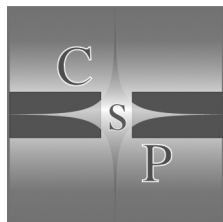


The Future of Post-Human History

The Future of
Post-Human History
A Preface to a New Theory
of Universality and Relativity

By
Peter Baofu



CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS
PUBLISHING

The Future of Post-Human History:
A Preface to a New Theory of Universality and Relativity,
by Peter Baofu

This book first published 2012

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

12 Back Chapman Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 2XX, UK

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Copyright © 2012 by Peter Baofu

All rights for this book reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

ISBN (10): 1-4438-3768-7, ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-3768-2

To Those in the Future World beyond Universality and Relativity

BOOKS ALSO BY PETER BAOFU

Category I: Social Sciences and Related Fields

- 49. *The Future of Post-Human Criminality* (2012)
- 48. *The Future of Post-Human Geography* (2011)
- 47. *The Future of Post-Human Gambling* (2011)
- 46. *The Future of Post-Human Education* (2011)
- 45. *The Future of Post-Human War and Peace* (2010)
- 44. *The Future of Post-Human Law* (2010)
- 43. *The Future of Post-Human Organization* (2009)
- 42. *The Future of Post-Human Mass Media* (2009)
- 41. *The Rise of Authoritarian Liberal Democracy* (2007)
- 40. *Beyond the World of Titans, and the Remaking of World Order* (2007)
- 39. *Beyond Capitalism to Post-Capitalism* (2005)
- 38. Volume 1: *Beyond Democracy to Post-Democracy* (2004)
- 37. Volume 2: *Beyond Democracy to Post-Democracy* (2004)
- 36. *The Future of Capitalism and Democracy* (2002)

Category II: Formal Sciences and Related Fields

- 35. *The Future of Post-Human Semantics* (2012)
- 34. *The Future of Post-Human Data Analysis* (2011)
- 33. *The Future of Post-Human Computing* (2011)
- 32. *The Future of Post-Human Formal Science* (2010)
- 31. *The Future of Post-Human Language* (2009)
- 30. *The Future of Post-Human Geometry* (2009)
- 29. *The Future of Post-Human Mathematical Logic* (2008)
- 28. *The Future of Information Architecture* (2008)

Category III: Natural Sciences and Related Fields

- 27. *The Future of Post-Human Architecture* (2012)
- 26. *The Future of Post-Human Chemistry* (2011)
- 25. *The Future of Post-Human Acoustics* (2011)
- 24. *The Future of Post-Human Geology* (2010)
- 23. *Beyond Cosmology to Post-Cosmology* (2010)
- 22. *The Future of Post-Human Personality* (2010)
- 21. *The Future of Post-Human Sexuality* (2010)
- 20. *The Future of Post-Human Urban Planning* (2009)
- 19. *The Future of Post-Human Engineering* (2009)
- 18. *The Future of Post-Human Unconsciousness* (2008)
- 17. *The Future of Complexity* (2007)
- 16. *Beyond Nature and Nurture* (2006)
- 15. *The Future of Post-Human Space-Time* (2006)
- 14. *The Future of Post-Human Consciousness* (2004)

Category IV: The Humanities and Related Fields

- 13. *The Future of Post-Human Performing Arts* (2012)
- 12. *The Future of Post-Human Literature* (2011)
- 11. *The Future of Post-Human Humor* (2011)
- 10. *Beyond Ethics to Post-Ethics* (2011)
- 9. *The Future of Post-Human Religion* (2010)
- 8. *The Future of Post-Human Chess* (2010)
- 7. *The Future of Post-Human Martial Arts* (2009)
- 6. *The Future of Post-Human Creative Thinking* (2009)
- 5. *The Future of Post-Human Knowledge* (2008)
- 4. *The Future of Aesthetic Experience* (2007)
- 3. *Beyond Civilization to Post-Civilization* (2006)
- 2. Volume 1: *The Future of Human Civilization* (2000)
- 1. Volume 2: *The Future of Human Civilization* (2000)

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>List of Tables</i> | <i>xiii</i> |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> | <i>xix</i> |
| <i>List of Abbreviations</i> | <i>xxi</i> |

