



Our Place in Time: The New Axial Age and the Pivotal Years (2015-2020)

By Kent Augustson



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German philosopher Karl Jaspers determined there to be an Axial Age centered on the centuries surrounding 500 BC, during which time a new consciousness of spiritual/moral ideals came to the world independently from prophets in four far-flung corners of Eurasia – Zoroaster in Persia, Confucius in China, the Buddha in India, and Socrates in Greece. Each spoke of the same “Golden Rule” to treat others as you would have them treat you and a concept of “The Way” that, if taken, leads to righteousness and enlightenment.

Augustson argues in "Our Place in Time" that we are currently experiencing a New Axial Age whose "Way" has to do with the unprecedented formation of republics worldwide over the last two hundred years. While the last Axial Age related to love, the new is about power. Its "rule" might be: "Let the people flourish and the state will flourish."

The New Axial Age is the product of the larger story of world history played out in these pages with creative metaphors of the rhythms, themes, and harmonies of history complemented by forty engaging charts and compelling cameos of key people and events. Included also are innovative mnemonics that allow the reader to hold the whole of the past in mind.

Keeping a focus on the four civilizations that have brought us to this point--Confucian China, Hindu India, the Christian West, and the Muslim Middle East--two visionaries of the new Age are named and where to look for others is suggested. Identified is the span of the New Axial Age--its beginning, its center, and how long it might last. The argument for the pivotal potential of the next five

or six years is offered and comment is made as to where each of our four civilizations stand today in relation to the New Axial Age.

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