

## ***Prospects of Mankind***

### Summary:

From 1959 through 1962, former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt hosted twenty-nine roundtable discussions to tackle critical issues of the day that were important to Americans, as well as to the international community of academics, journalists, philosophers, and politicians.

Participants in these forums included some of the most important names of the twentieth century, such as future Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger; Nobel Prize winner Ralph Bunche; Senator Hubert Humphrey; theologian Paul Tillich; Nobel Prize winner philosopher Bertrand Russell; Senator Adlai Stevenson; economist John Kenneth Galbraith; Governor Nelson Rockefeller; Director of the Peace Corps, R. Sargent Shriver; Secretary of State, Allen Dulles; and future president, John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Roosevelt and her panelists address such specific subjects as American capitalism, the development of the Peace Corps, the role of television in American lives, disarmament, foreign aid, democracy abroad, and the status of women. Other programs also address the challenges faced by foreign nations including Africa, China, Cuba, East Germany, France, Great Britain, and Russia.

Produced by public television station WGBH, Boston for National Educational Television (NET), more than half of these programs were recorded on the campus of Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Other venues for programs included the BBC Studios in London, the State Department in Washington, D.C., and the United Nations in New York City. "The format was that of a colloquium, based on crucial national and international issues, between Mrs. Roosevelt and her guests in the presence of interested Brandeis students", noted Abram Sachar, former Brandeis president in his book *"A Host at Last"*.

***Prospects of Mankind*** allowed viewers a rare and valuable opportunity to witness history in the making, and the significance of this series cannot be underestimated. These twenty-nine programs are not merely time capsules, but serve as important resources for scholars, historians, and even policy makers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Series TITLE:** "Prospects of Mankind with Eleanor Roosevelt"  
**DIRECTOR:** Produced by Educational Broadcasting Corporation (NET) and WGBH Educational Foundation  
**LENGTH:** 29 programs, each program hour in length  
**COLOR/B&W:** Black and White  
**YEAR:** 1958-1963

**Program Titles:**

1. 101 New Possibilities for Coexistence
2. 102 What Hopes for Disarmament
3. 103 Foreign Aid and Economic Policy
4. 104 Europe Faces East and West
5. 105 Latin America: Neglected Neighbors
6. 106 Africa: Revolution in Haste
7. 107 The American Image Abroad
8. 108 China: Shadow on the Summit
9. 109 The Future of Democracy Abroad
10. 201 Britain: Ally or Neutral
11. 202 European Unity: Obstacles and Goals
12. 203 The Changing Shape of the United Nations
13. 204 The Scientist and World Politics
14. 205 Rethinking our Alliances
15. 206 Nuclear Test Ban: The First Step to Arms Control
16. 207 The Peace Corps: What Shape Shall it Take?

17. 208 Congo: Challenge to the United Nations
18. 209 The New Aid Policy in Action
19. 210 America's Propaganda Capabilities
20. 301 American Capitalism: Challenged at Home
21. 302 Berlin: What Choice Remains
22. 303 United Nations: Future Endangered
23. 304 South Asia in Crisis
24. 305 Latin Americans Look At Cuba
25. 306 Russia and China: What Does the Future Hold?
26. 307 The Future of France
27. 308 Our Relationship with the Common Market
28. 309 New Vistas for Television
29. 310 What Status for Women?