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THE CLIMAX OF GLOBALISATION¹

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Abstract

The article summarizes the benefits and shortcomings of globalization. Although so far this socio-economic system has had a generally upward trajectory, it can lead to entropy and the events that began in 2019 in Wuhan reinforce this assumption.

Is it natural to wonder what we are heading for in the future. As a possible solution, in this article, I suggest embracing the uncreated energies, which are diverse and unlimited, and the liturgical singing of the Orthodox Christian Church as an easy and efficient way to connect to these energies.

Keywords: *globalization; economic entropy; uncreated energies; deficiencies; order.*

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Introduction

Globalization is a reality that concerns both the economic and the social dimension. There are experts who consider that it follows a natural course of

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human development both economically [Dieterle, 2020] and socially [Robertson, 2014]. There are works in common literature, which claim that it provides a freedom that no individual state can ensure. [Soros, 2002]

As this kind of economy develops, it needs more and more resources also because the individual wants to access a higher standard of comfort. These economic processes cause entropy [Georgescu-Roegen, 1971] up until homogenizing the entire material universe.

The pandemic that began in 2019 highlights the need to address the culmination of globalization. Can this system continue without globalizing entropy or is it time for humanity to move to other perspectives?

To avoid losing diversity, it is necessary to be open to unlimited resources, such as uncreated energies. Only Eastern Christianity has the perception of these resources [Stăniloae, 1993], and the connection to them can satisfy the boundless thirst that is now directed towards the material and, implicitly, limited ones. The asceticism of the Orthodox Church keeps alive [Stăniloae, 1992] the possibility of connecting to these unlimited resources, even if many practise it quite formally. The liturgical song of the Orthodox Church is the one that contains the formation module for any person in order to connect to the uncreated energies, regardless of abilities and level of preparedness.

Contemporary science manages to discover something of the effectiveness of the ascetic-mystical feelings of Eastern Christianity [Ohsumi, 2016], which is something that can strengthen the interest of humanity to connect to such resources.

Controversies over Globalization

Works on the benefits of globalization have been written since the spring of 1776 [Smith, 2011] highlighting the efficiency of the free market as an invisible hand that regulates even social needs. Less than a hundred years later, in the autumn of 1867 [Marx, 1966], it became clear that this was a primitive accumulation and only changed feudal exploitation to capitalist exploitation. Starting with 1929, the great economic crisis begins and a new proposal appears in the economic literature. In the spring of 1936, [Keynes, 2009] proposes a minimal involvement of the state in running the economy, through investments in infrastructure. The Chicago School, through its principal representative [Friedman, 2009], less than sixty years later, reaffirms the values of globalist liberalism.

This cyclicity is highlighted by sociologists [Bădescu, 2011], but the periods seem to be shorter and shorter between one crisis and another than their expectations.



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Preventive measures for the spread of the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus triggered a sudden crisis, effects of other crises over a period of three years in such a situation being overthrown in three months. [Pochet, 2020]

The problem addressed in this article is: has globalization come to an end or is it preparing for a new culmination? In academic studies that have looked closely at globalization trends, many have understood the importance of cultural inclinations in economic processes. [Georgescu-Roegen, 2006]

The academic world in Western Europe, after the fall of Constantinople, developed on the idea that we do not perceive reality, but mental images that we represent. [Puhalo, 2015] To avoid global entropy, in the article, I suggest a connection to unlimited energies, and the easiest way is through liturgical singing. [Saint Basil the Great, 1986]

The Consequences of Globalization

The benefits

Globalization definitely increases the comfort of the individual. Regardless of the season, you can benefit from a fruit, without waiting for the natural ripening time for the geographical hemisphere in which you are. The information arrives very quickly, everything being at a click away. The quality of some information is attested by the global systems, a specialized journal is well appreciated if it is attested in several international databases. Globalization also ensures a freedom of movement of the individual and, implicitly, of the labour force. What we have mentioned in this paragraph increases the desire for consumption and implicitly the profit in the global economy. In order to maintain consumption, producers lower prices and diversify the usefulness of products. All these premises make globalization desirable.

