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## **NATIONALISM OR GLOBALISM? CAN BE BOTH PART OF THE PROBLEM OR OF THE SOLUTION; THE IMPORTANT ISSUE IS: HOW TO FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE NARRATIVES AND IDENTITIES?**

**Abstract:** Nowadays we read a lot of commentaries about worrisome phenomena showing a growing number of examples about the destruction of human and natural capital deriving from the excesses of malignant nationalism and/or of the unforeseen extremes of globalization. But nationalism or globalism are the origin of our problems or something else more basic is at work

In my opinion nationalism and /or globalism are not at the origins of the growing problems facing us even if they can generate great harm. Historically are well known the dramatic lessons of the destructive impacts of the nationalistic deliriums of Fascism and Nazism on one side and the destructive impacts on human and natural resources of the globalist Marxist-Leninist dictatorships on the other. But equally destructive phenomena are the rampant forms of religious intolerance and theocratic apocalyptic narratives, that intertwine with terrorism and organized violence, not to speak of the destruction of the planet vast resources and ecological niches, the population bomb and an increasing compulsive consumerism accompanied by skyrocketing expectations based on wishful thinking and not on sustainable planetary capacities.

At the same time the gap between the rich and the poor is dramatically growing, as the widespread effects of corruption, organized crime and a widespread and dramatic lack of understanding of the origins of our self-inflicted problems and our lack of tools to cope effectively with them.

How to get out from this quagmire, since we live in a world that is largely our creation? We need to grasp how we are blinding ourselves and making ourselves impotent by dysfunctionally employing obsolete ways of knowing and of coping. To retool our educational systems is a priority if we want to stop our self-destructive compulsive behaviors.

I think that Epistemic Communities like the World Academy of Art and Science and the World University Consortium can and should offer significant help to decision makers, opinion makers and all the stakeholders in understanding the complex processes of the social construction of the so called reality.

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To promote the needed changes at the national and global level but also at the individual, family and community level we need to build solid narratives and life affirming identities based on respect, emphatic understanding, equal rights and equal obligations for each and all of us. We need to reeducate ourselves and learn to live sustainable relationships with ourselves others and the world.

Significant steps for fostering ecological relationships where people feel at home in their culture and community and also feel part and deeply connected to Planet Earth.

This is not just a beautiful dream, but the urgent need to cope effectively and avoid becoming the victims of catastrophes created by our blindness and lack of contact with the web of life. Education is going to play an important role if we are going to be successful we need to retool our education system that needs to help all the stakeholders to learn to be in contact with themselves, others and all the lifeforms.