A summary of ideas

The ideas I present in this short summary have grown in my world of thoughts within the last two decades. They have become part of what it is that I think when looking to very important subjects we are confronted with in this contemporary world. These ideas will form certain foundations for building the project Ether. When we do consider that certain subjects have a materialistic, and Western input on thought, you might agree that fundamentally we live in a post colonial world.

Globalisation is still just a child. Why do I say such a thing? Colonization, the World Wars, the Cold War; you could say these are the parents of globalization. The foundation of the UN and the growth of the idea of one world are not even a hundred years old. In the history of ideas and culture, hundred years means nothing. A child knows many emotions. Discontent, rebellion, sadness, frustration, jealousy... . The need for sufficient wisdom and automatic skills is very helpful in guiding all emotions and actions. A child often bumps its head against walls because it makes stupid mistakes.

Out of the Cold War, the Western nations built a society that strives for welfare for all its citizens. This social structure has had an enormous impact. It changed family attitudes, built up social structures to protect its people from poverty, increased medical and other forms of support. Expenses grew ever more significantly, its funding depending on a capitalist economy, and debt. In this decade the welfare state is confronted with an ageing population that is demanding its rights for pension and medical support. This costs billions of Euros.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a text accepted by the UN as a guideline for international law. For many it is seen as an ideal. All over the world it is used to change situations within countries. Its origin lies in the Western European countries. From reformation to Counter-Reformation to the ideas the ideas of Enlightenment in the 18th century to the United States Declaration of Independence; it is there where the basic principles and the form of the universal human rights find

their origin.

We live in a large world with many different cultures. Even a small country such as Belgium has many regions that differ from one another. It probably doesn't even cover 0,001% of the world's land surface and its population counts for only 0,14% of the world's total population. Yet, our economy counts for about half percent of the world's total. You will agree that there is a huge difference between our country and the poorest countries in the world when it comes to material welfare.

You can have many opinions on this difference in welfare in this world. Often these opinions are formed out of ideas in how we identify ourselves. We can identify ourself with our village, city, region, country; we can even see ourself as the West. There are also other forms of identification such as work, personality, taste and religion, to name a few. Religion seems to be very powerful in our contemporary world. Many battles have been, and are being fought over the difference between religious groups.

If you have the intention to make this world a better place to live for all human beings, a lot of issues can be addressed to improve this global situation. Development is an important term within the conversation about improvement. Many people believe development will naturally create improvement. Nevertheless, this idea of development has many critics as well. Nitin Swaney, an English musician of Indian origin, used an interesting sample in his song development: words spoken by an Aboriginal. In short, his message was: "development is part of today's reality, but it should not become something that is forced down our throats!"