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The Rise Of A New World Order and The Role Of Higher Education

Yeni Küresel Düzenin Yükselişi Ve Yüksek Öğretimin Rolü

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to judge and/or interpret the consequences of some great political and socio-economic changes that have taken place in our world within the last few decades.

Methodology: It is asserted if all these changes are put together and examined from a systems approach viewpoint, one can realize that some gigantic trends are taking place in our world, and that these trends have been shaping up a new world order in the 21st century step by step.

Findings: Rather than the haphazard progress of the rise of the new world order, the support and contribution of higher education institutions is recommended. Higher education can play an important role in supporting the globalization process in the right direction, and the study will explain what it can do for this.

Implications: The new world of the 21st century will be a single globe, where pluralistic democracy and competitive market economy are complementing each other, and that all human beings are to be considered as equal and free global citizens of this world. This process is significantly being accelerated by computerized technologies. It is thought that in such a global world order, closer relations can be developed and cooperation will be easier as doctrinal ideologies among countries disappear and countries have much more common political and economic values.

Limitations: In the study, there is no analysis was made at the country level to examine existing cultural differences, and the issues were discussed only from a global perspective.

Keywords: Globalization, System Approach, Multicultural education.

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Özet

Amaç: Bu makalenin amacı son elli yılda dünyamızda meydana gelen bazı büyük siyasi ve sosyo-ekonomik değişimlerin sonuçlarını yargılamak ve/veya yorumlamaktır.

Yöntem: Tüm süreçteki değişimler bir araya getirilip dünyamızda çok büyük değişimlerin yaşandığının ve bu değişimlerin 21. yüzyılda adım adım yeni bir dünya düzenini şekillendirdiği fark edebilmek/ettirebilmek ancak sistem yaklaşımıyla mümkün olabilecektir.

Bulgular: 21. yüzyılın yeni dünyası, çoğulcu demokrasi ile rekabetçi piyasa ekonomisinin birbirini tamamladığı, tüm insanların bu dünyanın eşit ve özgür küresel vatandaşları olarak kabul edildiği tek bir dünya olacaktır. Bu süreç bilgisayar teknolojileri sayesinde önemli ölçüde hızlanmaktadır. Böyle küresel bir dünya düzeninde ülkeler arasında doktriner ideolojilerin ortadan kalkması ve ülkelerin çok daha fazla ortak siyasi ve ekonomik değere sahip olması nedeniyle daha yakın ilişkiler geliştirilebileceği ve daha kolay iş birliği yapılacağı düşünülmektedir.

Sonuç ve Katkıları: Yeni dünya düzeninin yükselme sürecinin gelişigüzel ilerlemesi yerine yükseköğretim kurumlarının destek ve katkısı önerilmektedir. Yükseköğretim, küreselleşme sürecinin doğru yönde desteklenmesinde önemli bir rol oynayabilir ve çalışmada bunun için neler yapabileceği anlatılacaktır.

Sınırlılıklar: Çalışmada mevcut kültürel farklılıkları inceleyecek şekilde ülke düzeyinde inceleme yapılmamış, meseleler yalnızca küresel perspektiften ele alınmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Küreselleşme, Sistem Yaklaşımı, Çok kültürlü eğitim.

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1. Introduction: Factors Leading to a New World Order

As it is clear to everyone, tremendous changes have taken place in our world within the last few decades. To name just a few of them so as to recall:

- The collapse of the former Soviet Union and the emergence of many new independent states,
- The breakdown of the Berlin Wall and the unification of East and West Germany,
- The separation of the Czech and Slovak Republics,
- The partition of the former Republic of Yugoslavia,
- The unification of almost all major European economies through the idea of forming the European Union,
- The integration of some major world economies in North America and Asia via NAFTA and APEC, respectively,

- The unforeseen huge effect of China on the world trade, as well as her membership to the World Trade Organization,
- The hopes for the once so-called "Arabic Spring" and the chaos in the Middle East thereafter, etc.

If all these changes and developments are put together and examined in a systematic manner, one can realize that some gigantic trends beyond mega trends are taking place in our world and that these trends, even though some are not aware of them, have been shaping up a new world order in the 21st century step by step. It is not future telling to state that the world of the years 2000's will be based on these gigantic trends and that a new world order has been emerging on the foundation and conditions created by these trends. These gigantic trends that are shaping up a new world order in the 21st century are briefly explained as given below.

