



Dr. **Hasan Özbekhan** (1921 – February 12, 2007) was a Turkish American systems scientist, [cyberneticist](#), philosopher and planner who was Professor Emeritus of Management at the Wharton School of the [University of Pennsylvania](#). He applied the field-of-[systems theory](#) to global problems, helped inspire the group of planners, diplomats, scientists and academics who came together as the [Club of Rome](#).

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## Biography

**Hasan Özbekhan** was born in Turkey in 1921, into a diplomatic family. He studied at the Lycée Chateaubraind in Rome, and then studied Law and Political and Administrative sciences at the Faculte de Droit and the [École Libre des Sciences Politiques](#) in Paris, and his graduate studies at the [London School of Economics](#). He undertook his postgraduate work at the [University of Cambridge](#) after being elected to the Leverhume Fellowship.

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In the 1960s Ozbekhan worked as management consultant to large [multinational corporations](#). The work he did for governments includes Science Policy design for Turkey and a large study for the French Government analyzing the nature of present events that, most probably, will shape the future of Paris. The recommendations derived from these analyses currently constitute the basis of the policies adopted by the French Government with respect to the city's long-term development.

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From 1963 to 1969 he was principal scientist and director of planning at the [System Development Corporation](#), a military research group and software development company in Santa Monica, California.

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In 1970 he started working at the University of Pennsylvania at the faculty of the Wharton School, where he became Professor of Operations Research and Statistics, and Chairman of the Graduate Group in the Social Systems Sciences Department. From 1986 until his retirement in 1992 he was Professor of [Management](#) at the Wharton School.

He has been a Fellow of the [Royal Economic Society](#), and held membership in [The Economic Club of New York](#)

, the [American Economic Association](#), the National Academy of Economics and Political Science, The Society of Business Advisory Professions, the Comité National Belge de l'Organisation Scientifique, the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy, Mankind 2000, Futuribles.

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He died on February 12, 2007 in Philadelphia.

## Work

Özbekhan applied the field-of-systems theory to global problems, helped inspire the group of planners, diplomats, scientists and academics who came together as the Club of Rome. He wrote a paper, "The Predicament of Mankind," that became an influential core document of the group, addressing issues of energy, overpopulation, depletion of resources and environmental degradation. [1](#) [1](#)

In the 1970s Özbekhan was co founder and first director of The Club of Rome, with [Aurelio Peccei](#) an

Italian Industrialist, and

[Alexander Christakis](#)

, a physicist and systems research designer. Özbekhan wrote the original prospectus for The Club of Rome,

*The Predicament of Mankind*

. This document served as vision for systems scientists who, under the leadership of Alexander Christakis and the

**21st Century Agoras**

developed the science of structured dialogic design. Özbekhan is credited for the formulation of the

**Axiom of Engagement**

Together with [Robert Jungk](#) , [Johan Galtung](#) and many others he was member of **MANKIND 2000**

## Publications

- 1957, The Isle of Princes [\[1\]](#)
- 1968, *Toward a General Theory of Planning*.
- 1970, *The Predicament of Mankind*. Report to the Club of Rome.

## References

1. <sup>^</sup> [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Jeremy Pearce (2007), [Hasan Ozbekhan, 86, Economist Who Helped Found Global Group, Dies](#) , New York Times February 26, 2007.
2. <sup>^</sup> [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [Hasan Özbekhan](#) ISSS website, 2003. Retrieved 25 April 2008.

## External links

- [Club of Rome reports](#)
- [An Eulogy February 13](#)
- [Remembering Hasan Özbekhan](#) in blogora.net
- [Passages from \*Toward a General Theory of Planning\*](#)
- [Futures Creation](#) and [website for Hasan](#)

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