An ardent supporter of globalism, Soros says that the benefits outweigh the costs, the problem remains that those who win should reward those who lose without fear that they risk not going profitably ahead. Global trade produces undeniable advantages, but there are also injured parties, and in order to compensate the injured parties, the World Trade Organization should set rules that should also be respected by the winners. [Soros, 2020]

Ethical errors

Unfortunately, the consequences of globalization are not only positive. The global economy accentuates the gap between the rich and the poor.



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The big concerns, which support globalism through their economic policies, seek to conquer as much of the market as possible through methods that are not always ethical. Many pharmaceutical companies offer more and more luxurious holidays to pharmacists who reach higher and higher sales by recommending the products of a certain manufacturer, and the product, in the happiest case, is only more expensive than another with the same effect is. Many companies in the automotive industry (and not only) sometimes receive government tenders, or markets, by offering people with decision-making power various gifts. In order to maximize profits, double standard products have emerged, with global trade taking advantage of the legislative vacuum of some states regarding quality control. There were situations in which, in order to remain the market leader, a car company falsified the software of some exhaust fumes tests.

Schermerhorn observes objectively that illegal practices are used to optimize profits. Companies that work for multinational companies to win the tender for the contract offer very low production costs. These very low costs have been obtained, sometimes using young people who are employed as adults. However, we more often meet adult employees who work in precarious, unhealthy working conditions and with almost non-existent labour protection measures. Even in states with a high standard of economic development, we find emigrants accommodated in very small spaces, in primitive conditions and all this for a low cost of the finished product.

COVID 19 Pandemic

Biological difficulties

Globalization involves a movement of goods and people ideally without borders. This spirit has been at the root of pandemics since 1347, when on the Silk Road along with traders came the bubonic plague. The localities that monitored the traders for forty days before allowing them and their products to enter the market to see if they were contaminated escaped this epidemic.

The ethical issues presented in the previous section create socio-economic and environmental issues that facilitate the emergence of viruses from wild animals to humans. Between 1940 and 2004, 335 emerging infectious diseases were found. [Jones *et al.*, 2008] Poor working conditions in the seafood market in Wuhan, China have unleashed contamination with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. [Ahmad *et al.*, 2020] Both wild and domestic animals were traded in this market. The storage spaces of these creatures are small and with minimal veterinary assistance. Workers received relatively low incomes that did not create the premises for medical prophylaxis.



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Specialist studies have hypothesized that it has been possible to cleave this virus from wild animals to humans through Malaysian pangolin illegally imported into China. [Lam *et al.*, 2020] The pleasant taste of the meat of this animal developed a wide traffic determined by the high price per kg, reaching even up to 100 US dollars.

Economic difficulties

Researcher Pochet, of the Interuniversity Research Centre on Globalization and Labour (CRIM Montreal), finds that the economic effects of the pandemic that still plague humanity will linger for a long time. The basic pillars of the European Union destabilized in three months, which in other crises happened in three years:

- the single market and freedom of movement;
- the euro and the Stability and Growth Plan (SGP);
- competition and state aid.

The analysis of the Institute of National Economy of the Romanian Academy shows the effects of this pandemic on the global economy. Isolation measures, as protection against the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, have caused a clear contraction of the world economy. In the chain, as in a domino game, the workforce was affected in an overwhelming percentage, over 80%. Isolation has reduced the appetite for consumption, especially in developed countries, a situation that will mainly affect developing countries, which, as a whole, will lose over 800 billion USD. [Zaman *et al.*, 2020]

The pandemic crisis is not cyclical, but a public health one that has led to the closure of economic agents, through draconian measures taken to reduce the epidemiological effects. [Pop *et al.*, 2020] So this new crisis has rapidly destabilized the global economy and the effects will hardly disappear or is it likely that this is the final culmination of globalization?

Social difficulties

The pandemic crisis has effects on several levels, but we will still devote a few lines to the social deficiencies it created, because society is the one that can either support globalization, or not.

