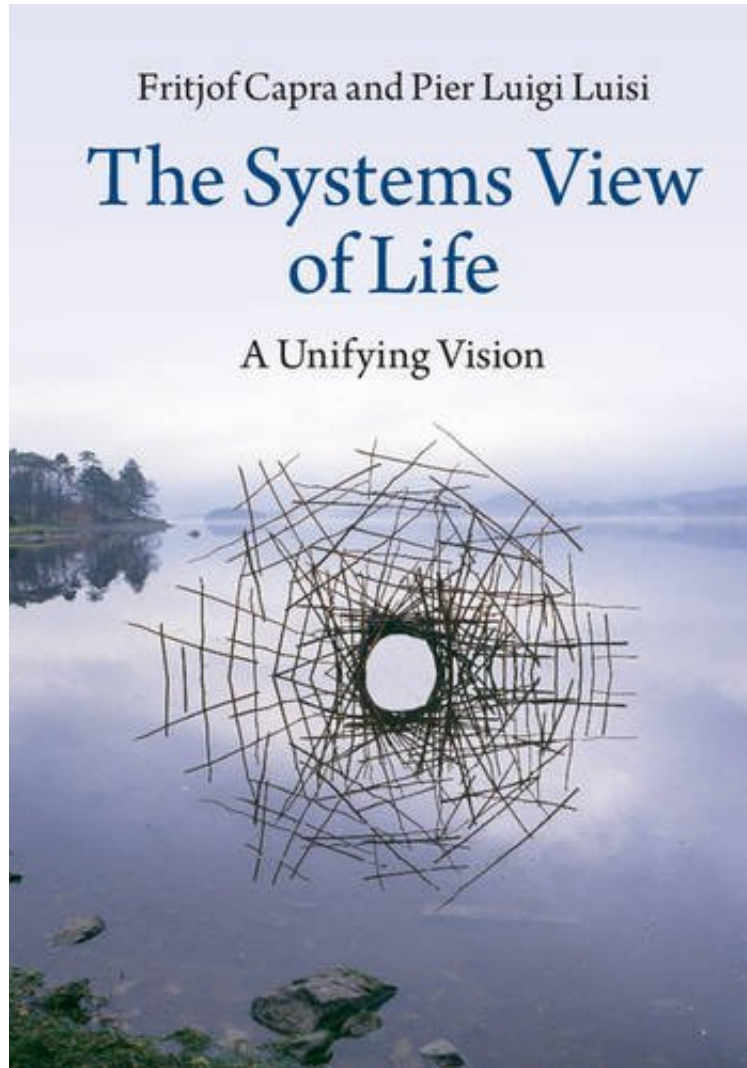


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## The Systems View of Life: A Unifying Vision

*Professor Fritjof Capra, Pier Luigi Luisi*

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**Professor Fritjof Capra, Pier Luigi Luisi : The Systems View of Life: A Unifying Vision** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Systems View of Life: A Unifying Vision:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book does a good job of explaining interdependent origination from an interdisciplinary scientific ...By Kenny B. In my opinion, there should be a course that is taught along with this textbook that is prerequisite for every undergraduate degree. The book does a good job of explaining interdependent origination from an interdisciplinary scientific point of view. We desperately need to overcome our mechanistic, binary view of the world and our lived sense of separateness from it in order to ensure the longevity of our, along with

every other, species on this planet. Education and inner reflection are keys to overcome the maelstrom of conditioning that has been imposed upon us all. One can only hope that the modern era zeitgeist which has prevailed since the Industrial Revolution will give way to a more holistic/systemic/cooperative way of life. In all probability, the future generations of all sentient beings are dependent upon it. As a fitting conclusion to the book, Capra and Luisi offer us an inspiring quote from Vaclav Havel: "The kind of hope that I often think about...I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us or we don't; it is a dimension of the soul, and it's not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation...[Hope] is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent, incredibly insightful and informative book...By James Igoe An excellent, incredibly insightful and informative book, somewhat marred by the tedium experienced in the authors' rehashing the ideas of organizations working for change. For most of this book, the writers masterfully tie together concepts in systems, mathematics, consciousness, the environment, society and biology, and for that, it is a brilliant read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The authors do an excellent job in looking at LIFE as a total system By Alex The authors do an excellent job in looking at LIFE as a total system. I especially liked that Spirituality is not the problem, it is organized Religion that creates a problems and conflicts with Science.