1.1 Universal Acceptance of Political Freedom of Individuals

Although it has cost lots of individuals' lives throughout the history of politics and political development, the political ideology that required individuals to accept unquestioningly and obey unconditionally the rules and regulations established by their governments or states has been replaced by a new political thought. This universal political thought believes in the political freedom of individuals in terms of the freedoms of opinion, expression, and conscience. This change in the political thought and/or ideology is not something new. It has been stated for centuries by the proponents of pluralistic democracy that people should freely express their thoughts and opinions and that not are oppressed by the state. However, what is new is the acceptance and appreciation of this democratic thought by almost the whole world with few exceptions as a consequence of the changes and developments mentioned earlier. That is to say that in order to grasp and appreciate these democratic values and ideas, people of many countries had to wait until the aforementioned changes and developments took place.

In brief, people all over the world presently believe firmly that no country or state in the world should have a right to inculcate its political ideology so as to shape the minds of its people. It is also believed that all human beings are dignified and honorable individuals who have the political freedom in terms of what to think and to express as well as what to believe in. Therefore, the state, which is envisaged as the organized power of the society, has to create a politically and socially free environment providing equal opportunity for its people to realize their personalities and ideals through their own endeavors and efforts. That is, the state is not a ruler with absolute power and an authority exercising its doctrinaire ideology over its people. On the contrary, the state is considered a servant to serve its people and to protect their lives and individual freedoms (Sariaslan, 2013).

Consequently, as an organized power of a society or a country, the state has also to respect the political freedom of its people and tolerate the differences in their opinions and beliefs as well as to preserve human rights in the society, just like every individual has to do. In other words, human beings all over the world are politically free individuals such that human rights have priority even over a nation's or a state's sovereignty right. That is to say that the violation of human rights in a country is not

considered the internal affairs of that country any more. For example, during the uprising in Syria that started on March 15, 2011 all major countries of the world declared that "Bashar Assad, the President of Syria, should resign and step aside". No one country said that "it is the internal affairs of the Syrian state".

Notwithstanding the fact that the preservation of democratic values in particular and democracy in general is not a new phenomenon, "the universalization of a contemporary and pluralistic democracy based on human rights and political freedom as well as the superiority of law and justice" is, however, a new trend which has gained impetus within the last three decades, more specifically after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Therefore, one may say that the political order of the world in the 21st century will be such that individuals all over the world will fully enjoy their political freedoms, sooner or later.

1.2 General Consent on Economic Freedom of Individuals

The tendency of universally accepting and believing in the political freedom of individuals has further accelerated the economic freedom of individuals. The market mechanism, which is based on individual ownership and entrepreneurial skills, is presently world-wide accepted and practiced in almost all economies of the world with the exception of North Korea. Those countries that have not yet established the market mechanism with all required rules and institutions are trying hard to deregulate their economies and to privatize their state-owned enterprises. The simple reason for this is that the market mechanism or the market economy that depends on private ownership and individual entrepreneurship has proved to be the most efficient way of allocating and utilizing scarce resources of nations, as opposed to the state owned or controlled economies which have failed to do so. This fact has been asserted for years and proved correct after the collapse of the economies of the former Soviet Union (labeled as USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). In fact, there is nothing new about this matter either.

However, what is actually new about this subject is the fact that the market economy is no longer taken as a political doctrinaire ideology, as it might be associated with the classical or wild capitalism of the "laissez-faire laissez passer" period. The market economy as it is envisaged presently is rather a mechanism or a system that is based on the human nature as well as on the economic freedom of individuals which is closely related to their political freedom. Consumer protection and preserving competition through all the required rules and institutions are essential components of this economic mechanism or system. Accordingly, the role of the state is not to take over or take part in economic activities but to establish and observe all the required institutions and regulations in order to preserve competition in the economy and protect consumer rights (Sariaslan, 2013).

The universal acceptance of, or the general consent on the efficiency of the competitive market economy in allocating and utilizing limited resources should not be taken as the victory of the classical capitalist economic system over the socialist or communist economic system. In fact, they both lost. It is a fact that the socialist economic system failed and collapsed as seen in the case of the former Soviet Union. However, it had significantly affected classical capitalist economic system to be

transformed into a more socialized capitalist economic system. That is to say, a competitive market economy with all required rules and necessary institutions established to protect consumers and preserve competition in the economic system, not to mention the legal rights and rules provided for working life.

