giant of modern civilization to fall into thousands of pieces by one knock at his shinbone.

Power and Risk of Bios I: Electric Risk

Modern civilization and political bodies depend on integrated electricity and digital networks. The risk of a major electromagnetic pulse [EMP] cannot be excluded, neither naturally via gamma radiation from the sun or man-made via selective warfare by EMP canons or by exploding nitrogen bombs in high altitude. Human individual and political bios, as far as it is based on microchip technology, will be destroyed by gamma radiation and EMP, but all other forms of bios will continue to prosper and will modify into a new integrated bios without humans and human culture. - A similar threat to the bios of integrated human culture is the selective physical destruction of parts of the electric grid or the digital destruction of controlling networks in cyberspace, such as in former times invading enemies poisoned water and burned crops and vegetation. Without electricity in supermarkets and gas stations commerce will stop and most or all of us will die, no one can read bar-codes, break-ins happen, supply lines stop, media, police and military become impotent, so will the entire 'corps politic', the political bios.

Power and Risk of Bios II: Biological Risk

A second potentially great threat to our modern civil and political of bios might come from microbial disaster via multiple antibiotic-resistant pathogenic bacteria or other microbes, either unintentionally within integrated global travel or intentional by individuals or states, also via specifically engineered killer microbes. This scenario of evil destruction carries the risk that, once started, a microbial pandemic might cause a chain reaction in the entire universe of bios beyond prediction and control. - Similarly devastating will be severe diseases or colony collapses among insects, who pollinate plants, trees and crops for sustainability of biotopes and human food chains; in certain areas of the world the number of honey bees has been reduced by 80% over the last 10 years. These and other biological catastrophes do not only obstruct human bios, as electric risk would, but the entire integrated bios.

Power and Risk of Bios III: Revolt and Repression Risk

Revolts, revolutions, repressions, exploitations have been with social and political bodies since the beginning of human bios; today they grow into new dimensions with geographical and non-geographical roots. Governments or groups, some advised by governments or corporations, may stir up rebellions or provide misleading information in support of additional 'spontaneous' rebellions. The uprising against the Marcos dictatorship in Indonesia 30 years ago, the recent 'Arab Spring', the 'Occupy Wallstreet' and the 'Nuit Debuis' movements in Arab lands, the USA and France are examples of rebellions which were not possible without digital networks. Modern suppressions and revolutions use the non-geographical networks to cause disharmony and discontent, also death, torture, emigration and loss of trust and coherence in traditionally more or less harmonious complex and adaptable integrated political bodies, as new indoctrinating movements with missionary impulse and motivation demonstrate. The less modular and integrated a political and social body is; the less rejuvenating powers and less 'elan vital' seem to be in such bodies and their various organs to fight revolts and repressions.

Power and Risk of Bios IV: Loss of Trust Risk

Political, social and economic bodies of the 21st century are based on mutual aid and mutual trust. We trust that our property deeds, our personal safety, and our business or employment contracts are protected by law. Democracy is an esteemed form of government, but short-term election cycles and the influence of lobby groups has undermined trust, so has governmental intervention in making economic markets inefficient; governments officially target inflation on paper money, making currencies less and less valuable. - Financial manipulation and inefficient market interventions by political bodies saved some banks and big corporations, but caused great harm to trust in markets and national and international bodies. - What will happen, if true or untrue rumors are spread about the solvency of political bodies who print their own money, if one or more big sellers puts financial derivatives or future contracts on futures or just paper money on the market for any price in barter exchange of 'real goods' such as corn, oil, gold or silver?

Would mixed political bodies, as suggested by Aristotle, with a legitimately modular structure and multiple stakeholders be more stable and robust and actually represent the really existing body more concretely and in an affirmative manner?
The US dollar bill comes with two signatures and the title of the Treasurer of the US and the Secretary of the Treasury together with this note is legal tender for all debts, public and private; the Euro Bill does not come with any guarantee nor with information about the signature. What includes the promise on the US \$ bill, tendering into other paper or into food, clothing, oil or electricity? On the other side of the US \$ bill we read the slogan 'In God we trust, but who is 'we' and is this statement 'true'?