Part One: Introduction

| | |
|--|----|
| Chapter One. Introduction—The Riddle of History..... | 3 |
| A Debate on History | 3 |
| Universality and Relativity in History | 4 |
| General Aspects of History | 10 |
| The Theoretical Debate..... | 13 |
| The Multifold Theory of History | 24 |
| Theory and Meta-Theory | 26 |
| The Logic of Existential Dialectics..... | 27 |
| Sophisticated Methodological Holism..... | 62 |
| Chapter Outline..... | 71 |
| Some Clarifications..... | 72 |

Part Two: Universality

| | |
|--|-----|
| Chapter Two. Universality and its Controversy..... | 137 |
| The Appeal of Universality..... | 137 |
| Universality and the Mind | 138 |
| Universality and Nature | 158 |
| Universality and Society..... | 180 |
| Universality and Culture | 202 |
| The Problem of Universality..... | 220 |

Part Three: Relativity

| | |
|--|-----|
| Chapter Three. Relativity and its Critique | 231 |
| The Importance of Relativity | 231 |
| Relativity and the Mind | 232 |
| Relativity and Nature | 253 |
| Relativity and Society | 280 |
| Relativity and Culture | 302 |
| The Limitation of Relativity | 327 |

Part Four: Conclusion

| | |
|--|-----|
| Chapter Four. Conclusion—The Future of History..... | 339 |
| Beyond Universality and Relativity | 339 |
| In Relation to Method | |
| 1 st Thesis: The Formalness-Informalness Principle | 341 |
| 2 nd Thesis: The Absoluteness-Relativeness Principle..... | 344 |
| 3 rd Thesis: The Partiality-Totality Principle | 348 |
| 4 th Thesis: The Predictability-Unpredictability Principle..... | 351 |
| 5 th Thesis: The Explicability-Inexplicability Principle | 354 |
| 6 th Thesis: The Fiction-Reality Principle | 358 |
| In Relation to Structure | |
| 7 th Thesis: The Finiteness-Transfiniteness Principle..... | 361 |
| 8 th Thesis: The Preciseness-Vagueness Principle..... | 364 |
| 9 th Thesis: The Simpleness-Complicatedness Principle..... | 367 |
| 10 th Thesis: The Openness-Hiddenness Principle | 369 |
| 11 th Thesis: The Denseness-Emptiness Principle | 372 |
| In Relation to Process | |
| 12 th Thesis: The Change-Constancy Principle | 374 |
| 13 th Thesis: The Order-Chaos Principle..... | 377 |
| 14 th Thesis: The Slowness-Quickness Principle..... | 380 |
| 15 th Thesis: The Expansion-Contraction Principle..... | 383 |
| In Relation to Agency | |
| 16 th Thesis: The Theory-Praxis Principle..... | 385 |
| 17 th Thesis: The Convention-Novelty Principle..... | 388 |
| 18 th Thesis: The Evolution-Transformation Principle..... | 391 |
| 19 th Thesis: The Symmetry-Asymmetry Principle..... | 393 |
| 20 th Thesis: The Sofness-Hardness Principle | 396 |
| 21 st Thesis: The Seriousness-Playfulness Principle | 398 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| In Relation to Outcome | |
| 22 nd Thesis: The Regression-Progression Principle | 401 |
| 23 rd Thesis: The Sameness-Difference Principle | 403 |
| 24 th Thesis: The Stability-Reaction Principle..... | 407 |
| 25 th Thesis: The Post-Human Multifoldness..... | 410 |
| Towards the Post-Human Multifoldness..... | 413 |
| <i>Bibliography</i> | 531 |
| <i>Index</i> | 553 |

TABLES

Category I: The Theoretical Debate on History

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Table 1.1. | Different Features of History | 80 |
| Table 1.2. | Nine Great Future Transformations of History | 81 |
| Table 2.1. | Universality, and its Controversy | 221 |
| Table 2.2. | Universality, Geniuses, and World History | 222 |
| Table 2.3. | Universality, Uniformitarianism, and Earth History | 223 |
| Table 2.4. | Universality, the Role of Nature, and Environmental History | 224 |
| Table 2.5. | Universality, Class Struggle, and Economic History | 225 |
| Table 2.6. | Universality, the Annales School, and Social History | 226 |
| Table 2.7. | Universality, Metanarratives, and Cultural History | 227 |
| Table 2.8. | Universality, the Great Chain of Being, and Religious History | 228 |
| Table 3.1. | Relativity, and its Critique | 328 |
| Table 3.2. | Relativity, the Mind of the Noble Savage, and Pre-history | 329 |
| Table 3.3. | Relativity, Geographical Context, and Local History | 330 |
| Table 3.4. | Relativity, Contingency, and the History of Science | 331 |
| Table 3.5. | Relativity, Vicissitude, and Political History | 332 |
| Table 3.6. | Relativity, Women's Struggle, and Feminist History | 333 |
| Table 3.7. | Relativity, Revisionism, and Writing History | 334 |
| Table 3.8. | Relativity, Postcolonial Subalterns, and Cultural History | 335 |