Needless to say that this generally agreed idea concerning the competitive market economy and the economic freedom of individuals indicates a universal trend that is determining the economic order of the world in the 21st century, that is, a worldwide competitive market economy. This universal trend with respect to the world economy is not a modification of the so-called Western Imperialism, as it is usually asserted against the globalization process as an essential criticism. Nevertheless, from the viewpoints of developing countries, it is worth to discuss that the present practice of globalization in terms of financial and economic activities seems to be leading to an unfair competition in the world economy (Stiglitz, 2019a). However, this would be overcome as developing countries grasp the idea of the globalization process and adapt to its requirements as a gigantic world process that no one can stop or even slow it down. Indeed, as indicated above, globalization is a natural result of the ongoing gigantic changes taking place in our new era called the 21st century. Therefore, there is no way to escape it, except to obey its rules and requirements. Otherwise, those countries would not be integrated with the world economy and stay as peripheral states.

1.3 Enhancement in Brain Power, Individual Creativity and Entrepreneurial Skills

There are few inventions in the history of mankind that have changed every facet of social and economic lives of all societies and that have integrated the economic activities in the world as computers have done today. Just as the steam engine opened up an era called Industrial Revolution, the electronic computer has paved the way to a new revolution named Information and/or Telecommunication Revolution. A revolution which is affecting in an unprecedented manner every scientific discipline as well as all societies, organizations, business firms and people in the whole world. Eventually, the computer-based technology has accelerated the transformation of the Industrial Society into an Information Society, where individuals are required to know not more but to be more creative. The reasoning for individuals to be more creative rather than to know more is quite simple: The computer based information technology has enabled individuals to store, process, and retrieve as much data and information as they need. This information opportunity provides an additional brain power for the individuals of the competitive world economy. Accordingly, then, what is expected of them is to take advantage of this information opportunity or brain power and use their wisdom and creativity to find out new ways of solving problems for making the life easier.

Therefore, it could easily be stated that economic and technological development of the future years will be on the shoulders of those individuals who use their creativity and entrepreneurial skills by taking advantage of the "brain power" provided by the information technology. Needless to state that, in order to reach a desired level of economic development in such a competitive market economy, countries, societies, and institutions will try to do their best to establish a social

environment where the creativity and entrepreneurial skills of their individuals are fostered. This, in turn, would imply that the socio-technical order of the world in the 21st century will heavily depend on digital or computerized technologies that foster creativity and entrepreneurial skills of individuals. Accordingly, societies or countries will need to form an adequate socio-technical environment so as to support their citizens to develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills. Hasten to add that the so-called information society with all digital technologies provided is the basic cradle for such an environment and further that the globalization process itself pushes up individuals to use information technologies to realize their ideals (Skare and Soriano, 2021) (GFMA and PcW, March 2019).

2. The Emergence of a New World Order

Consequently, these three gigantic trends that were explained so far, namely;

- The universalization of a contemporary and pluralistic democracy based on human rights and the superiority of law and justice (i.e., a democratic political system),
- The worldwide consent on the efficiency of the competitive market economy based on economic freedom and entrepreneurial skills of individuals (i.e., a competitive economic system),
- The development of computer-based technologies and the resultant information society that foster the brain power and creativity of individuals (i.e., a creative socio-technical system),

If all these are put together with a systems approach viewpoint, one can easily see that a new world order with its clearly defined political, economic, and socio-technical subsystems has been formed in the 21st century. Within this new world all individuals will be politically and economically free citizens of the global world, where individual creativity and entrepreneurial skills are fostered as the essential determinants of the economic and social development. In other words, the world of the 21st century will be a single globe, where pluralistic democracy and competitive market economy are complementing each other, and that all human beings are to be considered as the global citizens of this world. This is not a far sighted goal. It is already on the way and will eventually happen as the traditional barriers in the minds of politicians in some countries are removed, although it will not be an easy task.

