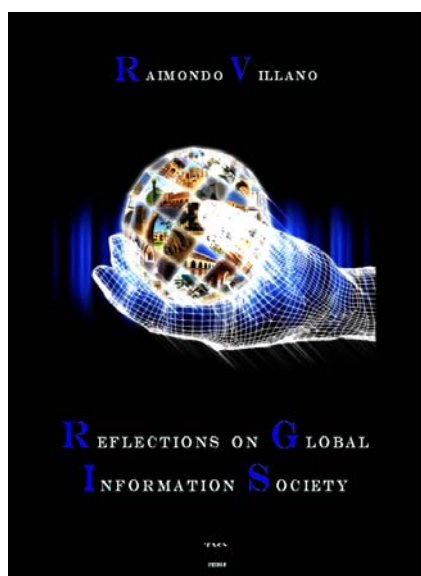


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Raimondo Villano - Reflections on Global Information Society

Presentation

A great gift offered with great humility. Here's how you can define this long and mild fatigue Raymond Villano, who for mere spirit of service and not for academic ambitions, wanted to take the the office of mediator between a subject inherently complex and rapidly evolving and the great mass of people, growing in number and extent, are intended to make deal with it, though not by choice.

The discourse on the current society is so widespread, which could appear commonplace. But the very fact that it involves the common need for it know, even in broad but not superficial, content and methods for purposes not with the new claim to dominate the universe but regulate the legitimate desire of not be dominated and manipulated. The new reality created by computer science and mail has profoundly changed by shortening almost to cancel the traditional spatial and temporal coordinates of human action and communicate, forcing even thinking habits and rapid adjustment processes. When the adjustments were there (with or without trauma has little), you are found greatly increased the powers of each individual to relate with others and then multiply by the exchange of information, opportunities and procedures the overall growth of personality. However, when the adjustments were not even attempted or, if undertaken, have created the ability to hope, He's noticed a gradual emerginazione the flow of information es'è established the unhappy position of having use information or otherwise manipulated by others for resale. That's why today you can not choose between joining the new reality and rejection it. In society we have and we like it or not, the only freedom of choice that remains is to endure between resign or be prepared to ride it. And man, if he does not want to abdicate their dignity, can not provide time their freedom by choosing the latter. It really is a Janus-faced that challenge modern man with difficult choices and irrevocable: it promises and hints at a large, but also contains, occult, the pitfalls of a great evil.

Again, as in the beginning of history, man must live and resolve within himselfthe eternal drama of choice. But in any case the route remains one: that of knowledge. To accept or reject.

* * *

The author closes his eyes to the problem that is putting the man of today ongoing transformation of society. On the contrary: they espouse, those problems, and despite the due caution and reservations, bravely taking a stand for the prospect of change, of course, governed and directed by men. Chap. VII, in particular, contains a thorough and careful examination of contemporary philosophical thought in his measured with computer technology and the problems that it poses to the perplexed intelligences even more puzzled and Sensitivity of men.

It seems that the entire Western civilization thousands of years of life, has come to a turning point of his journey: the machine, which is itself the fruit of human thought, it enhances and amplifies the potential extent incredible and unpredictable, but still it very different from the pace with which the masses of people adapt to new opportunities operational. It is as if the immense heritage of history of human intelligence and research today constitute an obstacle or a burden for man condemned to change: this is always been, but for the rhythms that punctuated the process was always easily "Metabolized" by man. Today is the increased speed of innovation processes offers naked man and the slow adaptation of his psychic structure and mental health.

And it's right there in the gap between the two speeds, which lurks the risk: the liberation the mechanical repetition of certain operations, offered by the machine, could mutate in an unknown form of enslavement of the masses. From whom?and to whose benefit? If this occurs the inevitable reflection of the warning to take more man as an end, here stands the warning that the charm of past values that it has created and delivered to our conscience and our responsibility. The path to the new one is unstoppable. The hope is that the man knows how to travel it with wisdom, with courage and humility, ferry landings ever in the new legacy of past generations, whereby he can still recognize and say man. The author's reflection on this whole issue has lasted several years, during of which he has made his share of friends Rotary clubs with the generosity of those who offers the benefit of others with their hard work and humility of one who feels his gift inadequate to the sentiment that accompanies it and moves it. Some stages of this fruitful and ongoing relationship of quiet industriousness of the individual the life of the group have been marked by concrete proposals for significant utility and social relevance: remember very valid information on the organization of health service and the elderly, youth guidance in the choice of university and research work and the valuable applications of rationality computer the arrangement of the archive of Rotary International District 2100. Of all the experience and knowledge accumulated in the itinerary of the last this year is the "sum", which I could not appreciate more if the amplitude the subject matter or the effort to make it accessible to people understanding the domicile specific expertise but with good will, which certainly are Rotarians.

To me, that I had the opportunity several times to appreciate the seriousness of occupational and civil liability, would like to conclude this presentation by noting that he, in delineate the advent of new technology as a contemporary version of universalism Universal classics (Christian, humanist, rationalist), was able to His pedagogy Rotarian man as an end.

Naples, January , 2000

Prof. Antonio Carosella
Past District Governor of
Rotary International 2100-Italy

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