Category II: Visions on Nature

| | | |
|-------------|--|----|
| Table 1.3. | The Theoretical Debate on Space-Time | 84 |
| Table 1.4. | Main Reasons for Altering Space-Time | 86 |
| Table 1.5. | The Technological Frontiers of the Micro-World | 87 |
| Table 1.6. | Finity, Transfinity, and Infinity | 88 |
| Table 1.7. | Theoretical Speculations of Multiverses | 90 |
| Table 1.8. | The Confusion Between "Many Worlds" and "Multiverse" | 91 |
| Table 1.9. | Hyperspace and Its Challenge | 93 |
| Table 1.10. | The Problems of Time Travel into the Future | 95 |
| Table 1.11. | The Problems of Time Travel into the Past | 97 |

Category III: Visions on the Mind

| | |
|---|-----|
| Table 1.12. The Conceptual Dimensions of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 100 |
| Table 1.13. The Theoretical Levels of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 101 |
| Table 1.14. The Thematic Issues of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 104 |
| Table 1.15. Having, Belonging, and Being in Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 105 |
| Table 1.16. The Having-Ness of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 106 |
| Table 1.17. The Belonging-Ness of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 107 |
| Table 1.18. The Being-Ness of Consciousness (and Other Mental States) | 108 |
| Table 1.19. Cognitive Partiality in Different Mental States | 110 |
| Table 1.20. Emotional Non-Neutrality and Behavioral Alteration in Different Mental States | 111 |
| Table 1.21. The Limits of Intuition in Unconsciousness..... | 112 |
| Table 1.22. The Wealth/Poverty Dialectics in Different Mental States: The Case of Cognition..... | 113 |
| Table 1.23. The Wealth/Poverty Dialectics in Different Mental States: The Case of Emotion and Behavior | 114 |
| Table 1.24. The Theoretical Debate on Nature and Nurture | 115 |
| Table 1.25. Physical Challenges to Hyper-Spatial Consciousness..... | 117 |
| Table 1.26. The Theory of Floating Consciousness | 118 |
| Table 1.27. The Potential of Unfolding Unconsciousness | 120 |
| Table 1.28. The Future Exploration of Unfolding Unconsciousness | 121 |
| Table 1.29. Creative Techniques and Traits..... | 122 |
| Table 1.30. The Desirability of Creativity, and Its Dark Sides | 123 |
| Table 1.31. Posthuman-IsM, Post-Humanism, and Trans-Humanism | 125 |
| Table 1.32. Three Great Future Transformations of the Martial Body | 126 |
| Table 1.33. Three Great Future Transformations of the Sexual Body | 128 |

Category IV: Visions on History

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table 1.34. The Trinity of Pre-Modernity..... | 129 |
| Table 1.35. The Trinity of Modernity | 130 |
| Table 1.36. The Trinity of Post-Modernity | 132 |
| Table 1.37. The Trinity of After-Postmodernity | 133 |

Category V: Visions on Methodology

| | |
|---|-----|
| Table 4.1. Sophisticated Methodological Holism. | 422 |
| Table 4.2. On Reductionism and Reverse-Reductionism. | 426 |

Category VI: Visions on Ontology

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table 4.3. The Conception of Existential Dialectics. | 432 |
| Table 4.4. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics I: The Principles. | 435 |
| Table 4.5. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics II: The Principles as Short Cuts. | 455 |
| Table 4.6. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics III: The Principles as Family Resemblances. | 457 |
| Table 4.7. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics IV: The Dialectic Constraints Imposed by the Principles. | 458 |
| Table 4.8. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics V: Further Clarifications. | 461 |
| Table 4.9. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics VI: The Dilemma of Specific vs. General Ontology. | 463 |
| Table 4.10. The Syntax of Existential Dialectics VII: Types of Inappropriate Family Resemblances. | 465 |
| Table 4.11. The Semantics of Existential Dialectics. | 467 |
| Table 4.12. The Pragmatics of Existential Dialectics. | 469 |
| Table 4.13. The Freedom/Unfreedom Dialectics. | 471 |
| Table 4.14. The Equality/Inequality Dialectics. | 474 |
| Table 4.15. The Duality of Oppression in Existential Dialectics: Oppression and Self-Oppression. | 476 |
| Table 4.16. The Structure of Existential Dialectics I: The Freedom/Unfreedom and Equality/Inequality Dialectics. | 478 |
| Table 4.17. The Structure of Existential Dialectics II: The Wealth/Poverty Dialectics. | 479 |
| Table 4.18. The Structure of Existential Dialectics III: The Civilization/Barbarity Dialectics. | 480 |

