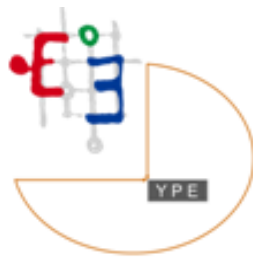




H A R I R I

revisited





HUMANKIND IS NOW FACING A GLOBAL CRISIS

HARARI REVISITED

by

MARC GUIOT

Perhaps the biggest crisis of our generation. The decisions people and governments take in the next few weeks will probably shape the world for years to come. They will shape not just our healthcare systems but also our economy, politics and culture.

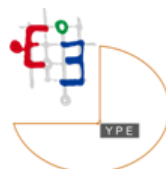
We should ask ourselves not only how to overcome the immediate threat, but also what kind of world we will inhabit once the storm passes. Yes, the storm will pass, humankind will survive, most of us will still be alive — but we will inhabit a different world.

What happens when everybody works from home and communicates only at a distance?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ENTIRE SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES GO ONLINE?

Above all, we should also ask ourselves what would have happened if we had gone one step further, for example if we had, in the past ten years, dematerialized and made our secondary education in Europe virtual, as suggested by Eyes of Europe *in tempore non suspecto* and as The Open University has been doing with talent for almost half a century higher education.

Now students from all over Europe follow their courses and seminars at home, behind their screens. But what happens to European teenagers in secondary schools? What do they do, are they on the streets abandoned to themselves and what do their teachers do in the meantime? What a collective resignation when





we could take the opportunity to experiment with new forms of virtual teaching. What are our politicians, our ministers of education, doing?

THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN TOTALITARIAN SURVEILLANCE AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT.

We face two particularly important choices. The first is between totalitarian surveillance and citizen empowerment.

It is clear that the choice can only be in favour of citizen empowerment. But the question remains as to how this is to be implemented. The solution exists, it is obviously our auto active platform Eyes of Europe.

The second is between nationalist isolation and global solidarity.

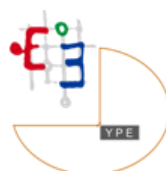
Global solidarity can only be woven step by step, day by day, in the long term and preferably from the earliest age, ideally through pan-European education based on *intercultural dialogue of all with all*, a kind of virtual Erasmus for all and by all. And this is precisely the ambition of Eyes of Europe.

Today, for the first time in human history, technology makes it possible to monitor everyone all the time. Fifty years ago, the KGB couldn't follow 240m Soviet citizens 24 hours a day, nor could the KGB hope to effectively process all the information gathered.

Yes technology can be the worst of things, but cannot it also be, like Aesop's tongue, the best ?

This implies that each *learner* can be individually supported by tailored coaching according to his needs, which will be analysed in real time.

Just as the Open University has been successfully using all the resources of the most advanced technology for almost half a century, likewise Eyes of Europe has been reflecting since 1997 on how to use technology to implement its pan-European teaching to make an intercultural dialogue possible for all young people with all young people interested in this approach.





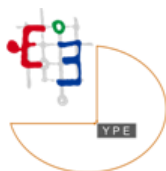
In recent years both governments and corporations have been using ever more sophisticated technologies to track, monitor and manipulate people. Yet if we are not careful, the epidemic might We can choose to protect our health and stop the coronavirus epidemic not by instituting totalitarian surveillance regimes, but rather by empowering citizens.

EMPOWERING CITIZENS I.E. YOUNG EUROPEAN IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

As a matter of fact, it is exactly the same for education. Every student can, easily, be observed with care in real time, which should make it easy to detect their learning difficulties when they appear. As soon as they occur, individualized care can automatically be put in place to help them overcome their difficulties by proposing a remedial strategy. *Empowering citizens* i.e. young European in the educational process happens to be the EoE solution.

In recent weeks, some of the most successful efforts to contain the coronavirus epidemic were orchestrated by South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore. (...)When people are told the scientific facts, and when people trust public authorities to tell them these facts, citizens can do the right thing even without a Big Brother watching over their shoulders. A self-motivated and well-informed population is usually far more powerful and effective than a policed, ignorant population. (...)But to achieve such a level of compliance and co-operation, you need trust. People need to trust science, to trust public authorities, and to trust the media.

The same is even truer when it comes to education and teaching. They must be based on trust and generate confidence : the confidence of learners in relation to their teachers and also and perhaps more importantly and above all the confidence of learners in relation to each other learners, because one does not learn well under stress and even less so under constraint. The best way to learn is between peers and under the guidance of peers, according to the formula, *young Europeans teach young Europeans* under the mediation of teacher presenters, mediators and communicators.





EOE is in fact an empowering way to develop and strengthen this confidence on a daily basis.

Over the past few years, irresponsible politicians have deliberately undermined trust in science, in public authorities and in the media. Now these same irresponsible politicians might be tempted to take the high road to authoritarianism, arguing that you just cannot trust the public to do the right thing. Normally, trust that has been eroded for years cannot be rebuilt overnight.

EUROPE BADLY NEEDS TO RENEW HOPE IN THE FUTURE

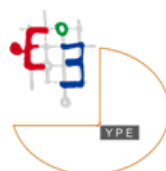
Indeed, building confidence is more difficult than undermining trust. And more than anything, rebuilding trust is a long-term process. This is why Eyes of Europe is willing to reach out to young Europeans with the aim of making them understand Europe in all its aspects and diversity, therefore making them love the European idea, the European culture, the European spirit, the European way of life Basically by encouraging them to write together the new narrative that Europe so badly needs to renew hope in the future.

