



“Expansion of the Civilization in Space: A Moral Issue”

Adriano V. Autino, Space Renaissance International, President

--- ABSTRACT ---

Several philosophers (including Hawking, Lovelock, and Ziolo) warned about the implosion of civilization in the course of this century, due to the unsustainable growth of humanity within the closed system of our mother planet. The global crisis, which began in 2008, is a deep crisis of resources, initially manifested as a financial crisis. Such a crisis could be one of the cyclical downturns, analyzed by Nicolai Kondratieff, which occur with a frequency of about sixty years and it could last 20 years.

At this critical stage of human history, a nihilist thread is gaining momentum – so-called degrowth – in which nature is taken as an ethical model and is increasingly revered, while the value of human life declines. These philosophies are proposed as love and respect for nature, but they threaten the survival of humanity. Proponents of astronautics, ever looking for rationales for space, must focus on a different, fully humanist, philosophy: that the expansion of civilization in space is a moral issue.

Resignation to expand civilization into space would be a real, specific suicide: a rapid decline and the end of humanity as a cultural species. Such a waiver would therefore be a crime against humanity. Economic and social growth is absolutely necessary for the development of a fully inclusive human society, free and democratic. The resources of the Solar System are virtually endless, covering human needs for several millennia. Therefore, while the modern Savonarolas advocate a season of thrift and *wise administration* of misery, we should learn to handle the large abundance and freedom that we will find in space.

The only possible evolutionary step is to step into space (Ehricke, Hawking, Ziolo, Wolfe). Humans are midway in their journey from animal status toward full human status, emancipated from the natural behaviors of murderous ferocity and exploitation. This step can be completed only by expanding in space, and accessing a platform of virtually infinite resources and energy.

The development of the Space Renaissance is very urgent in all fields of human activities. The announcement of a new, boundless horizon, will open the minds of youths, entrepreneurs and artists. Focus will shift from money-for-money to the production of real richness: new programs of industrial development, funds will be invested into new cultural and artistic works, since the wind of human creativity will blow again, strong and impetuous. Last but not least, when humanity will begin to flow into space habitats the relationship between humans and nature will find new paradigms, finally going over the regressive ones inspired by the suicidal de-growth ideology.



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Adriano Vittorio Autino, besides a long carrier in software, industrial automation and systems engineering, devotes his main effort to the development and further enhancement of space renaissance philosophy. Adriano got his diplome in Industrial Electronics in 1969, studied Computer Science at University of Turin, and begun his career in 1971, designing diagnostic and test engineering software at Honeywell Information Systems Italia. In 1984 he joined Sysdata CAP Gemini, serving as project manager. Since 1992 to 1999 Adriano was a free lance software consultant. In 2000 he created Andromeda s.r.l., dealing industrial automation and systems engineering. He is author of an integrated suite of software tools for project lifecycle management (STEPS), based on an essential methodology, compliant with the main system engineering quality standards. Since 2012 he is CEO of Andromeda Systems Engineering Ltd, UK. Engaged in social activities since 1970's, in 1990's Adriano begun his philosophical reflection on the subject of human expansion beyond the frontiers of our world, giving birth to the web magazine Technologies of the Frontier, publishing articles and papers, mainly on the subject of Astronautics, collaborating with many space activists world wide. In 2008 he initiated the Space Renaissance Initiative, and in 2010 the Space Renaissance International (<http://www.spacerenaissance.org/>) was incorporated, as a non profit association. A. V. Autino is author of some books and many papers, on the philosophical subject of civilization expansion into space. Among others:

- Adriano V. Autino - "The expansion of Civilization beyond Earth is a moral issue (first issue)" - also published on the Journal of Space Philosophy (vol. #3 Fall 2013)
- Adriano V. Autino - "Facing the 21 st Century's Civilization Challenges by the Tools of Astronautic Humanism" - published on the Journal of Space Philosophy, 2012
- A. Autino, P. Collins, A. Cavallo - "Three Theses for the Space Renaissance" (book, 2011)
- Adriano V. Autino - "La Terra non é malata: é incinta!" (book, italian language, 2008)
- Adriano V. Autino - "From Quality to Maturity" (book, italian language, 2005)
- P. Collins, Adriano V. Autino, "What the Growth of a Space Tourism Industry could contribute to Employment, Economic Growth, Environmental Protection, Education, Culture and World Peace", paper presented at the International Astronautic Academy Symposium on Private Human Spaceflight, May 28-30, 2008, Arcachon, Bordeaux, France.
- Adriano V. Autino - "Founding a new renaissance - toward a Space Renaissance Academy" (paper presented at the 2nd International Convention of Technologies of the Frontier – Belgirate 2008)
- Adriano V. Autino - "A needed change of paradigm in the space systems project processes and methodologies", (paper presented at 56th International Astronautical Congress 2005 Fukuoka - Japan)
- Adriano V. Autino - "A Plan for the Mercantile Astronautics", (paper presented at the International Symposium on Space Travel Bremen, Germany, April 21 - 23, 1999)
- Adriano V. Autino - "The value of human life, or: Technology as a promoter of moral evolution", 2005
- Adriano V. Autino - "The Copernican Evidence - Requirements for a Space Age Philosophy" - (paper presented at the 53rd IAF Congress- Houston 2002)
- Adriano V. Autino - "The fifth season - the space 'bingo' surprises: very profitable and not obvious gifts of space", (paper presented at 56th International Astronautical Congress - 2005 Fukuoka - Japan)