

## THE WORLD AS CULTURE

### REVIEWS

*The World as Culture* is Paul Schafer's *magnum opus*. As economist and cultural historian, Schafer's main theme is the need to move from an economic to a cultural age, renaissance rather than anarchic rebellion and collapse. In this book, Schafer reviews culture's historic role as cultivation of soul and, with important new clarity, culture as holism, the antidote to the fragmentation and reductionism of late modernity. He details demanding shifts in public policy. Cultural selection more than natural selection will determine the future of Earth's biosystems and the fate of humankind. There is no better guide than *The World as Culture*. Herman Greene, President, The Center for Ecozoic Studies

The world is bigger than you think! This book provides the evidence. It opens your eyes to the riches of human creativity beyond restrictive social boundaries and economics. Paul reminds us that we plant, harvest, and nourish our lives from the garden of culture, not in marketplace haggling. We are culture, and we make culture as we seek to sustain ourselves and each other. George F. Simons, *Interculturalist, creator of diversophy*

As I read *The World As Culture* I found myself filled with hope. There is a rightness, a coming back to what is authentically human in this beautifully written and potent book. In a world where there is so much wrong, Paul offers a path forward. He reminds us of our birthright and reveals what we already know deep down in our hearts — to live in our true nature is to create a culture where we all can thrive. Susan Magsamen, Executive Director, International Arts+Mind Lab, John's Hopkins University

Emphasizing culture as a whole or total way of life, Schafer warns that no subject is more important at present and going forward into the future than learning about culture and all the many diverse cultures in the world. This is because cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as a development resource, as a strengthening of the awareness of common values, are the main challenge of our time. The demand for making the World as Culture a reality proves this perfectly. Biserka Cvjetičanin, Senior Scientific Researcher at the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), Croatia

This impressive book offers an exciting vision for the world. Building on his decades of championing culture, this book is a remarkable culmination of his work. Sascha Priewe, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, Royal Ontario Museum

Paul Schafer explains why humanity needs to transform its current focus on economics to culture. He guides us through a 2,000-year history of ideas that emphasizes culture as a total way of life rather than a set of products to consume, and shows that this holistic approach to culture can help humanity resolve the world's current crises. Schafer explains

that culture envelops all areas of life, including material and spiritual, and his expertise in both economics and culture provides solid guidance for leveraging our cultural resources to finally reach our full potential for well-being. Brian Holihan, author of *Thinking in a New Light: How to Boost Your Creativity and Live More Fully by Exploring World Cultures*

*The World As Culture* by D. Paul Schafer is an enlightening, convincing, and extensively documented invitation to cultivate the soul and harness the potential of culture to support the systemic change needed in the 21st century. Written by an expert in the cultural field who has dedicated most of his life to this subject, this book is a must read!” Thomas Legrand, author of *Politics of Being* and advisor to UN agencies, governments, and non-governmental organizations on sustainability

Paul Schafer’s *The World As Culture* is about creating a “*better, safer, and more stable, sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world for all people, countries, and species*”. If you appreciate visionary writing about the resolution of our current and future problems, this book is for you. Frank Pasquill, Canadian Eco-culturalist

In a world where success and happiness have become an endless accumulation of material goods, Paul Schafer offers us the vision of “less is more” through the puzzle of conceptions of culture. They all converge in a global vision of the world as culture: the essence of being human. José Marín-Roig Ramón, Founder of the world O-City organization, Universitat Politècnica de València