

Contributors

Ken Baskin is a Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Coherence and Emergence, writes and speaks about the emerging worldview, reflecting the changed understanding of our world provided by sciences such as quantum mechanics and neurobiology, and its effects on social sciences. His approach to Big History is grounded in the dynamics explored in complexity theory, as in the book he is currently writing with Dr. Dmitri Bondarenko on Modernity as a second Axial Age. His recent essays have appeared in such publications as *Social Evolution and History*, *Chinese Management Studies*, and the *Journal of Change Management*. His book *Corporate DNA: Learning from Life* (Routledge, 1998), translated into Chinese, explores how one can think of organizations as living things, rather than machines.

Johanna Butler-Hookes, Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Arts and Economics with a particular leaning towards Third World Studies and Development Economics, and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for Secondary Schools at Wolverhampton University followed. She had been teaching Business and Economics for 20 years in the West Midlands, Guernsey and Liverpool. She is an active member of 'Global Justice Now' organization.

Sergey V. Dobrolyubov graduated from Moscow Technical Institute (MADI) and began his professional career as an engineer investigating the causes of failures of complex equipment. After unexpected collapse of the Soviet Union, he began to wonder about the reasons for stability and dynamics of social structures. Due to his engineering past, he seeks more substantive descriptions of social phenomena and vague social categories. He is an independent scholar whose research interests include social evolution, theory of society, sociology, values, Marxism. His main theme is the cyclical genesis of societies and civilizations. He is a frequent author of the international journal *Social Evolution & History*, the Yearbook *Evolyuitsia* [Evolution], and other leading Russian sociological journals.

Antonio Gelis-Filho has PhD in Management (FGV, Brazil, 2005), Senior Lecturer at the department of Public Management of FGV-EAESP, São Paulo, Brazil.

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Leonid E. Grinin is Senior Research Professor at the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow and Senior Research Professor at the Laboratory for Destabilization Risk Monitoring at the National Research University Higher School of Economics. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Age of Globalization* (in Russian), as well as a co-editor of the international journals *Social Evolution & History* and the *Journal of Globalization Studies*. Dr. Grinin is the author of over 550 scholarly publications in Russian and English, including 31 monographs. These monographs include *Philosophy, Sociology, and the Theory of History* (2007;

Evolution: Evolutionary Trends, Aspects, and Patterns 2019 293–295

in Russian); *Productive Forces and Historical Process* (2006, in Russian); *State and Historical Process* (3 vols, 2009–2010, in Russian); *Social Macroevolution: World System Transformations* (2009; in Russian, with A. Korotayev); *Macroevolution in Biological and Social Systems* (2008; in Russian, with A. Markov and A. Korotayev); *Global Crisis in Retrospective: A Brief History of Upswings and Crises* (2010; in Russian, with A. Korotayev); *The Evolution of Statehood: From Early State to Global Society* (2011); *The Cycles of Development of Modern World System* (2011; in Russian, with A. Korotayev and S. Tsirel); *From Confucius to Comte: The Formation of the Theory, Methodology and Philosophy of History* (2012; in Russian); *Macrohistory and Globalization* (2012); *Cycles, Crises, and Traps of the Modern World-System* (2012; in Russian, with A. Korotayev); *Great Divergence and Great Convergence* (2015; with A. Korotayev); *Economic Cycles, Crises, and the Global Periphery* (2016; with Arno Tausch and A. Korotayev); *Islamism, Arab Spring, and the Future of Democracy: World System and World Values Perspectives* (2019; with Andrey Korotayev and Arno Tausch).

David Hookes is a member of the Labour Party and a life-long trade unionist and socialist. Educated at Trinity College, Cambridge University, he received a BA in Natural Sciences with a major in Physics. Being dissatisfied with the conceptual problems in Physics, such as the interpretation of quantum mechanics and the unexplained constancy of the velocity of light in Special Relativity, he decided to switch his studies. He obtained a PhD in Molecular Biology at Kings College, London University, with a thesis on molecular interactions in bio-membranes. He then spent a year in Germany as a post-doctoral fellow of the Von Humboldt Foundation and carried out, inter alia, theoretical work on the transport properties of bio-membranes. Back in England, Dr Hookes was appointed Head of Physics at Kilburn Polytechnic. Some years later, took an MSc in Digital Electronic Engineering at the University of Westminster. He was then appointed Senior Lecturer in Electronic Engineering at Coventry University, where he researched bio-sensors, robot tactile sensing, and computer-interactive educational technology. This led to his 'Physics-is-Fun' workstation. After retirement, he became an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Liverpool University's Computer Science Department. His present research interests are: how to save the planet from the threat of global warming; renewable energy technologies; application of ideas from physics to political economy and computer networks; computer-interactive educational technology; and foundational problems of physics. He is on the National Coordinating Committee of Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR).

Andrey V. Korotayev is Senior Research Professor at the International Laboratory for Political Demography and Social Macrodynamics at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Head of the Laboratory for Destabilization Risk Monitoring at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Senior Research Professor of the Oriental Institute and Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, as well as a Professor at the Faculty of Global Studies of the Moscow State University. He is the author of over 700 scholarly publications, including such monographs as *Ancient Yemen* (1995), *World Religions and Social Evolution of the Old World Oikumene Civilizations: A Cross-Cultural Perspective* (2004), *Introduction to Social Macrodynamics: Com-*

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Cadell Last is an anthropologist (M.Sc.) and philosopher (Ph.D candidate) with an interest in biocultural evolution, mind-matter relation, and the futures horizon situated within a big historical context. He is currently a Ph.D student at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) within the Evolution, Cognition, and Complexity (ECCO) department, studying under the supervision of Dr Francis Heylighen. You can find more of his work and activity at cadelllast.com.

David LePoire has a PhD in Computer Science from DePaul University and BS in physics from CalTech. He has worked in environmental and energy areas for many governmental agencies over the past 25 years. Topics include uncertainty techniques, pathway analysis, particle detection tools, and physics-based modeling. He has also explored historical trends in energy, science, and environmental transitions. His research interests include complex adaptive systems, logistical transitions, the role of energy and environment in history, and the application of new technologies to solve current energy and environmental issues.

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Brian Spooner studied at Oxford, taking Honour Moderations in Greek and Latin Language and Literature, a B.A. in Persian with Pahlavi (First Class Honours), and a DPhil. in Social Anthropology. He has worked with the British Institute of Persian Studies and the American Institute of Iranian Studies, Afghanistan Studies and Pakistan Studies and the American Research Institute in Turkey. He teaches the anthropology of the Middle East and globalisation at the University of Pennsylvania. Apart from publications on the Middle East he is the editor of *Globalization: The Crucial Phase* (2015, University of Pennsylvania Press).

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