



## New World, New Mind: Changing the Way We Think to Save Our Future

*Robert Evan Ornstein*

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# **New World, New Mind: Changing the Way We Think to Save Our Future**

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## **New World, New Mind: Changing the Way We Think to Save Our Future** Robert Evan Ornstein

Human beings have always been the most adaptable creatures on the planet, and they should be able to chart a new course for themselves. Some of that charting is already being done. The old mind today is being challenged and changed by many scattered efforts. Can we bring these efforts together to produce a large-scale program for a rapid 'change-of-mind'? We know what the problem is. The 'solution' is not simple -- to generate the social and political will to move a program of conscious evolution to the top of the human agenda.

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## Amani Yamani says

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**Mustafa says**

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**Nahla says**

## **Bader Al-Abri says**

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### **Esraa says**

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### **stinaz says**

An amazing book with brilliant insight into how the human mind has evolved to respond to short term and immediate challenges and thus is unsuitable for the world we have affected - with its dangerous long range and long term consequences. Ornstein and Ehrlich summarise it best themselves:

*We have made two observations over and over again in this book. The first is that the world is an increasingly dangerous place, and many of its new dangers are not instantaneously obvious. The second is that our reactions to the modern world are often inappropriate because of the nature of our minds and the training we give them. This mismatch threatens the destruction of civilisation.* pp 189-190

This book is so relevant to today that I can hardly believe it was published in 1989. Just goes to show that intelligent and aware people, as well as the scientific community, have known for quite some time that we are pushing our world to the brink unsustainably. This book explains exactly why, however, most people are not acting to stop their destruction. It's the same principles as the news media - "a fly in the eye is more interesting than a flood in China".

The best thing about *New World New Mind* is that it offers some solutions and suggestions as to how we can retrain our minds (and culture) to acknowledge and act on the information we now have - of how our actions have long term effects. Education is key, but this is also more of a long term plan itself. More immediately they suggest increasing public debate and awareness of the issues - and most importantly, to do so in ways that engage the old mind. Rather than just stats they suggest appealing emotionally and personally to people (a hot topic among sustainability advocates today). Another tactic suggested is to change what is viewed as "news" and/or to make the stats and information that surround climate change, social injustice, overpopulation, inequality and other sustainability topics into "news" - frame those topics in a "newsworthy" way. And of course, promoting the idea that progress does not necessarily mean growth.

Having only recently shed my own narrow minded thinking - that the world as I know it is exactly as it has and always will be - and started to really see that the Earth and its ecosystems cannot support life if humans

continue to live in this way, *New World New Mind* gave a voice and scientific background to what I have experienced - an epiphany of New Mind thinking. I think that everyone would benefit from reading this book and becoming more aware of our minds limitations. Reading it certainly helps to open the mind, which will in turn help us to make the world a better place and save it from ourselves.

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