Consequently, as countries become more and more democratic in terms of preserving democratic values and believe in the superiority of law and justice, and that national economic systems function according to the determined rules of a competitive market economy where entrepreneurial freedom and competition is preserved; countries will develop close relations and cooperate easily, since doctrinaire ideologies among nations are vanishing and that countries have much more political and economic values in common. In fact, this convergence on political and economic values has led some countries to unite or integrate their economies in order to increase the competitiveness of their economies, as seen in the case of EU, NAFTA, and APEC, not to mention the increasing number of free trade agreements among various nations.

No doubt that this phenomenal trend of cooperation and integration of world economies and/or unification of some countries is essentially the result of the universal acceptance of political and economic freedoms of individuals in all nations as well as the efforts of creative entrepreneurs. This process which has been called globalization is significantly being accelerated by computerized technologies which have made the distance between locations meaningless and that increased the speed of business transactions tremendously (Stiglitz, 2019b). This new world order which is envisaged as a global system indicates that the humanity is entering into a new era labeled as information society, or information revolution following the era of industrial revolution.

In such a globalized world, business transactions have become similar and, thus, business is done in the same manner in almost all countries. Entrepreneurs and businessmen make their investment decisions by taking into account the potential of international markets, since their national and/or local markets have become export markets and that the flow of goods and capital have gone beyond national boundaries without any political problem (Hill and Hernandez-Requejo 2011). It could be further indicated that the globalization of economic activities will be even further accelerated by the practice of global electronic trade whose volume is presently estimated to be around 5 trillion US dollars, representing about 25% of global trade (OECD, 2023). Additionally, in daily business life the concepts like multi-national corporations, foreign capital, foreign investments, etc. are being replaced by concepts such as multi-domestic corporations, international capital, and global investments.

Accordingly, as we witnessed today, the flows of funds, capital, and goods have surpassed the physical boundaries of all countries without any hesitation and any problem at all, and thus, enormous amounts of global funds and capital spread all over the world in an unprecedented manner (World Bank, 2019). This, in turn, has accelerated the integration and unification of financial markets as we have observed recently in those cases of the merging activities of European and US stock exchanges. For instance, the stock exchanges of Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Lisbon merged in 2001 to form the stock market called Euronext. Later on, Euronext merged with the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). What is interesting, several years later in February 2011, this merger of Euronext-NYSE merged with Deutsche Börse of Germany (Slimane, 2012). It is not future telling that merging and/or unification of international stock exchanges and capital markets is an on-going process, and that it would be completed soon (Veron and Wolff, 2016).

Furthermore, the initiative taken by ten well known world exchanges to form a Global Equity Market (GEM) through which blue-chip shares of large global firms are to be traded all over the world, as well as the intention of forming a single world security market (WASDAQ) or a single World Stock Exchange (WSE) that enables trading 24 hours world-wide are being discussed in the world capital market circles recently. If we take into account that globalization is, indeed, a business-driven phenomenon, it can easily be inferred that the integration of world financial markets in particular and economies in general will lead to a single world market, where economic systems of the countries of the world are to be globally interdependent (Wild, Wild, and Han 2010). That is, a global world where no country is self-sufficient anymore, but all are

dependent on each other in terms of technology, market, financial resources, production inputs, etc.

3. The Role of Higher Education in the Process of Globalization

Despite the fact that the globalization process is in progress and that the globalization of financial and economic activities has been partially achieved, there is still a long way to go for having a really globalized single world order (Stiglitz 2019a). With the exception of the European Union which is considered as a good step towards a global world, the pace of the globalization process is hindered by cultural differences mostly emanating from nationalistic feelings and religious beliefs, such as the loss of national sovereignty and weakening of their religious values. Even though the so-called breakdown of the Berlin Wall has provided an environment to induce the globalization of economic activities and dissemination of political ideals; however, the walls in the minds of some people are slowing down the pace of the globalization of political and economic activities to reach to an expected level. Unfortunately, removing these walls is much harder and will take long time since these walls are built in the heads of people on the ground of cultural differences.

Therefore, the only way to start breaking down these social and cultural walls in the minds of people is education in general and higher education in specific. Indeed, education is the most reliable and efficient way of changing human behaviors. No doubt, higher education institutions also have an important function to raise manpower that would most likely lead and administer societies, institutions, and corporations towards some desired social, economic, and political objectives (Suarez-Orozco and Qin-Hilliard, 2004). As such, higher education can play a significant role in underpinning the globalization process in the right direction to move towards reaching its political, economic, and technical objectives as desired.