Category VII. Visions on Society (Socio-Political)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table 4.19. The Double Sides of Virtual Organizations | 481 |
| Table 4.20. Beyond the World of Titans, and the Remaking of World Order..... | 483 |
| Table 4.21. The Origins of Authoritarian Liberal Democracy | 484 |
| Table 4.22. The Theory of Post-Democracy I: The Priority of Freedom over Equality | 485 |
| Table 4.23. The Theory of Post-Democracy II: The Priority of Equality over Freedom | 487 |
| Table 4.24. The Theory of Post-Democracy III: The Transcendence of Freedom and Equality | 488 |
| Table 4.25. Democracy, Non-Democracy, and Post-Democracy..... | 490 |
| Table 4.26. Multiple Causes of the Emergence of Post-Democracy | 493 |
| Table 4.27. Some Clarifications on Post-Capitalism and Post-Democracy | 495 |

Category VIII. Visions on Society (Socio-Economic)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Table 4.28. The Theory of Post-Capitalism I.1: By Group— Ex: Spiritual/Communal in the Trans-Feminine Calling..... | 499 |
| Table 4.29. The Theory of Post-Capitalism I.2: By Nation-State— Ex: Spiritual/Communal in the Trans-Sinitic Calling | 500 |
| Table 4.30. The Theory of Post-Capitalism I.3: By Region— Ex: Spiritual/Communal in the Trans-Islamic Calling..... | 501 |
| Table 4.31. The Theory of Post-Capitalism I.4: By Universe— Ex: Spiritual/Communal in the Trans-Outerspace Calling | 502 |
| Table 4.32. The Theory of Post-Capitalism II: Spiritual/ Individualistic in the Post-Human Elitist Calling | 503 |
| Table 4.33. Capitalism, Non-Capitalism, and Post-Capitalism | 505 |
| Table 4.34. Multiple Causes of the Emergence of Post-Capitalism..... | 508 |

Category IX: Visions on Culture

| | |
|---|-----|
| Table 4.35. The Theoretical Debate on Civilization | 510 |
| Table 4.36. No Freedom Without Unfreedom in the Civilizing Processes | 511 |
| Table 4.37. No Equality Without Inequality in the Civilizing Processes | 513 |
| Table 4.38. Five Theses on Post-Civilization | 515 |
| Table 4.39. Barbarity, Civilization, and Post-Civilization | 516 |
| Table 4.40. Types of Super Civilization in the Cosmos | 517 |
| Table 4.41. The Civilizational Project from Pre-Modernity to After-Postmodernity | 519 |
| Table 4.42. Civilizational Holism | 521 |
| Table 4.43. Theories on Civilizational Holism | 524 |
| Table 4.44. Three Great Future Transformations of Mind Games | 530 |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book, like all other previous books of mine, is written to challenge conventional ideas or, more precisely, in the current context, the ones on history—and to replace them with a new way of thinking about its future fate (in relation to universality and relativity).

Because of this reason, this book receives no external funding nor help from any formal organization or institution, because of its political incorrectness—as this is something that I often stressed (and repeated) in all my previous books.

My only reward is that wonderful feeling to conceive something new in the history of ideas on the study of history (or historiography).