The “#StayatHome” campaign has created psychological problems for many social groups. Support services for victims of domestic violence reported an increase in requests for help, while at the same time calls for the UK’s national abuse line increased by over 60%. [Mohan, 2020]



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The quality of life of the vast majority of individuals is affected by the uncertain future, the vision of trust in the “better” being replaced by concern for the risks that are to be foreseen for the future. With the economic decline and rising unemployment, there will be a decrease in the real income of the vast majority of the population, which will lead to a lack of desire for tourist services and not only. [Zamfir, 2020]

A Possible Solution

Globalization promotes the well-being of the majority of individuals on the planet. In the current context and the perspective of the above, it is certain that not only social welfare is affected, but also the biological state, even the economic one.

What has been omitted from the goal of globalization is Christianity. Weber asserted that Protestant ethics underlies capitalism. The father of economic liberalism also took the following view into consideration – a social ethic of good manners, of balanced culprit merit, of the role of conscience, of morality enhanced by traditions, of happiness springing from virtue. [Smith, 2017]

Uncreated energies

Christianity promotes a divine way of life communicated by God himself who has materialized in a human body – Jesus Christ. After the Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus Christ received new energies, this being the opportunity open to any human being. This opportunity is accessed when, being alive biologically, the individual passes from the created works to the uncreated ones, at the level of the unlimited divine energies. [Stăniloae, 1992]

This profound teaching of faith is given to the common man through liturgical singing. When sung, the message ensures the opportunity for the listener to meditate on it and assimilate it. In order for the audience to be able to focus for a longer duration, the moments of utterance are alternated with those of singing, as well as many other well-polished techniques of more than two thousand years.

Biological order

The perception of connectivity, with these uncreated energies, with the distinction between the Divine Being and the divine energies, was preserved only by Orthodox Christianity. For more than two thousand years, in this religious area, the connection between the biological and the spiritual has also been highlighted, which is influenced both upwards and downwards. In the world of medical sciences,



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correlations have only recently been made between psychological and physiological factors. [Alexander, 2008]

What Christianity has practiced for many centuries, the medical world supported in 2016. It can lead to the resurrection of neural cells and the health of those with incurable diseases by abandoning the energies created by fasting (starvation, autophagy) and connecting with the uncreated ones that restore the biological order. [Ohsumi, 2016]

Economic order

The need for more cannot be met by the economic or material world, because they are finite. No matter how rich a man is, he wants to acquire new economic goods. This thirst is planted in us by God himself, but it can be fulfilled only in communion with the unlimited, with the energies that have no limits.

Communion with uncreated energies brings us to the “primary matrix of all the results of human labour, benefiting from the potential capacities of the knowledge and creativity of the human mind that give them added value”. [Pop, 2009]

Sociological order

The difficulties presented above have been able to reach the magnitude we are experiencing also because the vocabulary has been beautified to put the conscience to sleep. Linguistically, experiencing the reversed path, we realize that, in fact, comfort is to support comfort and more explicitly laziness. The path from the “flesh” of words to their “soul” is well concerted by the Orthodox Christian liturgical song and creates the premises for the discovery of the other in its perennial dimensions. [Schmemmann, 1993] Aware of this aspect, we start our personal order as well as our connection with the other.

The connection between social and personal, even biochemical, is, by the gift of God, also discovered by the scientific world. Social stress causes inflammation [Slavich *et al.*, 2010], so social balance brings personal stability.

Conclusions

Considering all of the above, it is obvious that globalization has benefits as well as shortcomings. Since the events of 2019 in Wuhan, globalization has begun a new decline. The effects of the pandemic crisis, which cannot be appreciated yet, will certainly bring humanity to reflections regarding the socio-economic approach.



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Such reflections will also have as a research topic the answer to the question: can the deficiencies of globalization be corrected? Or, from this point on, will it start another way?

In this sense, we proposed as a possible solution the connection of humanity to uncreated energies that have no limits (such as created ones). For easy access, an appropriate method is the liturgical singing of the Orthodox Christian Church. Thus, the thirst for more, currently directed towards the economic and material, which is finite, will be able to be satisfied by the divine infinite.

A closer look is needed in future research to better estimate the benefits that such a trajectory could bring to humanity. A holistic research of humanity, from which the possibility of communion with the divinity through uncreated energies cannot be excluded, is possible to offer happy solutions to many problems that have not yet been solved.

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