

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh



Because I Love THE
TRUTH

Facts included in articles published between 2019-2021



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Because I Love THE

TRUTH

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
The Deposit Number at the National
Library
2022/6/2891

306.46

Abu-Ghazaleh, Talal Tawfiq

**Because I Love the Truth/ Talal Tawfiq Abu-Ghazaleh,
Translated by Abu-Ghazaleh Translation, Distribution and
Publishing.- Amman: The Company, 2022**

(152) p.

Deposit No.: 2022/6/2891

**Descriptors: /Industrial Technology//Crisis//Sociology of
Technology/**

يتحمل المؤلف كامل المسؤولية القانونية عن محتوى مصنفه ولا يعبر هذا المصنف
عن رأي دائرة المكتبة الوطنية أو أي جهة حكومية أخرى.

ردمك (978-9957-559-80-9) ISBN

ردمك (978-9957-559-81-6) ISBN E-BOOK

What is most worrying is our knowledge
of the truth and our ignoring it.
This takes place
because we omit the role of planning in
any work we want to accomplish!
We succumb to our difficult
circumstances.
And we often fail...

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

INDEX

Preface	6
“Climate Change: The Imminent Risk Threatening Human Existence”	9
The State of Knowledge-Based Economy in Jordan	12
Education in 2030 and beyond in Knowledge-Based Countries	16
The 2020 Global Crisis and the 3 rd World War	18
My Dear Children, Ten Recipes for Success	20
Arabic Needs Fluency Certificates like TOEFL and IELTS	24
America Declares World Economic War	27
We Need to Graduate Inventors, not Job Seekers	29
Comfort Addiction is Harmful to Health	32
From Globalization to Digital Autocracy	35
Teach your Children Artificial Intelligence	38
The Continued Occupation of Palestine is a Global, Moral Tragedy	41
Professionalization of Social Media Definitely Coming	43
Is Populism Devouring Democracy?	46
Would Machines Overtake Humans?	49
How are we Facing 2020 Crises?	52
A Race against Time: TAG Tech is Spreading the Culture of Technology Worldwide	54
The Digital Age and Future Challenges	56
Rescue Boats -Remote Work: The Future Business Management Model	59
E-Learning Combats Corona	63
The Worst Global Recession	66
Developing Management Systems during Crises, according to ISO Standards	68
Sustainable Reconstruction Plan (Abilities and Possibilities)	70

Lessons Learnt from World War II to Avoid New World War 73

Clean Environment for Smart Living: Epidemiological
and Environmental Issues are Two Sides of Same Coin 76

The Anglo-Saxon Civilization: Speedy Growth
and Forewarnings of Collapse 79

The Major Threat: Selling the Present to Buy the Future. 82

Between China and the US: Conflict or Confrontation? 85

Smart Cities are the Best 88

Democracy is Facing Challenges 91

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on the Economic
and Social Pain of America 93

Feeding a Growing Population through Smart Agriculture 96

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on US - Europe:
Together or Severally 100

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on US - Europe:
Together or Alone 103

The European Union and the League of Arab States...Similar Situation,
Different Circumstances 107

Bitcoin...A Call to Freedom 109

“The Belt and Road”: A Chinese Initiative with Global Flavor 111

“The New, Global Deal of the Century” - An Open Message
to the Arab Nation 113

“Digital Finance – A Key to Sustainability 115

A Series of Parapsychological Similarities 119

Artificial Intelligence: The Foremost Disruptive
Technology of our Time 121

The Importance of Vocational Training 124

America-Oil is not a Commodity; it is a Strategic Tool 126

Sino-US Partnership will be Key to Global Shared Future 128

The Ongoing Plight of the Palestinians in 2021 131

The Battle against Misinformation 133

The Outlook for 2022 135

Appendices 137

PREFACE

A Treasure for the Present, a Shield for the Future

Ghada Fouad Alsamman

“Read the book by its title”, so says the proverb. Therefore the title of Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh’s book, “Because I Care About You and the Truth” reflects two values, caring and being truthful, which everyone on this earth should be pursuing. Along the way, however, some get tired, some get bored, some get evasive, and some quit.

Only those committed to the truth continue their pursuit steadily, as they believe in its lifelong message. Truth is clear to them and becomes even clearer with experience. Overtime, their experiences accumulate and horizons widen. They then make multiple attempts to change the bitter, dark reality into a bright one; one way or another, no matter how varied the risks and the obstacles they may face . They rely on confidence and certainty in their journey.

In this manner, Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh sought knowledge to lighten our Arab nights. He embarked on his journey from the day when he was evicted from his homeland in Palestine as a result of the Zionist invasion in 1948.

The harsh days he lived did not break him. The challenges he faced never made him stumble. He lived his day-to-day life, while keeping an eye on the future. He knew how important the time factor was and that was why he was ahead of everyone. He did not care about the negative aspects. On the contrary, he disregarded them. He sowed the seeds of hope and optimism, attracted youth, invested in scientific competencies, and multiplied the positive aspects, until he established his own institution: “Talal Abu Ghazaleh Global.” Everybody praised him and was eager to become acquainted with him, including enemies and friends, those who loved him and those who envied him; competitors and partners alike.

He did not restrict his knowledge to his business and varied activities only. He planned it to be comprehensive and to benefit others too. He was never tired of thinking about the issues of his community and the problems

facing the generations. He laid the facts before everyone and shared his dreams cleverly over the days. He constantly reiterates that there is nothing impossible or unbelievable in his life. He believed that all good ideas are realizable shareable.

He shared his dreams, rules, theories, and devices with every public and private institution, department, sector, facility, school, university, worker, specialist, amateur, and professional. He also translated his ideas into articles, interviews, seminars, and workshops.

It is very difficult to count Dr. Talal's theoretical and practical accomplishments. This book therefore is including a limited number of articles Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh has published in the most significant websites, magazines, and newspapers. The table of contents of the book reflects how serious, diverse, and bold the ideas discussed in the articles are.

Every time I read a book written by Abu Ghazleh, I tell myself it is his best, only to find out that he is about to issue a new masterpiece. The ideas tackled in this book prepare us very well to embrace the future. He reads history to learn from it, he fights for the truth, gives important pieces of advice for success, loves work and hates laziness, and demands teaching technical education for the coming generations rather than the traditional teaching methods. He persistently rejects the Zionist occupation of Palestinian. He has made various initiatives to face world crises. He has built a CV that is admired by many. He inspires generations and gives hope to all people without exception. His interests are multiple and his knowledge are diverse. He is a wise man, who applies his beliefs and principles on himself before passing it to the others. He listens. He knows how to utilize the capacities and provide the community with distinguished cadres in all areas.

“Because I Care About You and the Truth” is a book that combines a series of articles Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh has written and published in various outlets. They tackle various topics of interest to readers of today, tomorrow, and the future.

Truth taught me to love others, to care
for them and to respect them.
Truth taught me to confront and to win.

Truth taught me to be considerate and
modest: what I am.

This is what I choose to share with you

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

“Climate Change: The Imminent Risk Threatening Human Existence”

I would like to dwell with you into the damage issue caused by humans to their environment, and the continuous negligence by the concerned officials and stakeholders in curbing practices that compounded to threaten our existence on this globe.

I refer here to the global warming and the ongoing rise on average temperatures demonstrated in the melting ice in the Arctic and its effect on the weather conditions that became troublesome having shifted out of proportions. Its related effects are shown in depleting the ozone layer that protects our planet. Its other causes are the negative influence of the harmful industrial emissions (car exhausts being the most important sources) on the pristine environment, stable climatic conditions, etc.

By contrast, countries have adopted through the past successive decades, remedial actions that contributed to slow this worsening harm by preventing the compressed fluids for different purposes, halting the use of non-biodegradable plastic material and replaced it with paper for daily use, as well as controlling the emissions that harm the ozone layer. While these actions are important, and accurately prescribed to apply, much of the world countries have barely addressed the crux of this dilemma. The big problem remains in the industrial various practices and the persisting carbon emissions that keep damaging the environment.

As the modifications required to protect the environment had a negative impact on the profits of the industries concerned, resistance to adopt them still exists. A giant German company like Volkswagen resorted to falsify data in order to hide the harmful emission levels, resulting in exposing the company to judicial accountability and payment of billions of dollars in penalties.

Similarly, American industries have resisted directives to modify their products (especially cars) to protect their profits, prompting the American President during his campaign to deny the mere existence of the problem, dismiss the idea of global warming or climate balance industry threat and accusing China of inventing the gist to impair US industries. The US President's further decision to withdraw from the Treaty of Paris that perplexed the concerned nations, was a validation to this concept.

Throughout the previous successive months, new warnings appeared in leading American and world newspapers by a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mrs. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, that the world will be destroyed within 12 years unless radical and conclusive decisions are prompted by the concerned nations to protect climate from a veritable collapse.

The current US President is showered by calls to change his position that, if persistent, will cost him the loss of numerous youth votes in the next election.

It's a choice between the voices of the industry owners and the voices of the youth who own the future!

What threatens the universal and environmental climate balance is now obvious to all. We are witnessing and constantly enduring the dangers of devastating storms and floods, drought in some areas, damage to forests, agriculture, high temperatures and many various hazards.

But all that is happening now hardly compares with the forthcoming dangers unless a prompt treatment takes place as forewarned by the experts, scientists and specialists. In this article, I add my voice to the warning and blowing sounds for this imminent peril and send an invitation to all those concerned with the safety of man and the land he lives in to raise the voice and call for a fast action to curb the next tragedy.

It should be noted that a symposium entitled «Environmental Administration in the Arab World» was held during the World Economic Forum in Jordan (Dead Sea) early April 2019. The Symposium discussed key issues concerning the environmental protection by curbing all what hurts the climate balance, especially with regard to the emphasis on clean alternative energy and gradual phasing out of conventional polluted energy, as well as recycling waste, etc. During the seminar, Climate Change and Environment Minister in the U.A.E. announced his country's plan to increase clean energy from 25% to 50% by the year 2050. This step deserves every appreciation and practical emulation. The Executive Director of the European Investment Bank declared also the Bank has invested so far up to 30 billion Euros in environmental projects to help reduce carbon emissions.

I should mention here that in my capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Group Accounting and Reporting Standards (UN ISAR), I was similarly asked in 1999 by the UN Secretary General to chair a working group to formulate an Accounting Criteria for environmental liability, also in my capacity as chairman of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in New York. The aim of these standards was to define responsibility and estimate cost of any damage to the environment by concerned parties. The team of experts issued then an important report on the subject that had never seen the light, as (according to the American side) it carried an intolerable burden on industrial companies.

Today I renew my call that this issue has grown extremely out of proportions, any further delay in processing it will put the world in front of disasters that cannot be avoided within the ensuing decade.

And I conclude by addressing this appeal, before it's too late, to the United Nations Secretary-General to sponsor while still possible, a team of experts in artificial intelligence from China and America to devise solutions for toxic emissions and reduce toxicity as an extra path for alternative ways and means to alleviate such deadly emissions.

The State of Knowledge-Based Economy in Jordan

I have been urging the Jordanian government for more than a year to take a decisive decision, which is to transfer to the knowledge economy, bearing in mind the Finnish model, which I see as the best example our country should follow.

I think that copying the American or British economy because they are great industrial countries is nothing but a waste of time. This is because Jordan is a small country, with a population of no more than 9 million people. We have to realize that we are not China nor Britain.

For the sake of comparison, I would like to say that Finland has a population of six million people and does not have natural resources, exactly like Jordan. The gross national income in Finland exceeds 230 billion dollars, while that of Jordan does not exceed 40 billion dollars. In my opinion, there is no reason for Jordan not to achieve a gross national income equal to Finland, as long as the conditions and capabilities of the two countries are the same. This, however, requires political will and long-term planning towards the knowledge economy, the same like Finland has done, instead of adopting temporary solutions.

Finland has succeeded in creating tools for the knowledge economy, thus, it occupies a leading, global position in education transformation in this trend. If we follow the Finnish model, we will not need the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, we will not have budget deficit, we will not need loans, and we will not have to worry about unemployment and protests. Following this model is a shortcut to success and overcoming all the problems. That is why I have created the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Knowledge Forum, with the main aim of enabling Jordan to achieve a gross national income of 280 billion dollars by 2040.

We are not dreaming in this forum, we are serious about planning for the future to achieve this objective.

One of the reasons for the economic problems we are suffering from, however, is the closure of our borders with Syria and Iraq. As a result, Jordan has turned into something of an economic prison and; thus, there is no way for the economy to recover without opening the borders. If this is impossible, we have to adopt digital alternatives that have no boundaries, but unfortunately we have not yet succeeded in harnessing the power of the digital economy.

One of the major international missions entrusted to me in 2001 was the co-chairmanship of the UNICT working group, whose task was to build strategies aimed at achieving the transformation to digital economy. After that, I chaired the UN Global Compact for the direction of ICT related initiatives.

Unfortunately, much of this transformation has not been implemented in Jordan because our governments have been preoccupied with solving problems, rather than building appropriate strategies for the future. People talk about problems, not about the transformation of the economy.

It is worth mentioning that IT is only a tool, with the digital economy being a practical manifestation that impacts of our lives. Technical proficiency is a requirement in today's workplace and is in fact something that is in demand globally.

The Intellectual Property Department in our organization has become a world leader in the protection of intellectual property because we have been able to recognize the power of IT. If Jordan wants to assume a leading position, we must do the same at the national level.

What I want the world to know is that we must realize the importance of change required to make Jordan a better country. I strongly believe in our ability to make this change. However, how will Jordan adapt to the broader

global framework? I recently published an alert that we are on the verge of a global economic crisis in. There is also an anticipated world war on the horizon. You do not have to be a Harvard University graduate to realize that the US is focusing, with concern, on the possibility of China becoming the major power in the world.

Some predicted that since 1985. I participated back then in a seminar at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, during which I discussed the position of the United States in 2020. The seminar drew the following three conclusions. First, that China will be the major economic power competing the US. Second, if China becomes the economic superpower, it will be a great political power. Third, that America must stop this possibility at all costs. In my opinion, the goal of the artificial American war is not to occupy, invade, or destruct China, but rather to force it to sit at the negotiation table in a bilateral meeting to agree on a new world order.

In fact, we need a new world order and a new leadership. I expect that this war will eventually result in a new (Marshall Plan) for a global renaissance. Such a plan will put our region at the center of the world's attention, due to the urgent need to rebuild it because it is in a state of great destruction and has the financial resources that meet the needs of the countries concerned.

As for the delay in the reconstruction of Syria, it is due to the lack of agreement on the distribution of the benefits of reconstruction. China has enormous potential and what we have seen so far is only the tip of the iceberg. I expect that we will witness the return of Britain as an economic power equal to Russia and China.

It is important to remember here that two or three years is not a great deal in the lifespan of a country. If America and China settle the issues between them, we will witness the emergence of great opportunities for human benefit. The other worrying issue for our world is climate change. Back in 1999, the UN Secretary-General assigned me to formulate and impose accounting standards on all countries. I was then the head of the ISAR, which included a group of experts.

After completing the report, we were asked us to keep it on the shelf because the US did not agree to apply the recommended accounting standards because of the financial burdens that this might cause and the claims for damages the companies concerned will incur. The situation, however, has become so dangerous that there are rumors in Congress the world will face a real danger within 12 years.

The main content of the report has not changed, but what I am proposing now is to solve the problem by resorting to AI. There are 8,000 technical scientists in America and 6,000 in Russia and the solution is to form a teamwork from both sides. They will be able, for example, to convert pollutants into non-polluting products through technical solutions within one year, which is why I am working on setting up a consulting company to focus on developing such technological solutions.

Education in 2030 and beyond in Knowledge-Based Countries

Education in the future will be different from how it is now. There will not be school or university classes or a campus. A technical guide will replace the traditional teacher. The objective of learning will be to invent, not to test the students' ability to memorize information. Students will teach each other.

As in medicine, where the drug is prescribed according to the condition of the patient, learning will be prescribed according to the student's readiness.

Artificial intelligence (AI) will enter information into the mind instead of the student having to memorize it. The mind's absorptive capacity will compete with the computer.

We will move with science to where the Internet of things (IoT) will learn from objects and teach students. There will not be printed books or tests to get certifications. There will not even be ministries of education or government education institutions. Knowledge will be available digitally. Educated humans will turn into innovative, digital humans, and civil state will turn into innovative state, where the citizens become knowledge workers and where continuous learning will turn into continuous innovation.

To realize the knowledge revolution, you may read my book *The Brave Knowledge World* and adopt the way Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College for Innovation (TAGUCI) graduates inventors, where the student graduates after submitting an invention rather than passing a test. This is because we are now living in two worlds, the real and the virtual. The virtual world will eventually be the real world. Take Finland as an example, where the country is leading the revolution of knowledge-based education in the world (not America, Britain, nor China). A knowledge-based education for a knowledge based society.

The Chairman of Eton College says that students will teach themselves, each other, and teachers, who will turn into technical assistants rather than teachers. The President of Harvard University, Laurence Summers, says, "The knowledge revolution will make the current education system collapse."

The President of Stanford University, John Hennessey, says, “Education will face the digital revolution tsunami. Siri will allow you to obtain information using voice. We will witness the death of libraries. Robots, AI, bioinformatics, nanotechnology, genetics, and other technologies will be the sciences of the future.”

Finland will not teach writing as a prerequisite and will switch to scripts and smart boards. It will also move from teaching subjects, such as Geography, Physics, etc., to phenomena-based learning.

Education will be achieved by learning and research and it will be available for all through integrated, online schools around the world, such as the Connections Academy. Internet will be available to everyone at high speeds. Half of education will be research based and the other half will be vocational. There is also Sweden, which is on its way to transfer all public education institutions to the private sector. It will impose radical changes to the requirements of the academic path in universities, where professional certificates will be included in the requirements for graduation from universities and the calculation of academic credit hours for them. This way, the students will graduate from the university ready for the labor market, with an academic and professional certificates specialized in the field of study. I am quoting H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the Arab League Secretary General, “The Arab world has two options, either to innovate or face extinction.”

Finally, societies will be divided into knowledge-based and non-knowledge-based. Non knowledge based societies will have:

1. Chalk and board.
2. A physical campus.
3. Students using desks.
4. The objective of education and testing being memorization.
5. Educating students to graduate job seekers.
6. Ministries governing education institutions.
7. Unqualified teachers.
8. Repetitive, traditional curricula.
9. Lazy students.
10. Old PCs that use primitive, out dated technologies.

The 2020 Global Crisis & the 3rd World War

For some time now, I have been sounding the alarm of an impending major economic crisis that may hit globally by the year 2020. Contrary to reports by some analysts and experts, I have good reason to predict that the next crisis is going to be more devastating than the last one, in 2008. Most likely, and similar to the previous one, the new crisis will start in the United States and will last longer with far more devastating impact on Western economies, causing stagflation and leading to bankruptcies.

Nations around the globe, especially in Europe, have lost confidence in the United States ability to lead in issues of international finance, trade, diplomacy and war. These nations are quietly dismantling the seven-decade-old alliance with the United States, building instead an alternative systems of bilateral trade. Furthermore, the US dollar has been losing ground for some years now to other currencies. Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, announced in January 2019, “Ultimately, we will have reserve currencies other than the US dollar.”

Similarly, according to Alfred McCoy, historian and professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, the collapse of the dollar will mean “soaring prices, ever-rising unemployment, and a continuing decline in real wages throughout the 2020s, domestic divisions widen into violent clashes and divisive debates, often over symbolic, insubstantial issues.”

It is no surprise, therefore, that when asked about a possible repeat of the 2008 crisis, former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown stated: “We are in danger of sleepwalking into a future crisis... There is going to have to be a severe awakening to the escalation of risks, but we are in a leaderless world... The cooperation that was seen in 2008 would not be possible in a post-2018 crisis both in terms of central banks and governments working together. We would have a blame-sharing exercise rather than solving the problem.”

Thus, my prediction is that 2020 will deliver an unparalleled global economic and political crisis. In other words, not only will the uncoordinated economic policies of advanced economies come into play, but so will

misguided political decisions and policies which will set the ground for greater economic plight.

It is possible that China's state ownership and control of the banking system will fare better: the government will react or pro-act to deal with any adverse impact through a variety of ways, especially since it has not yet reached its growth potential.

I also predict that at least five European countries will suffer from the crisis in the coming year for the reasons stated above, yet the single euro currency will be preserved. Meanwhile Brazil, Russia, India, China and Korea will grow at a steady rate during the next 10 years. I also believe that in 10 years, some of the African countries will become more developed and that the economies of the GCC region will continue to grow mainly because of increased oil revenues.

The sequence of events, in my view, will be

1. We are looking at a global economic crisis leading to stagflation.
2. The evolving bilateral technological, trade, economic, IP rights, political and military conflicts will culminate into a real confrontation globally.
3. The crisis and emerging conflicts will lead to the third world war between the US and China.
4. The US and China will meet to end the war as all wars end with agreements.
5. A new world order governed by the G2 (US & China) will emerge.
6. The Arab region will witness a renaissance that will herald a global Marshal-like economic plan leading to a global economic recovery and prosperity.

Based on the above, my best advice is to prepare for a recession, even if it may not happen. I am advocating to others what I have already started implementing within TAG.Global.

The prescription for an uncertain future is to focus on resilience to withstand uncertainties and shocks: by building focused specific growth strategies; by adopting and enhancing technical and innovation competencies; by emphasizing sustainability; and by being proactively cooperative. The focus should be on the drivers of long-term not short-term symptomatic measures; initiating action rather than just reacting to developments as they come.

My Dear Children, Ten Recipes for Success

My dear leaders of the future: Ten recipes for success

1. Turn hardship into blessing and failure into success

Remember George Westinghouse, whose teachers described him as a stupid, lazy student. Later, his name went down in history as one of the most creative men in human history. He refused to believe the negative opinions that had been said about him and received more than 400 patents throughout his lifetime. It was also interesting that he died while sitting on his last invention, which was a wheelchair that had an engine.

A hardship might turn into a blessing if you think in the right way and decide that the only way to survive is to excel.

2. As long as your heart beats, do not stop working. Quitting work is harmful.

Do not ever stop working because work gives your life meaning. It will be empty without work.

We need to establish a culture of making extra effort in the Arab world. Those who advance well in their careers are the ones working harder. If you look for the distinguished ones in a company or in a class, you will find that they are the ones who are exerting more effort and still regard what they do as a minimum. Excellence is to outdo yourself and remember that a person who toils during the day, has a good night sleep.

If you work more than the value of your wages, in the future you will find that your wages will be greater than the value of your work.

The French proverb says, “The world belongs to those who wake up early.”

3. Optimism brings luck. Be optimistic and you will be lucky.

You cannot achieve success without climbing the ladder of success. Frustration is a sure way to failure.

You will not be able to take any step forward when you are trapped in frustration and not trusting your abilities. No country will be able to prosper and achieve

advancement if some of its people keep on sowing the seeds of frustration, look for negativities, discuss failures, and ignore positive achievements.

Only optimists achieve success.

Who believes in the future, makes the future.

4. Happiness is a decision: if you decide to be happy, you will be happy. Happy people are more productive and make those working with them happy. Such people are happy to work with others and are problem solvers.

To be happy or not is a personal decision. You achieve happiness for yourself; no one can achieve it for you without you wanting it. It is your duty towards yourself to make yourself happy.

Smiling is the way to solve many problems and silence is the way to avoid many problems.

5. Always be a student: never stop learning.

Learning is a continuous process as long as your heart is beating, regardless of your age or level of education.