Power and Risk of Bios V: Risk of Territorial Mix-Up

Previously, communities and political bodies always had eremites, who left the 'real' world in order to emigrate into as close as possible communication and integration with non-geographical spiritual powers, spirits, Gods and Goddesses; they might however be indirectly still be related to the 'real' world in praying for peace and divine intervention. - Nowadays, emigrants from the 'real' world become famous citizens in 'Second Life' or other internet territories, such as celebrated orchestra conductors or famous singers, football and boxing stars, inventors and savers of humankind, while at the same time they are 'nobodies', living unknown and not socially integrated or even recognized in their private quarters. 'This is not a game, this is the real life' is a widely quoted slogan of one of the internet portals; we could translate: 'this is not virtual, this is the real bios'. Since 2014, 'Facebook' has over 1.6 billion residents, more inhabitants than China. Internet addiction has become one of the most difficult disorders in therapy.

Power and Risk of Bios VI: Risk of Loss of Control

Science Fiction narratives discuss the threat to our civilization from artificial intelligence, of robots and their networks turning against the existing balance of interaction and interdependence among the wide modern geographically and non-geographically integrated human world of bios. Not much is known precisely about properties and possibilities of systems of mad and aggressive artificial intelligence turning outside of their sphere, running rampage and destroying all or some integrated forms of in the world of modern human bios, similar to mad individuals causing destruction by killing fellow humans with traditional explosives or infectious microbes. - Well-functioning digital and microbial infrastructures are essential for the survival of the bios of our modern economic, cultural and political bodies, but at the same time they might make the new complex adaptable and integrated bios of collective, social, cultural and political bodies most vulnerable in many new dimensions.

Common Wealth - 'Gross National Product' or 'Gross Happiness Product'?

The Common Wealth of the political body depends on economic, civil, cultural and spiritual health. Economist and politicians measure the common wealth normally in economic terms by GNP, 'Gross National Product', which they then include into strategies for public and private investment and policy, in social programs and tax considerations.

GHP is another acronym and measures the 'Gross Happiness Product' of a nation, first introduced by 1972 Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan as an empirical tool in political sociology, advising the king, the public and the media on policy issues. Should bioethicists get involved in developing similar instruments to diagnose and promote the health of political bodies?

On a scale of 1 to 5 over the last 40 years, the happiness of the Bhutan population was at about 70% to 77% relatively happy, happy or very happy; single or married people were happier than widowed or divorced; people in villages and small cities were happier than those living in remote areas; educated people were happier than those of low education or the very poor. The United Nations later adopted this concept, but as many other issues in UN not really implemented it. One of the slogans is 'Your Happiness is Part of something Bigger than You'; March 20 is global 'Happiness Day' when everyone is encouraged to make her/his specific resolution for the coming year.

Disorders, Diseases and Deaths of Body Politics

Czar Nikolaus I, 1852: the Ottoman Empire is 'the sick man at the Bosphorus'

Can we use biological and biomedical terminology, to develop new biopolitical and bioethical terminology in diagnosing, predicting, advising and healing political and social bodies?

Colony Collapse Disorder, Metabolic Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Inflammation, Leishmaniasis, Addiction, Cancer, Nightmares, Obesity, Insomnia, Saccharin or Viral Infections, Posturing, Physical Fitness, Stroke, Impotency, Urolo, Orgasm, Healthy Living, Microbiome, Akromasia, Happiness, Depression, Lost Body Part, Eye Sight, Hearing, Tactile Health, what else?

What happened to the various political bodies following the falling apart of the Habsburg Empire in 1918; how was the health and happiness of Croatia as a body or body part during the Habsburg Empire, as a part of Yugoslavia under Tito and then after Tito? - What did change in small Croatian villages of farmers or fishermen during the last 200 years; how much of that change was caused by political rulers, their wisdom or mistakes, and how much by electricity, technology, and communication change?

What happened to the 'sick man at the Bosphorus' -

Syria: diagnose medical history and actual health of the general body politic and of organs, individual clans, small villages, other communities, health of schools, infrastructure, military and police, infection status; high or low blood pressure, forms of cancer, addiction, despair, deadly infections from the outside, other major sources of morbidity, probiotic or antibiotic care, fitness training, antiaging strategies. -

Diagnose other political bodies in disorder; name the main causes and suggest appropriate remedies

Europe: - Your country - Global body politic - Your Private Club, Company or University - Your geographic neighborhood and/or your internet - Communications and Interactions: -

Discuss and publish your diagnostic and predictive results and suggested options for therapy and healing with leaders in politics, business and the media.

