

***Lectio Magistralis***

**HOMO SAPIENS HISTORY AND PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS: AN  
INSEPARABLE PAIR**

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In recent times the exploitation of the elements of the periodic table is becoming generalized and is involving additional elements like lithium and rare earths. However, if the growing need of strategic elements and products in the XIX-XX century is considered, this global phenomenon is not looking so exceptional. In this conference the role of periodic table as the basis for the increment of human welfare is described. The problem of the increasing competition for strategic elements and products is also considered.