

## (a) The West's Developmental (成長論的) View of Humanity

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The Western Developmental View of Humanity

# An Overview of the Western Traditional View of Humanity

## Characteristics of the Western View of Humanity

- The human being as an independent existence separate from Heaven and Earth
- The Western tradition oriented toward substantiality

### Ancient–Medieval

- The Promethean View of Humanity: the human being who struggles to realize the ideals of the idea in the matter of the earth
- The doctrine of original sin: the human being who, having lost paradise, copes with the loss of the ideal in a world from which God has vanished

### After the modern era

- Phenomenological developmentalism: the human being who realizes the ideals of the idea in the matter of the earth
- Postmodernism: the human being who, having lost paradise, copes with the loss of the ideal in a world from which God has vanished

"In the West, an existential consciousness directly related to the Heaven above Heaven took precedence over a consciousness of anxious concern (憂患意識) related to Heaven and Earth."

# The Background of the Emergence of the Developmental View of Humanity

## An epochal transition

- Paradigm shift: the shift in worldview from God-centered to human-centered
- Modern independence: the emergence of the concept of the autonomous human being, separated from Heaven and Earth

## A backlash against negative views of humanity

Psychoanalysis: interpreting all human desire as the transformation of sexual drives

Behaviorism: the problem of reducing human desire to merely material desire—the

problematic point: the limits of a negative, technology-oriented View of Humanity

## Philosophical and psychological background

Existentialism: the emphasis on human subjectivity and self-determination; phenom-

-enology: valuing the totality and meaning of human experience; humanism: hu-

-manity's potential and the affirmation of the possibility of self-realization

**"The Developmental View of Humanity presented a View of Humanity oriented toward self-realizing problem-solving grounded in the doctrine of innate goodness (性善說)."**

# The Core Characteristics of the Developmental View of Humanity

The Developmental View of Humanity is a perspective that views human nature and the potential for development positively, and it has the following three core characteristics:

## ① The affirmation of desire

- Interpreting human desire not as something negative but as the manifestation of diverse needs
- Maslow: "The need for self-actualization is the individual's craving for self-improvement, the desire to realize all that one holds as potential."

## ② The affirmation of growth

- The stage-by-stage development from lower needs (deficiency motives) to higher-order needs (growth motives)
- 'Being motives': "enriching life and increasing life's joy by broadening experience"

## ③ The affirmation of the world

- Emphasizing the human being as a unified existence instead of the negative, mechanical worldview of psychoanalysis or behaviorism
- A positive worldview that respects the human being's latent possibility and subjectivity

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory and Its Major Scholars

## A.H. Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory; the major scholars of the Developmental View of Humanity

The foundation of growth theory, which emerged in the mid-1940s



- Lower four stages: deficiency motives
- Highest stage: growth/being motives

- 🎓 D. McGregor: Theory X (the controlling View of Humanity) and Theory Y (the autonomous, creative View of Humanity)
- 🎓 F. Herzberg: the two-factor theory — hygiene factors (removing dissatisfaction) and motivator factors (enhancing satisfaction)
- 🎓 G.W. Allport: trait theory — emphasizing individual traits in the formation of personality
- 🎓 C. Argyris: the immaturity–maturity theory — interpreting human development as a process of maturation

“The Developmental View of Humanity is a View of Humanity oriented toward self-realizing problem-solving grounded in the doctrine of innate goodness, emphasizing the developmental aspect whereby human needs lie latent in stages and emerge progressively from lower to higher

# The Connection with Posthumanism

## Posthumanism and the developmental perspective

- The Fourth Industrial Revolution: interpreted as the industrial revolution of the self-realization stage of which the Developmental View of Humanity speaks
- The evolution of existentialism: the existentialist View of Humanity newly realized in the posthuman era

The Developmental View of Humanity:  
self-realization, potential, the affirmation  
of human desire



Posthumanism: the fusion of technology  
and the human being, a new identity

## A new relationship between technology and the human being

- Distinguishing the intelligence unique to the human being from machine intelligence
  - Seeking the possibility of co-evolution of the human being and technology
- Self-realization: creating new human value amid technological development
- Artificial general intelligence: humanity's uniquely well-rounded capacity for development and potential for growth

**"Posthumanism is located at the point where humanity's own developmentalism meets modern technology and seeks new possibilities."**

# Moravec's Paradox and Growth-Intelligence

## Moravec's Paradox

- "What humans do well, AI does poorly; what humans do poorly, AI does well"
- In instrumental reason such as computational ability AI excels, but there exists a domain of intelligence unique to the human being

### Domains where artificial intelligence excels

- 🧠 Computational ability
- 💾 Large-scale data processing
- 🤖 Tasks specialized to a specific domain
- ⚙️ Repetitive precision work

VS

### Domains where the human being excels

- 👥 The capacity to form community
- 💡 Creating and understanding symbol systems
- ⚙️ General-purpose problem-solving
- 🌱 The capacity for self-development

## The human being's growth-intelligence

- The posthuman era: the human being pursues co-evolution by focusing on a growth-intelligence different from that of machines
- The core of growth-intelligence: the creation of symbol systems, the formation of community, self-development
- The human being possesses the attributes of an artificial general intelligence developed in balance across diverse domains, rather than a specialized narrow AI

"The human being has, for tens of thousands of years, made existentialist efforts to exist, and in that process developed intelligence through countless symbols that AI cannot imitate, becoming a positive being possessed of the motive for self-realization."

# Conclusion and Limitations

## The contribution of the Developmental View of Humanity

- Driving the development of modern science and technology; self-realization
- and the discovery of the individual's potential for growth; achieving various
- social developments and progress

## Limitations

- Severance from Heaven and Earth: a dogmatic human development that excludes Heaven and Earth
- Ecological crisis: paradoxically, the betrayal of Heaven and Earth threatens humanity's survival
- Loss of control: the absence of a means to re-bind the reins of desire

## Future prospects

- Alternative Modernity: re-establishing a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature
- East-West Integration: A balance between the Developmental View of Humanity and the consciousness of anxious concern (憂患意識)
- Posthuman ethics: the harmony of technological development and humanity

"The reins of desire have come loose, but the Western View of Humanity, which has no means to re-bind them, came to require a new alternative modernity."