And as always, I bear the sole responsibility for the ideas presented in this book.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ALD = Peter Baofu. 2007. *The Rise of Authoritarian Liberal Democracy: A Preface to a New Theory of Comparative Political Systems*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- BCIV = Peter Baofu. 2006. *Beyond Civilization to Post-Civilization: Conceiving a Better Model of Life Settlement to Supersede Civilization*. NY: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- BCPC = Peter Baofu. 2005. *Beyond Capitalism to Post-Capitalism: Conceiving a Better Model of Wealth Acquisition to Supersede Capitalism*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- BCOS = Peter Baofu. 2010. *Beyond Cosmology to Post-Cosmology: A Preface to a New Theory of Different Worlds*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- BDPD1 = Peter Baofu. 2004. Volume 1. *Beyond Democracy to Post-Democracy: Conceiving a Better Model of Governance to Supersede Democracy*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- BDPD2 = Peter Baofu. 2004. Volume 2. *Beyond Democracy to Post-Democracy: Conceiving a Better Model of Governance to Supersede Democracy*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- BEPE = Peter Baofu. 2011. *Beyond Ethics to Post-Ethics: A Preface to a New Theory of Morality and Immorality*. Charlotte, NC: Infomration Age Publishing.
- BNN = Peter Baofu. 2006. *Beyond Nature and Nurture: Conceiving a Better Way to Understand Genes and Memes*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- BWT = Peter Baofu. 2007. *Beyond the World of Titans, and the Renaking of World Order: A Preface to a New Logic of Empire-Building*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FAE = Peter Baofu. 2007. *The Future of Aesthetic Experience: Conceiving a Better Way to Understand Beauty, Ugliness and the Rest*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.

- FC = Peter Baofu. 2007. *The Future of Complexity: Conceiving a Better Way to Understand Order and Chaos*. London, United Kingdom: World Scientific Publishing Co.
- FCD = Peter Baofu. 2002. *The Future of Capitalism and Democracy*. MD: The University Press of America.
- FHC1 = Peter Baofu. 2000. Volume 1. *The Future of Human Civilization*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- FHC2 = Peter Baofu. 2000. Volume 2. *The Future of Human Civilization*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- FIA = Peter Baofu. 2008. *The Future of Information Architecture: Conceiving a Better Way to Understand Taxonomy, Network, and Intelligence*. Oxford, England: Chandos Publishing (Oxford) Limited.
- FPHA = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Acoustics: A Preface to a New Theory of Sound and Silence*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHARCH = Peter Baofu. 2012. *The Future of Post-Human Architecture: A Preface to a New Theory of Form and Function*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHC = Peter Baofu. 2004. *The Future of Post-Human Consciousness*. NY: The Edwin Mellen Press.
- FPHCHEM = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Chemistry: A Preface to a New Theory of Substances and their Changes*. England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHCHESS = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Chess: A Preface to a New Theory of Tactics and Strategy*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHCOM = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Computing: A Preface to a New Theory of Hardware and Software*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHCRIM = Peter Baofu. 2012. *The Future of Post-Human Criminality: A Preface to a New Theory of Heroes and Villaines*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHCT = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Creative Thinking: A Preface to a New Theory of Invention and Innovation*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHDA = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Data Analysis: A Preface to a New Theory of Quantitative and Qualitative Research*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.

-
- FPHE = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Engineering: A Preface to a New Theory of Technology*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHEDU = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Education: A Preface to a New Theory of Teaching and Learning*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHFS = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Formal Science: A Preface to a New Theory of Abstraction and Application*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHG = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Geometry: A Preface to a New Theory of Infinity, Symmetry, and Dimensionality*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHGAM = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Gambling: A Preface to a New Theory of Risk and Caution*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHGEOG = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Geography: A Preface to a New Theory of Environments and their Interactions*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHGEO = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Geology: A Preface to a New Theory of Statics and Dynamics*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHH = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Humor: A Preface to a New Theory of Joking and Laughing*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHHIST = Peter Baofu. 2012. *The Future of Post-Human History: A Preface to a New Theory of Universality and Relativity*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHK = Peter Baofu. 2008. *The Future of Post-Human Knowledge: A Preface to a New Theory of Methodology and Ontology*. Oxford, England: Chandos Publishing (Oxford) Limited.
- FPHL = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Language: A Preface to a New Theory of Structure, Context, and Learning*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHLAW = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Law: A Preface to a New Theory of Necessity, Contingency, and Justice*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.