The world is changing around us every day, with a daily increase in information. Whoever wants to remain intellectually active must nourish his or her mind, the same they nourish their body. Knowledge is the food of the mind, just as food is important to the body.

The progress that humanity has witnessed through the ages would not have been possible without education, information and communication.

If you want to liberate yourself, you have to learn. If you want to achieve victory, you have to learn. If you want to achieve prosperity, you also have to learn.

6. The word retired means to die while sitting idle. Never retire!

A person feels alive when he or she engages with life. Retirement takes him or her out of life.

I reiterate that the word retired means to die while sitting idle, therefore, never stop working as long as you are alive.

Continuing to work generates good luck and reveals hidden opportunities.

7. Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.

Having a lot of enemies, competitors, opponents, and people envying you while pursuing your success is a healthy thing. In fact, their presence in our lives is one of the factors of success. We need to regard those who stalk us and wish us to fail as an aid to our success and a motive for our achievements.

As they say, if there is no one that hates you, then you should know that you are not successful.

If you waste your time responding to everyone who criticizes you, you will not find the time to fulfill your objectives.

The Chinese say, forgive your enemies, but never forget their names. Having them in our memory and their staking of us will make us more careful, in order to avoid mistakes and encourage us to succeed to prevent them from gloating.

8. Look for uniqueness and leadership. Do not follow the crowd.

If you see a successful thing, do not copy it, but study it to create an even better success. There is no pride in competing with what already exists or aiming to be just like it. The real pride is in developing something more successful and better than the existing one.

Be an effective, innovative member in your team by acquiring skills and abilities that distinguish you as a more innovative person than the rest. There are no limits to innovation.

You can develop anything you see, do, or use. Technology only moves forward.

Big things start small.

Everything that the mind can conceive is achievable.

9. At school, we learn lessons and take tests.

At work, we face tests, but in school, university, or in any form of self-learning, we study and sit for the exam to achieve success. In real life, you face success and failure and learn from them. When we study, we learn lessons and take tests, while at work we face tests and learn lessons from it.

- How do you achieve success? In two words, right decisions.
- How do you make right decisions? In one word, experience.
- How do you gain experience? In two words, incorrect decisions.

10. First and foremost. Love.

Love is the most powerful weapon in the world. It spreads more than any other feeling and benefits the lover, who feels comfortable, while those who spread hatred are the first to suffer from its complications.

If you want to be lovable, be a lover.

Remember. It is better to be loved than to be important.

Arabic Needs Fluency Certificates like TOEFL and IELTS

First: The importance of the Arabic language

Over the centuries, the Arabic language had strength and survival factors that no other language had. It was born in the cradle of the oldest alphabet in human history and inherited some of the characteristics of its ancient mother and sister languages of the East. With the emergence of Islam, it became the language of the Noble Koran and the vessel of faith.

Arabs before Islam had a great interest in the language and used to hold a language conference every year in Taif in the Arabian Peninsula, where poets and orators gathered to chant poems. Its name was Okaz Market, which was the largest Arab market in the pre-Islamic era and the most famous meeting place for thought, literature, and culture among the Arab tribes.

People, great poets, orators, and writers used to come to the market from all over the Arabian Peninsula.

Scholars agree that the Arabic language is still capable of accommodating contemporary developments and opening new horizons for the role of Arab scientific research and placing it in its proper position in today's world.

Second: The world needs our Arabic language

At the global level, the UN has recognized the Arabic language, making it the third among the six approved languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, French, Russian, and Chinese).

In October 2012, the UNESCO Executive Board decided in its 190th session to dedicate December 18 as the International Day of the Arabic Language. In that year, UNESCO celebrated this day for the first time. On October 23, 2013, the UNESCO Advisory Board for the International Plan for the Development of Arab Culture decided to adopt the International Day of the Arabic Language as one of the main elements in its work program for each year.

Third: The need for an Arabic electronic encyclopedia

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Encyclopedia "TAGEPEDIA" is an electronic search engine to disseminate verified, revised knowledge in Arabic on the Internet.

It is a general, comprehensive, and electronic platform in Arabic, which contains a huge amount of useful information and verified knowledge. It covers various political, scientific, literary, cultural, and knowledge areas which anyone can access and use through modern technical means.

“TAGEPEDIA” aims to be an Arabic comprehensive reference encyclopedia for specialists and those interested in scientific, professional, and legislative knowledge. It took ten years of work to prepare the “TAGEPEDIA” platform.

After its launch later this year, it will contain a million articles, which is double the number of articles Wikipedia has, taking into consideration that half of Wikipedia’s content is either useless or unverified, unlike TAGEPEDIA.

This means that its content is four times the content of Wikipedia in terms of verified, useful Arabic content. With its launch in December 2019, our language will rank fifth among the world’s digital languages.

Fourth: The need for an Arabic program and fluency test

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International University (TAGI-UNI) has introduced the Arabic language “Fluency” Program, which includes fluency and placement tests in the Arabic language, as well as training programs for native and non-native speakers to help spread it, enhance its value globally, and ensure its continuity.

Just as TOEFL is one of two major international tests (IELTS & TOEFL) to measure a person’s English language proficiency for academic and professional purposes, work, or immigration to English-speaking countries, the goal of the new “Fluency” Program, which is one of a kind worldwide, is to standardize the measurement of linguistic level of native and non-native Arabic speakers, according to specific normative standards.

Fifth: The need for a standard Arabic language curriculum

TAGI-UNI has prepared the “Arabic Literacy Curriculum” and the “Fluency in Arabic Language Skills” book, as well as several curricula adopted by the university that cover the needs of all levels according to the study conditions. The Fluency in Arabic Language Skills book is a distinguished reference that includes all the skills of the Arabic language and qualifies students for the

fluency test. It is available in audio and text versions. It is prepared in such a way that the learner can study it alone or through a training course.

It is designed for intermediate and advanced learners of Arabic, in order to overcome the difficulties that prevent them from mastering the four linguistic skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).

A facilitative approach was adopted while preparing the book that focuses on presenting its material (written and audio) through easy explanations, in a clear and specific language that avoids ambiguity and difficult definitions.

The book is full of modern, vibrant literary texts and various exercises that are carefully chosen to help the reader and learner to measure their skills and performance. It also includes lessons in grammar, morphology, rhetoric, and dictation, followed by a number of exercises, with solved models, and the most common mistakes in the lessons of each unit. The Arabic Fluency Program also includes training courses, traditional and remote, that enables Arabic and non-Arabic speakers to acquire multiple language skills at all levels for use in various specialized settings such as media, diplomacy, and others.

America Declares World Economic War

The past period of American imposing sanctions on China and retaliatory counter sanctions, has been a period of bilateral protectionist measures.

Although they have been effective, led to losses and shrinking of the global economy, what the US President announced a few days ago crossed the lines of sanctions and trade measures and moved to a phase of economic war.

President Trump's blacklisting of the Chinese company Huawei, the largest telecommunications giant in the world, is a clear indication of the seriousness and gravity of the situation. The decision to prevent American airlines from transferring goods from China, heralds the beginning of an economic boycott that transcends commercial sanctions. The situation has become far more dangerous given the other anticipated steps and counter measures. The US President also asked American companies working in China to move to America.

I expected all of this more than a year ago. However, of more importance and more dangerous is what I have been afraid what will happen. I discussed this in an article that was published in Arab and global newspapers on 1 June, entitled "Global Crisis 2020 and World War III". I said back then that the biggest problem in the Sino-US dispute was related to intellectual property rights. My guess back then was based on the fact that we are the biggest company in the world in the field of intellectual property rights and my position in the councils of international organizations concerned with this issue. In my interview with Russia Today (RT) Channel, on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg Economic Conference in June of this year 2019, I said, "America believes that China's technical strength is caused by the infringement of American intellectual property rights."

The US President said the day before yesterday that over the years, China has infringed US property rights worth trillions (1 trillion=a thousand billions), which he said could not go on. When I read such statement, my understanding was that America was demanding China to compensate it for such losses. I would like to reiterate what I literally said in my article "Global Crisis 2020 and World War III", "Bilateral trade, economic, intellectual

property, financial, and military wars will turn into comprehensive conflict between the two giants.”

It can be understood then why China is refusing to have bilateral talks with America to reach a solution and a new world order. This is because it is expected that America will demand that China pay billions of dollars in compensation for infringed intellectual property which will be on top of the agenda.

To clarify the logic behind this claim, I would like to point out that the American concept of intellectual property rights is that any American invention developed, optimized, and produced by another country constitutes an infringement of its rights. China’s point of view, on the other hand, is that the laws and agreements on intellectual property rights consider any new, useful development, a new invention. It is worth mentioning that the US took part in formulating this global system and signed the agreements related to it.

It is needless to say that if America claims such compensation from China, as is expected, it will be logical to claim similar compensation from any European country, Japan, or any other country in the world. All this is taking place while the World Trade Organization (WTO) seems almost paralyzed because America wants to change the multilateral work agreements system into bilateral agreements.

It is well known to trade monitors in the world that the current paralysis the WTO and other international organizations are suffering is caused by the USA. The USA believes that it is the time for a new world order that replaces the one that emerged after the World War II.

I will explain in an upcoming article how such order will not emerge except after a third world war because wars usually end with agreements. If this is not a proof that this is the beginning of a world economic war, then I do not know what an economic war is.

We Need to Graduate Inventors, not Job Seekers

Scientists agree that no two brains are identical and that even if two children are born from the same family, they do not have the same mental capacity.

This makes me wonder, if this is the case, why does our education system offer the same education to different types of minds, while doctors prescribe to each patient the treatment appropriate to his or her own condition!

Accordingly, we need to change the family culture that focuses on directing children towards jobs to achieve a stable financial income in pursuit of stability or those that provide a professional or social prestige, even if they do not suit the scientific capabilities of their children.

As I said in my book *The Brave Knowledge World*, we need in this era of knowledge to have an education that is based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Thus, we need knowledge-based schools and universities and to utilize the capabilities of the artificial intelligence (AI) in education. We need innovation incubators, not playgrounds and a campus.

We need to learn through technical intelligence and to promote the culture of knowledge capital. We also need to establish programs that turn inventions into commercial products and to invest our research and development (R&D) resources in young inventors, whom we should direct towards innovation. At Talal Abu Ghazaleh University College for Innovation (TAGUCI), students do not graduate after passing a test, but rather after submitting an invention.

Teachers must turn into technical advisors for our children, not tutors or lecturers. Teachers now do not have any information that is not available on the internet to provide to the students. I said this in my remarks at Harvard University and at several regional and international universities.

I can confirm that in the near future, there will be no campus, school playgrounds, ministries of education, government education institutions, printed books, tests for certification, white or black boards, nor chalks. The knowledge revolution will make the current education system obsolete. The brave digital revolution tsunami will eliminate traditional education and students will teach other, instead of teachers.

Learning will replace education and it will be offered through free, online schools that are globally available to everyone. Cheating in exams will end because the focus will be on learning in pursuit of innovation, not degrees that the learner obtains by memorizing.

As for the study programs, professional qualifications will be compulsory within them and students will be required to graduate with academic and professional certificates. The focus will be on technical sciences, mathematics and engineering from the early stages of education. Learning programming and electronic solutions will be a prerequisite in the early stages of education.

Learning will revolve around research, analysis, and conclusion, rather than memorization. The technical guide will replace the traditional teacher and digital, innovative humans will replace traditionally educated humans. All branches of human knowledge will be available for all free.

Technical intelligence will insert knowledge into the mind without the need to memorize it. Google is working on a project to do just this. The internet will play in our lives the role the nervous system is playing in the human body.

The capabilities of our minds will outperform those of the computer's. We will love with things and work with them to form together one community.

In 1988, the Sci-Fi writer, Isaac Asimov, imagined that if everyone of us had a device that was connected to a network, we would all learn from a big, virtual library and would not need schools. Schools will be nurseries for children.

Science itself is not only the preservation of information, but also training the mind to think. Elon Musk, President of Tesla Corporation, says, "Do not confuse schooling with education. I did not go to Harvard, but the people that work for me did." Mark Twain says, "Do not let your schooling interfere with your education." Finally, Michael Faraday says, "Lectures which really teach will never be popular. Lectures which are popular will never really teach."

Learning is not a commodity, students are not customers, professors are not tools, and the university is not a factory. Students cheat in exams because our education system focuses on passing grades rather than on learning.

Shakespeare himself did not obtain a Master's degree in English, but no one can obtain a Master's degree in English without studying Shakespeare.

We want to graduate inventors who launch projects that employ others instead of graduating (unemployed) people who are jobseekers.

Comfort Addiction is Harmful to Health

One of the serious diseases prevalent in the world and the Arab homeland is the “Comfort Addiction”. To verify this all you need is walk down the street to see the coffee shops’ regulars and measure the number of hours they spend there. And if you noticed how some of the limited wage employees spend their weekly and seasonal holidays, you realize that their majority don’t consider such holidays an opportunity to release extra works and increase their income, but rather to spend most of the weekends in front of the screens or in the coffee shops where they waste precious time and money on titbits. The prevalence of this disease is not limited to those who engage in physically demanding work, but also those exerting intellectual efforts.

Some manifestations of the “comfort addiction” disease are the widespread misconceptions about the retirement concept. Throughout my career, I always heard people in their prime forties chanting words such as attaining a cumulative wealth to bring about early retirement. They did not mean merely stopping their functional work. They meant to relinquish working entirely to enjoy a leisure life. In this respect, they meant to dazzle those around them with their wealth. I have always felt that anybody flashing this suffers compiled problems.

I advocate that anybody reaching his sixties to retire without a wellness excuse is someone who missed the correct understanding of life. One feels life when he practices life that is practiced by work. Thus, retirement expels him or her from life. It is not a coincidence that the Arabic word for “retired” (motakaed), meaning “die while sitting”, has almost the same synonym in English: “gone away or gone off”. Therefore I say, don’t stop working as long as you live. Never stop in order to give your life its meaning and purpose, otherwise life becomes empty. As your heart never stops beating, do not stop working. Extra comfort is harmful to health. Man should not be permitted to sit back with his mind put to unneeded rest. If you sensed a tendency for comfort, all you have to do is occupy yourself somehow. Men in their sixties are always amenable to job opportunities different from their original jobs. Thanks of the terrible transformation in

communications, and various Internet uses, innovative jobs have become so much more lucrative.

As to those who talk about full retirement in the sense of suspending all activities while still at their forties or even above, those people need to rethink their understanding of life and work.

On a psychological level, you won't be able to enjoy your night sleep unless you exhaust yourself at work in your day. Everyone has an invisible sensor measuring the degree of his yield as opposed to his ability to deliver. When night comes, his sensor sums up his performance in comparison to his ability to give. And no matter how skillful a human is in fooling others, he cannot entirely deceive himself. Therefore, upon receiving a modest reading, he gets grappled by a guilty conscience with feelings of remorse and anxiety, where his invisible sensor reminds him of his drawback of not to have done more.

By constant repetitions, these feelings will have a domineering effect over him. As he gets used to it, he will not help but keep on blaming himself. This is where one becomes prone to laziness, a human addiction that nurtures the self-reproach into a permanent self-condemnation stripping humans from self-respect that may turn into a mental illness. Hence, we find psychiatric diseases more common among zombies. Whoever tolerates himself in lazing two minutes every day will be predisposed to laziness most of his time in later years. This is the killer disease with a cumulative impact ensuing on the long run.

In addition to correcting misconceptions about comfort, we need to strengthen our understanding of the importance of extra effort. It is not enough to ask ourselves to exert the effort required at both levels of study or work. We must incite ourselves to make extra efforts before waiting for others to ask us. We must take the extra effort, even if others do not ask us to do so. The culture of extra effort needs to be consolidated in our Arab world in particular.

Those who progressed in their working careers have done more than actually needed. Hence, as I repeated in my conversations, if you work more than your wages' value, you will find your future wages greater than your work's value. Happy people are more productive in their work: they make their co-workers happier, they are happy to work with others and turn out to be the most creative in solving problems. I had decided, on a personal level, that what helps me more than anything in my life is not how long I will live, but how much I can work in my life.

From Globalization to Digital Autocracy

Globalization, as it has been termed, was a short, artificial and mislabeled stage that is now clinically dying. It has been characterized in the past as well as to this day as a “democratic” evaluation in the areas of governance, management and industry and at the same time in inefficiency and declining ability to analyze information and make decisions. Its remnants are still present in various parts of the world where individuals enjoy measures of free opinions, conclusions and deductions.

Modern technology, however, especially artificial intelligence and machine learning, comes now to swing this path upside down, opening the door to detailed information-gathering and analysis, the likes of which has never been previously seen, and which will inevitably have an effect on law- and policy-making.

It took Europe 20 years to move out of the dark ages to the Renaissance, but in the new information age this will involve much less time for us in the Arab region for two main reasons: First, this new global digital progress moves no longer in steps but in strides, and secondly because the Arab consumer of this technology received it readily packaged. The world today is facing the most efficient and productive autocracy in information technology.

The democratic globalization era was in yester years the optimal mechanism in a given society to filter human options and transform the majority’s decisions into state policies under the roof of the law and the criterion of protecting minority rights. Today, deep and focused oversight mechanism rises for the production of these laws and policies through data processing and machine learning.

However, along with the huge growth in the various capital indicators of the digital revolution, we find the majority of people getting poorer to an extent that it is a serious problem we have to face head-on. I had demanded from the rostrum of the UN to focus on social impacts of technology because economy was initially designed to serve societies and build civilisations rather than drown in a swamp of capitals and looting by a few influential figures, simply because they control the digital technology and channel it to influence their vulnerable users.

Today, we coexist inside communities disciplined by these strongmen's control. From home to school to work and to hospital, severely disciplined communities are under the vigilant and sustainably controlling eyes where people work and operate. This is the new digital autocracy gradually replacing democratic thoughts and acts. It takes away individual behaviours to establish a shaking and dysfunctional but strong and aware relationship between the governors (observer) and the governed (observed), leading to slide the latter, without being aware, into typical living and thinking. This is the intellectual autocracy that will spread soon like a wildfire.

We must turn into knowledge-producing societies, as we are responsible for guiding our grandchildren to think right and spread a mainstream investment in innovative culture and provide a suitable environment that will contribute to the renaissance of humanity and, as a result, quickly change the behaviour of states and nations. This will have an inevitable effect on global power, as those nations that can wield this technology will come up trumps.

Technology presents a unique opportunity for us that we must cease and claim dominance in. State control over citizens is backing off now to the digital institutions control over consumers that have formed a new digital

based autocracy. It is a whole new world coming to us in earnest, opening the doors into its wide avenues filled with surprises and opportunities.

It is my sincere hope that we be remembered by our younger generations as forefathers that thought wisely and acted promptly in light of having such technology at our disposal. It is in democratising our very existence as humans and providing a digital autocracy that we must claim our place.

Teach your Children Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is known for its superior ability to perform cognitive functioning of human functions, including learning, thinking, speaking, performing routine tasks, solving problems, and practicing some human behavior. AI is a key component in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Its performance is coupled with tremendous advances in computing power, processing a large amount of information, fast Internet connectivity from anywhere and optimal use of algorithms similar to the human mind.

AI systems have become a key element in many innovative industries such as the Internet of Things (IoT), autonomous vehicles, electronic services, big data processing, genetic engineering and genome, fraud detection, retail and medical diagnostics, 3D printing as well as their ability to analyze quantities.

AI has spurred interests in the use of information not only for learning but also for making decisions by building relations and linking large data sets with each other at a tremendous speed and emulating them in a way that is difficult for a human to deduce.

The AI algorithms are generally based on assumptions and concepts. They have capabilities to process billions of cumulative data to allow users to reach more informed and accurate conclusions. They also contribute to finding ways to address crises and critical situations such as natural disaster search and rescue as well as to developing robots as a front line against risk. AI fosters digital transformation and has the potential to improve human ingenuity and expand human capabilities to meet challenges, seize opportunities and achieve greater well-being in many aspects of life in ways that are now unimaginable.

AI systems include machine learning that is most common where data is fed, patterns are discovered, and information is understood and interpreted. They also include neural networks and deep learning through which the human brain is simulated. In this context, models of AI are enabled to learn and process images through computer vision. Intelligent robots are other forms of AI systems that combine artificial intelligence with robot machines to perform advanced and complex tasks. Natural language processing has been developed so that language of speech is interpreted, understood and

converted into written text or treated as commands. Biometrics have also been developed so that physical and emotional characteristics are analyzed and used in many tasks such as identification. They are also used in virtual proxies for simulating personalities and interacting with customers and users and helping them to access information.

AI is of great importance and potential to drive development and innovation and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as defined by the United Nations. SDGs focus on improving education, providing health services, eradicating poverty, creating jobs, enhancing governance and embracing creativity. With the use of limited AI systems, some developing countries have made progress towards the achievement of SDGs, mainly in economic development, improving health, eradicating poverty, increasing education, developing agricultural productivity, eradicating illiteracy, securing water resources and improving sanitation. However, the level of development and progress in the Arab countries is uneven, especially in areas where there are ongoing conflicts.

Millions of people continue to live below the poverty line and suffer from water scarcity, poor health services, inadequate shelters and degrading educational environments. In coordination with national and Arab policies, international development efforts and technical sectors, AI technologies can be explored and promoted as viable solutions to contribute and progress towards the achievement of SDGs in the region.

In the light of the growing need of the labor market for technical expertise in AI technologies, developed countries are setting up policies to adopt the teaching of AI in the early stages of education. This will enable future generations to accommodate AI as new tools for creativity and invention.

The following is a proposal for AI learning topics that can be incorporated at different stages of education:

- 1. Elementary Stage:** To motivate students in elementary schools to learn math, science and engineering and to start teaching AI concepts through interactive learning that is based on fun activities and acquisition of the AI basics and robotic fundamentals. Students may also be motivated to learn software and application development and building AI systems through structured and advanced curricula.

2. **Secondary stage:** To motivate students in secondary and high schools to apply software and use AI systems in real practical scenarios through applications. Learning in this domain can be enhanced through competition, case studies and project-based programs. As a result, students are expected to develop entrepreneurial and creative thinking as well as problem-solving and teamwork skills.
3. **Advanced stage:** To motivate students in colleges and universities to apply design concepts and promote innovation in AI as well as to encourage students to develop their specialized expertise, conduct outstanding research and participate in forums and conferences to exchange experiences and showcase practical experiences in software and AI applications.

The technical development process will obviously continue in order to contribute to the sustainable development of professionals, industries and service businesses. The future of AI is exciting and promising and calls for launching AI specialized business sector as means of economic development and social welfare.

The Continued Occupation of Palestine is a Global, Moral Tragedy

Since His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, has assumed his constitutional powers 20 years ago, the Palestinian issue has been on top of His Majesty's concerns, especially in international forums and all his talks and meetings with world leaders.

His Majesty's speech during the opening session of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly on 24/9/2019 was no exception. His Majesty first reminded the General Assembly of its role "in facing the dangers or seizing the opportunities that our world offers to us," in order to draw a better and safer future. His Majesty then discussed the issues of youth, climate, refugees, and terrorism. His Majesty finally tackled the issue that has been keeping him busy for years, namely the "Palestinian issue," rights of Palestinian people, and Zionist occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands for five decades. His Majesty called for a collective action to end the conflicts that are afflicting our world, especially the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He added by saying, "Neither side has achieved the lasting peace upon which a secure future depends. Regional and global stability will continue to pay the price for that."

