



PROMOTING LEADERSHIP IN THOUGHT  
THAT LEADS TO ACTION

THE WEALTH OF NATIONS REVISITED

# CADMUS

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON MAJOR GLOBAL ISSUES

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*The acronym of the South-East European Division of The World Academy of Art & Science—SEED—prompted us to initiate a journal devoted to seed ideas—to leadership in thought that leads to action. Cadmus (or Kadmos in Greek and Phoenician mythology) was a son of King Agenor and Queen Telephassa of Tyre, and brother of Cilix, Phoenix and Europa. Cadmus is credited with introducing the original alphabet—the Phoenician alphabet, with “the invention” of agriculture, and with founding the city of Thebes. His marriage to Harmonia represents the symbolic coupling of Eastern learning and Western love of beauty. The youngest son of Cadmus and Harmonia was Illyrius. The city of Zagreb, which is the formal seat of SEED, was once part of Illyria, a region in what is today referred to as the Western Balkans. Cadmus will be a journal for fresh thinking and new perspectives that integrates knowledge from all fields of science, arts and humanities to address real-life issues, inform policy and decision-making, and enhance our collective response to the challenges and opportunities facing the world today.*

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# **CADMUS**

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**Volume 4, Issue 2**

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**New Perspectives on Major Global Issues**  
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## Inside this Issue

The challenges confronting humanity today are a compelling call for leadership to transform crises into opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic calls for global solutions to address global problems, not partial, sectoral approaches based on outdated attitudes, concepts, institutions and policies. We need leadership with a transboundary vision: leadership that can sense the rising social energies and seize the occasion to convert these energies into effective transformative social power; leadership to forge alliances across borders, disciplines and other types of walls; leadership which can learn from the past and creatively apply its poignant lessons to unlock the future; leadership with the individuality and courage to spearhead a global social human-centered movement; leadership to seize this unique planetary moment to unleash the planetary momentum to create the future NOW.

There has been ample time, opportunity and effort to analyze our problems. The broad lines of the remedy are apparent to all those with open-mindedness and courage to see beyond the limitations of self-blinding orthodoxies, entrenched social powers and vested interests, so heavily vested in the past that they cannot see it is already dead. Now is the time to pass from analyzing problems to formulating effective solutions and catalytic strategies to fill the vacuum, break the logjam and transform the long, slow meandering pace of subconscious social evolution into rapid, conscious social transformation. The formulation of the SDGs provides a clear consensus on the goals to be achieved. What is needed now is the leadership in thought that leads to effective action.

Social transformation is not a utopian dream but a fact that has been playing out before our very eyes with increasing rapidity and intensity in recent decades. It took several centuries to abolish slavery in the world and nearly as long to establish the idea of gender equality as a fundamental human right. But it took just two decades to virtually abolish colonial empires from the face of the earth after World War II. And barely a few years to tear down the boundaries built during the Cold War to liberate and weld humanity into a single global community. Since then the World Wide Web has connected and unified humanity to an extent unimaginable just three decades ago.

Social transformation is not a myth, but it is a challenge to overcome the inertia, resistance and barriers that retard the process. Throughout history we have witnessed potentialities transformed into actualities. But never before have we been presented with the means and confronted by the urgent necessity to consciously direct and accelerate that process in a race against the consequences of our own past attitudes and actions. We are compelled to step forward with the necessary leadership in values, thoughts, organizational initiatives, catalytic strategies and effective actions. Further reliance on fragmented thinking, piecemeal, compartmentalized, sectoral, unilateral policies and actions that have been the source of the present problems will only aggravate and accelerate the crises. We need holistic, global approaches that address root causes rather than superficial symptoms. Civil Society and youth groups have already become catalysts and instigators of transformational change.

The first two parts of this issue of *Cadmus* present working papers for a project of the United Nations Office in Geneva and the World Academy of Art & Science on [Global Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#). The issues, questions, and ideas it presents were discussed at the

[UNOG-WAAS e-conference on Catalytic Transformative Strategies](#) on June 15-19, 2020. This event was preparatory to the main conference scheduled to take place at the UN in Geneva on October 27-28, 2020 and to a final report to the UN and educational outreach measures.

A strong consensus emerged at the UNOG-WAAS econference that a paradigm shift is essential and inevitable and that COVID-19 is acting as a compelling catalyst for rapid change across all sectors of society around the world. The third and the final part of Volume 4 Issue 2 of *Cadmus* features articles that converge on the theme of paradigm shift in thought that should lead to action. Outstanding individuals like Greta Thunberg and Malala will play an essential leadership role. But inspiring individuals will not be enough. The world needs to unleash a process of transformational leadership to generate awareness, release and direct social energies, and organize them as a broad-based collaborative movement for the common good.

This issue is a call and challenge to think freshly and an invitation to contribute.

## **Editors**



GI-21 seeks to increase our understanding of the process of conscious social transformation and to enhance our perception of unrealized possibilities.

– *Garry Jacobs et al.*, *Catalytic Strategies for Socially Transformative Leadership*

In today's interconnected world, governments and IGOs alone cannot effectively address complex global challenges. They require our collective response.

– *David Chikvaidze*,  
*Multilateralism: Its Past, Present and Future*

The current crisis will be a catalyst that brutally reveals and intensifies the transformation of the world and human behaviour.

– *Alexander Likhotal*, *Global leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

The internet is democratizing finance by making it digital, global, and distributed, and this will transform it into something radically different from what it is today.

– *Ketan Patel & Christian Hansmeyer*,  
*The Role of Finance in Solving Global Issues*

Radical change cannot be achieved solely on the initiative of superpowers or by a few outstanding individuals. It will require the active involvement of all major stakeholders.

– *Garry Jacobs et al.*, *Leadership for a New Paradigm*

A better understanding of what is happening at the global level necessitates a deep, shared perspective change.

– *Rodolfo Fiorini et al.*,  
*Global Transformative Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

The global coronavirus pandemic crisis is an opportunity for humanity because it certainly creates palpable adaptive pressure.

– *Thomas Reuter et al.*,  
*Civil Society and Youth Leadership for Transformation*

The focus needs to be on the right to health, commitment to universality, solidarity and equal access as the guiding values for organizing and funding health systems.

– *Alberto Zucconi & Isabelle Wachsmuth*, *Protecting and Promoting Individual, Social and Planetary Health*

Lessons concerning the weaknesses of social systems must be studied and analyzed to understand why and how conventional thinking has led to global crises.

– *Jüri Engelbrecht et al.*,  
*Current Tasks of Academies and Academia*

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*Continued...*