INTERNATIONAL TRENDS
and Portugal’s Position

AS TENDÊNCIAS INTERNACIONAIS
e a posição de Portugal

Actas

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Estaremos nós na Alvorada de uma Nova Era?

Palavras chave: Movimentos, Magrebe, Novo Mundo, Nova Era, Desemprego

A Globalização com a sua expressão maior no Sistema Financeiro Transnacional, associada ao crescimento tecnológico, que impôs a Tecnologia como Factor Produtivo, mas Não-Concorrente, trouxe consigo o abalar dos modelos Económicos conhecidos, as estruturas Empresariais e as Relações com o “Trabalho”. Independentemente, se em Recessão ou Retoma Económica, o crescimento do Desemprego, de “Previsão” impossível, é um Dado Incontornável. Quando em Crescimento o PIB assenta na alavacagem do (K) pela Tecnologia e na redução do (L). Globalizou-se a Miséria e o Equador da Pobreza dirige-se galopante em direcção ao Pólo Norte. A Miséria, pensada só do Mundo Pobre, acompanha também, perversamente, a Globalização, sendo a fonte todo um conjunto de disfunções sociais, de ordem, de segurança e de cidadania. O Desemprego, é a origem da Velha e (o Transnacional) da Nova Miséria. Atenta contra a dignidade individual e social, já intergeracional. A hiper-produtividade, assente na redução de (L), auto destrói-se por arrefecer a “Procura” que precisa, logo emerge a necessidade de novos paradigmas Políticos, Distributivos, Económicos, Sociais, Educacionais, Financeiros e de Gestão. A Vida, Direito Universal Primeiro, só faz sentido se estruturada à volta da “Dignidade”, com desenvolvimento humano social e individual. A primeira dimensão do garante da “Dignidade” é o “Trabalho”. É por este, que tudo o resto se obtém. As novas Gerações, com as suas contestações tipo M12M, Globalizam-se também, e não querem mais uma existência em que os ciclos de Crescimentos e Recessões, se misturam, mas em ambos, o “Desemprego” cresce e agrava-se, sem oferecer oportunidades no presente e garantindo um futuro que “não existe”. Querem novos rumos e paradigmas, exigem “Vida” com “Liberdade” mas acima de tudo com “Dignidade”. É este o pilar mestre dos novos Movimentos iniciados no Magreb que como uma pandemia se espalharão pelo resto do Mundo. Mudar-se-ão os Paradigmas, ou estará a Mudar o Mundo?

Globalisation with its highest expression through the International Financial System, coupled with technological growth, which imposed technology as a productive factor, but a non-concurrent one, brought the shaking of the economic models, business structures and relations with the "Work".

With industrialization a new economy was shaped, a new state was designed – the welfare state, a new capitalism rose - The ownership of the production assets allowed implicitly the right to all dimensions of “Labour”, people, time and dignity.

Economy was based on a “Supply” logic, as whatever was produced was consumed. Management and Organization was born around this concept. The production structurized structures.

Several recessions and a massive depression during the thirties, two wars, caused the opening of US leaving behind its isolationism, although still present, and assuming its prevailing dominance in the world balance of power. Communism in two or three different versions from Russia, to Cambodia, Vietnam and China, also found a space under the sun. Democracy or western economic and social political systems balanced out in a permanent twist of arms with the other system that was the basis for the workers dictatorship in the demand for the Promised Land. Two blocks were setted up, two systems, a contentioned Peace was in their geographical space achieved but the rest of the world was the stage for the most fantastic experiences from both parts. It was the Cold War at its best. While colonies were getting their status of independent countries, generally falling more to the communist side of the world, already stablished countries but in need for help, particularly in the second half of the XXth Century, were being exposed to the experiences in name of the Democracy and Free market, some as devastating and amazing as the communist ones. Chile, Argentina and Brazil were a few under this touch of magic and class.

Comunism was abandoned, the Soviet Empire collapsed, and now, early 90s, in satellite countries of WTO (Warsaw Treaty Organization), firstly Poland and after to the heart of mother Russia the same shock therapy was applied. The democracy as the politic solution, and, the free market for the economic dimension. 

Unemployment, massive asset depreciation, and huge economic recessions, was the very best that was achieved.

But, economy was changing, hipper production was in place, technology got its go, and the prevailing models, for predictions, analysis and forecasts were fading away. Scenario build is now the tool for future design.

A new economy was in place, sistemic, almost with a life of its own, and, with a major change in the demographics of the northern part of the world we have been living in a fascinating, although painful, switch between recessions and booms, with a higher and higher frequency.... Market is the kingdom, with money being its King, for price, for adjustments of production, for competition.

