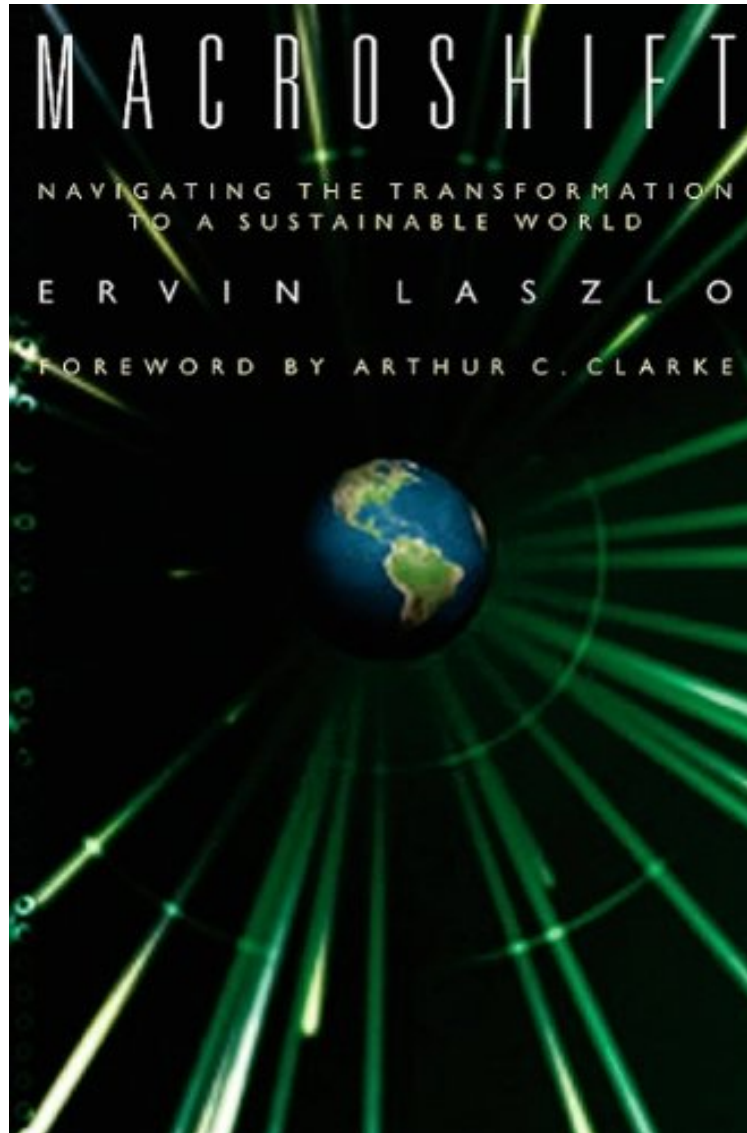


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Macroshift: Navigating the Transformation to a Sustainable World

Ervin Laszlo

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Ervin Laszlo : Macroshift: Navigating the Transformation to a Sustainable World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Macroshift: Navigating the Transformation to a Sustainable World:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Guide to the Global Crisis...By Michael Abrams As much as it is possible for a single book to give its reader a comprehensive and profound understanding of the impending global social, economic, and ecological crisis, this is that book. According to Dr. Laszlo, human society has passed through three major stages --Mythos, Theos, and Logos--and is on the verge of its next, and perhaps final stage, Holos. But the transition from our Logos civilization to Holos, like those before it, is not quite as automatic as

someone simply climbing the rungs of a ladder. According to *Macroshift*, there is some real possibility that our civilization may fail to make the leap, in which case it will almost certainly 'break down' into global anarchy--we may have had a terrible foretaste of this in the September 11 attacks. (For a chilling picture of this kind of world, see the classic sci-fi film *The Road Warrior*.) But, should it succeed, humanity will be privileged to witness the birth of the first truly global civilization--and a world whose possibilities surpass our dreams. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. You can change the world. By A Customer "You can change the world. This book tells you how." These words on the back cover caught my interest. That's a pretty tall promise, I thought. If anything, recent events have left me feeling like the whole world is out of control and will not be set right in my lifetime. Author Ervin Laszlo takes a look at major historic changes (like the Industrial Revolution) and comes to the conclusion that we are in middle of the next, brought on as industrial nation-states run smack into the challenges of globalization. In an eerie foreshadowing of current events he warns that the world is more diverse than we think, and that much of it feels left behind as the western nations consume the earth's goods at breakneck speed. "Militant fundamentalism is an extreme expression of the resentment generated by these conditions," Laszlo says. And we have seen the results all too clearly. With change inevitable, he predicts that keepers of tradition will become more resistant, bringing on the kind of Doomsday Scenarios favored by Science Fiction writers and survivalist cults: instability, uncertainty, discontent, conflict and violence. Meanwhile, the environment will continue to be ravaged by the haves and have-nots alike. But Laszlo doesn't think the end of the world as we know it is inevitable. He really believes, and makes a good case for, the power of the individual. He uses reliable surveys to show that approximately 25% of the population in the United States and Western Europe espouse a holistic approach to life that really can turn the world around. The problem, he says, is they don't know their own strength. Laszlo speaks (and the book often presents itself as if it were a classroom lecture) in the moralistic tone of turn-of-the twentieth century reformers. It's refreshing to hear someone from the western world speak up against the excesses of a market-driven economy and recommend that we help our neighbors, take up a physical activity or hobby, or read a book. His motto is "think globally and act morally." Along the way he takes to task meat eaters, smokers, big business, fundamentalists, and organized labor while questioning patriotism, efficiency at any cost, and conspicuous consumption. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. *Macroshift: Navigating the Transformation to a Sustainable World* By A Customer *Macroshift* is a book which I recommend to anyone who feels they can change the world and make a difference. And this book is for everyone. At times it is hard reading, but it is worth it. What intrigued me most was the prediction that author Ervin Laszlo had that we would enter a period of chaos, followed by a clear choice of two different scenarios for the people of Planet Earth. Dr. Laszlo predicted the chaos would come around 2005, but it came earlier on September 11, 2001, but he does not leave you without a solution. Step by step he takes you through the breakdown or the breakthrough scenario and the choice is clearly ours. We can only change the world to the degree that we are willing to change ourselves. Dr. Laszlo not only offers his well-researched personal thoughts and opinion, but provides twelve additional 3-4 page commentaries by some of the best thinkers today. Riane Eisler, Thomas Berry, Robert Muller, Gary Zukav and eight more members of the Club of Budapest share their thoughts on our global emergency. I really liked reading what others had to say. Dr. Laszlo mentions that he founded the Club of Budapest to bring global consciousness to every human on Earth. No short order by this dreamer for a better world..but *Macroshift* helped me see the necessity of a shift in my thinking.

