

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OR THE ECONOMICAL CONFLICT?

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It is hard to believe that today, in the 21st Century where the informational technology, the speed used by the news or data access, some confidential, are no longer a problem or are not done with the same difficulty as 70-80 years ago, it is not credible the declaration that justify the lack or the impossibility to react promptly on an world economical or financial disaster. It seems as a hidden concern of some countries or economical entities with global interests, which along with the risk of being affected by the economical chaotic movement, it stimulates and leads this phenomena knowing that in the end will rebuild the trust forward to the economical activity, will realize a valuable rise and will conquer new influential zones that in normal competition situation will be hard or impossible to be obtained.

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What we see today is a silent conflict or maybe an economical competition? I think that is a smother conflict by the uproar crusade of the good against the evil, a fight started and carried on with a lot of noise and efficiency after the September eleven events 2001. Although there are many victims, not only deceased and injured but also unemployed persons, victims of a non-profitable economy, people rejected by the society. The fundaments itself of the society are affected. The national or multinational industries are the main actors of this economical crusade where they fight with or without the complicity or the help of the states. In this conflict the white collars from the economy, which do not believe in anything and do not recognize any rule except that of the maximum profit, play upon the economical laws, do not respect any type of ethics and have only one religion: the spread of the influential areas. In this conflict everything is allowed ...at least, if we have to believe the recent official report of the French deputy Bernard Carayon⁶², who made a list with the newest techniques in this field. Presenting such an unfair practice proves, once more, that nothing can stop the economy warriors, especially when they are sustained by their own state.

In 1989, the end of the ideological conflict marks the unquestionable victory of the capitalism that was followed by its adoption by most of the states. Romania, Bulgaria, Poland ..., join France, Germany, the Great Britain.... In the end the entire world is agreeing with the geo-economical framework that will be govern the economical relations: the liberalism. Even China that is theoretical still communistic applies (wonderfully nowadays) over the market economy model. Only two countries, Cuba and North Korea (the most known and mediated) hanged on different motives. But how long? We should not forget that we live in the globalization era and that of ...change. And a change provokes panic....

But has the conflicts disappeared? Not at all. Au contraire. As a result of wakening the national movements, there will be more wars, some of them in the middle of Europe (the former Yugoslavia) or elsewhere in the world. What changes in a fundamental way is the nature of the

62 French parliamentary, born on 01.10.1957, UMP party member UMP (Union pour un mouvement populaire)

conflicts and of belligerents. Starting with 1989, the battles are no longer carried to conquer new territory or to obtain autonomy or independence the conflicts became especially economical. The main battles between states with the help of or for the profit of the multinational companies are before all commercial.

Economical conflict – a new concept ⁶³, is difficult to be defined. For most part of the international relation specialists, a war is only military. This is also the definition from the Larousse dictionary, 2004 edition: “ War means using the army force to resolve a conflict situation between two or more organized collectivities: clans, factions, states. It consists that each adversary tries to determine the other to obey its force”. Form this point of view will not longer apply this definition in case of economical conflicts. Although on the other hand this definition applies on an economical conflict. If a war means to impose to the other your own will then this economical variant follows the same objective. The problem is whether to obey the concurrence or to destroy it.

We shall see what international actor will impose its supremacy, a hegemony that express itself by knowing the characteristics values of this new frame of the free market, almost unanimous accepted after 1989. By “value” we understand all that is characteristic to a society model from the social system point of view, way of life, ethics, rights, customs, cultural identity.... It is not relevant to have the market as referential point taking into account the fact that from Beijing to Cairo, from Moscow to Washington, from Paris to Pretoria we have different visions of the world. The systems and the models of society differ very much. The market becomes global, but not it's values or its culture. “The world is finite but the diversity of approaching it is non finite.”

⁶⁴ The problem is which values will dominate in this geo-economical framework, and which states will be port flag but there is no other good vector then the economy to stimulate the citizens' behavior which unfortunately, most of the time, is reduced to the simple role of consumers. The globalization does not think, it is not something else, to paraphrase Heidegger⁶⁵, just only the desire of power, hidden by the mask of changing desire.

Beyond the necessity of a lexical reformulation some strongly denies the existence of an economical war. The philosopher and the magistrate Patrick Viveret consider that “the idea of the economic war is a pure invention”. ⁶⁶ It is not only but a forgery to determine the nations from the industrialized countries to accept and to swallow the ultra-liberalism pill and to scarify the social advantages on the burning altar of globalization. This analysis suffers from a fundamental error. To recognize the existence of an economical war means the opposite to offer the necessary means to resist and to maintain, as much as it can, its own social model of every country. This concept of economical war is the opposite of the liberal theories, which sustain that the exchanges and the commerce guaranteed the peace between people. It is fair enough but this situation remains available until the moment when something that you own or can obtain and offer to trade becomes the desire object of a customer who wants to become himself a seller for that “something”. If we look at the drama of the industrialized societies (colonization and world wars), it becomes very hard to let ourselves in the taking care of the pacifist virtues of the “docile commerce”. Auguste Comte⁶⁷ and Karl Marx believed both of them in “the industrial