Body Politics, Harmony, and Living Diversity

Aristotle: flexible and mixed (democracy + competency, oligarchy + democracy, - good household and family relations, - avoid extreme tyranny, oligarchy, democracy)

Confucius: heaven and earth - one big family, different but harmonious

Hobbes: strong powerful government avoids natural selfish anarchy

Foucault: dominating states suppress bourgeois liberty and ambition

Jahr: harmonious mix of egoism and altruism, respect all forms of bios

Luhmann: harmonious integration of institutions and individuals

Kropotkin: mutual aid / Lennon: make love, no war

'福而不同 - He er bu tong - similar, but not identical, in harmony but not equal
Confucius, Lun Yu 13.23

'Brethren, if you want true peacefulness in God, let us not lie about consensus when plurality seems to have been the goal of providence. No one among us reasons and feels precisely the same way as the fellow human does. Why do we hide from each other in masquerades in the most important issues of our lives, as God not without reason has given each of us his/her own image and face.'

Properties of Bios and the Imperative of Bioethics I

'Heaven is my father and Earth is my mother, and even such a small creature as I find an intimate place in their midst. Therefore, that which fills the universe I regard as my body and that which directs the universe I consider as my nature. All people are my brothers and sisters, and all things are my companions. - The great ruler (the Emperor) is the eldest son of my parents (Heaven and Earth), and the great ministers are his stewards. Respect the aged; this is the way to treat them as elders should be treated. Show deep love toward the orphaned and the weak, this is the way to treat them as the young should be treated. The sage identifies his character with that of Heaven and Earth, and the worthy is the most outstanding man. Even those who are tired, infirm, crippled, or sick, those who have no brothers or children, wives or husbands, are all my brothers who are in distress and have no one to turn to. -When the time comes, to keep him from harm, this is the care of a son. To rejoice in Heaven and to have no anxiety, this is filial piety at its purest. - He who disobeys (the rule of bios) violates virtue. He who destroys humanity is a robber. He who promotes evil lacks (ethical) capacity. But he, who puts his moral nature into practice and brings his physical existence into complete fulfillment, can match (Heaven and Earth). - One who knows the rules of transformation will skillfully carry forward the undertakings (of Heaven and Earth), and one who penetrates spirit to the highest degree will skillfully carry out their will. - Do nothing shameful in the recesses of your own house and thus bring no dishonor to them. Preserve your mind and nourish your nature and thus (serve them) with untiring effort. - Wealth, honor, blessing, and benefits are meant for the enrichment of my life, while poverty, humble station, and sorrow are meant to help me to fulfillment. - In life I follow and serve (Heaven and Earth); in death I will be at peace.'

Cheng Yi (1032-1107)

'Our Father in Heavens, hallowed be your Name. Your Kingdom come, your Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heavens. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those, who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil. The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours, now and forever.'

Properties of Bios and the Imperative of Bioethics II

'Cultivate the self and virtue will be true; cultivate the family and virtue will be complete; cultivate the village and virtue will grow; cultivate the country and virtue will be rich; cultivate the world and virtue will be wide.'

Tao te Ching 34

Cultivate communication and cooperation and bios will be true; competence and competition and bios will be complete; cultivate geography and cyberspace and bios will grow; cultivate society and country and bios will be rich; cultivate integrated bioethics and bios will be wide.

[An integrated theology of integrated bioethics?]

The Gods did not create laws or moral rules, they just love people who do good deeds and are good people.

Socrates, discussing with Euthyphron, 10-12

! Bioethicists of all disciplines, cultures and countries unite !

Engaging and Interacting Struggle of Bios : Behemoth and Leviathan

Water Dragon **Leviathan** nurtures bios, provides networks, brings destructive floods and tsunamis, - Land Giant **Behemoth** builds tanks, city walls and fire walls, also kills and tramples on vegetation, - **Together** these animals are in permanent interaction, neither one either good or bad, - interactions are more complex than either bipolar or dialectic, symbolizing in mythology the eternal ongoing win-and-lose engagement of societal bios since the times of the Summer, 4000BC, today they may symbolize the fluid penetrating powers of the internet and visions and the territorial powers of societies and states.

Image from iStockphoto: Wisp00, William Drake 1825, Gustav Sarskjaer