In his speech before the General Assembly, His Majesty condemned the Israeli occupation, reminding the attendees that his father, King Hussein, may Allah rest his soul, was a peace lover and that he stood before the General Assembly and condemned the occupation. He added that his father also condemned any attempt to wipe off centuries of history; heritage; and spiritual, cultural, and ethical symbols from the mind and history of the world.

His Majesty King Abdullah described the continuation of the occupation up to this day as a global moral tragedy, adding, "No occupation, displacement, or measures taken by force can erase the history, hopes, or rights of a people or change the true legacy of the common values of the followers of the three monotheistic religions."

His Majesty demanded from that international forum to put an end to this occupation, the achievement of international justice, and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people to their land.

His Majesty, in his capacity as the Hashemite Custodian of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Jerusalem, reminded that he was committed to preserving the historical character of the city, protecting its holy sites, and safeguarding the freedom of worship for followers of those religions, without changing its reality or landmarks. He added that this would allow Jerusalem to continue being seen as a symbol of justice and truth.

I cannot describe how important the strong message is that His Majesty has conveyed to the heads of states, in defense of the rights of the Palestinian people at a time where their fair case is facing sabotage attempts.

His Majesty represents the voice of reason and wisdom and all the heads of states of the world respect and appreciate his speech. His Majesty believes that it will be impossible to achieve security or stability without resolving this chronic, historical conflict. Thus, he continues to work diligently to settle this conflict, achieve justice for the Palestinian people, restore the rights to their lawful owners, and restore stability and security to all the countries and peoples of the region.

I would like to salute His Majesty for his responsible, honorable, wise, and brave position. I would also like to commend His Majesty for standing up for justice; rule of international law, supporting the truth, as well as fighting all sorts of extremism, negativity, hatred and aggression.

Professionalization of Social Media Inevitably Coming

Having served on many professional international standard setting boards at the U.N. and on global organizations including the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), International Accounting Standards Committee, and IFAC's Board, as Chair of the U.N. Committee on accounting and reporting Standards, On the panel of experts of the World Intellectual Property Organization at the UN, WTO's Panel of Experts, Education Quality Councils, in addition to others, I ended up firmly convinced that professionalizing any trade is self-serving.

I clearly see therefore that Social Media Networks await an inevitable professional future that transforms them into an organized and disciplined profession; a future that makes them a very useful tool for sustainability and prosperity of companies operating through them. Unfortunately though, social media networks these days are not subject to any rules of governance and regulatory principles.

Social media networks' rely essentially on knowledge and data; or rather, on the financial products of such knowledge, transforming those into the most valuable asset on our planet: more valuable than oil and gas. Today, 'knowledge' is an unbeatable superpower.

However, the necessary system needed to define social media accountability does not exist, simply out of lack of Professionalization. One reason that social media has not been subjected to professionalization is claim that professionalization will kill innovation. But, the truth is completely the exact opposite. Our current social conditions, that reflect the tragedy of controlled public opinion, will have to move towards true and creative innovation steps.

In a professionalized system, your choice is either to abide by existing standards, or stay outside the society.

Professionalization will stimulate rather than kill innovation. Professionalizing the field of social technology including technology companies would be a boon to innovation.

Don't get me wrong: social media is indeed a wonderful tool. But only in the right hands. I mean in the hands of responsible and wise adults. And that's what professionalization is about: establishing a profession worthy of respect, a profession that will grow, that we learn from, be effective and acknowledged.

What worries me about social media future that it does not take into consideration the human standards. Thus, we don't find today any rules or ethical regulations capable of determining its social path. I hereby announce that it is time to lay the foundations for a more responsible, healthy, productive and comprehensive future for social media that can be reached through a gradual professionalization until talent is transformed into real careers with international standards and regulations; let alone the abuse of social media for unlawful smear of individuals and symbols.

Here comes the social media actors turn to protect themselves, their communities and the society at large, because any path they take will influence larger groups of people. Doctors and engineers have managed to lead the change through their personal journeys as they realized that they did not need to only protect people who pass under their surgical scalpel or cross a bridge built by an engineer, but they also needed to protect themselves –surgeons and engineers- from the steady demands of their continuous success.

It does not take much moral courage or genius to realize that seeing a doctor in 2019 is preferable to seeing a doctor in 1875 — and no one would take seriously an argument suggesting that progress since the 1870s is good reason to be satisfied with our current medical system. We need an immense effort to treat technology from within, as within health care, even after we professionalize.

Mark my words: Professionalization is coming. End users — and eventually tech workers themselves — will simply demand it. The sooner it comes, the sooner we'll have a roadmap out of the ditch Silicon Valley has found itself in.

We have precedents and experts to learn from, including my profession in public accounting. Let's keep this transformation going.

Towards this methodology, individuals and organizations who are the leaders and the shapers of social media, can make a difference. I hope they join me in this effort to ensure that social media works for humanity, not against it, by signing up at www.PivotForHumanity.com (Pivot for humanity dot com). And if you're interested in taking an active role in this inevitable transformation, please talk to me about how you can help.

Is Populism Devouring Democracy?

A trendy wave of populism is now invading the western countries and casting its shadows on the rest of the world. Populism cannot be linked to particular voters, specific socio-psychological profiles or a certain “political style”. We do not have with populism a clearly defined ideology such as socialism, liberalism or neo-liberalism. But populism shows a specific and identifiable internal logic: populists are not only hostile to the “elites” – the experts and public figures who help those around them navigate the heavy responsibilities that come with self-rule but they are fundamentally anti-pluralistic-. Their constant claim is that only “we,” represent the true people.

In a conference at Lisbon lately, Shawn Rosenberg, the professor at UC Irvine, stirred his audience by challenging a core supposition about America and the West. His theory? “Democracy is devouring itself, and it won’t last.”

As much as President Trump’s tolerant critics might want to throw America’s troubles on his lap, Rosenberg says the president is not the cause of democracy’s plummet —even if his successful anti-immigrant populist movement may have been symptomatic of democracy’s decline. “We are to blame, he said.” As in the Constitution: “we the people.”

Democracy is an ongoing hard work. And as society’s “elites” have increasingly been shelved, citizens have proved inept intellectually and emotionally to administer a well-functioning democracy. Consequently, the center has crumpled and millions of frustrated and perplexed voters have turned in desperation to the right-wing populists.

In deeply rooted democracies like the United States, democratic governance will continue its unstoppable weakening and will eventually nose-dive at the hand of the populists who claim holding a single distinction between left and right that is read by them as wrong and right.

The last half of the 20th century witnessed the golden age of democracy. In 1945, as per most observers there were just 12 democracies throughout

the world. By the end of the century there were 87. But then came the great setback: In the second decade of the 21st century, the swing to democracy abruptly and worryingly stopped—and gradually upturned.

Right-wing populist politicians have taken power or threatened to do so in many European countries, Brazil and the United States. As Rosenberg notes, “by some metrics, the right wing overall populist share of the popular vote in Europe has more than tripled from 4% in 1998 to approximately 13% in 2018.” In Germany, the right-wing populist vote augmented even after the end of the Great Recession and after an influx of immigrants entering the country diminished.

What caused that shift is the fact that democracy and representation are two different things. Representation is not necessarily a democratic principle.

Populists are by no means hostile to the principle of representation. As long as they are in opposition, they repeat the old-time thing that the people are represented by evil elites, and even corrupt elites. In addition, any criticism of bad representatives quickly turns into a fundamental critique of democratic institutions.

Democracy, let us repeat, is a hard work that requires a lot from those who indulge in it. It requires people to respect those with different views from theirs and even people who differ from them. It asks citizens to be able to sift through large amounts of information, and process the good from the bad, the true from the false. It requires thoughtfulness, discipline and logic.

Today, thanks to social media and new technologies, whoever accesses the Internet may circulate a blog and garner attention for his cause—even if it’s rooted in a plot or based on a false claim. People now get their news from social media rather than from stereotype newspapers or the antiquated TV news networks (ABC, CBS and NBC), fake news proliferate to the pleasure of president Trump who enjoys recapping them. And while democracy makes many demands, populists requisite just one: loyalty that entails yielding to the populist nationalist visualization.

And this is by far no moment for optimism now or even in the foreseeable future. What is happening around the world shows that the far-right is forging its way through. And when it comes to the U.S., the problem might be larger than the controversial man occupying the white house and democracy will remain menaced no matter who is at the ship's helm.

Would Machines Overtake Humans?

This year witnessed sophistication of the AI in many autonomous uses in robotics, vehicles, drones, medical and various industrial appliances. They all operate with varying degrees of capability, coordination and intelligence.

The next year is chartered to bring further developments in achieving higher capabilities to match a human brain for decision making, intelligence or general-purpose learning.

At the time of writing these lines, heated competition is ensuing in the United States and around the world using the joint capabilities of the artificial intelligence to create machines that can even teach and develop themselves. This is what the 100-year old futurist James Lovelock predicts in his new book “Novacene” or “New Age”, detailing the new evolution of humanity fueled by AI.

According to Lovelock, the New Age has already begun with Google like AlphaZero as a starting point. Those machines may overtake humans as the superior life form, being the next surge of intelligent life on earth. He warns that humans may soon cede their top spot to their own artificially intelligent creations. — A new age indeed where humans could be eclipsed by these machines!

He dubbed such new future “understanders” as “cybergs” that will have designed and built themselves. He asserts that in the ”Novacene”, the replacement of humans won’t necessarily be a violent shift, but simply an evolutionary one instead.

The process is already underway via sophisticated Artificial Intelligence systems that have been developed like AlphaGo, AlphaZero and DeepMind.

These intelligent systems, capable of continually enhancing themselves, constitute a major linchpin toward the completion of the Novacene, Lovelock says.

He believes the crucial step that started the Novacene was the need to use computers to design and make themselves, where a new form of intelligent life will emerge on Earth from an artificially intelligent forerunner made by one of us, perhaps from something like AlphaZero.

Such predictions were reverberated during a recent TV interview where Elon Musk, the Tesla and SpaceX founder, declared that computers are getting cleverer to an extent where it won't be long to quickly exceed human intelligence.

During the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai, Musk told Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba, "he guarantees that humans will eventually be surpassed by computers "in every single way." He added: "The first thing we should assume is that we are very dumb, we can definitely make things smarter than ourselves." He asserted: "mark my words, A.I. is far more dangerous than nukes. So why do we have no regulatory oversight?" With all such worries about this upcoming technology, it remains a big concern for him. In 2015, he rallied with several other technology geniuses and donated \$1 billion to the research of group "OpenAI", to further advance this digital intelligence and benefit humanity.

This same group is already working on a scheme to help people who suffer from paralysis, it will help them perform actions by simply thinking about such actions.

Besides, Musk plans to launch a huge satellite web costing about \$10 billions to swathe the Earth with readily available internet access. He already asked permission from the American government for a huge 5000 satellites to provide fast, global coverage. The system, named "SpaceX" is designed to deliver cheap internet services to any entity on the globe with an unprecedented broadband, in lieu of all the cables, fiber-optics and the other terrestrial internet system currently available.

And by no means this is the end of the way for this era's technological marvels. "DeepMind" for instance, founded in London in 2010 and now

being developed in Canada and California, is designed to push the AI boundaries to further dimensions. We may now imagine a machine that can solve any complex problem without needing to be taught how, or one that can correct or renew itself. When this comes to fruition, it would be one of the most important and widely useful scientific advances ever invented.

Many soft wares are now derivatives and applications of DeepMind including the most complex and intuitive games ever devised. This is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to AI, and the avenue is still wide open.

How are we Facing 2020 Crises?

I expected since 2017, that 2020 would be the year of economic, financial, social, political, trade, and security crises. We are now living all that and I expect it to be the most difficult year in the human history.

Since our company was one of the world's largest consulting companies specializing in business studies, we had to monitor global reports and indicators issued by strategic research centers, the majority of which are American, on an ongoing basis. We were able as researchers and scholars to extract some predictions and form our convictions about the crises of the year 2020.

We predicted that global GDP would decrease, public debt would rise, unemployment would increase, consumer prices would increase, and the world would reach what is called stagflation. There would also be social and populist crises which accumulate and affect each other.

The world needs to create a panel of international, non-governmental wise men and experts, in order to formulate proposals that save the world from this chaos and fragmentation. After predicting those crises, we, at TAG-Global, have prepared a guide for the services we provide during this crisis, based on our long experience in the world of advanced services, entitled, "Crisis Management Consulting CMC – Every crisis is an opportunity in itself." These services include consulting, electronic archiving, e-training, e-learning, restructuring of institutions in line with "remote work" decisions, and a host of other services.

TAG-Global also offers a wide range of ICT services and products and digital transformation. TAG-Tech, a subsidy of TAG-Global, has a specific objective of spreading the culture of technology by producing laptops and tablets that have world-class specifications at competitive prices. This offers self-learning windows and allows the development of ideas and creating leadership in a manner that helps activate the national economy.

We were able through integrated solutions for electronic archiving and business process management to archive more than 200 million documents electronically and apply the electronic archiving systems in multiple government and private institutions working in various sectors in Jordan,

the region, and the world. This comes as a response to the requirements of the knowledge era, to keep pace with its developments, and to support the institutions in achieving their electronic transformation and remote work.

We do all that through an integrated, comprehensive electronic system.

At TAG-Global, we believe that we have a duty to develop the community through our extended global presence. This is reflected in the TAG-Foundation report on the services it provided to the Jordanian community (2014-2020), which will be submitted to the competent authority. The report highlights TAG-Global's commitment to pay half of its annual profits to TAG-Foundation for community service purposes in Jordan, and to invest the other half internally to develop its own capabilities and expansion programs. In turn, TAG-Foundation offer sustainable programs for the community in the field of business, including training, qualification, and education that are self-financed and offered in a sustainable manner. It also offers cash donations to charities, financial, investment, and industrial companies and others.

Finally, the crises offer chances and we should be wise enough to make use of them. The above are predictions of a phase we have lived through, and will continue to live its repercussions. After this, a new, prosperous, stable world will be established; a world that respects all the parts that make it and offers prosperity for all humankind.

A Race against Time: TAG Tech is Spreading the Culture of Technology Worldwide

We all realize the importance of the science behind contemporary technologies. We understand that junior accountants as well as senior traders use calculators and that they will not be able to perform a fraction of their daily work without them. We all realize that electronic solutions software have enabled transactions and processes that otherwise would not have been possible .

We realize by watching around us that the countless materials sold at any place can no longer be inventoried easily. We also realize that the number of documents any institution operating in a small country possesses cannot be counted or organized by hand!

We live in an era where documents and information is beyond the manual calculation capacities of man. The human mind is no longer able to count them no matter how hard we try to arrange them or organize them. We have moved from an era where the use of computer has been optional, to an era where the use of computer is compulsory.

That is why the nations are racing in 2020 to spread the culture of technology because they realize its importance in the coming days. It would be absurd nowadays to ask someone if he or she knows how to deal with technological devices while applying to a job. Instead of asking about the general level of computer knowledge, we are starting to ask about expertise in specific applications and technologies. In the past, a successful business did not need to have a high degree of computer maturity to be successful. This is now no longer the case.

Arabic linguists have used the term “computer” to describe devices that compute data. If we expand that definition, we find that computers are now an essential element in all work. The function of computing is associated with the function of combining, processing, and inclusion. The Arabic Language Board has approved to call the device that includes all of these functions a “computer”.

Why do not we give the computers today a name that describes the functions it performs? It currently works like a phone, camera, printer, and photocopier. It also has drawing and calligraphy software, as well as its role in sewing clothes, laying paper for giant printing presses, arranging port shipments, and performing surgeries. It performs all of its roles with a skill that outperforms the capabilities of human intelligence. That is why these days they are called “intelligence devices”. The question is, is there a name that describes all the functions of a PC comprehensively? May be it would be “the all-inclusive” or the “processor,” which are nouns that describe one of the functions of the smart device in a nutshell.

TAG-Tech is a smart, descriptive acronym of a subsidiary of TAG-Global, which aims to spread the culture of technology and its requirements.

It has also drawn a plan, since the production of its first device in 2010, for advancement and excellence. It has an aim to stay on top by carefully choosing the configuration of its devices, which have international standards, designing and manufacturing the first Arab device to fill the gap in digital learning and allowing more people to use cloud computing.

It successfully attracted millions of users around the world, who had the desire for sustainability. It eventually opened a pioneering factory in its home country of Jordan.

TAG-Tech, the first Arab company of its kind, has met the requirements of the current era by inventing the most valuable device for the upcoming phases. In a race against time, it has moved its factory from China to Egypt and Jordan, celebrating this move a few days ago. It is now drawing up a ten-year plan to manufacture a device for every Arab citizen, in order to become a world leading brand of technology devices.

The Digital Age and Future Challenges

Thanks to leading digital technology, all daily activities will gradually depend on automation powered by robots or digital software. When we are freed from most of our present preoccupations, we will be largely occupied with defining the tasks of these mechanisms, and building and developing them.

First of all, we must refocus on the unique aspects of our humanity. We will have the opportunity to invest our time in building relationships with others, innovate, create, develop intuition and outlooks, all activities that are not spontaneous, and the desired benefits or lack thereof. While our activity centers on automation, our direct responsibility is to prepare for the human activities of tomorrow...today!

When we were farmers, connected to the land, busy finding or producing our own food, we provided our basic needs for ourselves (food, housing, facing the elements, and wars). At the time, we also perished off this earth before the age of forty, so we didn't even have to collect pensions.

Today, as we move away from the land and become more and more urban, the basic needs that we are obliged to obtain through others (our employer, clients, salaries, medical care, and taxes, the lenders who fund our social and civil protection) have increased. Add to this a doubled life expectancy where we need to live it for more money, donations, and all the resources that secure a decent living. Therefore, we built our modern society out of a great solidarity agreement: to leave the lands that give us food, to work in the city, where jobs provide security and protection, food, drink, and much more, and if something goes wrong, or when our community services are finished, it will provide us with our special needs for the rest of our lives.

Accordingly, our society has transformed into a symbiotic society, based on a large number of mutual relations that constitute its basic value, and support our common capabilities to ensure this solidarity agreement. The accountant, for example, takes charge of the income of the commercial establishment that needs an insurance broker. As the accountant procures himself this job, it allows him to buy fruits and vegetables in the neighborhood grocery, whose manager is responsible for the supply and paying the producers, and

he gives special offers to develop his sales with the help of his lawyer wife, who goes to her doctor for medical consultations...and the cycle goes on and on...

The challenge that faces us all is how to sustain this agreement, over a relatively short time (10 to 15 years), in all the urban centers of a planet of 8 billion people, among accountants, taxi drivers, brokers, utility agents, product managers, lawyers, doctors...most of these activities are becoming automated, because they are repeated and therefore digitally reproducible.

The challenge will not be to replace human-based activity with machines.

We have been doing this for a while since we got used to stability in our lives. The challenge is when it happens very quickly, involving everyone at the same time, everywhere, and we are talking about a population here that is larger than those who experienced previous developments (finance, climate, and media). The challenge is also in the pace and size as well as in the fact that we are more vigilant, shrewd, and informational, especially in Western countries, where people are accustomed to an advanced way of living... As for the poor, especially in most African countries, the Middle East, and Asia, the concept of challenge differs from the feeling of another challenge: maintaining the balance.

The problem is that, like other major collective predictions, the challenge arises in front of a large number of individual decisions that go along with it, because at some point, everyone seeks their own interests, especially in the digital preparation stage. This is where automation becomes necessary for everyone.

All life activities, including technical feasibility, economic interests, and living requirements, will gradually become automated. This is the inescapable truth. And all of us, as individuals, will prefer self-driving cars over taxis for their ease of handling. At the corporate level, automation will take place because it provides a competitive advantage (no strikes and lower operating expenses), In the case of associations and governments, automation will facilitate the automatic implementation of the development of the services provided, and the workmanship will increase among fewer, but more equipped employees.

And last but not least, the rationalization of spending will improve. This will be a collective challenge because it relates to all of us in our different fields, and perhaps at the same time, our different activities. This challenge deals primarily with those in positions of responsibility, those who decide whether or not to invest in automation, choose the fields, the pace of investment and set priorities, appoint the accountant or manager, lawyer or doctor, who will be the first to be freed from their repetitive activities, which will be handled by advanced robotics.

There emerges a renewed responsibility, namely, to propose, design, and build new activities parallel to the quality of the new services, which will require new skills, developed human professions, and other forms of communication and connections that in turn create renewed economic and social values.

The essence of the forthcoming responsibility, to be able to respond to this human challenge in the digital age, is to recognize and seize the next opportunity to grow together collectively, as it lifts us, brings us closer to each other, and accept and acknowledge that the past 100 years have transformed people and move them from working on factory production chains to emails.

We created robots, and trained these machines to do what we do, so can we secure humanity for humans? If this issue is resolved, the next digital age will be interesting, productive, and stimulating for the sophisticated operators among us, and also for the support and supervision workers and even for future farmers who will be different from their ancient forefathers.

Rescue Boats

Remote Work: The Future Business Management Model

Businesses sometimes need to adapt by working remotely and linking them to the technologies necessary for good performance. What is the goal that is manifested through remote work, and what are the guarantees and indicators of its success?

The main goal that organizations aspire to in light of the need to work remotely is to maintain our basic needs during this period as they were before and to continue our successes. We live in the market of “artificial intelligence”, and everyone has to measure their literacy by how much they know the language of artificial intelligence that is developing every minute! They must also preserve what they have mastered, as we do not know where the global technological levels are taking us, and to what extent the concept of literacy can change in the foreseeable future!

“The number of people working from home has certainly gone up around the world these days. Alphabet, the parent company of Google, has recommended that all of its employees in North America, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East work from home until April 10. In April, Amazon notified all of its employees globally who are able to work from home to do so until the end of March. Other tech companies, including Twitter, Microsoft, and Apple, have asked their employees to work from their homes, as well as dozens of other small companies.

It is a temporary measure, of course, depending on the expiration of the Coronavirus. But can it become sustainable after these companies realize the tremendous advantages of moving employees from offices and students from schools and universities in crowded cities to the digital world in the peace of their homes, saving time and money, stopping corruption, and stopping all citizens from driving to government offices and standing in lines to finish their business? Yes, it is possible, by spreading the “Internet of Things” in all government sites, schools, and companies.

Here, a major question arises: Is it necessary to do this with the intervention of the human element? What about school exams that require scrutiny to ensure the integrity of the test and to verify its validity? Or direct corporate meetings to determine key decisions? Or a myriad of related requirements? Therein comes “Spatial”.

This software company is developing a system whereby meetings are held through holograms that provide 3D images. Whether the meeting is in a specific city or between several cities around the world, 3D holograms will show participants in the same room so they can interact through an AR headset, providing full participation during video conferencing and allowing members to see things in a more lifelike way from multiple angles. Several companies are currently competing to develop this system, including Google Classroom, which helps teachers set up and manage their courses.

And at the same time, the Corona may show us the difficulty of remote work when it comes to backward and digitally incompetent countries, especially the segments of poor societies that do not even have a computer, let alone an Internet connection. Some of them are currently using national television to provide remote teaching sessions. But work is underway around the world to advance digital methods. Digital governments can only work with digitally-oriented citizens who are truly qualified to work remotely.”

When this work is completed globally, the role of remote business programming will come in to break through the traditional in regards to timing, selection, and prioritization. This task will be the most difficult and most burdensome and would not have been necessary had it not been for the prioritization of and the need for remote work procedures. Our orientations are varied in light of this work, as they can be narrowed down to two directions: the need for (communication) and the need for (services). The first is available with what we have of artificial intelligence devices, such as laptops and smart panels, and the second is to ensure the continuity of life in terms of food, medicine, and security. The two are inseparable!

