# Editorial

# *Hope in the New Year*

If one wishes to understand, or more important, to influence history, then the generational factor cannot be overlooked. Even the popular media recognize this, albeit in a distorted fashion, in their fascination with the baby boomers.

The baby boomers were the generation who thought that they "had it made." With their high-paid jobs, their money-market accounts, and their pension plans as well, they thought they could comfortably bury their heads in the sands of hedonism.

Even now, as their world economy and social fabric have begun to unravel at a more and more rapid pace, these old duffers would prefer to live, or, rather, escape, into a state of virtual reality and cyberspace, rather than face up to the tasks before them, to take the kinds of actions required if the human race is to survive. Such actions include the tasks of educating the young, transmitting to them the treasures of Western civilization. The baby boomers are unwilling to face the enormity of the mess they themselves created, as they assumed control of the institutions of government and business.

But, there is another stratum of the population that must be taken into account, and it is here that hope for humanity lies: the children of the baby boomers—those under 35 years of age.

This is a generation which has been very poorly educated, indeed. Partly because they are less well-educated than their parents, they are also less committed to the academic brainwashing that characterizes a university education today, and that radiates out into the broader population, from so-called experts from academia.

Generation X, as it is popularly called, is much more willing than their parents to listen to the truth, when they hear it. This is especially so, because they do not share their parents' illusions about what the future will bring them.

Whether or not their parents have yet to be "downsized" into unemployment or semi-employment, the members of Generation X have few illusions that they themselves will ever get a ride on the gravy train. These angry young people are convinced that they have no future—at least the way things are going now. They don't have to be told that.

Even despite bitter experience, this is not true of the baby-boomer generation. Individually, they may come to realize that they do not have a future on their present job, but there is still the hope that a money-market account or a pension will somehow carry them in their old age—that there will be some place for them to hide.

This is the kind of thinking which, on a larger scale, determines the suicidal ideology of those in government and industry who are willing to sacrifice anything, in a vain attempt to hold the bankrupt financial system together. Maybe, they hope, we can manage our way out of catastrophe somehow—or, at least, postpone it until our watch is over.

For those under 35, the situation is the opposite. They are the ones who were left *holding the bag.* And so, more and more, the members of Generation X are coming to recognize that they are being cheated. Their present outlook is bleak, and they have no future, unless they can be mobilized and educated to create one.

The baby boomers wanted environmentalism, disregarding its devastating effects upon the economy. They fostered irrationalism in art, which brought in its wake the drug culture and the destruction of family values. They didn't want to have to *think.* They wanted to have opinions, and, if they were college-educated, they liked to have what they considered sophisticated opinions—which are all Enlightenment garbage. They squandered their children's future.

This is the stuff of tragedy on a historical scale, but the younger generation is still mankind's hope. Because they are willing to learn, they are willing to face up to the task of changing the world. They are the hope of the future—if we live up to our responsibilities to challenge their assumptions and educate them, to prepare them for the responsibilities that will rest upon their shoulders in the years to come.