Professor Marc Van Ranst, a famous Flemish virologist, deplores the fact that young Belgians are not sufficiently affected by the official communication around the coronavirus. *Some of the young people who are now on respirators were involved in the scandalous "lockdownparty's". "Our communication does not reach certain groups, such as young people, sufficiently,"* said Marc Van Ranst on television. According to EoE, it would be up to the young people themselves to convince other dizzy young people who are playing dangerously with their health and the health of others.

This could have been avoided by raising awareness of young people by young people through the EoE self-active educational platform.

Van Ranst explained that *"influencers"* are the ones who must be relied upon to reach this group of recalcitrant people.

Young people need to understand and explain in their own words and style that *"This is not a video game, people are really dying"*.





When some emergency occurs, you suddenly discover a hidden reservoir of trust and amity, and you rush to help one another. Instead of building a surveillance regime, it is not too late to rebuild people's trust in science, in public authorities and in the media. We should definitely make use of new technologies too, but these technologies should empower citizens.

to make more informed personal choices, and also to hold government accountable for its decisions.

Yes, this is precisely what EoE intends to implement in total transparency and with empathy.

A GLOBAL PLAN IS NEEDED

If we fail to make the right choice, we might find ourselves signing away our most precious freedoms, thinking that this is the only way to safeguard our health. We need a global plan

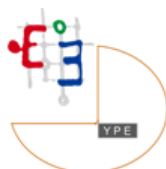
We need indeed a global EoE plan to give education a more human and intercultural and paneuropean face.

The second important choice we confront is between nationalist isolation and global solidarity. Both the epidemic itself and the resulting economic crisis are global problems. They can be solved effectively only by global co-operation. First and foremost, in order to defeat the virus we need to share information globally.

STIMULATING EXCHANGES OF EVERYONE WITH EVERYONE IN REAL TIME AND IN ENGLISH.

Global cooperation can only be achieved by increasing the number of interactions, and this is precisely what EoE wants to stimulate, exchanges of everyone with everyone in real time and in English.

Countries should be willing to share information openly and humbly seek advice, and should be able to trust the data and the insights





What is true for governments is even more true for all citizens young and old.

A collective paralysis has gripped the international community. There seem to be no adults in the room.

EOE 'd like there to be as many young people in this room as possible...

We must hope that the current epidemic will help humankind realise the acute danger posed by global disunity.

Humanity needs to make a choice. Will we travel down the route of disunity, or will we adopt the path of global solidarity? If we choose disunity, this will not only prolong the crisis, but will probably result in even worse catastrophes in the future.

If we choose global solidarity, it will be a victory not only against the coronavirus, but against all future epidemics and crises that might assail humankind in the 21st century.

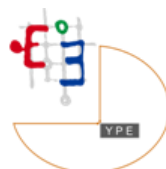
Eyes of Europe has chosen for unity and cooperation against global disunity.

"This coronavirus crisis will save the digital school twenty years" writes La Libre Belgique. Let's hope that it will now make Eyes of Europe gain 20 years because because the endless procrastination of the political world has made it lose more than 20 years.

"Today, circumstances have changed. The pupils are with their families. The organizing powers are trying not to break the link. And the computer is at the heart of it..." (Jean Huberlant is a techno-pedagogue for the basic schools of the open network).

Albert Camus in « *La peste* », "*The Plague*" : *"all these changes, in a sense, were so extraordinary and were accomplished so quickly, that it was not easy to consider them normal and lasting. »*

We should expect to see this type of pandemic recurring more often in the future. Unknown viruses will increasingly threaten human beings in the coming decades. The current crisis is the price we are all paying for the lack of attention from our politicians.





Neo liberals and the like taken for granted the resources provided by the State - health, infrastructure and above all education - without ever realizing that the resources they took away from the state would ultimately deprive them of the world that makes the economy possible.

« CAFE ALS SCHULE, SCHULE ALS CAFE »

As Jacques Delors used to say : *education there is a treasure within it*. Isn't Eyes of Europe precesely a hidden treasure, which is deliberately kept hidden?

Today we are experiencing substitute sociability: the use of the Internet has more than doubled; social networks have become the new lounges, the new pubs, the new cafés, the new virtual bitrots.

EoE's very first slogan used to be *Café als Schule, Schule als Café? Café as school, school as café*

Students from all over the world now take virtual classes through virtual classrooms. « *The Corona virus crisis is forcing us to review from top to bottom all the known categories of sociability and care, is also the great feast of virtual technology.*

I am convinced that in the post-Corona world, long-distance virtual life will have gained a new autonomy - now that we have been forced to discover its potential.
» Eva Illouz

This pandemic gives us a preview, a foretaste of what can happen to us if much more dangerous viruses were to emerge and climate change were to make the world an unbearable place to live in.

"Contrary to those who predict a resurgence of nationalism and a return of borders, I believe that only a coordinated international response can help address these unprecedented risks. » Eva Illouz
Faced with the virus, not only does a "European" response seem impossible (if at all desirable), but European countries are watching each other with suspicion. (Jacques Attali)

Since the European Community has failed , why not give Eyes of Europe a chance to help young people succeed precisely where it failed.

MARC GUIOT

27 March 2020