⁶³ It is not entirely new. From the beginning of the 20th Century there were several books with this matter, such as the economical war book on peace term of the German writer S. Herzog, or Henri Hauser's on named German methods of economical expansion (Paris, Armand Colin, 1917) or Anton Zischka Japan in the world context (Paris, Payot, 1934)

⁶⁴ Dominique Wolton, *L'Autre Mondialisation*, Paris, 2004

⁶⁵ Martin Heidegger (26 September 1889 – 26 May 1976), German philosopher

⁶⁶ “La guere economique n'est pas une fatalite”, under the edition of Serge Cordellier, *La Mondialisation au dela des mythes*, Paris, La Decouverte, 2000

⁶⁷ Isidore Marie Auguste François Xavier Comte, 17 January 1798 – 5 September 1857, French philosopher one of the sociology founders. He introduced and explained the term altruism

sociability”. But Marx knew that the capitalism system logic would not allow the avoidance of the conflicts between nations. On the same line was situated Raymond Aron⁶⁸ who anticipated that as long as no transformational force will not be able to impose the peace and a correct partake of the world’s treasures, we shall continue to live in a “warlike peace”.⁶⁹

Parallel to these geo – strategically problems of the end of the 80’s, the world was liable to some other changes that will modify the rules of the international concurrences. From now on to compete does no longer mean to contribute, along with the others to obtain the same result, but to conquer as many markets as possible to neutralize and to ruin the competitors from the economical race. The information became the most efficient weapon of this unleashed concurrence. Along with the appearance of the new technology from the informational and communication field, the sensible point of an industry is moved from a product to the information that allows the conservation of the product competitiveness or its services. Moreover, this is not the most important type of information for the international competition. What matters the most is less tied up by the product or the service but more on the way of selling. The international economical competition is not winnable or less and less only by technological performances. The mere report price-quality does not always make the difference. Most of the time the competition can be won by knowing and preparing the place through the human factor before receiving the commercial proposal the capacity to determine and to set strategically targets, to stimulate the evolution and then to motivate all the possible means to determine to take a decision for the wanted purpose. There is no economical competition non-influenced direct and indirect by privates and public factors. States need new information to maintain the position on the international level and to help the national companies.

In an époque where the informational offer hugely increased, becoming the engine of this hyper-competition, the power belongs to the most informed one, at the given moment. The winners are those who manage to gather, to analyze and to synthesize quickly and coherent all the available information in their activity domain. Almost 90% of this informational stock is available due to the data base, mass media, specialized publications, colloquiums, forums... the last 10 % are considered to be the most important and sensible ones, which are obtained generally from closed sources and illegal. The cruelest battles between the international economic actors are on these 10%.

The “economical intelligence” concept breaks through at the beginning of the 90’s and it illustrates the changing of the international paradigm. After this new approach of the international commercial and politics relations we pass from the ideological war era to that of the power placements. Even if there is no official definition for the economical intelligence, let’s say that it is about those necessary techniques to protect, collect and analyze the susceptible information in order to help the world or company’s leaders to take the best decisions for their organization. In the middle of this concept: information.

Before becoming a commercial weapon, the information made the object of numerous international studies, the first domain being the military one. In the civil sector, especially in the commercial business, the information is the one of the most efficient to destabilize the opponent. There are many examples to illustrate this radicalization of the economical reports⁷⁰, whose consequences lies down over the social costs and social cohesion between states. Presently the economic war makes more victims than the assault of the international.

68 Raymond-Claude-Ferdinand Aron, 14 March 1905 — 17 October 1983, was a French philosopher, sociologist and political scientist

69 Raymond Aron, *Paix et guerre entre les nations*, Paris, Calman-Levy, 1984

70 Ali Laidi, *Les secrets de la guerre économique*, Paris, Seuil, 2004

The information is in the same time the stake and the object of the international economical competition. It becomes real VAT for industry or state. Each must protect their own informational territory and to know it as possible of the concurrencies one.

Defeated by abandonment the planned socialist economy ended on the forgotten things box of the history. The big conqueror of this historical battle is the market economy. Presently sustained by the globalization, the liberal economy seems to have no obstacle in front of it. Accepted by everyone, adored by some, constitutes the horizon, the final destination to go all of us. Though as the defeated command economy, the liberal one has its own myths. The most naive one: the invisible hand of the market, which can be enough to settle the commercial rapports. "Let the market to act and the economical success will be guaranteed," repeated by the liberals. Although, everyone can see that at the results level, there is a dimension problem. This rule has as basis a completely false postulate. As the invisible hand to act, it would be necessary that the rule of the free concurrence to be the same for everyone. Is it? Pure concurrence and perfect one does not exist! It is long time ago when the realist and serious economists buried it in honors given by its rank of big chimera.