“The negative aspect of remote digital work is that screens distance people from each other. This is the difference between face-to-face and online interaction. People will always yearn to share a moment in time and space with someone. Are our ‘old brains’ getting used to this new solo reality? In the long run, remote workers prefer not to be at home alone all day even though they feel comfortable spending business in their comfy clothes.

However, this can be compensated for by enjoying relaxing evenings with good friends at a nearby café. The routine of remote work is offset by a good weekend at the resorts with the fuel and other amenities they avoided using during the week, away from computers, and close to nature.”

Our success in remote work is manifested in a set of indicators: love of work, adaptability skills, and the ability to distinguish, select, arrange, and organize within the business pyramid. Whereby, ready-made technical programs, prepared according to practical needs, are appointed by forming groups (of co-workers) who are knowledgeable and understand the ability to link the written with the readable, distinguish the translatable in reality with what is supposed to be imagined, and monitor what is expected to be accomplished, and other hourly work tasks.

Although remote work is not linked to an automated time that measures specific working hours, nor to a place that surrounds workers, their tools, and needs, training on creating a follow-up group for remote workers will ensure the continuity of achievement, and overcoming the obstacles of lack of face-to-face communication and of accurate follow-up of working times within the vicinity of the place or outside it. Through this success of remote work, we can overcome most obstacles and achieve guarantees that would not have been achieved without it. Rather, by practicing remote work, we will discover an ideal method and model capable of ensuring the continuity of success, and we will overcome the neglect that has long been practiced in the past, to work according to this model, which may be the future approach to managing business in the coming years.

Remote work is silent work that often does not require allocating morning or evening hours, but it is systematic and organized work, especially when working for an institution that calls for assessment, planning, and programming meetings. It also ensures capacity building and contributes to creating a generation that has what qualifies it to support itself and its family; with their skills and knowledge.

This is the rescue boat towards the future of this century, and it will not wait for us to prepare our luggage and tools or to present our unprepared arguments; all of that will be for nothing! And no one would believe us if we said we were unaware of its arrival, because it is blowing its trumpets now alerting us of its arrival, and soon will be spreading its sails and setting out to sea.

Remote work is no longer a preventive or exceptional system, but is essential and realistic, and whoever does not accept it now will be left behind, and will not top the list no matter how hard they try.

E-Learning Combats Corona

One positive aspect that resulted from (Corona) is that we've finally decided to invest in e-learning and deal with distance learning software, and actively pursue this field. We used to consider this type of software as an (accessory) of our computer devices! Corona, despite the problems it brought forth, has also brought another infection with it, which is the infection of distance e-learning, which gave citizens opportunities for self-teaching, which is the "correct basis for learning". Now, we have entered the era of real electronic governments that serve people electronically.

This generalization does not apply to all sectors involved in education, as there are a few of them that continued with the distance e-learning system they were working with, and faced the lockdown imposed due to the Coronavirus with more online classes.

Corona is on the top of the list of daily news, as this unique infection that results from any contact with the infected person, and with it, the distance e-learning infection also tops the list, because its popularity coincidentally spread at the same time. However, we did not catch this trend from teaching methods that already existed in other places and tried to apply them here.

E-learning in the civilized world is the proverbial basis for any e-learning system, and no two disagree on its importance. On the contrary, the creation of an educational program is a condition for graduation from the compulsory education stages!

As for our situation, it has become increasingly confusing, as we no longer differentiate between what we need and what we do not. We import ideas, whether they are useful to us or not. Where do we stand as far as real learning is concerned? Our countries do not even recognize distance learning, but continue to unfortunately still write in the certificates the word "distance", indicating that the recipient of this certificate received his education through the distance learning system! What kind of infection is this which has forced us to learn remotely, and what misfortune has brought us to the world of remote technical e-learning? It is the coronavirus and none else!

Today, technology proves that it has the solutions in hand, as nations use it to search for a cure for the Coronavirus, and companies use it to for their work and development. Technology has kept education going during these circumstances, and it has also helped eradicate the gaps between the haves and have nots; I mean those who have the means to purchase a library of tens of thousands of books and those who own nothing but a small device whose price does not exceed the price of twenty books out of those ten thousand, yet it enables its owner to read countless books.

I remember my old friend and we were discussing the number of times a student is allowed to refer back to an e-resource while writing his thesis, and my friend used to deplore students' reference to e-books in their theses, and described them as helpless and lazy, and even called such book fraudulent!

Disasters may ultimately have benefits, such as how we resorted to technology and e-learning, in the times of Corona. The transmission of e-learning became equal to the transmission of the Coronavirus among people, and the panic that Corona has caused in the world has put things back into perspective; from the need to take precautions and follow preventive measures, maintain our hygiene, to adopting a healthy lifestyle.

What used to be a luxury yesterday, has now become mandatory, and people often only respond to what they are made to do. This is what happened with our return to educational technology. Just as the Coronavirus has turned into a global (trend), education technology has also transformed, as countries had two options; either to stop learning or adopt distance learning with an e-strategy, mistakenly known to the media as (alternative), while it is anything but!

The name (distance learning) is not meant to suggest inferiority or even a disorder in the system of learning methods, but on the contrary, it suggests (the ability to learn) and (lifelong learning), and we must be aware that dispensing with traditional learning has become imminent, and therefore, there will be no need for direct contact between a teacher and a learner in a school, or its equivalent, throughout the coming period.

E-learning is not (alternative) learning and is not only a temporary solution in difficult times. Rather, it is a fundamental solution for the learner who is earning a living all day and does not have time to go to the place of learning. We must provide a global technological infrastructure capable of adapting to their lifestyle at all times and throughout the year. The time has come for the student to choose between two learning systems, either direct learning or indirect learning, which we call e-learning without calling it (distance) or (alternative).

The Coronavirus has revealed the reality of our education technology, and it is time for us to establish an advanced e-education system. Not as an alternative in difficult times as is the case now, but to be used as a substitute to traditional learning methods, a learning tool, and one of the learning resources in the classroom, throughout the year, even during the summer vacation. Therefore, we have to gradually integrate e-learning technology with traditional learning to prepare the learners and to transform these difficult circumstances into a blessing.

The Worst Global Recession

In this article I will propose some ideas to deal with the worst global recession in history. The way out of the crisis, however, is long, arduous, and painful, and everyone in his or her capacity should take part in the discussions and propose further ideas.

There is no doubt that the coronavirus is one of the reasons of this recession and that it is here to stay for a while. Its economic repercussions, therefore, will continue. It is not reasonable then to wait until we eradicate the pandemic to face the imminent economic and social dangers.

The economic crisis I expected to take place in 2020 has exacerbated. It continues to grow while we combat the coronavirus. It will continue after the pandemic and until the end of this year leading to the worst recession in history, even worse than the Great Depression between 1929 and 1932.

It is necessary for every country to develop appropriate plans to face this great challenge. It is worth mentioning that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says that getting out of the crisis depends on the measures taken by each country and that we need a quick economic rescue plan for 2020, and another one that extends to 2025.

I am well aware that each country has its own specific circumstances and considerations, and I am not claiming that I can propose suggestions for each country as the decision makers in each Arab state are capable of doing that. What I am suggesting is that such decision making should be done in a collaborative manner with input from cross sectoral stakeholders including government, business, academia, and civil society to propose solutions to face this looming disaster. This team should work as an advisory board that reports to the head of state to decide what procedures should be implemented.

This could include annulling taxes on new investment projects in the agricultural, medical, and other industries to ensure they receive the necessary protection to achieve self-sufficiency in the country. Digital transformation of the country should also be given priority including digitalizing trade and education as well as developing an e-services based government. These should be backed up with effective laws that promote investment and protect consumers.

Policies for the stimulation of GDP growth should be adopted as well as policies that stimulate business, to create more jobs and expand the tax base which will in turn generate more tax revenues for the state without resorting to direct tax increases. The economic sector and citizens should be involved in decision-making because the coronavirus crisis has proven that the citizens accept, cooperate, commit, and respect the powers of the authorities when they know that this serves their interests.

A program to employ the unemployed in small companies and disburse their salaries through such companies instead of paying them unemployment benefits should be adopted. A training system that ends with employment based on the mutual consent between the company and the worker should be considered. Also, an administrative reform plan along with an austerity program to rationalize spending and restructure government sectors should be looked into. There should also be an absolute, unwavering sovereign commitment to maintaining the free movement of funds.

Finally, energy policies should be restructured and the international agreements should be developed to promote the national interests of each country. Small businesses should be supported qualitatively, legislatively, and procedurally. A study should be conducted on the privatization of government institutions and whether it increases efficiency, achieves profitability and stops losses. Policies and procedures for controlling prices and combating high prices should also be adopted.

Developing Management Systems during Crises, according to ISO Standards

Times of economic recession and dwindling production are the best times for institutions, companies, and business organizations to implement management systems development to increase their efficiency.

During the lockdown period to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, we were free from the pressure of customer orders and delivery schedules. This gave employees time to implement projects that were postponed to avoid delays in daily work, such as the implementation of ISO standards.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has many management standards, which those who wish to optimize their operations can use as references to develop their processes. The completeness of the developed systems and the correctness of their implementation may then be verified by obtaining certificates of conformity from one of the many approved ISO audit bodies.

ISO is the world's largest developer and publisher of international standards. It is a network of standards organizations of the 164 member states. It was founded in 1946 with its central secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It published its first standard in 1951 which was a Reference Temperature for Industrial Length Measurements.

ISO published its first standard on management systems in 1987 which was a real breakthrough. That is because all the standards issued before that year were standards either for products, or to measure industrial and environmental indicators. This standard initiated the ISO 9000 family, which was concerned with quality assurance and later changed to quality management.

Our company, TAG-Consult, was chosen to be the only Arab non-governmental member in the ISO technical committee, under decision no. 176. The committee is responsible for formulating the ISO 9000 series of standards since 1994 until now. This has distinguished us and increased our competence and efficiency.

Our representatives have given hundreds of courses and seminars on these amendments in more than 20 Arab countries over the past 20 years.

Obtaining ISO certification provides important benefits for organizations. For example, many large companies and international, governmental, and non-profit institutions, require entities to have ISO certifications in order to deal with them. It also enhances competitiveness in the market; establishes a system that can be implemented and controlled; ensures the development of processes, services, and products; addresses quality issues; raises customer satisfaction levels and ensures compliance with the instructions of legislative and regulatory authorities regarding environmental and occupational safety.

ISO consultants have the ability and professional competence to assist all types of organizations, regardless of their sizes and the diversification of their businesses, to obtain certificates of conformity to most of the management specifications. This includes the Quality Management System standard ISO 9001, which ensures the institution's commitment to the requirements of management and quality assurance. It also includes the ISO 14001, which obliges institutions to comply with local regulations on environmental performance, and ISO 45001, which ensures the commitment to providing a safe work environment for workers in institutions, reducing injuries, and protecting institutions from liabilities.

Finally, I believe that the ISO is a real need and not a marketing ploy. It does not only enhances the organization's position in front of its competitors, but also improves the quality of the product and in turn profitability. It also improves customer service, employee satisfaction levels and loyalty to work. It should be noted, however, that the ISO certification may radically change the structure of institutions. That is why there must be a real desire and acceptance for change, knowing that the implementation of ISO standards requires continuous effort, patience and deliberation.

Sustainable Reconstruction Plan (Abilities and Possibilities)

The comprehensive, structural, and strategic plan for national reconstruction and expansion is a critical objective. In order to achieve it, a non-traditional vision that defines the purpose, mission, goals, and form of reference should be adopted.

The reconstruction and expansion plan targets both people and buildings. To implement it, we have to proceed in an institutional, coherent, objective-specific, and detailed manner. We have to define reference points and the responsibilities of each institution or individual at this phase.

The objective of the plan is to rebuild what has been destroyed and to prepare a form of reference that can be applied and developed, according to a participatory, consensual approach.

The mission of the plan is to build capacities and achieve sustainable development and high-level competition through building a competitive economy that is based on knowledge, diversity, and adding-value which is able to achieve comprehensive, sustainable growth and create job opportunities.

The objectives of the plan include:

- » Building a modern infrastructure that enables countries to design, finance, and implement projects with an integrated aim that aims to achieve prosperity.
- » Opening the crossings according to a comprehensive strategy that includes technical measures without the need to conclude political or media agreements.
- » Establishing a Ministry of Reconstruction and Development that coordinates the construction and development process to achieve the best results.
- » Establishing an Import Quality Control Department, to ensure the quality of imported goods in terms of type, price, and environmental friendliness.
- » Establishing an E-Government by automating procedures and applying control and transparency measures.

As for the terms of reference for the reconstruction and expansion plan, it consists of the following parts:

- » Establishing an institutional and supervisory framework for the strategy preparation activities, namely the steering committee and the executive committee, and forming the work group.
- » Analyzing the status quo, creating a detailed list of the development and construction opportunities, arranging them according to priority, implementing them promptly, measuring the achievements, coordinating the preparation and implementation phases, scheduling them, and exploring financing opportunities.
- » Developing sub-work plans for each component and implementing them in a parallel, coordinated manner.
- » Developing a follow up plan to ensure the implementation of the plans and tools that measure the achievement of targets and objectives, as well as clarifying the role of the private sector experts in their relevant fields of expertise.

These constitute important pillars of the reconstruction and expansion plan which fall under the title “Abilities and Possibilities”. Some of these may be detailed activities such as constructing the needed infrastructure and achieving comprehensive development. It begins with the modernization of the infrastructure required for state management, in order to attract experts and foreign capital to participate in the reconstruction phase and building new urban communities for young people and middle-income workers according to international best practices. It also includes establishing partnerships with the private sector to build smart, green, energy efficient cities, which are equipped with smart living methods, and enhancing economic capabilities by taking advantage of the knowledge economy.

Through this we will be able to realize the plan, which will involve the private sector in construction; develop knowledge, innovation and scientific research; encourage digital transformation; improve the performance of the government sector; enhance education and training; as well as build capacities.

As for the economic development pillar, this requires establishing an import quality control department, developing an enterprise support program, securing financing, activating privatization programs, opening of crossings after enabling them electronically as well as providing training and supporting

the wide use of IT in all economic sectors. It also requires developing an investment map for the industrial zones according to the targeted activities, communicating with the major investors, and inviting them to invest. As for taxes, taxation policies should be reviewed, VAT should be applied, and tax evasion should be combatted. A system of investment incentives for projects established in remote areas should be introduced, the current investment laws should be reviewed and procedures and registration of licenses should be made easy. The sustainable, institutional partnership between the public and private sectors should be expanded to develop the health sector and to implement a countrywide e-transformation project to establish a comprehensive e-government.

The only topic remaining is the possibility of social and cultural reform through youth centers (knowledge stations). This includes enabling the social security network to help it deal with the social needs of citizens. A program to look after internally displaced people should be developed in coordination with the relevant international institutions. A culture of optimism should be established through a program that utilizes social, psychological, and historical tools. Programs propagating the culture of belonging to the homeland and engaging everyone should be promoted. Awareness-building centers should be built to spread the culture of denouncing terrorism and extremism, encourage moderation and respect for others, and promote community services and the culture of volunteering.

Finally, developing the reconstruction and expansion plan should be the responsibility of a supreme steering committee, which includes senior members of the leadership, with the participation of economists and representatives of the private sector. There should also be a high-level coordinating executive committee, which consists of representatives of the relevant stakeholders and a cross sectoral team consisting of experts in economics, management, finance, social sciences, traditional education, digital education, professional, academic and vocational training, ICT, as well as crisis management.

Lessons Learnt from World War II to Avoid New World War

Wu Shicun, head of the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, stated that the US military has deployed unprecedented numbers of its naval troops in the South China Sea. He warned that a military accident or accidental shooting might take place, which would be catastrophic to the US-Sino ties. That statement, as well as other relevant facts that the US has mobilized 375,000 soldiers and 60% of its warships in the Indian and Pacific oceans, heralds an imminent war between the Big Two, America and China.

This being the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, it may be useful to review some lessons learnt from that war to avoid the eruption of a new world war, a threat that is already looming. World wars have made a profound change in the geopolitical map of the world. The unforgettable traces of wars, with their victories and defeats, are still engraved in the minds of people across the globe.

Tracing the causes, outcomes, and some of the manifestations of the World War may be important to prevent past warfare from being prologue to a new war.

The Treaty of Versailles was one of the most substantial causes of World War II due to the harsh sanctions imposed on Germany and excessive compensations it had, according to the treaty, to pay to the Allies. The treaty also led to inter-European conflicts over boundaries. All this served a good purpose in the rise of the Nazi Party that played on the humiliation felt by the German population. They stirred the desire of vengeance and revived the aspiration to the “Great Germany”.

Any precarious situation may lead to a military conflict. A World War, however, is never an unforeseen event. The German invasion of Poland was not out of nothing, but several catalysts led to it. History seems now to be repeating itself.

The war left behind great material losses, the foremost of which were human. The Soviet Union back then lost 27 million citizens, which meant that one out of every 7 soviets was killed. America lost the equivalent of

one out of every 320 of its citizens and Britain lost the equivalent of one out of every 127 of its citizens.

The war victors created a modern world system that involved several contradictions in the world power balance and their social, economic, political and technological parameters. Among the considerable material outcomes of the war was the formation of the League of Nations, on which hopes of achieving permanent peace and security for all were pinned. The League, however, was entirely under the domination of the victorious allies and failed, therefore, to prevent wars. One of the most horrendous repercussions of its weakness was the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, and conflicts in Europe did not stop until they had destroyed values before buildings.

The World learnt the lesson of the total failure of the League of Nations and started developing the structure of the United Nations, to whose “veto” I beg to object and propose establishing a “Security Council” in the General Assembly to play its role in the event of using the veto. I believe there should be no “veto” as a supreme decision-making power that issues binding decisions. Let it be taken into consideration that wars cause the formation of allies that lead to dividing and disbanding of all that is on earth and establishing international military courts that operate in favor of the war victors and probably punish those they describe as war criminals.

World wars have also left behind organizations somehow relevant to international warfare, like the Weapons of Mass Destruction Assembly, which was created in 1945, establishing the principle of dispute resolution. Add to this the economic crises caused by wars and the unjust, illegitimate usurping of world resources by some nations, unrightfully depriving others of them.

As for the nonmaterial outcomes of wars, they manifest themselves through relationships among the nations and peoples of the world. Selfishness has outdone all other concepts and symptoms of political cowardice appeared at a time when it should not. A culture of seeking to satisfy transgressors, moreover, has been ingrained in the most humiliating manner! The political elite has also shown exemplary negligence in performing their role and do not even attempt to look for solutions. All this reminds us of the situation in the Middle East, best represented by the case of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.

Another dire repercussion of wars is the mercenary political media, which plays a major role in causing and aggravating conflict. Its role in distorting history and facts to further political purposes is needless to state. Wars serve to make a media of liars and deceivers, a giant machine that overflows with a vast amount of disinformation tailored to serve the interests of one party at the expense of all others. It is an entire industry closely associated with and dependent on warfare. Its slogan is “Repeat a lie often enough and people will believe it”! It is about time we choose “conciliation” as a better alternative to “dispute”. There need not be victories and defeats; let the whole world be victorious and prosperous.

Clean Environment for Smart Living: Epidemiological and Environmental Issues are Two Sides of Same Coin

We all know by now what global warming means. It will raise temperatures to unprecedented levels, melt polar ice caps and raise water levels, which will eventually change the map of the Earth.

The term environmental imbalance has also become familiar in discussions about the environmental damage caused by mankind and how humans put their interests above those of the environment. The persistent reluctance of the relevant parties, officials, and stakeholders to control the harmful practices, which have exacerbated in a manner that is threatening our existence on planet earth, makes us concerned about the future of the World.

Talking about coming environmental, climate hazards reminds us of my previous warnings. I wrote one and a half years ago about the environmental hazard and drew a comparison between it and the epidemiological hazard of COVID. I also talked about the man who stood against them both, Bill Gates, who warned about the man-made “climate change” catastrophe by saying, “This environmental catastrophe will have severer impact than the pandemic, which inflicted great losses on the global economy. As awful as this pandemic is, climate change could be worse.”

I pointed out in my article back in May 2019 how for decades, the countries of the world had taken actions to address the coming environmental hazards, but they are no more than pain killers that might slow the harm and solve a fraction of the problem. This includes the ban on the use of pressurized liquids and replacing non-biodegradable plastics with paper.

We are in the face of a major problem the world cannot afford to ignore anymore for which a radical solution must be found. That is because our daily lifestyle, whether simple or sophisticated, has adapted with the tools of civilization produced by worldwide factories, which are the main cause of the problem with their carbon emissions that will eventually kill the inhabitants of the Earth.

I was happy to see this week a statement issued by the leader of knowledge, Bill Gates, where he compares between the losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the anticipated losses caused by global warming. He says, “The mortality rate of coronavirus is around 14 deaths per 100,000. Within the next 40 years, increases in global temperatures are projected to raise global mortality rates by the same amount - 14 deaths per 100,000. This number will increase 5 times by the year 2100.”

The World is facing a major crisis. Bill Gates’ statements stresses two facts. Firstly, rejecting the conspiracy theories to explain the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, including the one that claims he was behind it and wants to get rid of 15% of the population of the earth under the pretext of vaccinating them. Secondly, is that we are facing a real environmental crisis that resembles the epidemiological crisis and is no less dangerous. The difference between the two is that one of them is manmade, while the other is not.

We have to protect the environment and make it a priority over any profits, such as the case with Volkswagen, where the company forged data related to the carbon emissions. This has led to the company being sued and paying billions of dollars in fines. The US President, moreover, is denying the crisis, not accepting it altogether, and describing it as a Chinese hoax that aims to harm US industries. The US has even withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement, a decision that has worried us all.

This withdrawal has perpetuated the environmental hazard. We are facing a game of interests and protection of profits. The withdrawal also stirred warnings from the US press, the global press and a member of the US House of Representatives, Ms. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who said, “The world will end in 12 years.”

The underlying reasons related to both environmental and epidemiological hazards are known. We have to be cautious with the first and address it, just as we have been cautious and addressed the second through the UN International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, which the UN Secretary General mandated me to chair. For this purpose, we established “Accounting Standards for Environmental Responsibility”, some of which were mentioned during a seminar entitled, “Environmental Oversight in the Arab World,” which was held as part of the activities of the Economic Forum

in Jordan in 2019. The activists discussed the importance of environmental protection by curbing anything that harmed the climate balance, focusing on alternative energy, gradually phasing out traditional energy and spreading a culture of waste recycling.

Finally, it is time to sponsor a team of artificial intelligence experts, to innovate smart solutions that will reduce the impact of harmful industrial emissions to make them non-toxic, under the theme “A Clean Environment for Smart Living.”

The Anglo-Saxon Civilization: Speedy Growth and Forewarnings of Collapse

A civilization is a set of principles, cultures, traditions, systems and branches of knowledge. It is an expression denoting several matters, all associated with advancement and progress, even though they are two different concepts. Advancement in methods and technologies does not necessarily mean progress, as the latter means adding a material value, moving forward to something better, not just something new!

The Anglo-Saxon countries are uniform nations that share the same culture, traditions, customs and systems. Among the most notable features they have in common is their application of democracy, which has grown and developed in the first half of the past century. Democracy is facing a great challenge against populism and may not stand a chance in the face of that defiant opponent. A study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit finds that half of the earth's population are living without democracy and only 5% of them live under regimes that may be precisely described as democracies.