However, it hastens to be added that this is not inculcating graduates of higher educational institutions with the ideas of globalization, rather it is aimed at raising individuals that would discuss and challenge political, social, and economic practices of the existing world to create a better one, even changing the direction of the globalization process, if possible. That is to say, as indicated earlier, globalization is a gigantic world process that no one can stop or even slow it down since it is a natural result of the ongoing gigantic changes taking place in our new era called the 21st century. In other words, globalization is not just the free flows of goods, capital, and money across countries, as it is often perceived in the narrower sense of the term. On the contrary, it has very important political, social, and technical aspects as indicated above.

Therefore, there is no way to escape the process of globalization, except to obey its rules and requirements. Accordingly, rather than going through the process haphazardly, higher educational institutions and their graduates would develop scientific ways and approaches to deal with the process of globalization rationally. "The Oxford Handbook of Education and Globalization" might be mentioned just a good example of what higher education institutions could do (Paola, Dumay, Magnez, and Behrend, 2023).

Higher education may realize at least four important functions in the process of globalization as follows:

- Higher educational institutions through their various courses, educational programs, and social activities may promote universal trends and values of the global world in terms of ideals of pluralistic democracy, principles of competitive market economies based on “free trade and fair trade” slogan, creative entrepreneurship, and the world as a village for all.

- Furthermore, higher educational institutions, especially universities, may design undergraduate or graduate courses or even educational programs to study various dimensions of globalization and provide opportunities for those who would like to grasp the conceptual and theoretical aspects the process. As a result, there would be many higher education graduates who are aware of the trends shaping up our world of the 21st century and who would take responsibility in managing institutions, corporations, and business firms towards global objectives. In other words, the role of higher educational institutions has to be modified so as to meet the needs of a global world (Bottery, 2006).

- Universities may conduct or lead research studies to examine the effects of globalization process and develop alternative approaches to deal with adverse effects of it, especially those concerning developing countries. It is usually asserted that globalization functions against the benefits of developing countries in the sense that those countries do not have the same level of industrialization to compete with the developed countries when borders are removed. Accordingly, as alleged by its opponents, in an era where “free trade and fair trade” is promoted through the globalization process; however, the process may not function fair because developing countries cannot compete on equal footing. Consequently, the globalization process may lead developing countries to refrain from industrialization and, thus, leads to high rates of unemployment as discussed in the literature on the subject from different aspects (Hahn and Narjoko, 2013). Eventually, those developing countries may become export markets for the developed ones. Therefore, universities may find out ways through their research activities to deal with such criticism.

- Higher educational institutions, particularly universities, should design and implement, what is called “multicultural education” programs, which aims at raising university graduates equipped with necessary information, knowledge, behavior, and skills to communicate, interact, and deal effectively with people from diverse groups, cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities. Multicultural education is based on the ideals of the human dignity and equality of all people as acknowledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations. Thus, multicultural education should be emphasized to foster relations between peoples of diverse cultures.

Consequently, the multicultural education aims at raising graduates of higher educational institutions to carry out successfully their responsibilities in a multicultural global world so that the global world would be a peaceful place, where different cultures, religions, and civilizations coexist side by side. The educational exchange programs and intercultural studies abroad, as envisaged by The Bologna Declaration (June 1999) and The Copenhagen Declaration (November 2002) of the European Union (EU), may be considered as positive steps towards multicultural education

programs. Exchange programs are carried out at three levels called student, faculty, and activity exchange programs (Varol, Borat, and Ceviz, 2013).

Research and Publication Ethics Statement

The authors declare that ethical rules are followed in all preparation processes of this study. In case of detection of a contrary situation, Journal of Commercial Sciences has no responsibility and all responsibility belongs to the authors of the study. This study does not require ethics committee approval.

Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Beyanı

Bu çalışmanın tüm hazırlanma süreçlerinde etik kurallara uyulduğunu yazarlar beyan eder. Aksi bir durumun tespiti halinde Ticari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisinin hiçbir sorumluluğu olmayıp, tüm sorumluluk çalışmanın yazarlarına aittir. Bu çalışma etik kurul izni gerektirmemektedir.

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