We live in the midst of one of the greatest technological revolutions in history, an era of deep-seated transformation--a macroshift in civilization, says preeminent scholar and futurist Ervin Laszlo. Its signs and manifestations are all around us, from the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic sweeping Africa and the dangerous fire-trap sweatshops routinely killing workers in Bangladesh, to the environmental havoc created by genetic engineering, power plant pollution and mechanized agriculture. The application of new technologies has turned into a double-edged sword. The world is growing together in some respects, but is coming apart in others. Worldwide economic globalization, another sign of the macroshift, all too often benefits the few rather than the many. Hundreds of millions live at a higher material standard of living, but thousands of millions are pressed into abject poverty. The richest 20% earn ninety times the income of the poorest 20%, consume eleven times as much energy, and eat eleven times as much meat. There have been other macroshifts in human history, but they spanned centuries, allowing cultural values, beliefs, and change to occur gradually. Today, technology has reduced our time to adapt; the entire critical period of change is compressed into the lifetime of a generation. Today's macroshift, explains Laszlo, harbors great promise, as well as grave danger. He outlines two possible scenarios: "The Breakdown," where we choose to drift without a change in our current direction toward chaos, anarchy, and destruction, or "The Breakthrough," where we collectively transform our thinking and behavior to produce creative, sustainable solutions to dangerous global problems. And he shows what each of us can do--politically, professionally, and privately--to bring about the Breakthrough and shape a humane and sustainable global future. While technology is what drives the unprecedented speed of this macroshift, it is our vision, values, and actions now that will ultimately determine the outcome. The choice is up to us--the power is in our hands.

.com Ervin Laszlo, a pioneer in complex systems philosophy and general evolution theory who has written or

cowritten 36 books, believes we are in the midst of a massive worldwide transformation that will dramatically alter everything from lifestyle to economy. Such total upheaval has occurred only a few times before, he says, and in *Macroshift* he explains what this might mean and how we might manage its impact. The gist, according to Laszlo, is that technology and globalization have unbalanced social structures, upended values and priorities, sparked resource exploitation, and "downgraded the livability" of our planet. The result is an unsustainable situation that could trigger political conflict, financial vulnerability, and deteriorating environmental problems during the coming decade unless "a new way of thinking" takes hold. "If we are not to join the myriad species that had once populated the Earth but became extinct," he predicts, "we will have to create a civilization that is more adapted to the conditions in which we find ourselves." He then offers ideas to do so, including a shift from "competition to reconciliation and partnership" and development of "more responsible and humane community projects" around the world. The proposals are not for everyone, but if Laszlo is correct, this book offers serious food for thought that we all would be wise to ponder. -- Howard Rothman

From the Publisher "In *Macroshift* Ervin Laszlo makes a vital point: the future is not to be forecast, but created. What we do today will decide the shape of things tomorrow. Especially the way we perceive the challenges that await us, and the vision we develop for coping with them. His book furnishes essential guidelines for creating a positive scenario for our common future: for the new thinking and acting that this calls for." —From The Foreword by Arthur C. Clarke

About the Author Considered the foremost exponent of systems philosophy and general evolution theory. Ervin Laszlo is likewise noted for his work in the futures and management fields Formerly Professor of Philosophy, Systems Science, and Futures Studies in various universities in the US, Europe, and the Far East, Laszlo is the author or co-author of thirty-six books translated into as many as sixteen languages, and the editor of another thirty volumes including a four-volume encyclopedia. Currently he is Founder and President of The Club of Budapest Founder and Director of the General Evolution Research Group Science Director of the International Peace University of Berlin Senator of the International Medical Academy.