The Anglo-Saxon civilization is attributed to Britain, America, Australia, Canada and Ireland. Notwithstanding this fact, the first spark of that civilization originated in Saxony-Germany and moved to England, from which it spread to the world following the emergence of the Germanic language.

A quality true of the Anglo-Saxon civilization is that it is an industrial one. It is based on exploiting the natural resources for the purpose of enhancing living. It is also a capitalist civilization that selfishly devours the world's resources, leaving one half of the Earth's population living on a maximum daily income of \$3 US dollars, while the other half drowns in trillions of dollars!

Among the most significant manifestations of the Anglo-Saxon civilization is the knowledge revolution fueled by artificial intelligence, totally devoid of moral and humanitarian motives. This poses the question, how long will it take to move forward from the knowledge revolution to the wisdom revolution? That is a revolution that will aim first and foremost - in addition

to technological and scientific advancement, innovation and power - at establishing justice. It will cause a profound upheaval in values: from “I,” “my state,” “my group,” or “my faction” to “my world.”

It is about time we move from pursuing knowledge to pursuing wisdom for every human being on earth to have a sense of responsibility. We should think of equality and the future instead of selling the future for the present, that will soon be no more.

Among the most substantial factors that will push the present civilization to ruins, is scarcity of resources and pollution. The former is the natural outcome of the ongoing depletion. Sadly, 50% of animal resources on earth have been used up throughout the past 50 years! The other 50% are expected to be depleted totally within the coming 50 years! As for the threat of pollution, the world is ignoring it despite the expected existential challenge humanity will face within the coming 10 years because of global warming and environmental pollution.

Personally, the term inter-civilization dialogue and its relevant conferences have always been an endless source of amazement. Civilization does not live, prosper, then enter into dialogues. Rather, when a civilization is born, another civilization must be fading in return. Studies suggest that the Anglo-Saxon civilization will be short-lived and cannot be expected to continue for hundreds of years. This is not a political talk that discusses military domination or who will rule the world. It is a talk about the values, democratic systems, industrial revolution and capitalist concepts represented by this civilization. They will all fade away to pave the way for the birth of a very new civilization.

The end of the Anglo-Saxon civilization has nothing to do with the US-Chinese conflict, inter-European conflicts, or Europe’s conflicts with its opponents. It has to do with the demand of creating a new international system, where we can all coexist under the banner of justice without depletion of natural resources.

The Roman Empire did not collapse when it was no longer a major state or a major economy. It became the architect of its own devastation when it focused on military power and authority and disregarded concepts, such as

equality among subjects and spreading ethical principles, hence its collapse. Why, therefore, does China raise concerns?

All the leaders of the present civilization are apprehensive about a new civilization made in China. Will China be able to impose its civilization on the world? It may be useful to remember that all people saw the Roman civilization as peculiar, but it ruled the world. Many recent American statements criticize the peculiarity of the Chinese civilization, in terms of their language, traditions and some aspects of their lifestyle.

The real conflict has just begun. Racist inclinations have served to kindle it, especially after the pandemic that brought to the surface the true selfish, populist and undemocratic face of the world. Satisfaction with the democratic system of rule has declined to its lowest point. It reached a peak towards the middle of the past century. Then, the number of countries practicing democracy retreated in the face of populism.

Finally, what will we do when we run out of oil? What will we do after the extinction of our natural resources?

It is then that we will be aware that the Anglo-Saxon civilization is ending. We will realize that the industrial economy in the age of the knowledge revolution - and its associating revolution in telecommunications and technology - is rapidly changing. It will be clear then that the knowledge revolution is a double-edged sword. Just as it has been the fastest instrument of development, it will be the swiftest weapon of destruction of the present civilization!

The Major Threat: Selling the Present to Buy the Future

The major threat I speak of here is one that is even harsher than any pandemic that may attack our planet. It is the threat of global warming.

The world urgently needs to give more attention to the environmental disaster which will affect us all.

In 1999, I was the President of the UN Environment Accounting team that worked within the context of a program entitled, “Environment Accounting System”. The team was facing a new challenge due to the absence of accounting parameters in this field. The material parameters of sale and purchase could not be applied to the environment, hence the difficulty of classification. That was my mission as head of the United Nations International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (UNISAR) team, the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), headquartered in New York, and of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board in London.

I worked then to form a team of all accounting boards and associations worldwide. After a year’s work, we came up with an accounting draft law that stipulated, “Every company shall register in its results a reserve for the negative environmental impacts of its work.” This would include, for example, aviation or oil companies. Each company would be ordained, by virtue of this law, to register the extent of pollution it caused to the environment, according to which it would be held accountable. Among the fundamental obligations of companies set forth in the said law is that “The transgressing company shall repair the negative impacts caused by pollution and indemnify any party that has a rightful claim to indemnification.” The challenge was getting this accounting law approved and which parties would have a greater sense of responsibility and take the initiative of recognizing the law.

Surprisingly, the US ambassador to the UN immediately demanded to attend the closing session of the work team, along with the British ambassador; a demand which was more than welcome. At the session, he said, “All your efforts in this field are fruitless because such matters are determined by the money market in Washington.” When asked to elaborate, he explained that

the Financial Market Capital, New York, must approve the law. The British ambassador concurred.

“Thank you both, Your Excellencies,” I said, “I will submit a report on this matter to the Secretary General, who has assigned me this mission.” When the session was over, I was sure that the draft law would never pass and it never did. When I submitted the draft law to the Secretary General, it was neither discussed nor issued due to the dual US-British objection to its resolutions.

This objection was well explained when the US President said in his election campaign in 2014 that climate change is a Chinese hoax and part of a plot designed to bring down US business and industries. “The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US industry non-competitive.” He warned that he would never allow any resolution or law to impede US production companies on the pretext of their polluting impact on the environment. That position was the cause of his success in that election.

We are in a real predicament. The environmental hazards cannot be combatted except by a unanimous resolution of the UN that ordains all countries in the world to preserve competition rights and maintain a standard level of environmental control.

The world today lives in the era of the knowledge revolution, fueled by artificial intelligence. If this intelligence can make objects think smartly, speak and perform human activities in a better way, if it can interfere with the biology of our bodies and our mental capabilities, no one then can deny that this unprecedented power of artificial intelligence can develop a system for protecting the environment from poisonous or harmful emissions.

I wish that the UN would form an artificial intelligence team to be led by experts from China and the US and to have specialists from major countries in the technological field as members. The mission of the team should not be confined to just describing the situation, but it should be an initiative for finding solutions. We cannot dream of the future at the detriment of the present. It is not an impossible task to develop a way to treat harmful emissions that will sure endanger the future of humanity unless stopped!

We need to find a way to guarantee that this planet will continue to be a habitable place for the sustainability of human life. To do this, we should think of how we live and how the coming generations will find the earth. Destruction of the environment means the collapse of our physical and mental capabilities, which will lead to rapid loss of the basic needs of life, then loss of life itself. We are not for an invention intended to make someone wealthy, but a source of endless wealth for you, other people, the entire earth, and myself.

Our perceptions are confined to the individual self, family, company, group, or country instead of a comprehensive humanitarian perception that encompasses us all. To develop this perception, we need to move forward from the knowledge revolution to a wisdom revolution. This will build human societies willing to collaborate to come up with an invention, a solution that will not drive us to build delusions of a wealthy future over the ruins of the real present. Whoever chooses to pursue such a future to accumulate individual wealth will not find a safe place to indulge in his whims. This is the problem - we are selling the present to buy the future!

Between China and the US: Conflict or Confrontation?

China – in all modesty- still registers itself at the World Trade Organization as a developing country, despite President Trump’s objection to this and his insistence that it should be registered as a developed country. By registering itself in this capacity, China uses the advantages WTO offers to developing countries. China has already set a condition before joining the WTO, that it must retain the developing country status so that it can amend its laws, conditions and structure, and that its currency remains independent of the US dollar.

In the course of time, China has grown into a major power competing with the US, with its 35% contribution to the world’s GDP against a declining 17% contribution on the part of the US. The American economy is expected within two years to equal just one-third of the size of the Chinese economy. It may be worth noting that the Chinese population is fivefold greater than the US population. The human factor is indispensable for economic growth, especially in the age of knowledge overflowing on Earth in such unparalleled abundance.

The US administration officials consider China’s economic and technological growth a threat to the US national security. They express concerns over the rising power of China, its massive and rapid economic growth, and the gap getting wider between China and the US. This looks like a forewarning of war between the two countries. The US would not just abandon its status as a major power to pave the way for its Chinese rival. It lives under an ongoing sense of insecurity and must take certain measures to mitigate China’s accelerating growth and abort its dream of ruling the world.

The US started its sanctions maneuvers against China, based on individual decisions rather than laws to provoke China, especially when the latter declared: “We are not ready to change our system to be part of the international system shaped by the US”! The US started its war by imposing trade sanctions that did not succeed in provoking China. The US maneuvers escalated to economic sanctions and the conflicting trade policies known as the trade war. The US went on, but it could not stop China. The trade or economic maneuvers evolved into a cold wa”, which forced China to declare several times that “the US must change its system of rule because it is dictatorial, despotic, and domineering”.

A cold war has its numerous weapons and instruments without involving parties into an attritional, military conflict. Each of the conflicting parties uses another country as a proxy in the cold war, like the US's wanton meddling in Hong Kong. China is practicing strict self-control and showing no sign of objection, yet it calls for what the US has called for before, "The situation in Hong Kong is a threat to national security" and has issued a law to govern security matters. This is the well-known proxy war policy, usually resorted to in cold wars. It is where the conflicting parties use all the weapons not used in traditional warfare, like psychological wars, warmongering rhetoric, and the like.

Meanwhile, many issues affect the American spirit compared to China, which is investing in the World nonstop. Now, "the hot war" is almost triggered, which will make the situation far worse. According to reports prepared by international organizations, an amount of \$20-30 trillion dollars are required for reconstruction of the World, especially the Arab Region, which is the most devastated and affected in the World. The intense conflict in the South China Sea can be a tool for kindling the war. Analysts have anticipated the eruption of war and now the World is facing an exceptional economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All this, as well as other factors, will soon lead to transformation of the world's leadership, economic powers, and political allies.

Everyone on this planet will be affected by this change and the American citizen will incur the greatest losses. The death toll will rise and a profound change will occur in the nature and psychology of people, including what they can own or control from this year onward. This outcome will inevitably follow from the current international system that is characterized by cruelty, selfishness, and vulnerability. What will the human of this era look like? He will be a human whose health has been endangered, who has been severed from the world, a cynic and with someone with a shattered education. This crisis is expected to entail a frightening number of unemployed people.

The world is boiling under the pandemic crisis, imminent wars, and other troubles that will take unemployment to no less than 20%. Apart from all else, unemployment remains the most prioritized issue in crisis recovery plans. The solution for this problem is based on building a human being capable of coping with the digital age that is up-and-coming. The world

will witness more profound differences among societies. There will be revolutions, social disruptions, general dissatisfaction and general mayhem to overcome.

We have a harsh world to deal with. The big players must say yes to a strategic meeting, a new system, new policies, and plans including laying the foundations for reconstruction. Unless we succeed in this, in no short time we will be facing a lot of trouble.

Smart Cities are the Best

The development of pragmatic smart cities that effectively connect citizens, government and business in an empowering manner is no easy feat. That is because the construction of smart cities is costly, takes a lot of time and is highly complex. Any such project needs to be studied carefully by a multi-disciplinary group of experts to properly develop a comprehensive plan of action that considers all actors, processes and interactions. In my book, *The Inevitable Digital Future: A World of Smart Cities*, which is available for free in Arabic and English, I highlight shortcomings of the preceding smart city implementations and what lessons we can take to ensure the development of future ones.

We are amazed everyday by new inventions and developments that fill our lives, allowing us to organize and manage our lives in much more effective ways. Technology has provided a more efficient means to analyze data and perform jobs with much higher degree of accuracy and with greater precision, to the extent that many professions are now being completely overtaken by technology.

In the context of smart cities, intelligent machine technology can handle and analyze enormous amount of data and countless pieces of information, leading to more informed decisions using real time data; something that is impossible for humans to achieve. We are therefore, in need of experts who understand such technology and have the ability to harness it in order to identify patterns in data which can be used by relevant authorities to improve a multitude of services in our cities.

Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and AI systems could be used for example in exploring intelligent transportation solutions to traffic jams by analyzing road and weather conditions, driving habits, traffic hotspots and other live data to intelligently reroute drivers.

Such systems could be used to develop intelligent road monitoring that provides proactive advice to drivers regarding parking spaces, oncoming hazards and even smart street lighting systems that alter the level of illumination in line with traffic/weather conditions.

Smart waste management is also possible, including the monitoring of waste containers, arranging garbage collection frequency, tracking waste levels, and guiding trash compactors' to areas where they are most needed.

Smart systems to provide a safer city for citizens can also be achieved through the use of sophisticated cameras and AI software that monitors crime across a city to proactively alert law enforcement of where intervention may be required.

Other examples of smart living include the health care devices at smart hospitals that can monitor patients remotely, follow up on the delivery and administration of their medicines, monitor stocks of the hospital pharmacies and accurately locate expensive medical equipment.

There are countless other examples of smart city applications that can help us develop truly smart living. If we do not start to transform our cities into smart ones, we will fall behind and fail to reap the reward that technology brings. We must build the relevant smart infrastructures, develop capacities, train our employees and our citizens, and be willing to adopt new ways of improved living to tackle the sustainable urbanization challenges that all our nations face.

We must exert our best efforts to learn and train on an ongoing basis. In addition, we have to recognize the importance of rehabilitating our cities and elevating them to the level of the world's best smart cities.

Let us get ready, start our engines, and prepare ourselves to develop smart living for our nations. It is either this or we get left behind and watch as others continue to progress while we stagnate and feel pity for ourselves!

Democracy is Facing Challenges

The future of democracies in the world is something that I have tackled on occasions and in many articles. One of them was my article about the World War II, the horrors it caused, and the lessons we ought to learn from it to avoid a new war. One of the outcomes of the war was the democratic system that kept the world united, instead of the splits that led to the war. I also discussed in May 2020 the crisis of democracy and the dangers it was facing.

It seems though that democracy has lost its place in favor of populism. This has been caused by exceptional circumstances the world is going through, such as the pandemic, economic crisis, and health crisis, which have revealed many flaws in the global system. We are now living in a world where there is neither a global system nor a global leadership.

That was what President-Elect, Joe Biden, said after the acquittal of his predecessor, Donald Trump, in the Senate, “Democracy is fragile and needs to be defended”. His statements were published in an article on BBC Arabic on 14 February 2021. He reiterated the fragility of democracy in an article that was published on Al Khaleej Website on 19 February 2021 by saying, “The Kremlin is attacking our democracy and working to undermine our European project and NATO by undermining our will. It is easier for it to terrorize isolated countries rather than to negotiate with a strong, united, transatlantic community.”

Biden also indicated Washington’s determination to restore Europe’s confidence, warning against the return of the Cold War blocs. This is what I had warned of before when I talked about the importance of learning lessons from World War II to prevent a third world war from breaking out.

The spread of populism may lead to the demise of democracy, especially if the US, the birthplace of democracy, leaves it undefended. We should not forget that we are facing a populist wave that is invading the world that is linked to patterns that are not associated with prevailing ideologies, such as socialism, liberalism, or others.

There is no doubt that democracy requires hard work. The more we marginalize the societal elites, the more we are convinced that the groups of people who want to switch sides are not equipped with the required knowledge. As for the United States, the birthplace and defender of democracy in the world, it should stand up and defend it so that it does not lose its prestige and eventually fail. The populists are crouching and claiming that they are centrists, not left nor right leaning. Their popularity is on the rise and their rhetoric is attracting more people. If we draw a comparison, we find that in 1945, the golden age of democracy, the number of democracies did not exceed 12. By the end of the century, the number rose to 87 countries around the world. Unfortunately, things have changed in the second decade of the 21st century where democracy has been losing to populism.

Democracy is not a game. Adopting it requires mutual respect of different opinions. It also requires distinguishing good information from the bad. In an age where social media platforms are controlling the global scene, it is difficult for bloggers to praise or shame whomever they want. They also busy people with fake news that leaves people confused. While democracy has many requirements and requires a lot of work, populism only has one requirement, namely public loyalty.

I am pessimistic about the return of democracy to its previous levels and the hope that people put in it to provide them with a better life. I fear that future of democracy is in danger not because of what President Biden thinks or what I have mentioned repeatedly, but rather because of people's fear of the uncertain future that awaits them in their nations. After the lockdown and curfews, slogans that promote self-centeredness and shun affinity for one another have taken root and are gaining traction. This has nothing to do with democracy. This is a world that belongs to all of us, with no state being superior to another. We are all responsible for our own future and prosperity.

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on the Economic and Social Pain of America

The recent American election has shown how fragmented America really is. The insurrection in Washington and the shenanigans that proceeded the election is clear proof that the system is fragmented and that for many, the American dream remains largely unfulfilled.

Biden faces an uphill struggle uniting the disjointed factions of the country in order to bring some semblance of order to what is supposed to be the most powerful nation on Earth. The ongoing challenges in controlling the COVID pandemic, bridging the growing gap between the rich and the poor, technology based job displacement and the growing racial and gender divides are all items high on the agenda which must be given careful thought and require firm action.

America is a country that has subjected its citizens to more changes and upheaval during their lifetime than any modern democracy. This continual transformation; be it political, economic or technological; is really taxing the American temperament and pressuring society to breaking point.

Change in America seems to be occurring too quickly for most with two-thirds of Republicans believing that since the 1950s, American culture and the general way of life has changed for the worse. During the same period, the demographics of the United States has changed significantly with a majority believing that America risks losing its identity due to immigration and six-in-ten Republicans think whites are discriminated against.

With a higher minimum wage and massive new job-creating government spending, Biden hopes to stem some of the US economic bleeding and curry favor with Democrats as well as Republicans to try and ease recent political tensions. While in the short time this is fine, it seems that the challenge in the longer term with increased automation will displace quarter of the American labor force within the next two decades.

Reskilling, upskilling and retraining are required; something which the US has been terrible in doing in the past. Money needs to be invested in comprehensive training schemes and the government needs to work in close collaboration with trade and industry to produce a productive, useful, skilled workforce that can serve the needs of the business sector across the US.

Americans are expecting their government to take care of them in light of increased job displacements through the introduction of a universal basic income type scheme that would guarantee a wage for those affected. Inevitably, this will face resistance from many quarters, particularly from conservatives who are against expensive government intervention, but could be a necessary move from Biden to ease political tensions that have fragmented US politics.

Economic interventions however will only go so far just to subdue those that supported Trump and saw him as a redeemer of the United States. This faction of the US population fear the increasing multiculturalism and diversity in the US and vote in larger percentages than the diversity-embracing majority. They produced Trump who fueled their concerns and gave them hope and it is very possible they could elect someone like him in the future.

Trumpism is not going to disappear and Biden needs to act swiftly and instigate national conversations about race, gender and ethnicity so that they are not left to brew in isolation. Their pace of acceptance must be accelerated as fear of the unknown may breed further contempt and fracture US politics even further.

The Biden administration must find ways of bringing groups together by listening to their concerns and building a spirit of cooperation and respect in an attempt to understand one another better, reducing the bitterness and achieve some level of acceptance between rival divisions. This might be achieved on local levels through civil engagements where community challenges are discussed in traditional settings such as town halls and community centers.

Much is at stake and the world is looking eagerly at how Biden handles the dichotomy between the American ideal that everyone is created equal and the historical racism, prejudice and extreme nationalism that has plagued the United States since its inception.

Much is at stake and Biden must act with great wisdom and foresight to avert even further greater fragmentation which would have dire implications both locally and internationally.

Bruce Stokes is the executive director of the Transatlantic Task Force and senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He was the director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, DC, and is a former international economics columnist for the National Journal, a Washington-based public policy magazine. He is also a former senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Feeding a Growing Population through Smart Agriculture

Introduction

Feeding a growing population is a great challenge for governments across the globe. This is an issue of paramount importance that must be given serious consideration as the world population is set to reach 9.7 billion by 2050 according to the United Nations, which means current food production levels will need to double. This has huge implications for global agriculture and it is clear that farmers need to be empowered to do more and to perform with greater efficiency, as the growing burden of feeding these numbers will strain resources globally. In my mind, this can only be done through the implementation of smart technologies to help reform our agricultural practices so that we can meet increasing population challenges.

It is clear that the only way through is with the greater adoption of innovative farming technologies and by qualifying our farmers to become knowledge workers. We need to be investing more in smart agricultural technology so that they can work smarter. In particular, I see that Internet of things (IoT) sensors and related technology will play a growing role in enabling smart agriculture. Vast fields of crops and cattle coupled with a huge array of factors governing the health, growth and harvesting of produce means that intelligent management is the only way forward in order to manage such complexity.

The synergistic effect of fourth industrial revolution technologies working together is allowing many novel applications to come about in this sector. Innovations in areas such as telecommunications, drones, internet of things (IoT) sensors, artificial intelligence (AI) based systems and big data, are starting to be used by farmers to make better decisions to improve their operations by giving them access to more meaningful information. This brings more certainty, predictability and control into farming as more informed decisions can be made based on live data, providing for better outputs and increasing yields.

Benefits

The application of smart agriculture technologies provides numerous benefits that include:

- » The accumulation of data from across an agricultural estate which is correlated and analyzed through AI systems and presented in a ‘single pane of glass’ gives workers insights into all activities, ranging from equipment health, crop growth, weather conditions, right down to soil moisture levels.
- » Land can be easily and quickly monitored with the aid of drone technology which together with IoT data, provides for a very useful suite of technologies for smart agriculture to come about. Computers are far better at correlating and analyzing massive data than humans, allowing workers to make informed judgements using correlated information.
- » Better forecasting and more accurate knowing of how much farmers can produce ensures that supply chains and end users are better informed of the quantities they have. This means that produce is not left to rot in local warehouses and it allows for better distribution to take place.
- » Proper control over production allows for better management of expenses and it also reduces waste. By having technology that provided predictive analysis, agricultural workers can proactively work to mitigate risks livestock and yields may face by being better informed.
- » Increased process automation allows for greater industrial efficiency and frees workers to engage in important tasks than just physical labour. This also allows for better yields to come about as a greater amount of land can be managed, fertilized and harvested through automation which ultimately results in greater revenue.

Applications

Current smart applications that can be seen in modern agriculture include:

- » Livestock monitoring and management
- » AI based precision farming
- » Smart feeding systems
- » Crop management
- » Monitoring and managing climate conditions

- » Greenhouse automation and industrialization
- » Agricultural drones
- » Remotely operated vehicles
- » Water, humidity and rain monitoring
- » Intelligent pest management
- » Inventory and logistics management
- » Complete farm management systems

This is just the tip of the iceberg.

We have only just started to see the benefits of smart agriculture technologies; a sector is set to explode. According to statistics, the smart agriculture market is projected to reach USD 22.0 billion by 2025 which provides massive opportunities for those wanting to invest in this area.

I see that this technological ecosystem will become smarter as more agricultural big data becomes available and as online communities share more information and experiences. As this area matures, adoption will increase leading to a snowball effect where each iteration of technology will lead to greater improvement and growth.

Concluding remarks

The challenging quest for greater food production comes at a time where the amount of arable land per capita is decreasing and greater deforestation is occurring. Such factors are impacting soil quality and causing dangerous degradation; thus further complicating our ability to meet the global demand for food.

