

A TRISECTED WORLD

Today, the lineup of world civilizations is different. We are speeding toward a totally different structure of power that will create not a world cut in two but sharply divided into three contrasting and competing civilizations – the first still symbolized by the hoe; the second by the assembly line; and the third by the computer.

That term, 'civilization', may sound pretentious, especially to American ears, but no other term is sufficiently all-embracing to include such varied matters as technology, family life, religion, culture, politics, business, hierarchy, leadership, values, sexual morality, and epistemology. Swift and radical changes are occurring in every one of these dimensions of society.

As a new civilization arrives, it touches the fundamental and the trivial alike. Thus today we see an enormous number of things that were inconceivable, unavailable, or socially disapproved of in the past – everything from heart transplants to Frisbees and yogurt franchises, from condos and consultants to contact lenses, from space walks to Game Boy cartridges, from Jews for Jesus to New Age worship, from laser surgeons to CNN, from ecological fundamentalism to chaos theory.

Change all these social, technological, and cultural elements at once and you create not just a transition but a transformation, not just society but the beginnings, at least, of a totally new civilization.

But to introduce a new civilization onto the planet and then expect peace and tranquility is the height of strategic naïveté. Each civilization has its own economic (and hence political and military) requirements.

In this trisected world the First Wave sector supplies agricultural and mineral resources, the Second Wave sector provides cheap labor and does the mass production, and a rapidly expanding Third Wave sector rises to dominance based on the new ways in which it creates and exploits knowledge.

Third Wave nations sell information and innovation, management, culture and pop culture, advanced technology, software, education, training, medical care, and financial and other services to the world. One of those services might well also turn out to be military protection based on its command of superior Third Wave forces. (That is, in

effect, what the high-tech nations provided for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the Gulf War).

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In
WAR AND ANTI WAR
SURVIVAL AT THE DAWN
OF THE 21ST CENTURY