
Foreword

Once more, Dr. Peter Baofu throws down the gauntlet, challenging the reader to a new intellectual endeavor. Complexity—a twenty-first century predicament—is his subject this time. Not yet fully visible, and certainly not easily understood, but nevertheless intruding into everyone's daily life in its many disguises, complexity appears as the source of intellectual unrest, the obstructor of individual happiness, the confounder of organizational achievements, the source of national dilemmas, and the gargantuan ogre of international conflicts.

Indeed, we may well paraphrase Oliver Hazard Perry's statement one more time, as the 21st century begins, "We have seen the enemy and it is complexity". Dr. Baofu cites the problem, presenting a summary of the sophisticated methods of computation in use at this time to address complexity in some of its many aspects. Thereafter, he presents highly creative pathways to illuminate the issue and critical tools to deconstruct the myths and euphoria surrounding it.

To those scholars who are grappling with complexity for the purpose of subduing it, this book describes complexity as a basic problem (with both promises and pitfalls), and serves as a launching pad for additional thinking and research, in light of his "dialectic theory of complexity". It may well turn out that human thought together with the computer will produce pathways to harness complexity so it may quell international unrest, facilitate solutions to national dilemmas, serve the development of organizational achievements, and bring individuals out of personal

consternations. But Dr. Baofu warns us against any false expectations.

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