The only solution to this problem is the move toward data driven smart agriculture. This must be made affordable and available to all if real changes are going to be seen on a global scale. It is little use to limit access of this technology to developed countries. This must permeate through the entire fabric of global farming.

More technology leads to better farms, streamlining and automation of operations, lowers waste, improves crop quality, increases production volumes and allows for better environmental farming to take place.

All of these factors are essential in light of the burgeoning load that will be placed on our global food supply chains, which can only be addressed through the adoption of technology in order to meet this challenge in a sustainable and intelligent manner.

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on US - Europe: Together or Severally

Europe must be cautious as to how it should proceed with its relationship with the US. It must not have false hopes due to the election of the new Biden administration which faces many challenges, mainly how to bring together the various factions of its fragmented electorate.

The America that Biden has inherited must be understood in light of the insurrection in Washington and the slim lead the Democrats achieved, barely gaining control of the US Senate while losing seats in the House of Representatives. Three-quarters of Trump voters believe he won the election with only 15% of Americans thinking that American democracy is working well.

Biden is committed to building transatlantic ties but Europeans must understand that the American public is deeply split and any negotiations between Europe and the US must be designed towards bringing the two sides together.

Europeans are now engaging in a long overdue debate over sovereignty and autonomy. They must assert themselves and put pressure on the United States to do what is in their mutual self-interests, but at the same time should not create transatlantic divisions. This was the case in signing the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment in 2020 which was a dramatic assertion of European sovereignty, but it was an ill-timed first step.

With the new Biden administration, Europeans should lead efforts with the US by leveraging climate action, global economic recovery efforts and by creating a more regulated framework for the digital economy. Trump was quick in taking the US out of the Paris Climate Agreement which Biden will reverse -in fact he did so already- to meet his pledge of zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050. This on its own requires massive internal change.

Biden has also promised to impose higher fuel efficiency standards, to control methane emissions from fracking and to launch other regulatory initiatives to slow global warming. However, courts can, and they have blocked executive orders and the conservative Supreme Court seems poised to curtailing the executive branch's regulatory discretion.

Europe must take a leading role in this relationship. It should impose a carbon emissions border adjustment price on products from the United States which would give the Biden administration some much needed leverage with its domestic climate change deniers, who will then have to choose between paying a domestic tax on carbon emissions or alternatively pay Europe.

Since the financial crisis of 2009, the United States has faced its slowest recovery in modern times and the US needs more money to stimulate its economy. For Biden, this means increasing corporate levies and higher income taxes on the rich that will undoubtedly face serious opposition.

As the Biden administration will be focusing efforts on internal fiscal reform, the burden of global economic revival will rest more on European shoulders for which the €750 billion European Union recovery fund was a good first step.

It is clear that the digital economy is the future of the transatlantic marketplace and there is a real need for the EU to start immediate negotiations on a new transatlantic data privacy accord in light of the European Court of Justice's invalidation of the US-EU privacy shield agreement. Not having such an agreement in place will seriously impede the flow of data between the EU and the United States, and it in turn will negatively affect the digital economy.

The EU has proposed a tougher oversight of technology providers and should push for a joint US-EU review of the technology giants; their practices and policies. It is time that the US and EU forged a strong alliance in this important area rather than each one going down a separate regulatory path.

Developing a healthy digital economy also means that the US and the EU need to resolve their differences with regards to digital taxation to ensure that a robust framework is developed so technology companies pay their fair due of tax. If Washington continues to drag its feet in the ongoing OECD negotiations on this issue, European governments should impose their own digital taxes. This may be the only way to force an American debate about digital companies paying their fair share.

The United States is in much need of a strong partnership and the days of America leading with Europe following are gone. Europe must play the role of the big brother and be courageous enough to step up and lead this partnership for the betterment of both parties.

Bruce Stokes is the executive director of the Transatlantic Task Force and senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He was the director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, DC, and is a former international economics columnist for the National Journal, a Washington-based public policy magazine. He is also a former senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Abu-Ghazaleh Shares Insights with Bruce Stokes on US - Europe: Together or Alone

Dear Europeans, do not be fooled by your relief with the new administration in Washington. Your hope for the future of transatlantic cooperation is premature. To get the America you want will be more difficult for President Joe Biden to deliver than you realize. It will require tough love by Europeans. Just make sure your assertiveness is designed to bring the United States and Europe closer together, not drive a new wedge in the relationship.

Biden is committed to rebuilding transatlantic ties. But the recent insurrection in Washington is a sobering reminder of the divided America he inherits. Moreover, his electoral coattails were short. The Democrats barely gained control of the U.S. Senate and lost seats in the House of Representatives. Moderates, not progressives, will have the deciding votes on many issues of importance to Europeans. And the American public is deeply divided. Three-quarters of Trump voters incorrectly believe he won the election. And only 15% of Americans think that American democracy is working well.

This comes in the wake of an ambitious European Union agenda for transatlantic relations in the Biden tenure. And at a time when Europeans are engaged in a long-overdue internal debate about their own sovereignty and autonomy.

In pursuit of such ambitions, Europeans must realize that self-empowerment requires assuming the responsibility to prod or even pressure the United States to do what is in their mutual self-interest.

What European autonomy should not do is create trans-Atlantic divisions. Signing the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment in the waning days of 2020 was a dramatic assertion of European sovereignty, but it was an ill-timed first step.

It came at a moment when the incoming Biden administration had expressed a desire to work more closely with Europe in dealing with China.

If Beijing's concessions to Brussels temper European willingness to work with Washington on China, transatlantic cooperation will have gotten off on the wrong foot.

Going forward, European assertiveness should focus on initiatives such as leveraging U.S. climate action, taking on more responsibility for global economic recovery, and creation of a tax and regulatory framework for the digital economy. For all its good intentions, the Biden Administration will find it difficult to spearhead these initiatives. Europe will have to lead.

Biden will rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement on inauguration day. But the United States must also improve upon its commitments to reduce carbon emissions. Biden's campaign pledge of net zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 requires big changes in the next decade. With Democratic Congressional majorities dependent on the votes of moderates from coal producing states, a meaningful tax on carbon emissions may be beyond reach.

Biden has also promised executive orders to impose higher fuel efficiency standards, to control methane emissions from fracking and to launch other regulatory initiatives to slow global warming. But, as President Trump learned, courts can block executive orders and the conservative Supreme Court seems poised to curtail the executive branch's regulatory discretion.

Europe has no choice but to force Washington's hand. It should impose a carbon emissions border adjustment price on products from the United States. This would give the Biden administration some much-needed leverage with its domestic climate change deniers who will then have to choose between paying a domestic tax on carbon emissions or see taxes on American exports fill European government coffers.

Biden has also promised major new spending to revive the economy to avoid a desultory economic recovery. In the wake of the 2009-2010 Financial Crisis, the United States experienced its slowest rebound in modern times, thanks to inadequate pump priming. Europe and the rest of the world suffered as a result.

IMF leader Kristalina Georgieva has called for more U.S. fiscal stimulus. But any Biden spending program will require higher taxes and more debt. His promise to raise revenue by increasing corporate levies and higher income taxes on the rich will face stiff opposition on Capitol Hill. Expect Republicans to rediscover their orthodox aversion to debt. And moderate Democrats up for reelection in 2022 may have qualms about more deficit spending.

This means the burden of global economic revival will rest more on European shoulders. Approval of the €750 billion European Union recovery fund was a good first step. But additional spending will be needed, especially by Germany. “Germany is in the...enviable position of having ample fiscal space”, Shekhar Aiyar, the IMF’s mission chief for Germany, commented late last year.

Finally, the digital economy is the circulatory system of the future transatlantic marketplace. The European Court of Justice invalidated the U.S.-EU privacy shield agreement, which permitted companies to transfer commercially relevant personal data from Europe to the United States. Without such a deal, the transatlantic digital economy could be crippled. The European Union should propose immediate negotiations on a new transatlantic privacy accord.

The Biden administration is expected to take a hard look at the anti-competitive practices of Facebook and other platform companies. More than half the U.S. states have already sued Google for alleged “discriminatory conduct on its search results page.”

The EU has proposed tougher new oversight of the technology industry. And, in the wake of Twitter banning Trump, Chancellor Angela Merkel asserted that regulation of speech on these platforms should be done by law, not by private companies. Brussels should push for a U.S.-EU review of platform companies, with a focus on competition policy and free speech. Closer coordination is needed before Washington and Brussels go down separate regulatory paths.

And, most immediately, the U.S. and European governments need to resolve their differences on digital taxation. The digital economy is woefully undertaxed at a time when governments on both sides of the Atlantic are desperate for revenue. If Washington continues to drag its feet in the ongoing OECD negotiations on this issue, European governments should impose their own digital taxes. This may be the only way to force an American debate about digital companies paying their fair share.

Leading European politicians from various parties acknowledge that there is no return to some pre-Trump time when America led, Europe begrudgingly followed, and all was right with the world. Trump is gone. But the United States is still a much-needed European partner. Yet, in the Biden era, Europe should practice smart tough love on a distracted Washington to get it to move on issues of mutual interest. Europe must have the courage of its convictions and play the unaccustomed role of big brother. This will not be comfortable for either Europe or America. But this is what Europeans' longed-for sovereignty means in practice.

Bruce Stokes is the executive director of the German Marshall Fund's transatlantic taskforce Together or Alone? Choices and Strategies for Transatlantic Relations for 2021 and Beyond

Bruce Stokes is the executive director of the Transatlantic Task Force and senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund. He was the director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, DC, and is a former international economics columnist for the National Journal, a Washington-based public policy magazine. He is also a former senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The European Union and the League of Arab States...Similar Situation, Different Circumstances

The European Union was established after WWII, in 1944, just one year before the establishment of the League of Arab States in 1945. Then came the (Marshall Plan) for the economic recovery of Europe after its destruction during the war. This destruction was worse than what we see in our Arab countries, so much so that we can say that “history bears witness to the cruelty of man and his oppression of his fellow man.”

The European Union is a strange phenomenon. The member states have nothing in common except for the desire to establish it, yet this union, which now includes 27 states, was created, and the dream became a reality. Unfortunately, the same did not happen with the Arab nations, despite their common language, history, and systems.

I appreciate that the Arab League was established on the wrong foundations, placing the importance of unity before common economic interests. As the Great Depression was imposed on us, and on the entire world, we had the opportunity to rethink and move from asking for aid and grants to relying on the Arab-Arab partnership. A partnership does not mean sharing sovereignty, but rather sharing plans, because economic partnership does not affect sovereignty at all.

I hope that this will take place and that we shall begin to establish an “Arab bloc” under the umbrella of the Arab League, which is proudly the Home of Arabs, with our knowledge of the global circumstances that impose themselves on its political decisions and make its work arduous. However, there is no rule that we cannot look out for each other’s interests in any way! This great Arab nation deserves to re-formulate its plans to join the global scene...Therefore, as it is said: “The best way to anticipate the future is to create it.”

We are not waiting for a common unity at all Arab levels. In practice, the gap between the European Union countries has not narrowed, despite the European Union, but other negatives have emerged, the latest of which was caused by the global pandemic, which was represented by the height of selfishness and unilateralism at the expense of participation and unity!

The Union maintains each country's privacy, but achieves integration in terms of opening borders, facilitating movement between countries, and transferring individuals, goods, and capital. This is my dream and the dream of any Arab youth who is passionate about Arab unity.

Will we witness a new era where the idea of the Arab League to be (a realistic idea) like the European Union or the United States? The time has come to form an Arab group that moves forward to realize this dream initiated by the Arab League or an Arab leadership away from politics, as in Europe.

So let's start a preparatory project to reconstruct the Arab region on the model of the European Union, and we must keep in mind what the International Monetary Fund has declared that "countries' recovery from the economic crisis and depression depends on the pace with which they take steps to do so." We are a great nation with dignity. We should not ask for support or aid from anyone, but rather we should prepare a (partnership plan) between us that will benefit all Arabs. This is my opinion as a citizen who speaks with pride, dignity, and confidence in the Arab world and its people.

Bitcoin... A Call to Freedom

Our entry into the era of digitization has contributed to thinking about the digitization of currency... America, as it is rumored, invented the (Bitcoin) currency, or (BTC) as it is referred to, as the first cryptocurrency in the world. The purpose of this invention is to lure the owners of suspicious funds, monitor who deals in the black market and survey public opinion on creating a digital currency.

It is rumored that (Satoshi Nakamoto), whether referring to one person or many, invented (Bitcoin) and no one knows who he is or who they are! Why did (Bitcoin) occupy the world, what did they benefit from, and does it have a future?

I mentioned the acceleration in the world's desire to switch to digitization and smart living in two books, the first entitled *The Brave Knowledge World*, which is concerned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the second entitled *The Inevitable Digital Future*, completing the first by discussing the move to establish smart cities, which seems to have become a reality, in a time when events are accelerating towards winning AI rankings for a happier life.

The Bitcoin abolished the (bureaucracy) in place when transferring funds; from opening a bank account, certifying the sender of the funds, and proving the identity of the transferee, all of which is not required! But are there any problems caused by digital currency? Yes, most notably companies not being subject to the tax system, not knowing the sources of funds, the identity of their owners, and who they will be transferred to... After all this, do we still consider (Bitcoin) a trading currency?

I think it is so, if America has agreed to its use, as the country with the most powerful trading currency in the world, that is, it agreed to the use of bitcoins instead of dollars in digital commercial transactions, and this is an acceptable assumption. But, is there anyone who can compete with America? Yes, there is China. It provided the grounds for commercial dealings in digital currency and invented various forms of it, the most important of which (the digital yuan) and in 2019 four out of five people in China used digital currency, meaning that they deal through digital financial institutions in their trade exchanges.

So, it is a Chinese dream to be liberated from America's control and its dollars...It planned for this long ago when it imposed a condition to only use its currency and not dollars if the World Trade Organization wanted it to join.

Since that time, the economic war has not been extinguished between the two giants...America, on the one hand, imposed the pricing of oil in dollars and signed its international agreements on that basis, and China, on the other hand, imposed itself through the volume of its huge financial circulation on the global scene, and now stands face to face with America, which may pave the way for the rug to be pulled from under the latter, and thus from under the currency from which it derives its power.

Finally, the first, and the most popular, and widespread digital currency in the world is still (Bitcoin), which is under the cloak of America and its dollar, which will not be granted life unless America wants it, and therefore the Chinese dream will die.

Moreover, digitally dealing with Bitcoin carries a high risk, as there are no guarantees for the numbers entering the wallets, nor those leaving them. Closing any digital trading platform will close with it the numbers traded through it without any guarantee! There is no reserve for Bitcoin, no governing policies, laws, or references. The era of guaranteeing the currency with the gold reserve that supports it is over, and gold is no longer a reserve material and a guarantee for currencies. We are in a new era...The tables have been turned!

“The Belt and Road”: A Chinese Initiative with Global Flavor

The new Chinese “Belt and Road” initiative revives what has been known historically, two thousand years ago, as the “Silk Road.” At that time, China promoted the “reciprocal trade-cultural thought” with neighboring countries that had historical, geographical relations and common interests with it. The “Belt and Road” countries term had emanated from that initiative, to describe the countries that lied on the new Silk Road and had trade exchange with China.

For the initiative’s sake, China has inaugurated six sea-lanes with 65 countries, to establish a “limitless” cooperation, which includes several areas, such as education, health, agriculture, industry, commerce, tourism, and sports. It aims to achieve development in each of them.

One of the benefits the Belt and Road” countries and their people will gain is increasing their income from energy sources, having additional sources of income, attracting investors, purchasing the goods at preferential rates, and having the necessary experts and efficient labor when necessary.

One of the main challenges to the Chinese initiative is the US accusations that China is infringing the global “intellectual property” law and registering itself as a “developing country” in the World Trade Organization. The US is also accusing China of causing its financial crises, debts, and frequent deficits in the public budgets.

The two countries seek to control world trade in a different manner. China, on the one hand, has planned its project based on a clear, definite “timetable,” under the theme “New China 2041.” The United States, on the other hand, seems helpless in the face of China’s initiative.

Finally, I suggest that two new departments should be established, the first is the “Department of Strategic Steps for Economic/Trade Partnership with China,” and the second one is the “Digital and Innovation Department.” The two departments should work together to enable the communities and people to keep pace with the digital world, fueled by the AI powered things. The tasks of the two departments should also include establishing “smart

cities” and drafting the “legislations” required for the new life in the belt countries, taking into account the higher technical dimensions that will increase the benefit the users are gaining.

I also call on China’s partners to build a (smart) electronic capital, under the supervision of an elected “Expert Council,” to provide all the required consultations for enabling and possibilities. This should include urging the creation of a “joint market,” “support organizations,” and sponsorship organizations and the learning of the Chinese language.

Finally, our organization, TAG-Global, was leading in taking part in one of the most important alliances China had built with the “Belt and Road” countries, namely the “University Alliance,” based in Chenggang, the capital of the Liaoning Province. We took that step to encourage other educational institution to join the alliance and achieve cooperation in various areas, such as scientific research, invention, innovation, cultural exchange, joint management, talent development, organizing restructuring, and operating mechanisms, in harmony with the “University Alliance” bloc.

“The New, Global Deal of the Century” - An Open Message to the Arab Nation

I could not stop myself from commenting on the global show that is being premiered currently on the British stage. It could be summarized as follows: The G7 are the actors on the stage. They have been known as the great, rich nations. They, however, developed their name to be the great, rich economies and, in some cases, the great richest seven nations. They have finally opted for the name the richest democracies in the world or the biggest democracies in the world. The questions that have never been asked or answered are why they do not add the word “Western” to the name! Better, say Anglo-Saxon? Or the Western allies of the US? The Group of Seven are America, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and Italy. They constitute 40% of the world's GDP and 10% of the world's population.

The question is, where is China and Russia from all that?

We also saw how Biden announced, alongside Pfizer's CEO, the partnership between the summit, coronavirus, and economy. Biden hailed Pfizer's CEO; standing next to him, the American technology; and the generosity, spirit, and humanity of the pharmaceutical factories workers, who sacrificed themselves to save people's lives around the world. He added that America, in partnership with Pfizer, would buy (from the latter's factories) half a billion doses and donate them to the world's poorer countries. The world he was speaking about had a vaccination rate of 85% in rich countries in contrast to 3% in poor countries.

It is all about the economy, ladies and gentlemen, not the coronavirus nor humanity. The compassionate America will lead you all, without discrimination or conditions! It is the trillions, not even billions, which American companies have made and will make, along with other G7 countries, which this humanitarian project aims at, and which, by chance of course, will lead to a prosperity rate in the American economy of more than 6%, according to Biden himself.

When I said from the beginning that it was necessary to make vaccination mandatory to all humans, I asked that this task would be entrusted to the World Health Organization. Why did Biden decide that it should be a

donation from him to the poor countries? Is it out of tenderness and love from the G7 summit? Is there a decision to divide the world into givers and needy? Is this the future of the world? And where are the Chinese and Russian vaccines from all this? We all know that the coronavirus will never end unless all humans have been vaccinated. 2022 has been set as a deadline for that.

President Biden surprised me as he kept repeating the number half a billion, which represented a small fraction only of the world's population. Why did President Biden not address how much money these doses would generate for American factories and others? It is pleasant that human aspects intertwine with private interests. The same is the case with the (democratic) countries, which are by chance the Western countries. The attendees of the summit forgot that the oldest and largest "democracy in the world is India, whose population is close to the sum of the citizens of the great seven nations combined." The attendees of the summit also forgot the non-western Chinese and Russian economies.

We will see more of Biden's American leadership, in implementation of his slogan "America is back" to lead the world, rather than Trump's "America First" slogan. I say this because I can see that the aim of this summit is to strengthen the ranks of the Western alliance, led by America, in the face of China and Russia, specifically the "Belt and Road" initiative. It is a tough job because of the American-European differences.

Finally, the great seven countries, led by America and Britain, have devised a plan to get out of their stifling economic crisis through the vaccines' deal, which they own its factories, at the expense of further deterioration in the economy of the whole world. There will be winners and losers in the plan by the time it achieves its goals, even if it is wrapped with the so-called human spirit. The world has no option but to implement this plan, realize its dimensions, and work to confront its economic repercussions. I mentioned the economic aspect only because we are helpless except in this field and because that is the appropriate and right thing to do.

See you again in other deals of the century, you Arab, non-Western world, that is dear to the Western G7.

Digital Finance – A Key to Sustainability

As the world population continues to grow, providing everyone with equal access to financial services is vital in a bid to provide equitable, affordable and transparent financial services. Millions are being excluded from partaking in traditional banking institutions that is seeing billions fall through the net which could be used to develop prosperous and sustainable economies. As we are now in the midst of a global digital revolution, financial inclusion for these neglected sectors of society must be a priority to build the required infrastructure and governance to fully enable this highly important sector. COVID has taught us that we need to be better prepared with more resilient infrastructure to ensure a vital sector, such as finance, is not disrupted and can continue unabated especially in developing countries.

The ubiquity of technology such as mobile phones and the internet must be leveraged through digital financial inclusion to provide safe and affordable financial services so that everyone, regardless of location or social status, can access financial services. This is being powered by the financial technology (fintech) market especially in continents such as Africa that is seeing an explosion in digital financial service providers, providing online accounts, payments, credit and insurance services through innovative digital applications to reach a market that would have previously been excluded. This allows vulnerable members of society to engage in better financial planning through savings, loans and investment opportunities that in turn will lead to greater economic prosperity for any nation, helping them to break the vicious cycle of poverty that so many find themselves in.

Digital solutions provide members of society with easy-to-use tools, providing access to financial services and a financial safety net to accumulate savings in a bid to absorb the risk of financial shocks and emergencies. Employers and governments can rapidly and easily transfer money to those that are most in need. This removes the need for cash that can be prohibitive when you talk about millions, while at the same time reduces cases of fraud and theft, as well as increases transparency. The cost of providing such services is lowered and outreach is hugely increased, allowing more to access sophisticated financial services in the future; especially for a segment that would otherwise be denied financial services from traditional banks.

Feeding a growing population is becoming a major challenge. The agricultural sector is a large world sector that is particularly vulnerable to volatility, meaning that farmers face difficulty in controlling agricultural risk. Access to credit schemes that assist in securing farming staples such as fertilizer and seed as well as microfinance and micro insurance can help to improve farmers' earnings, improve yields and achieve gains in productivity. The acceptance of digital payments, access to online farming communities, direct access to distributors, the remittance of finances online and access to tailored saving schemes, creates a fairer, more inclusive environment for them to operate in.

Access to healthcare services for many is a challenge simply because it is too expensive. Digital financial inclusion allows for households to save for healthcare emergencies through micro healthcare systems and also provides healthcare providers with more reliable income, especially in rural areas where sending cash is difficult. This promotes an improved healthcare ecosystem for a segment of society that has been traditionally ignored, which in turn has positive effects on overall community wellbeing.

Education is a concern that millions of children across the globe are facing. The cost associated with putting children through school is often a barrier for low-income households and quite often, children are denied the right to education as a result. Digital finance allows households to better plan for education expenses and helps schools to improve their financial management, freeing up resources to focus on improving education outcomes, and allows teachers to be paid, safely, securely and reliably. Equitable access to education and access to lifelong learning skills opens up an array of opportunity and are essential for a more prosperous world.

