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We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future.... To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth Community with a common destiny.

— The Earth Charter (2000)

Future generations, if there is a livable world for them, will look back at the epochal transition we are making to a life-sustaining society. And they may well call this the time of the Great Turning.

—Joanna Macy

History is governed by those overarching movements that give shape and meaning to life by relating the human venture to the larger destinies of the universe. Creating such a movement might be called the Great Work of a people.

—Thomas Berry

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and Kumarian Press

David C. Korten

The Great Turning

From Empire to Earth Community

"The Great Turning is a work of amazing scope and depth. This is a wise and much needed book that shows we can create cultures where our enormous human capacities for joy, caring, and cooperation are realized."

—Riane Eisler, author of *The Chalice and the Blade*

David Korten's classic bestseller, *When Corporations Rule the World*, was one of the first books to articulate the destructive and oppressive nature of the global corporate economy. Now, ten years later, Korten shows that the problem runs deeper than corporate domination—with far greater consequences.

In *The Great Turning*, Korten argues that corporate consolidation of power is merely a contemporary manifestation of what he calls "Empire": the organization of society by hierarchies of domination grounded in violent chauvinisms of race, gender, religion, nationality, language, and class. The result has been the same for 5,000 years, fortune for the few and misery for the many. Increasingly destructive of children, family, community, and nature, the way of Empire is leading to environmental and social collapse.

The Great Turning makes the case that we humans are a choice-making species that at this defining moment faces both the opportunity and the imperative to choose our future as a conscious collective act. We can no longer deny the need nor delay our response. A mounting perfect economic storm is fast approaching. A convergence of climate change, peak oil, and the financial instability inherent in an unbalanced global trading system will bring an unraveling of the corporate-led global economy and a dramatic restructuring of every aspect of modern life.

We cannot avoid the unraveling. We can, however, turn a potentially terminal crisis into an epic opportunity to bring forth a new era of Earth Community grounded in the life-affirming cultural values shared by most all the world's people and eloquently articulated in the Earth Charter.

The Great Turning is an essential resource for those who understand this need and are prepared to engage what Thomas Berry calls the Great Work. It cuts through the complexity of our time to illuminate a simple, but elegant truth. We humans live by stories. We are held captive to the ways of Empire by a cultural trance of our own creation maintained by stories that deny the higher possibilities of our human nature—including our capacities for compassion, cooperation, responsible self-direction, and self-organizing partnership.

Changing our future begins with changing our stories. A work already underway, it ultimately calls out for the participation of every person on the planet. *The Great Turning* points the way to the inspiring outcome within our reach.

Order now to take advantage of a 35% pre-publication discount. Go to www.greatturning.org for details

About the Author

Dr. David C. Korten has authored numerous books, including *When Corporations Rule the World*, and *The Post Corporate World: Life After Capitalism*. He is a co-founder and board chair of the Positive Futures Network, which publishes YES! A Journal of Positive Futures; founder and president of The People-Centered Development Forum; an associate of the International Forum on Globalization; and a member of the Club of Rome. A former Harvard Business School professor, Air Force captain, and USAID advisor, he has more than thirty years experience living and working in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. He also serves on the boards of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and the Bainbridge Graduate Institute.



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Advance Praise

"Here is the book we have been waiting for. *The Great Turning* may well be the bravest and most radical of David Korten's groundbreaking books. It is brave in its sweeping breadth of vision, and radical in going to the root of the corporate pathologies his previous works unmasked. Here Korten provides powerful tools for an understanding of Empire and shows, that in learning to recognize its logic and its enormous cost, we gain a perspective on Empire that opens us to the possibility of choice. We are not doomed to domination and suicidal competition. We can choose another story for ourselves—Earth Community. This is the Great Turning."
—*Joanna Macy, author of Coming Back to Life*

"I love this book! David Korten has done it *again*—created a masterpiece of big thinking to help us find our way in this death-or-life historical moment. With fascinating analogies, intriguing stories and eloquent analysis, Korten engages and emboldens us to believe that we can trust and cultivate the best in ourselves and, despite the lateness of the hour, choose life."
— *Frances Moore Lappé, author of Hope's Edge and Democracy's Edge*

"Deep change starts with a story that shines light on the truth of the human past and shows a way forward. In *The Great Turning*, Korten sets forth a compelling, devastating, and ultimately profoundly hopeful story that addresses this need and provides a framework for the new, unifying political conversation our nation so desperately needs. A must read for every person of conscience."
— *Van Jones, Executive Director, Ella Baker for Human Rights*

"David Korten has produced a masterpiece! Fascinating, compelling, wonderfully readable, and broad reaching in its arc of history and significance, *The Great Turning* will keep you up nights reading, fill your notebooks with insights, and give you the ammunition to win the water cooler wars."
—*Thom Hartmann, Air America talk show host and author of What Would Jefferson Do?*

"David Korten never fails to shake me out of my complacency, and reveal complacencies I didn't even know I had. This work is a stunning and compassionate tour de force, calling on history, science, economics, and our human goodwill to illuminate the fact that we are at a fundamental choice point. I can't stop thinking about the issues he raises, nor what I'm going to do with my awakened consciousness. Thank you, David."
—*Margaret J. Wheatley, author of the bestsellers Leadership and the New Science and Finding Our Way: Leadership for an Uncertain Time.*

"This is a hugely important book, and hugely impressive! I imagine it reaching far beyond Korten's existing readership."
—*Raffi Cavoukian, singer, author, ecology advocate, and founder of Child Honoring*

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