

## COMING SOON! 'MULTIPLE CHOICE IDENTITY' by Wim Kratsborn

It took me 10 years to write the book 'Multiple Choice Identity' and it will come out in May 2017. It's about the development of identity and citizenship in Europe and the Arab world from 1917 till 2022. How did (young) people keep standing between all that turbulence?

### Where it's all about?

It's fascinating to experience the past 100 years, the present and the future as unpredictable times. *'Man makes history, but he doesn't know which history'*, wrote Jorge Semprun. Together with 9 'ghostwriters' and 'Europe' as guides, a passion-driven and knowledge-based journey can be undertaken as a roller coast ride with many ups, downs and turning points. In this book youngsters, teachers and other interested people may find an own way in this complex, hectic and paradoxical reality.

*'Don't ask for the road, because everybody lost their way'*

(Frank Boeijen)

### Why is it relevant?

General basic knowledge, insights and values may be gathered about history, economy, sociology, philosophy and culture. There are anchors to keep on searching for the unknown and for an own identity as a democratic citizen. How can the right choices as a 'Multiple Choice Identity' be made. And I say hey hey hey, what was, is and will be going on?

### Why is this book unique?

It's a creative mix of fact and fiction, ratio and emotion, war and peace, heaven and hell. It's full of humour, stories, quotes, landscapes, images, film and especially music. Emotional knowledge will be used to feel citizenship in an empathical way. *'Feel and therefore you learn'* (Mary Helen Immordino, Harvard). She called the book: *'Unique and intriguing'*. Questions are asked over and over again and answers are given from different perspectives. It's all about Europe, the Arab world, different cultures, tweets by the 9 ghostwriters, the film 'Hard to become who you are' and 300 music links on Spotify (including 17 own songs). 'Music makes sense' as 'sense opener', source of knowledge, problem solver, ways of communication, creation, action and reflection. You will be in the flow *'from a highway to hell to a stairway to heaven'*. *'Without music live would be a mistake'*, wrote Friedrich Nietzsche and the same may be said about this book. The book is also unique because of the application of knowledge-based, creative, informal, passion-driven and digital learning styles. It's 'deep learning'.

MCI tell me why! You can make a burger or citizen yourself, who reacts good and flexible on 'the Multiple Scoiety'. You feel empathy for the other and like to search for the unknown. The MCI is the aim as well as the energizer in order to start 'the great multilogue'.

*'Music as a bridge across future global troubles'*

**What the price?** The price is €29.50 (exclusive forwarding costs). On the To-Gathersite music, learning routes and the film with the 9 ghostwriters as actors is available for free.

### What's the source of inspiration?

As project-leader of the international educational project To-Gather I've traveled since 2006 through Europe and the Arab world and I've met many youngsters, colleagues and others. All

these personal experiences and places are integrated in the book. As a To-Gathergroup we organized 8 festivals with workshops, lectures and performances. Writing was *'a sort of homecoming'* (U2) and a way to give it back. The book is also based on 42 years experience in Dutch, European and Arab education. It was a privilege to stand on the shoulders of giants like Howard Gardner, Mary Helen Immordino, Norman Davies, Jeremy Rifkin, Quentin Tarantino, Laurent Binet, Rob Riemen, Quentin Tarantino, The Beatles, Pink Floyd, REM, The Cure and Muse.

### **What's the structure?**

Preflection

Chapter 1: 'The future is not like it was before' (2022)

Chapter 2: 'The war that never ended' (WOI)

Chapter 3: 'The broken mirror' (WOII)

Chapter 4: 'Let's have a party' (Cold War)

Chapter 5: 'The present' (1994-2017)

Each chapter starts with a 'satellite view' and furthermore 5 turning points are described in the historical, economic, technological, ideological and philosophical field. The turning points are 'energizers' in time, returning in each time period with a different content and impact. The text is visualized through images, stills from the film, song lyrics and tweets from the ghostwriters.

*'Hey ho let's go' (The Ramones)*

### **The thread**

The book starts in the year 2022! How can you experience the future and maybe even influence it. The place to be is the music festival 'To-Gatherland 2022'. *'Festivals can radiate the new message'* (Wubbo Ockels). But after that we have to go back in time in order to really understand and feel what's going on. How could it go wrong so badly in 1914? How can we survive in a trench during a gas attack in 1917? Why and how is World War One still going on to-day? Why is so much modern music made about the 'Ur-Catastrophe' by Metallica, Motörhead, Iron Maiden and PJ Harvey? Why is nationalism reborn? Why could 'Evil' rise again in World War Two? What roles were played? What about you? Are you perpetrator, collaborator, by-stander, protestor and/or victim? The journey goes on during the Cold War between East and West Europe. Which side are you on? Is there space for an own identity? Do you feel good after the Fall of the Wall? Are you welcome in the 'Multiple Society'? Who are you and who do you want to be? What problems do you want or do you have to solve? What are the choice despite the paradox of choice?

*'Crazy world, crazy times'* (REM). The present turning points are 'survival theses' for a democratic citizen for a future that's not like it was before. What are you going to do about 'manipularia' (corruption), youth unemployment, climate change, the 'weconomy', terror and inequality? What the meaning of music? What can be done?

*'It's education stupid'!*

### **'Come to gather'**

Furthermore I want to share all these products from To-Gather during presentations at schools, conferences and festivals.

In April 2017 I will also start a crowdfunding campaign to make the printing of the books possible. Go to: [www.to-gather.org](http://www.to-gather.org) or contact [w.kratsborn@planet.nl](mailto:w.kratsborn@planet.nl)

*'We can work it out'*