Phillips, an interesting economist studied the relation between unemployment and inflation. At local, country or region level, once unemployment dropped (employment was rising – more jobs) prices were going up. Likewise, if demand was high, prices were going up so you would
require more aggregate “Supply” so more employment was created. However, after the 80s, we found ourselves in a funny world. It was not any more like that.

Regardless if in Recession or Economic Growth, rising Unemployment, is an unavoidable effect. When in a growth cycle, GDP is based on the leverage of (K) through Technology, and in the reduction of (L), all in name of Productivity and Competitiveness.

Less people working, less people paying taxes, less people borning in the western world, more people getting older and older and older, naturally, with the help of medical sciences, the welfare State was finding himself in deep trouble. Coincidences or not so, Reagan in the western side of Atlantic and Tatcher in the Eastern side of it, shapped the new way for a new form a State that no one yet knows how to call it.

New acronomies appeared BRICs, PIGs and China. The yang waked up and, from 20 cent toys to high tech equipment worse millions of dollars, everything is produced there and does not matter where, it is always 50% or less than the local production of substitutes or equivalent goods including taxes and transportation.

Precarity, scarcity was the new trend. Is the new reality. If you unemploy locals because you import, well it won’t be for good, it will end one day, and precarity in China is well known and well feed. If you want to compete, then you have to start to inforce and impose locally the similar working conditions and rights (or the lack of them) as well as remuneration profiles that you find in China. So, the principles of “Free Market” are observed and “Free Market” still is the kingdom and Money its King. Jobs are diminishing, new ones are rare, and conditions are deteriorating. The old America is gone, the welfare Europe is in collapse. But, so far the market is recommended.

Poverty has gone global and Poverty’s Ecuador line runs strong towards the North Pole. The Poverty, thought only as part of the “Poor World”, also follows, perversely, Globalization, being the source of a whole range of social, order, security and citizenship dysfunctions. Unemployment is the source of the Old and New Misery. It undermines the dignity of the individuals and groups, being already inter-gerational fact.

The hyper-productivity, based on the reduction of (L), (regardless if automated or miserably mannumatted), it is self-destructive, by cooling down the “Demand” it requires for sustainability, so the need for new Political, Distributive, Economic, Social, Educational, Financial and Management paradigms did emerge.

Life, First Human Universal Right, only makes sense if structured around the "Dignity", implying social and individual Human Development. The first guarantor of "Dignity" is "Work." From this, everything else will derive. The new generations, through movements such as M12M, using globalization itself, claim that no longer want an existence in which the cycles of booms and recessions, are mixed, and in both, "unemployment" growth is a fact that ensures a present without opportunities and a “No Future” as well.

They are intelligent, deligent, clever, academically instructed people, hopeless and with time to think. They are analitical, and, eventually there was a question taking shape in a stronger and stronger manner – Economical Systems, Finantial Systems, Bank Systems, Debts, Money - aren’t they all just systems? Aren’t they just tools, means for an end? Isn’t that “end” an Objective, options, visions, scénarios politically defined and hierarquically shouldn’t these be the very top one? Shouldn’t be the tool adapted to the craft? Is it a political conscient option throwing at a global scale, masses of people to poverty and unemployment just to induce adjusments in some of our systems that are out of balance? Or shall we reshape whatever is required and adjust to carry on with well defined objectives arround human dignity and human development? Does it pay to bend an economical system to sustain a ditatorship? Looks that no
- Egypt, Libya, Syria, etc. Having freedom is enough to embrace poverty, lack of security, no hope in a future, all just in name of the free market, competition, open frontiers? Look that no, either. Mouvements started, they want an end in all means where freedom and justice are not observed, but, Mr Friedman in all his extension does not have a ride either. So, from Egypt to the OWS – Mouvement Occupy Wall Street..... The heart of neoliberalism. Transnacional Companies and the present Financial System - converted States in competitive states, begging states......... A dropp in a risk premium, or a better rating please...... Who make the rules? The ruled? Are we surrounded by willing less peolpe? Where are strong well willed politicians? Persons of Power......

They (the Mouvements) want new directions and paradigms. They require "Life" with "Freedom", but above all, with "Dignity." We have 40 millions poors in EU... This is the master pillar of the new movements that started in the Maghreb and, as a pandemy, did spread across the rest of the world. Will Paradigms Change, or the Mouvements, esponteanous Q.B., will change the world? Are we at the dawn of a new Era?? Yes we are, and we'll see what comes under the sun light and wich path Humanity will choose...