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Abstract

In studying history at the present time we find ourselves seeking a deeper, more thermodynamically-based account of biological life in order to explore humanity's seemingly limitless capacities for growth and complexification. Although 'Big History' has come far in this respect, it is only psychohistory that probes the psychodynamic depths of individual and collective motivation in human affairs, and ask we approach the permanent colonisation of deep space, it is only psycho-historical knowledge that will help us to attain deeper levels of self-understanding, to overcome the immense social challenges facing us at present, to comprehend and master the vast dimensions of space and time that will challenge deep space pioneers, and which will enable us to enter, in the fullness of self-knowledge, into that vectored domain of emergent process in which we are embedded, and in which we are destined to play such a crucial role. The critical point in our immediate future is the K0 → K2 transition. Such a transition will involve an evolutionary 'long jump' - a step far greater than that taken by our distant ancestors from sea to land. To realise such a step it would appear essential to establish a permanent foothold in deep space before the constraint and error catastrophes currently affecting global civilisation precipitate a catabolic systems collapse to the point where recovery to our present level will be severely compromised by key resource depletion. This paper sets out the role of a hypothetical psycho-historically-based 'dual foundation' in 'catalysing' such a transition, comparing the probability of transition with a foundational catalyst to the probability of transition without one. While such a scenario might echo the Foundation Trilogy in outline, it is in fact based on the Joachimite prophecies of the 12th century - 'hidden' sources on which Asimov's work was also unconsciously based.

A short bio

Paul Ziolo studied musicology, computer science, AI and psychology at the universities of Glasgow, Warsaw, Toronto and MIT, devising and teaching courses in psychohistory at Northampton, Vichy, Nuremberg and finally at the University of Liverpool. He is a keen comparative linguist, amateur astronomer and wilderness explorer and has an implacable faith in Earth's posthuman, cosmic destiny. Linkedin profile:

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