If the perfect concurrence is a utopia neither the market can be real. It is parasite by all kinds of force that have nothing in common with the economical practice. Will Adam Smith himself really believed in the "invisible hand of the market" which governs the economical rapports? It is true that his thinking way is not based on this formula, which is rarely used in its books. Adam Smith considered being a mistake to let the economical agents, especially the merchants to perform by their own. On the contrary it is necessary for those to be controlled and to be imposed several restrictions. "Commerce which should be a unity feature, a friendship relation between nations, individuals, it became the cause to provoke the biggest discord and animosity. The ambition and the caprice of the kings and ministry were not all over the last Century more fatale for the Europe's serenity then the jealousy of the merchants and the fabricants. The violence and the injustice of those who rule the people are an old evil for which, knowing the human kind, I don't think that will be a cure. But the mediocre rapacity, monopoly spiritual of the merchants and the fabricants – which cannot and should not characterize the humans- even if it exists, it could be avoid to trouble the serenity of the people or of them." ⁷¹ Some economists think that this competitiveness is categorical ominous. Among them is John Nash ⁷² American mathematician and economist who won the Nobel price in 1994 for his studies on the theme of games theory.

There are numerous the situations ⁷³, which demonstrate the existence of tensionate relations between states, their economy, and multinational societies. Some understand before the others that can be allies politically speaking, remaining in the same time fierce on the economical level. It is the case of the United States, which wanted to be first by the beginning of the 90's even they have to use force for that. The September 11 day 2001 offered a huge pretext to involve more in others countries economical problems. On the motif of fight against terrorism, it tries to dominate the entire international transport and not only.

The economical war is bitter behind the scene but also in front of it. Customs barriers, authorized quantities, subventions for the national producers, support for export are so many forms of disguised protection. There are clear and visible signs of a real battle, which the nations perform between themselves. With the perspective of a international commerce almost without custom rights in the future, starting with 2015-2020, the economical battle is moving to the regulations

71 Adam Smith, *Avutia natiunilor*, Bucuretti, Întreprinderea poligrafică "13 December 1918", 1962

72 John Forbes Nash, Jr. (born June 13, 1928) is an American mathematician and economist whose works in game theory, differential geometry, and partial differential equations has provided insight into the forces that govern chance and events inside complex systems in daily life. His theories are still used today in market economics, computing, accounting and military theory.

73 Ali Laidi, *Les secrets de la guerre economique*, Paris, Seuil, 2004

field regarding the environment protection, food safety, minimal guarantees for those who work. These rules mean norms establishments in different domains: the resources control, the food safety, and the working children, union rights... in these conditions the commercial diplomacy must be careful that these new norms to not affect their own economy, but only to strike the economical dynamic of the concurrence. To be the best it is not important to produce you must know very well the market and the concurrence, protecting in the same time the strategically information. The most sensible domains in this confrontation are the assurances, the banks, the audit and the consultancy, which are the main consumers of information. The world competition is cruelest. The winners have been chosen between the most able once, those who manage to obtain the useful information before the others.

There are few countries, which prefer a force strategy to face the challenge regarding the economical security and economical information. The Great Britain and the Northern Countries with Suede as leader are very well developed in the economical espionage, while France is at the bottom of it. In Germany the problem of force is still taboo for the Germans to debate an increase of it. In Spain, Italy, Portugal, Belgium ... the problem is far away. In the same time, in the East Europe this aspect is almost inexistent because most of the new comers in the EU are satisfied by the Americans protection. Will these economical strategies mark the comeback of the Marxist domination of the economy over the policy? I believe not. The way in which the state are developing the economical strategies demonstrates, on the contrary, that the policy is that to lead and choose the egoist way of competition than the altruist and generous one of the cooperation. And so the globalization has the tendency to reduce itself, most of the time to a world market where the major powers are confronted. Beyond protecting the economical interests, each country fight to maintain its own socio-cultural model. The free market, far from gathering the people it can divide and lead those to the radical relations between them.

Although far from being a handicap the cultural diversity represents a great wealth. It is for the "human specie" as necessary as is the bio-diversity for all the living things," it is written on the Universal declaration regarding the cultural diversity adopted by the UNESCO in November the 2nd 2001. The main threaten that hovers over this diversity it is constituted by the economical hegemony of some states. Economy will remain the main enemy of the world's plurality as long as it will not be governed and dominated by the political conscience, which seems to be common for all the people. "The fundamental element is the incontestable interdependence between nations, which it not a guarantee for peace, as we want to believe, but it is mostly a guarantee for war: why? Because this interdependency between nations is an economical one and not a consensual and wanted one established at the political level; otherwise because it is the result of a technical or material process, and not a simultaneously one, political or rational."⁷⁴

....financial crisis, economical or maybe an economical conflict? No, I want to believe that the humanity path goes to collaboration and consent....or maybe not?

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74 Jacques Maritain (18 November 1882–28 April 1973) was a French Catholic philosopher. Raised as a Protestant, he converted to Catholicism in 1906. An author of more than 60 books, he is responsible for reviving St. Thomas Aquinas for modern times and is a prominent drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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