



## REALISTS AND IDEALISTS

Realists believe that they perceive the world as it is and that their actions are governed accordingly. Idealists, on the other hand, rely on their imagination to evaluate their circumstances and to envision necessary reforms.

The realists believe that idealists mesh reality with wishful thinking, thereby losing sight of what is actually possible. The idealists accuse the realists of maintaining the "status quo," of blocking innovations in order to not jeopardize their comfortable situations. These antagonistic positions, underpinned by unmoveable convictions, indicate irresolvable conflict. Whither we go however, will in the end depend on the compromise between preservation and innovation.

The fact that within known history, our world has not been so assaulted and endangered as it has in the more than 60 years after World War II, should give us pause for thought. The realists and idealists should conclude that only a radical (in the word's true sense) change of thinking can bring about the preservation of mother earth for future generations. All efforts at peace, togetherness, a growing solidarity with less advantaged peoples, a careful management of the limited resources of our world, and the maintenance and improvement of a healthy environment will stem from this.

This formidable task, on which our future depends, can only be brought to fruition if all the well-meaning people of this world close ranks and agree on a common set of priorities.

Franz Deutsch, July, 2005