Over the past thirty years, a new systemic conception of life has emerged at the forefront of science. New emphasis has been given to complexity, networks, and patterns of organisation, leading to a novel kind of 'systemic' thinking. This volume integrates the ideas, models, and theories underlying the systems view of life into a single coherent framework. Taking a broad sweep through history and across scientific disciplines, the authors examine the appearance of key concepts such as autopoiesis, dissipative structures, social networks, and a systemic understanding of evolution. The implications of the systems view of life for health care, management, and our global ecological and economic crises are also discussed. Written primarily for undergraduates, it is also essential reading for graduate students and researchers interested in understanding the new systemic conception of life and its implications for a broad range of professions - from economics and politics to medicine, psychology and law.

"Partly an enjoyable survey of exciting new developments in systems biology, valuable to any student of biology or science, and partly a bold blueprint for how we might preserve our future on Earth." *New Scientist* "A magisterial study of the scientific basis for an integrated worldview grounded in the wholeness that generations of one-eyed reductionists could not see. The authors succeed brilliantly!" David W. Orr, Oberlin College "... gives us a sound synthesis of the best science and theory on the connectedness of all living things, the dynamics of emergence and self-organization as conceived by Francisco Varela. This volume offers a profound framework for understanding our place on the planet, for better or worse. And if we apply the insights offered by Capra and Luisi, it will be for the better ... should be required reading for today's young, tomorrow's leaders, and anyone who cares about life on this planet." Daniel Goleman, author of *Emotional Intelligence* and *Ecological Intelligence* "What is life? What is a human being? How can new discoveries about nature and ourselves keep us from becoming the first self-endangered species? Capra and Luisi's dazzling synthesis explains how moving beyond mechanistic, linear, reductionist habits is revealing startling new answers to perennial questions of philosophy and practice. Sir Francis Bacon's goal of 'the enlargement of the bounds of Human Empire, to the effecting of all things possible' has put humanity in serious trouble. But today, rebuilding our thinking, language, and actions around Darwin, not Descartes, and around modern biology, not outmoded physics, creates rich new options. Driven by the co-evolution of business with civil society, these can build a fairer, healthier, cooler, safer world. The Systems View of Life is a lucid, wide-ranging guide to living maturely, kindly, and durably with each other and with other beings on the only home we have." Amory B. Lovins, Rocky Mountain Institute "... this book feels like a Rosetta stone for me, unlocking connections and roots of a panoply of different ideas and concepts. It starts walking us through the history of science - and how scientific models influenced most aspect of cultures ... This book pulls the big changes together and integrates them, across disciplines into a glorious big picture, for each field ... As I was reading the portion of the book covering the history of systems thinking ... I realized that I was suddenly feeling very excited, like I was in a movie, sitting on the edge of my seat ... This is what a great writer and a great book are supposed to do ... It has had a huge impact on my way of thinking about so many things. It doesn't matter what your area of work or interest is. This book is essential reading to face the future with eyes wide open." Rob Kall, *OpEdNews.com* "... a valuable overview of the discipline." Stephen Lewis, *The Biologist* About the Author Fritjof Capra is a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, California, and serves on the faculty of Schumacher College, Devon. He is a physicist and systems theorist, and has been engaged in a systematic examination of the philosophical and social implications of contemporary science for the past 35 years. Pier Luigi Luisi is Professor in Biochemistry at the University of Rome 3. He started his career at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) where he became full professor in Chemistry and initiated the interdisciplinary Cortona Weeks. His main research focuses on the experimental, theoretical and philosophical aspects

of the origin of life and self-organisation of synthetic and natural systems.