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## The Generation Gap

The young people who are rebelling all around the world, rebelling against whatever form the governmental and educational systems take, are like the first generation born in a new country listening to their parents' tales of the old country and watching their parents grapple, often clumsily, often unsuccessfully, with the new conditions. They have no firsthand knowledge of the way their parents lived far across the seas, of how differently wood responded to tools, or land to the hoe. They see the tasks which their unaccustomed elders are performing as poorly done; they feel that there must be a better way, and that they must find it.

For now, nowhere in the whole world are there any elders who know what the children know, no matter how remote and simple the societies in which the children live. In the past there were always some elders who knew more—in terms of experience, of having grown up within a system—than any children. Today there are none. It is not only that parents are no longer a guide, but that there are no guides, in the older sense of the term, whether one seeks them in one's own country, or in China, or in India. There are no elders who know what those who have been reared in the last 20 years know about what the next 20 years will be.

All of us who grew up before the war are immigrants in time, immigrants from an earlier world, living in an age essentially different from anything we knew before. We still hold the seats of power and command the resources and the skills which have made our civilization what it is.