It is estimated that 35% of women worldwide are excluded from the financial system, and have no means of saving, or access to formal financial products. Providing them with access to digital finance is essential to give them greater control over their finances, help them secure loans to raise their businesses, and empower them with the means to make financial decisions. This is a major step in promoting gender equality and of particular importance where women are the head of a household and need flexible money options. The prospect of being paid in a safe, digital manner allows them to prioritize spending in the knowledge that they are in full control of their money and helps them to build credit worthiness.

Clean water and sanitization is a fundamental right of everyone on this planet. In many countries, water providers face an increasing struggle in the provision of services to rural customers. This problem is multifaceted and it includes high costs associated with billing, metering, and the logistical challenges associated with payments' collection. Digital wallets allow households to easily save and pay for water services and to reduce late payments. Leveraging digital channels is vital to provide water and sanitization to millions, allowing water providers to lower operating expenses and provide more sustainable services than would otherwise be possible.

Clean energy and access to electricity in rural areas is an ongoing challenge that would be best addressed through the use of green, renewable energy sources. This requires significant investment from energy companies that ultimately want to ensure they will receive a return on their investment. Through digital services, these companies can lower the cost of providing services and introduce pay-as-you-go payment schemes, ensuring that companies receive revenues in a timely manner. This is imperative to serve millions on low household incomes that would otherwise be denied access to such services due to their financial status.

The expansion of small industries in poor countries is essential to enable them to grow and reach new markets that in turn brings more money into the economy and fuels overall employment. Having credit scores, payment histories and secure, easy ways to send and receive money to employees and suppliers, all go towards developing greater digital financial inclusion. This can also help to reduce fraud and allows small enterprises to access much needed finance as their credit worthiness can easily be checked and they can conveniently receive monies.

According to statistics, 60% of the world population will be living in cities by 2030. This poses a huge challenge to provide equitable and sustainable services at a time where great focus is being placed on delivering green services in a bid to reduce carbon emissions in light of climate change challenges. Delivering services such as transportation and housing can be particularly challenging especially to citizens that do not have credit histories and cannot use traditional finance routes. Digital payments could allow many cities to address these gaps through the provision of digital micro mortgages to help those looking to secure accommodation, making

it easier for people to invest in housing. Worsening congestion in cities can be addressed through electronic tolls to reduce traffic, automate payment collection and help to reduce road congestion. Public transport can be easily equipped with digital fare payment systems to improve service delivery. Altogether, these make cities safer, more sustainable and more inclusive.

The introduction of digital payment alternatives can help to entice the public to opt for options that are more carbon-efficient which is essential if we are going to battle climate change. Access to digital credit, saving and insurance can help the poor better mitigate the risk of climate disasters and allow people to make environmentally friendly investments that otherwise may have been out of their financial reach.

Digital also provides more transparency into the use of public funds which is essential to hold governments accountable and helps to better formalize economies. This provides auditable transaction records that are essential in the fight against corruption which has plagued poorer countries for decades.

Digital finance allows for more inclusion at all levels of society and is essential to provide services to a growing urban population and a core pillar to achieve more sustainable cities. I see that financial inclusion is a fundamental pillar that will help to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

A Series of Parapsychological Similarities

Data analysis is an art that is not different from the art of management. I do not believe that the similar statements made by two persons is a mere “telepathy”. I believe it is because the whole world is affected by a set of common interests. The interests of the East are more or less the same as the interests of the West.

I made statements, which I had concluded by reading, analyzing, and understanding the outcome of the research and studies centers around the world. They had predicted the events that took place in 2020/2021 and they were similar to later statements made by a number of officials. For example, I talked on January 19, 2020 about the “American-Chinese War”. I said then that, “it will not be similar to the two world wars; since no army will march on the territories of the other. It will rather be military frictions in the China Sea and they will be limited in nature.”

The news about such war followed. On August 27, 2020, a news story was published about Beijing’s launch of aircraft carriers, despite US warnings. Reports also talked about a US destroyer passing the Taiwan Strait amid Chinese warnings and the two sides’ exchange of accusations.

On May 3, 2020, I talked about the “crisis of democracy” and that it did not have “someone to protect it against the increasing populist threats”. This was exactly what the new president Joe Biden said after the acquittal of his predecessor Donald Trump, “Democracy is fragile and needs to be defended”. He also accused Russia on February 19, 2021 of attacking American democracy and working to undermine the American-NATO project because it was easier for Russia to threaten isolated countries rather than to negotiate with them combined.

I said on March 29, 2020 that, the coronavirus epidemic, which constituted a global crisis, would not end easily and would last for a long time. I predicted on April 19, 2020 that it would last for four years and ruled out that our world would return to as it was pre COVID.

The senior scientists in the WHO sustained my statement about the number of years on May 13, 2020, adding that it was very likely that the coronavirus would never disappear. One of them was Soumya Swaminathan.

On May 1, 2020, I talked about the global climate crisis that threatens human existence and I referred to America's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and the gravity of such a step! This is the same statement Bill Gates made on September 6, 2020, when he asked the world to fight the threat of global warming because it would be severer than the threat of the coronavirus!

We also saw how on January 20, 2021, President Joe Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement to fight climate change and warned humanity about it. This has pushed him to make America "ready" to face it.

Finally, on October 11, 2020, I talked about Mark Zuckerberg, the man who has the greatest influence on world's events. That was on the occasion of the US elections. I said that he had the greatest influence on the elections through what would be published on Facebook. I described him as "the media mogul"! After my statement, he posted on January 7, 2021, indicating that he approved the suspension of the account of the US President Trump after he had addressed his supporters, who later attacked the Capitol building.

In our modern world, there are influences and crises that have never existed before. We caused some of them with our own hands and we helped the rest, which we did not make with our own hands, such as the coronavirus epidemic, to control our planet with our selfishness and unilateralism, instead of making them disappear as soon as possible.

Artificial Intelligence: The Foremost Disruptive Technology of our Time

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the leading discipline in the present digital revolution. Building capacity in this area is of vital importance to the longevity of our economies. I would even say that it is one of the most important innovations in the history of mankind as everything will be enabled by AI technology. We cannot get away from this and need to prepare our younger generations to play an active part in the AI boom which has just started. We can see how important AI has been in the recent COVID epidemic that has affected the entire globe, with companies able to analyze virus epidemiology, crunch data as well as model and simulate to develop vaccines in record time using AI based technology.

We need to be following the example of China, the great country that has made AI a mandatory part of its educational strategy to make the country a global leader in AI innovation by 2030. China is planting the seeds of AI education now in order to reap the benefits in the future. We need to be doing the same in all countries to ensure that we secure our place in the growing digital economy. According to Forbes, AI will add \$15 trillion to the world economy by 2030. This is four times larger than the GDP of the entire MENA region in 2020 which was \$3 trillion. This represents a massive opportunity that we must take advantage of. We owe it to the younger generation to invest in such education so that they have the needed skills to help power future AI based economies.

I have been repeatedly privileged to speak at international technology events. The question I am constantly asked is: “Won’t AI technology replace humans and take over their jobs?” Of course not I constantly affirm. I see a different scenario unfolding.

I believe that AI will free workers to exercise better judgement and perform more valuable tasks by using AI systems to provide greater accuracy and insights and in turn deliver greater value. The “Future of Jobs Report 2020” published by the World Economic Forum also backs this and suggests that 85 million jobs may be displaced by a shift in the division of labor between humans and machines by 2025, while 97 million new roles may emerge, that are more adapted to the new division of labor between humans, machines and algorithms which include AI systems. Rather than jobs being lost to

AI, jobs will be created by it. With volumes of big data being produced by sensors, systems and the mass adoption of the Internet of Things, there will be no alternative but to use AI systems to make sense of this huge amount of data in order to help decision making. AI will revolutionize many sectors making them more streamlined and efficient.

A discipline that I see AI affecting in a major way is the auditing profession. Auditing is the foundation on which TAG.Global was established and as an auditor myself, I can tell you that the auditing profession is going to be revolutionized by AI. The huge amount of data being produced by organizational systems will make it very difficult to perform manual audits as there will be simply too much data to analyze. AI systems will be used to perform detailed audits that would otherwise be impossible to conduct. The profession will become more of an IT specialty and in the very near future auditors will need skills in AI; both to conduct audits as well as to evaluate AI systems used by companies to provide assurance regarding their accuracy and transparency.

I have called for reform of the education system globally and have been saying for many years that our education curricula needs to move into the 21st century to empower our digital natives with the knowledge and the skills to become knowledge workers. AI is among the forefront of disciplines that children must be taught. Technology has become basis of developed economies worldwide, and the reason for existence for some of the largest companies the world has ever seen such as Apple, Google and Amazon. The global economy is no longer bound by geographic boundaries and the age of the Internet means that anyone can become a knowledge worker if he has the zeal and passion.

Digital opportunities are available for the IT literate and we must take full advantage of this fact. We need to be producing AI literate ‘knowledge workers’ to meet the demands of the digital global economy. We must properly educate and foster an environment for technology innovation and creativity, empowering people with the education, tools and laws to create an ecosystem to enable the future ‘Zuckerbergs’ to come about. Building capacity in AI will also allow us to build systems to help find novel solutions to problems the world is facing with regards to climate change, water shortage and food production. As Plato said ‘Necessity is the mother of invention’.

We need scientists, innovators and thinkers to act responsibly with foresight and wisdom for the sake of our future generations and invest in AI education as it is set to revolutionize the world.

The Importance of Vocational Training

The future of learning and teaching in the Arab world has for long been at stake. Enhancing learning and teaching programs is a recurrent issue. Today, I find myself fully aligned with the education strategies in the Arab world, which has called for creating new specializations in universities. I pointed out before that there were outdated university majors that would disappear soon. I also said that vocational education is as important as other university degrees, if not more important.

We did not need the coronavirus pandemic to realize the failure of our education systems in keeping pace with modern age requirements. It also would not be wise to regard the coronavirus pandemic as a motive for change, when we have been calling for such change for years. Developing the education sector and focusing on qualifying the graduates with the skills needed in the job market is a need dictated by our contemporary reality: keeping pace with the technological changes brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It is amazing to see that some students still believe that the academic university degree is the “magic wand” that will pave the way to the dream job, while some jobs are already on the verge of disappearing.

The education strategy in the Arab world still associates the economic aspects with the growth of education, although I do not recognize the relevance of such a concept. That is because innovation is not restricted to some, especially with education available to almost everyone. Remote education, therefore, is not a temporary solution imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. It is an urgent need that is as important as the traditional (face-to-face) education.

It is about time to establish the standards of digital, innovative education. There will be no place in the future except for those who are highly responsive, who would fulfill the needs of skilled people through those standards that will lead to granting them accredited and recognized certificates based on various levels, and merge the current university educational programs with professional, and specialized certificates in their fields. This will help us step ahead of the traditional university degrees; universities that their educational programs, learning and teaching system need basic revision.

To translate the idea of learning for innovation into a reality, we have established the Talal Abu Ghazaleh University College for Innovation (TAGUCI), which focuses on innovation rather than examination. TAGUCI bypasses the traditional method of adopting the traditional exams as a basis for success, guiding its graduates to the gates of inventions by making them real innovators.

It is the phase of critical transformation to the technologies of the next century, which is looming. Accordingly, we have established the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for Technologies (TAG-Tech) company, which designs and produces digital communications devices, such as tablets, laptops, and smartphones, with world-class standards, and affordable prices. We have also designed a device called TAG-Edu, which is equipped to serve as a school bag, to turn digital transformation into a reality and provide digital (remote) “learning”.

We have also established the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Academy (TAG-Academy), which continues to provide professional courses that keep pace with the requirements of the modern age and all new innovations. It serves both individuals and companies working in different sectors, while taking into consideration the continuous developments and the need to differentiate between the needs of yesterday’s and today’s generations.

No matter how different the approaches of Arab and world universities may be, they all agree on the importance of qualifying the students for the job market; otherwise, they will be alienated if the specialization programs do not keep pace with market needs.

Based on that, we all agree on the importance of adopting technology in the educational process, as it is less expensive than what universities are currently spending. Our universities should also use their facilities and halls as vocational training workshops and knowledge stations supported by internet lines. This will serve all segments of society; thus, supporting those with innovative skills: the future inventors.

America: Oil is not a Regular Commodity; it is a Strategic Tool

Oil exchange is very complicated. It has a large market with varying trends and a stock exchange. Some types of oil are subject to (Brent). They are known as WTI and are related to light oils. As for the heavier oils that are under WTI, they are not loaded directly to tankers. They are rather pumped through long-distance pipes. That is why they have different prices when they are put for sale.

America makes use of shale oil, which is extracted in a different method that depends mainly on pumping hot water, which pushes oil out of the wells.

The questions that arise, does oil business have an impact on global conflicts? Are oil exchange prices real and public?

As for the players in oil market, they are numerous. They include “OPEC, OPEC Plus, Russia, Russia plus, America, and America plus”. There are many conflicts between them driven by “interests”. We should be aware that it is a complex topic, much more like creative chaos. We should also be aware that this creative chaos has historical causes, namely that America has never wanted oil to be subject to international agreements.

There are also speculations in oil stocks, which are separate from oil trading, but they affect the prices. When there is great demand and prosperity, the share price rises and vice versa. It goes without saying that oil prices are governed by “political” decisions, rather than by the “supply and demand” factor.

“Oil exchanges” have been based on pressures. When oil prices had fallen to their lowest levels, the US filled its abundant reserve tanks. The Americans resort to various reasons to lower oil price in order to fill its reservoirs cheaply.

This complicated topic gets more complicated every day. The only solution is to “establish a new global system for pricing and exchange frameworks”. If this does not happen, the oil arena will remain a playground for major

players, who compete and settle their scores at the expense of the consumer, which is irresponsible and may harm some helpless countries that do not have political or economic power to defend the price of their oil.

How are we supposed to explain that the difference in oil prices in two consecutive days is more than 50 dollars? It is a real crisis.

It will only be resolved by concluding an agreement that governs oil trade, just like any other commodity, in accordance with market trends. As for speculators they have a big role that affects the price, in addition to the producing countries that benefit from this situation. But only few countries will be winning. The bad news for America is that China is one of the parties that will benefit from the drop in the price of oil. That is because it is neither a player nor a producer of oil; it is just a net consumer. The other party that will be benefiting is the American citizen, as oil prices at petrol stations are not determined by a government decision. Actually, a gas station meter changes its price constantly.

Finally, the oil crisis is a persistent one. I can assure you from my position in the Council of Experts of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that America has insisted that oil trade has its own peculiarity, which makes it different from any other trade. The WTO has drafted agreements for the international trade in all other commodities except oil, which it does not regard as a commodity, but rather as a strategic material that should not be subject to price restrictions and other formulas. The result is that we are facing a problem now; there is no system governing oil exchanges, so far.

Sino-US Partnership will be Key to Global Shared Future

President Xi Jinping's call to "build a community with a shared future for mankind" will have an even better chance of being realized, should the United States be ready to move beyond challenges and to seize new opportunities.

With US recent general election, the Capitol Hill riot on Jan 6 in Washington, DC, and the impeachment trial of former president Donald Trump behind it, the US must move from challenges, to opportunities and to seek new solutions.

The American nation should recall the words of President Abraham Lincoln in his annual message to Congress on Dec 1, 1862, during the Civil War: "It is not 'can any of us imagine better?' but, 'can we all do better?' We must disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save our country. Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

The time has come for the US to disenthral itself once again and to revisit the first principles of its greatness; foremost of which is tolerance — now needed not just urgently, but existentially, to launch a new discourse for global resilience and collaboration. In that spirit, as a start, the US and China can strive to promote international tolerance, sustainable development and cooperation at multiple levels globally. We need a clear call to action.

First: About two weeks after the US general election on Nov 3 last year, the International Day for Tolerance was observed. I, along with my Global Challenges Forum Foundation co-founder, Walter Christman, responded by issuing a Global Partnership Declaration. Our aim is to connect the world through relational trust and to confront the emerging challenges of the 21st century.

More than ever, in a hyper-connected world, local is global, and global is local. Remote challenges ripple globally. Any mass threat, no matter how distant, is global.

Therefore, we must address challenges and collaborate collectively. What is needed is a world campaign encouraging a new spirit of partnership for global resilience, while respecting the needs of both China and the US to balance complementarity and competition.

To build a shareable discourse respectful of all mankind, and to avoid dividing humanity into rival blocs, the two nations must jointly articulate shareable interests with the rest of the world. The new “last best hope of earth” is for the US and China to join with other nations to co-develop partnership principles for global resilience in the 21st century, while reaffirming the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Second: US President Joe Biden’s well-received inaugural speech on national healing should soon be followed by a speech on global healing — with a call to build global partnerships for a sustainable world. The COVID-19 pandemic has rattled everybody, and the paramount question the US faces is not whether China is a threat, but whether post-pandemic nations will become more resilient to manage future global challenges.

US-China relations, poised precariously, are paramount for world progress, and all people await their positive development. Enabling partnerships for global resilience is precisely why partnership is the final, crowning goal among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Promoting tolerance, global resilience and youth empowerment for sustainable development are feasible partnership options.

Emerging global challenges will be multiple, interconnected, unpredictable and persistent. Global challenges need global solutions, in which we must all be partners.

We need a new global partnership that is more equitable and balanced, but also yielding mutually shared benefits. Pursuing entails collective rethinking — on how to be secure, for example. There is no zero-sum, absolute security. We are interdependent. We also need new thinking: concepts, mechanisms and means to achieve a secure world.

President Biden should respond positively to President Xi’s call to “build a community with a shared future for mankind”.

Finally: I am issuing a call for all of humanity to support of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' statement that if the US and China drift apart, the world risks splitting into two rival blocs. All peoples everywhere should endorse his appeal for the two nations to cooperate to overcome major challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate change threat.

The issue before us is how best to move from challenges to opportunities to solutions – by launching a new endeavor to promote global resilience through partnerships for sustainable development.

I began with a thought from the great US president Lincoln. I will end with wisdom from China, from the Analects of Confucius: “Men of virtue can cooperate, even when they don't agree; men of meanness can't cooperate, even when they agree.”

Let us all together face and overcome world divisions and crises by recalling our virtue.

The Ongoing Plight of the Palestinians in 2021

The UNRWA is an institution I respect greatly. As a Palestinian refugee that was displaced from his home in Jaffa, UNRWA gave me light at the end of the tunnel by providing me with a scholarship to start my university studies at the American University of Beirut. The UNRWA are a noble organization and play a pivotal role in providing Palestinians with opportunities and hope. Their Commissioner General warned the UN General Assembly on October 4th 2021 of the escalating deterioration of conditions in Palestine, the lack of funding they are facing and the tyrannical rule of the Zionists which is hell bent on wiping out the Palestinian people.

Palestine's plight will always be close to my heart. The current situation in the country is deteriorating and refugees are reaching record levels. The fourth conflict that occurred in Gaza since 2008 has led to an unprecedented level of violence against the Palestinians, which has seen destruction of homes, schools, shelter and essential infrastructure; compounding poverty, restrictions in the education delivery and exacerbating unacceptable unemployment levels.

The blockade of goods and fledgling levels of humanitarian assistance due to funding shortages is posing a real problem and the increased violence against them by settlers and the occupying Zionist force is rising, being encouraged and are not being held to account.

With the absence of a genuine political action, this situation is set to get much worse as law-abiding citizens get displaced daily from their homes without reason through the use of force. The humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate if the international community does not come together and greater funding is given to agencies such as the UNRWA and others to help their plight, as post COVID, funds are starting to dry up.

Palestinians want the opportunity to live a normal, decent life, with dignity and opportunity, just like any other nation. No morale, sane person can accept the apartheid atrocities of the Zionist regime in any way, shape or form. We must learn to call it what it is which is none other than terrorism. Everyone must wake up to this fact and not give in to the Zionist lobbies that smear this under the rhetoric of 'anti semitism'. We must call a spade a spade.

I call for all the international community to come together to help relieve the situation in Palestine and resume their funding of humanitarian programmes as this is a cause we cannot afford to turn a blind eye to.

The Battle against Misinformation

A new war has erupted. A war that does not involve weapons or armies, but words and thoughts. The battlefield is the internet and it involves showering the public with false information to manipulate their opinions. It is difficult in this war to distinguish between facts and lies, especially when lies are repeated over and over and the public follows them without validation.

The COVID-19 crisis, for example, has turned from a health to an information crisis and from “a health pandemic” to “an information pandemic.” The circulated information about the pandemic has caused stress and anxiety because of the increasing encroachment of tech firms on the media and their ability to influence the public opinion, which turned disturbing. That is why they need to show a more responsible attitude towards the content published on their platforms because having authentic information is useful, but having false information is harmful.

The greatest challenge though is the inability of the people receiving such information to fact-check them. Worse is their dependency on tech firms as a source of information. They are replacing the opinions of professional experts with rumor. This has created mistrust between newsmakers and different society recipient segments.

Thus some tech firms have become dangerous tools providing misleading information to groups that are now using it to exert pressure, implement certain agendas, shape or promote certain opinions, or influence people in many other ways. This has provided some parties that have malicious intentions and wish to effect the public opinion the opportunity to implement their plans, which makes the matter a national and a global security issue.

The breakout of this information pandemic has prompted reliable tech firms to take action by introducing policies to eliminate misleading information, especially fake news related to COVID-19. They now have measures in place to report and remove such content under the guidance of public entities and officials. It is the time now that all concerned should adopt a more robust approach in terms of “regulations,” “legislations,” and “efficiency.” The same applies to governments and ministries.

We have to embrace strong policies against “misleading information,” own strong communication networks to deal with the “information pandemic,” build strong partnerships between the private and the public sector to spread accurate knowledge, form independent committees to look into “misleading information” cases, and pass an “accountability law.”

Finally, the digital technology is a basic element in developing a sustainable future for our world. It plays a leading role in increasing productivity, facilitating trade, creating new opportunities, and informing the recipients/consumers. These are vital resources, which require better governance and protection to avoid malicious use. They also need a network of relationships that eliminate cybercrimes, regulate the relationship between governments and tech firms, and detect, investigate, and deal with “misleading information,” in order to prevent the growing mistrust and to develop a knowledge responsibility order at the national and international levels; an order capable of improving rights protection by reducing the harmful, long-term effects of misleading information.

The Outlook for 2022

As we all enter the new year, we remain overshadowed with the aftermath of the pandemic in 2020 and the somewhat haphazard approach to recovery that followed in 2021 to rebuild economies and adjust to the new normal. I warned at the beginning of the pandemic that this virus may stay with us for at least the next five years. As we entered the second virus year, nations do seem to adjust to this reality, although with cautious optimism as international experts predict long lasting, if not permanent virus effects.

On reflection, I am quite encouraged that the recent omicron variant has not resulted in a global relapse of the restrictive measures that severely stunted economic growth and crippled human prosperity. I can however, foresee that we will be tainted by COVID in this new normal in every sphere of activity for the foreseeable future. This means we must learn to live with this new virus and pragmatically plan for a sustainable future in all spheres of our lives, rather than resort once more to paralyzing lockdowns and isolation. The ability of nations to deal with newer variants will continue to be key for their economic prosperity this year, as so many political decisions now hinge on this single factor which seems to be shaping so much of our present and future lives and activities.

Moving forward into 2022, I can see that efforts will be primarily focused around enhancing economic growth, combatting climate change, as well as continuing the fight against this virus. With the dust somewhat settling and the limited return of supply chains, I see good signs of economic growth this year which is a good indication that we are back on track through a year of uncertainty that has incapacitated many. This is backed by many, including the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) in the UK that projects a promising growth of 4% globally.

