## Figure 10.8. Historical review

## Compensatory Dynamics: the ecological relationship between the dove and the hawk (1986)

These illustrations were created by Tim Casswell (http://www.creativeconnection.co.uk) and published in the 1986 edition (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) of the Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential (http://www.uia.org/encyclopedia/home.php), introduced by the following comments.

The cover and the illustrations throughout this book [the *Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1986] were done by Tim Casswell. The illustrations explore many phases in the ecological relationship between the dove and the hawk – conventional symbols for roles and processes in fundamental opposition in society. Each is portrayed in two modes which highlight the need for compensatory dynamics. The contrasting qualities exemplified by the characters of the two hawks could be termed heroic vigilance and violent domination. Those of the two doves could be termed non-violent inspiration and exploitative domination. The series emphasizes the theme of this book, namely the need for each to counteract the excesses of the other in order to maintain a healthy environment for both. The cover symbolizes the manner in which such extremes are bound together in a process which defines a framework that transcends them both.

The Chinese symbol at the back of the volume [reprinted here with the last illustration] represents a "crisis" or a "critical turning point". It is composed of an upper character representing "danger" and a lower character associated with the notions of "organic complexity", "intricate systems", "hidden opportunity" and "natural evolutionary change". This symbol is reproduced here because the *Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential* also attempts to embody these seemingly incompatible dimensions in an equally positive manner. It therefore identifies the multiplicity of dangers to society, but it also highlights the interlocking complexity of the existing organizational, intellectual and personal resources. This contains the concealed opportunity for creative change and the opportunity for appropriate response to the crisis of crises.

Human life is driven forward by its dim apprehension of notions too general for its existing language. Alfred North Whitehead

The names that can be named are not definitve names. Naming engenders ten thousand things.... Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub. It is the centre hole that makes it useful.... Therefore profit comes from what is there; usefulness from what is not there. Lao Tzu

In contrast with what is commonly assumed, a description, when carefully inspected, reveals the properties of the observer. We, observers, distinguish ourselves precisely by distinguishing what we apparently are not, the world.

Francisco Varela

Behind the misty wall of words, the diverse, even contradictory interpretations, motivations and utilisations are an indication of fundamental divisions concerning values. In particular, the most basic human rights are more frequently invoked as a weapon of attack of defence against some party, rather than recognized as the royal road to a positive relationship beween individuals and groups in an objective form of fraternity.

René Maheu, Director-General, UNESCO

When men understand only one of a pair of opposites, or concentrate only on a partial aspect of being, then clear expression also becomes muddled by mere word play, affirming this one aspect and denying all the rest.... The wise man therefore sees that on both sides of every argument there is both right and wrong.

Chuang Tzu

Break the pattern which connects the items of learning and you necessarily destroy all quality... The pattern which connects is a metapattern. It is a pattern of patterns. Gregory Bateson

Neti Neti ("Not this; not that.")

Sanskrit aphorism



























































































