- FPHLIT = Peter Baofu. 2011. *The Future of Post-Human Literature: A Preface to a New Theory of Fiction and Non-Fiction*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHMA = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Martial Arts: A Preface to a New Theory of the Body and Spirit of Warriors*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHML = Peter Baofu. 2008. *The Future of Post-Human Mathematical Logic: A Preface to a New Theory of Rationality*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHMM = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Mass Media: A Preface to a New Theory of Technology*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHO = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Organization: A Preface to a New Theory of Communication, Decision-Making, and Leadership*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHP = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Personality: A Preface to a New Theory of Normality and Abnormality*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHPA = Peter Baofu. 2012. *The Future of Post-Human Performing Arts: A Preface to a New Theory of the Body and its Presence*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHR = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Religion: A Preface to a New Theory of Spirituality*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge International Science Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHS = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human Sexuality: A Preface to a New Theory of the Body and Spirit of Love-Makers*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHSEM = Peter Baofu. 2012. *The Future of Post-Human Semantics: A Preface to a New Theory of Internality and Externality*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.
- FPHST = Peter Baofu. 2006. *The Future of Post-Human Space-Time: Conceiving a Better Way to Understand Space and Time*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- FPHU = Peter Baofu. 2008. *The Future of Post-Human Unconsciousness: A Preface to a New Theory of Anomalous Experience*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.

FPHUP = Peter Baofu. 2009. *The Future of Post-Human Urban Planning: A Preface to a New Theory of Density, Void, and Sustainability*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.

FPHWP = Peter Baofu. 2010. *The Future of Post-Human War and Peace: A Preface to a New Theory of Aggression and Pacificity*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Ltd.

• PART ONE •

Introduction

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION—THE RIDDLE OF HISTORY

Those who cannot remember the past
are condemned to repeat it.
—George Santayana (1905)

A Debate on History

Is history really so universalistic (even when similar events happen in different contexts) that, as George Santayana (1905) once famously wrote, “[t]hose who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”?

This more universalistic view of history can be contrasted with an opposing view which is more relativistic in orientation, as shown by the equally known remark by Winston Churchill that “[h]istory is written by the victor,” to the extent that what is regarded as true in history today may not be so in another era when a new victor comes into power. (THEX 2011)

So, which of the two views is correct here? Contrary to these opposing views (and other ideas as will be discussed in the book), history (in relation to both universality and relativity) is neither possible (or impossible) nor desirable (or undesirable) to the extent that the respective ideologies (on different sides) would like us to believe.

Of course, this challenge to the opposing views about history does not suggest that the study of history is controversial at best, or that those fields (related to the study of history) like political science, economics, military studies, anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, theology, literature, ethics, and so on should be rejected too. Needless to say, neither of these extreme views is reasonable.

Rather, this book offers an alternative (better) way to understand the future of history, especially in the dialectic context of universality and relativity—while learning from different approaches in the literature but without favoring any one of them (nor integrating them, since they are not necessarily compatible with each other).

Instead, this book offers a new theory (that is, *the multifold theory of history*) to go beyond the existing approaches in a novel way.

If successful, this seminal project is to fundamentally change the way that we think about history, from the combined perspectives of the mind, nature, society, and culture, with enormous implications for the human future and what I originally called its “post-human” fate.

Universality and Relativity in History

A good point of departure for the the study of history is by way of a definition of the term “history,” which is derived from “Greek *ιστορία-historia*, meaning ‘inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation,’” from “*ἵστωρ (histōr)* ‘judge’ (from the Proto-Indo-European agent noun *wid-tor*: ‘one who knows’),” to mean “the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about past events.” (WK 2011; B. Joseph 2003; OED 2011)

In fact, “it was still in the Greek sense that Francis Bacon used the term in the late 16th century, when he wrote about ‘Natural History.’ For him, *historia* was ‘the knowledge of objects determined by space and time,’ that sort of knowledge provided by memory (while science was provided by reason, and poetry was provided by fantasy).” (WK 2011)

In any event, the word *history* “entered the English language in 1390 with the meaning of ‘relation of incidents, story.’ In Middle English, the meaning was ‘story’ in general. The restriction to the meaning ‘record of past events’ arises in the late 15th century. In German, French, and most Germanic and Romance languages, the same word is still used to mean both ‘history’ and ‘story.’ The adjective *historical* is attested from 1661, and *historic* from 1669.” (WK 2011; W. Whitney 1889)

Nowadays, “in all European languages, the substantive ‘history’ is still used to mean both ‘what happened with men’ and ‘the scholarly study of the happened,’ the latter sense sometimes distinguished with a capital letter, ‘History,’ or the word *historiography*.” (WK 2011)

Those scholars “who write about history are called historians,” and “*historian* in the sense of a ‘researcher of history’ is attested from 1531.” (WK 2011)

Over the centuries, historians have engaged into different debates on numerous topics about history, and four major ones of them can be summarized below: (WK 2011a)