With ongoing issues with global supply chains, limited availability of labor and a sudden raft of spending as people came out of lockdowns, inflationary pressures on economies have gone up and are likely to increase this year, with possible threats of stagflation on the horizon as wages remain the same while the cost of living increases. This remains more of a threat to western nations with inflation now reaching 6.4% in the USA and 4.9 % in the EU. Interestingly, eastern nations are faring better, with China recording an inflation rate of 1.07% and its neighbor Japan at -0.17%.

With all this slowly happening, it seems that emerging economies will be worst hit with their currencies depreciating and as they struggle to pay foreign debt as interest rates rise in foreign countries, particularly as the dollar appreciates and as inflation increases.

Taking into consideration the various drivers of economic prosperity in 2022, I expect a generally positive outlook despite the numerous challenges we are all facing. The CEBR has also reported that global output should surpass US\$100 trillion in 2022 for the first time ever, despite what the world has been going through. The post pandemic growth that started in 2021 should continue in developed nations, with developed countries still facing a challenging time as potentially tighter financial conditions take hold.

What is also encouraging is the improved immunity among communities after mass vaccination programs which is bringing down serious infections rates and encouraging governments towards more lenient policies than was previously the case. This gives hope for 2022, as governments that had suffered badly from restrictive lockdowns and do not want a repeat of the same, are now generally increasing their spending and investment as well as working to improve vaccination rates in their respective countries.

Also, despite inflationary pressures on the USA, consumer demand there remains bullish with industrial output rising, and with unemployment rates currently at 4% - set to fall below 3.5% by the end of 2022. These are all positive indicators with respect to the world largest economy, with predicted economic growth rates rising above pre pandemic levels.

While I am tempted to be on the side of an optimistic 2022, there is still a lot of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, inflation rates and underlying issues with supply chains that still need to be addressed.

Appendices

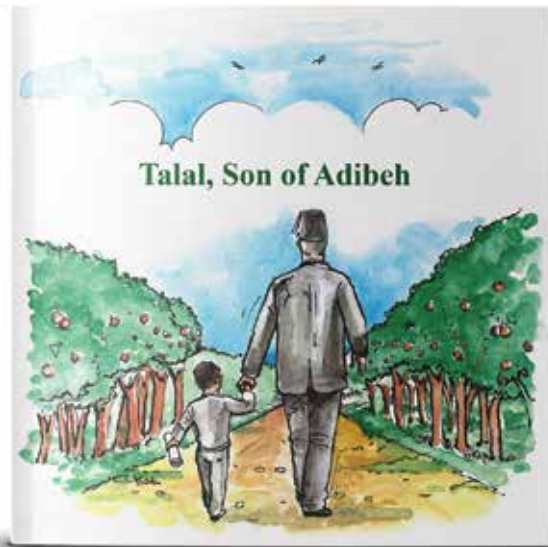
Publications about Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

Talal, Son of Adibeh

A biography directed to children, abounding with the values, principles and the ideal behavior that we seek to instill in our children. Between pain and hope, the writer has come to us with many stories and details that made us feel proud of this self-made Palestinian man, who has proved an icon of endeavor, dynamism and intelligence and defended the principles he believes in. He has also proved able to achieve his dream with his strong will, perseverance, sweat and hard work.

It has been translated into the following languages: English, Russian, Turkish, Chinese, Spanish, French, Persian, Montenegrin, and Kurdish.

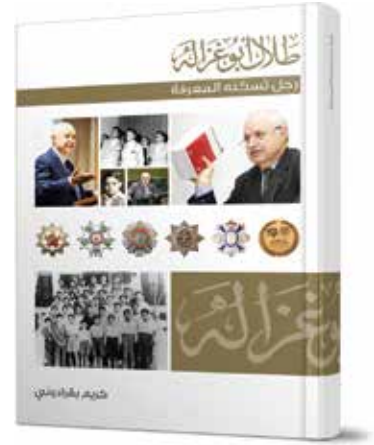
Author: Areej Younis



Talal-Abu-Ghazaleh... A Man of Knowledge

The writer sheds light on Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's career and stages of his life. The 234-page book addresses «the harsh beginnings» of forced dislodgment from Jaffa and asylum in Lebanon, then excellence during study in Lebanon, before moving to the times of his rise, chronologically covering the stages of accounting and auditing, computer, knowledge revolution, and intellectual property.

Author: Karim Pakradouni



Talal-Abu-Ghazaleh... A Man of Knowledge

The writer sheds light on Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's career and stages of his life. The 234-page book addresses «the harsh beginnings» of forced dislodgment from Jaffa and asylum in Lebanon, then excellence during study in Lebanon, before moving to the times of his rise, chronologically covering the stages of accounting and auditing, computer, knowledge revolution, and intellectual property.

Author: Karim Pakradouni



Did life passes you by?

The book talks about 10 Arab, Islamic and international figures. At the beginning, a full and expanded chapter is dedicated to the story of the suffering and success of His Excellency Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, how this refugee child transformed the challenges of exodus, exile and poverty into triumph and success and how his suffering turned into a blessing, thanks to his pursuit of knowledge and his patience and determination. The author summarizes the story in one sentence: “It is a story of a displaced child who has achieved what most men have not achieved, and how his plight made him the man he is now ... the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh we know.

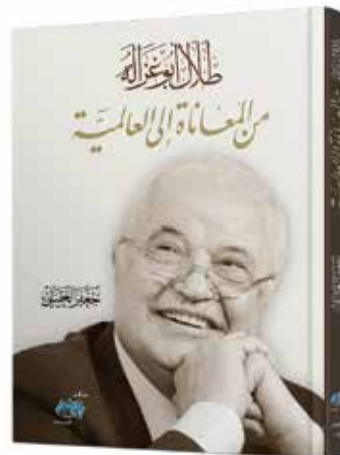


Author: Manaf Baaj

From Suffering to Universalism

The book highlights the milestones and aspects of the life story of a personality active in the local community, as well as introducing the reader to many local, regional and international issues His Excellency has been involved in. Issued by Al-Rai Center for Studies

Author: Jaafar aloqaily



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh... Secret of Glory-Man from My Country

A book that deals with the story of struggle and continuous and successful work of a genius businessman who founded Talal Abu Ghazaleh Global Group. It tells the story of a Palestinian refugee who was rooted out from a life of luxury at the hands of the oppressive Zionist occupation.

Author: Laila Alrefai

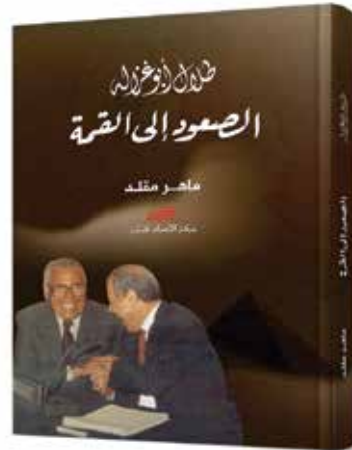


Talal-Abu-Ghazaleh... Rising to the top

The story of the life of Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh is a story of a Palestinian who chose a different path to resist the Israeli occupier, armed with knowledge, which he saw as the best way to fight back.

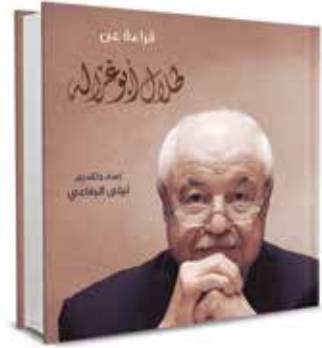
Maklad describes Abu-Ghazaleh as “a role model” in the various stages of his life, where he focused on his true belonging and loyalty to the family and

Author: Maher Maklad



A Reading of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

A softly-worded book that relies on selected literature to shed light on the aspect of the life of “Talal Abu-Ghazaleh as a Role Model”, the Palestinian refugee who was born in Jaffa in 1938 and was displaced during the exodus of 1948.



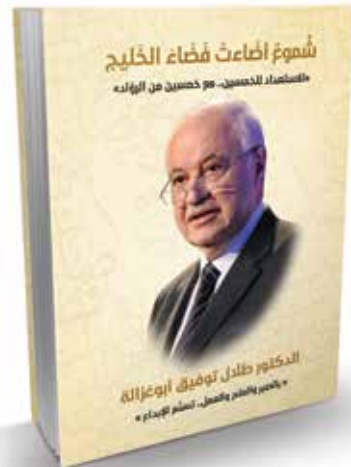
Added to that are 10 recipes for success and four other tips that provide us with shortcuts to success and make us better persons living a life worthy of living on this globe, including: Be loving; decide to live happy; work hard as comfort is harmful to health; and to succeed, identify your message in life.

Author: Laila Alrefai

Shining Lights from the Gulf

Men who emerged from the turmoil of pain and suffering, and the cruelty of life, armed with determination, patience, faith, and spirit, eager to achieve success and become leaders in their fields of work.

We cannot mention these figures without referring to a man who, in times of hardship, persevered, mastered his craft, and rose to the top of the business with sheer will, patience, steadfastness and faith, assuming a position at the helm; he is the great businessman Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh.



Author: Dr. Ali Mohammed Al Naboodah, and Nahid Bint Anwar Al-Tadfi

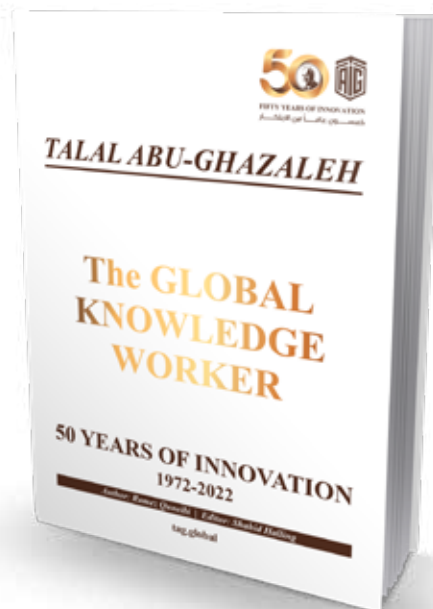
The Global Knowledge Worker

“The Global Knowledge Worker” is a humble attempt by close colleagues of Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to capture this man’s outstanding achievements over half a century of being an innovator, a businessman, a leader and a mentor to thousands globally.

His journey is one of hard work, determination and excellence, growing from a small office in Kuwait in 1972, to establishing Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) as one of the largest professional services firms in the world with more than 100 offices across the globe.

This book is a small tribute to his myriad achievements, awards and distinctions that continue to grow, inspiring all those who know him.

Authored by: Ramez Quneibi, Revised by Shahid Halling

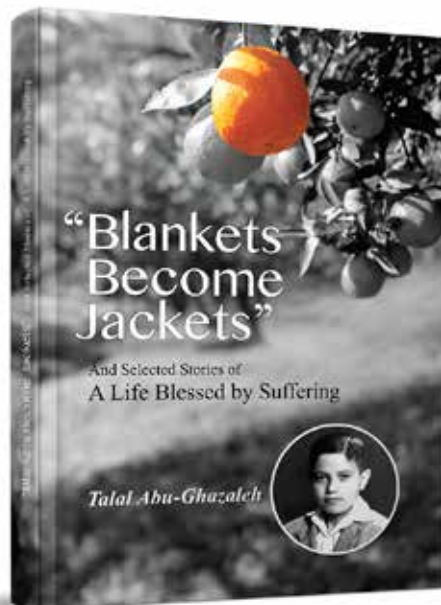


Talal Abu-Ghazaleh's Publications

Blankets Become Jackets

“Blankets Become Jackets and selected stories of a life blessed by suffering” tells the story of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh; the godfather of accounting, who was a refugee then became one of the world business leaders. His fear on the Palestinian people who are under the Zionists occupation, has led him to build has a felicitous business empire around the world. The boy, who wore a jacket sewed by his mother from a blanket given to refugees, made it impossible for a global stature, harnessing all his abilities to serve the world around him, despite all the challenges.

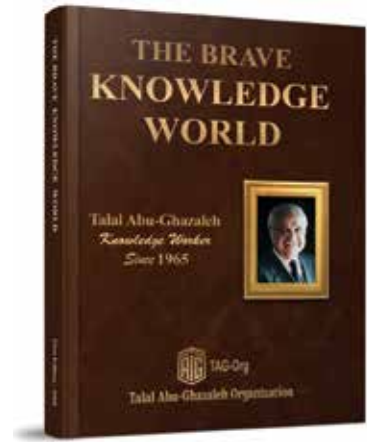
The book has been translated into Arabic, Russian, Turkish, Chinese, Montenegrin, and French.



The Brave Knowledge World

The book presents a realistic journey for the future, showing how technology will change the human history in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will obscure and blur the line between humans and technology.

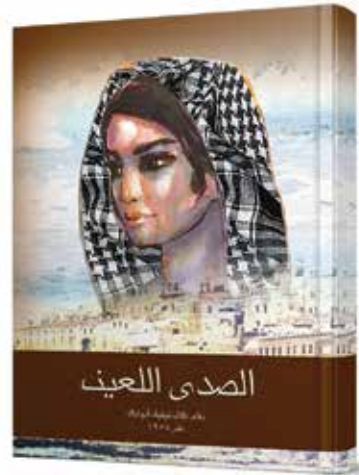
The book has been translated into Arabic, French.



The Dreaded Echo

Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh wrote this story in 1958 in a competition between university students, which he won. The award was announced by (Supreme Council of the Arts, Literature and Social Sciences in the United Arab Republic, “Egypt”, at the time), and the story won a prize of 500 Egyptian pounds, which was a lot of money for a refugee in the fifties.

The story depicted the tents of misery in which “we lived”, as the writer says, without “a glimmer of hope, no matter how small, in the restoration of Palestine”. So, “I wrote of the reality of the situation in which I and the people of Palestine lived”, he said.



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – The Right to Return

The booklet presents a brief introduction to the Abu-Ghazaleh family, its origins that go back to the Palestinian city of Jaffa, and the story of the family's displacement, leaving behind their property, the most important of which was the family's house and the hotel they owned, as they were

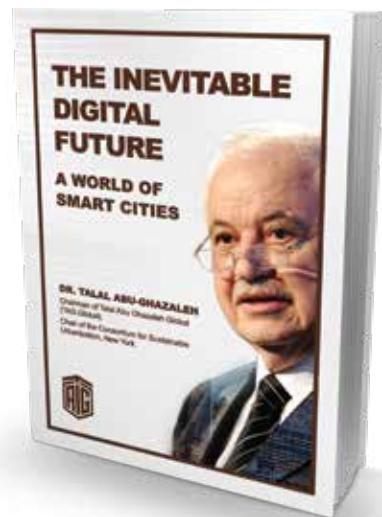


seized by the occupation authorities during the Nakba...in addition to land that had been inherited by Talal from his father, Hajj Tawfiq...

The booklet refers to the “Right of Return and Compensation” document as stipulated by international law, which contains no statute of limitations on human rights.

The Inevitable Digital World ... A World of Smart Cities

HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh discusses in the book the technologies he considers essential for the emergence of true Smart Cities; and he refers to the lessons that can be learnt from previous failed smart city initiatives. The book provides a blueprint that can be used to develop holistic smart cities of the future. In addition, it discusses a range of supportive elements from governance to citizens' awareness that are essential in developing successful smart city implementations.



The book has been translated into Arabic.

Where is the world heading

Where is the world heading? is a series of articles compiled in one book, based originally on a TV show hosted by HE Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, a knowledge leader, a change maker and a man “whose words are the closest to people’s hearts”. A seasoned expert and a man of wisdom, Dr. Abu Ghazaleh hosted the show with the same name on RT Arabic, broadcast during 2020, a crisis year.

The articles varied, touching on an array of present-day “social issues,” adopting a “realistic approach,” through which Dr. Abu Ghazaleh was keen on presenting the remedy along with the diagnosis.



These included “ways to address crises and turn them into opportunities”; “The need to attach more attention to digital learning, IT and AI”; and “Behind the scenes of international trade and the oil market”. He also tackled issues like “Pros and cons of the Lebanese crisis”; a detailed presentation looking into the root causes of “the different aspects of the conflict between the US and Chinese giants”; and “International Monetary Fund: Why it was established and who benefits from it” and other related issues where policies, interests and opinions overlap.

All these topics were compiled in Where is the world heading? to draw up a “roadmap” for the world, with all its states, peoples and sub-worlds. The book is aimed to stimulate readers to think and take action, and start with a plan.

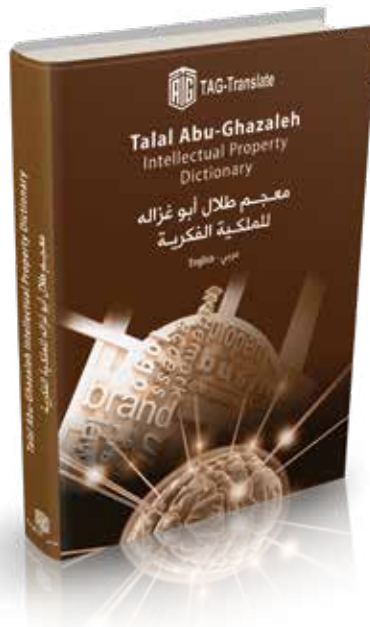
Dictionaries

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property Dictionary

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property Dictionary contains the terms and main axes of the intellectual property components, which are estimated to be about 10,000 words and terms.

The dictionary fulfills the needs of businessmen, innovators, inventors, jurists, those who are interested in intellectual property, professors, and university students. It is an indispensable reference for those wishing to obtain a certificate as an intellectual property expert. The dictionary is an incentive for all those who are interested in the field to author, write and create content in the related field in order to introduce Arab societies to a field of which they are in bad need to gain a deeper knowledge.

Intellectual Property laws have therefore become an important element in determining the rules of commercial transactions, the rights of inventors, and all other forms of intellectual creativity. This dictionary succeeded in filling a part of the wider gap which the Arab world suffers from concerning the references, researches and dictionaries specialized in intellectual property rights.



Consulting Management Book

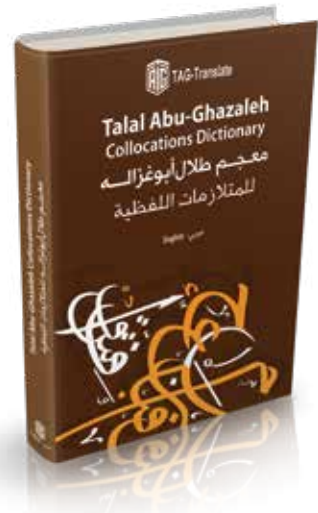
The Consulting Management book consists of thirty-eight chapters distributed on five parts and seven appendices. These chapters and appendices are considered fundamental and integrated reference for each consultant, and an educational book for teaching Consulting Management. The book is an introduction to professional consultancy, as well as the nature, methods and principles of the institution, rules of conduct, training and application development. It also proposes guidelines and determinants for consultants to work in various areas of management.



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Collocations Dictionary

The collocations are a combination of words that together give out a very neat and accurate meaning. The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Collocation Dictionary contributes to revealing genuine authenticity, beauty and accuracy of the Arabic language, refurbishing Arabic speakers' expressive abilities as well as strengthening their relationship with the Arabic language.

Therefore, learning the collocations is part of what can be called “linguistic competence” because it is considered to be an acquisition of an important type of linguistic stock that includes words, meanings of words and synonyms that one can employ to dive into the sea of eloquence, master the poetry and paraphrase, and promote their sense of expressionism.



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary of Patents

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Patents Dictionary contains the basic terms and axes of the intellectual property domain. These terms are estimated at about 20,000 words and terminologies. These axes include the ongoing debate about the idea of patentability, its legitimacy and application, and other axes on green patents, intellectual property, patent governance and patent portfolio management, as well as a core axis that include patent crimes, litigation and arbitration on patents' disputes.



It meets the needs of businessmen, innovators, inventors, lawyers, and those who are interested in intellectual property, university professors and students.

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Dictionary of Legal Terms

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal Dictionary with its rich input is a legal tool for jurists, which enables them to master legal language that has entered a new stage as the world enters a new era.

This dictionary contains a selection of legal terms that meet the needs of judges, lawyers, university professors and law school students, as well as the needs of businessmen, companies and employees working in other sectors of the economy.



The Licensing Executives Society International (LESI)

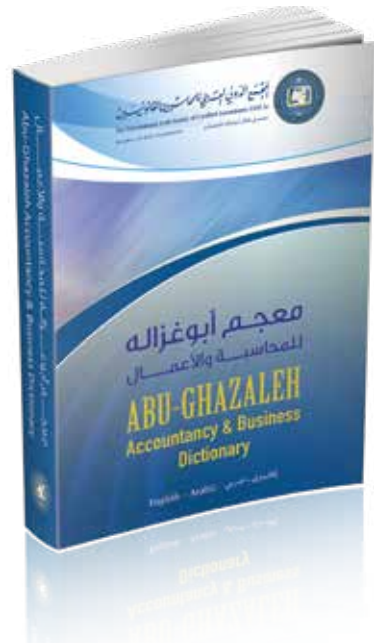
The Licensing Executives Society International (LESI) Guide to Licensing Best Practices was designed to update licensing professionals with the current changes and future opportunities in this dynamic field. The Guide is a collection of articles covering licensing issues, procedures and regulations in Europe, the Middle East, Australia, Asia and USA, the do's and don'ts of licensing agreements, patent procedures and licensing issues on the Internet.



TAG ICT Dictionary (English/Arabic)

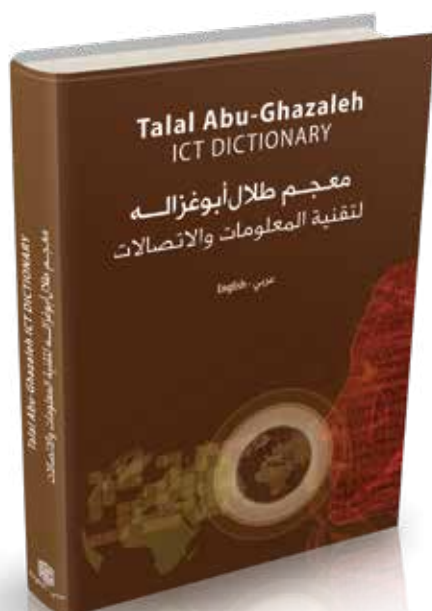
The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information and Communication Technology Dictionary includes information and communication technology terms in both Arabic and English to promote and facilitate computer use. It is a reference for both students and employees in different fields of knowledge.

This dictionary aims to enrich Arabic language references and contributes to the dissemination of knowledge among students and all business sectors through specialized scientific and professional publications and by adding a new set of translated terms that can be used in daily life to describe techniques, mechanisms and practices.



Abu-Ghazaleh Accountancy & Business Dictionary

- » The dictionary contains nearly twelve thousand terms.
- » Comprehensiveness that meets the needs of professionals from accountants, auditors, banks, businessmen, companies and all other employees in the fields of economics, accounting and business.
- » A basic reference and coverage of technical terms in the era of globalization in which developments are accelerating on various levels based on science, knowledge and technology.
- » A design that facilitates quick and easy access to the required terms.





FIFTY YEARS OF INNOVATION

*Every one of us has a touch in life.
Make sure you provide it in the right place.
Knowledge also has a touch that shines like
a sparkling star.*

*It guides knowledge seekers, generation after
generation, to revive the minds, restore humanity,
and elevate it.*

*It is contrary to ignorance, which seeks to wipe
knowledge or propagate violence using a knife,
a reckless weapon, or a hidden mine, to destroy the
communities, disturb humanity, contribute to its
demise, and accelerate its extinction without
weighting the consequences.*

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh

E-BOOK

