

INTRODUCTION – SINKING THE DARK AGE

“We should be as water, which is lower than all things yet stronger even than the rocks.” Oglala Sioux

Philosophy in ancient days was meant to be a cultivation of wisdom. In this our Third Millennium it has become but a sorry ship of fools. Theology engendered the quest for the Divine. Nowadays it has often degenerated into a narrow repetition of dead letters and creeds, if not the outright promulgation of atheism. Psychology was man's search for meaning. Is it today nothing but a drapery for suicidal senselessness and nihilism. The term 'political' of political science and politics once upon a time, when every one was meant to live happily ever after, originally referred to prudence while today it mostly designates the absence of it. Law and the science of jurisprudence had justice as its basis and ultimate arbiter. Today it more often than not badly camouflages a playground for outright outlaws and lawlessness. Biology was conceived as the science of life, as biotechnology, genetics, and genomics on the other hand it has apparently become the whetting stone of myriad Dr. Frankensteins. Medicine in its practical application over large stretches has become the science of death or at most an unfeeling, narrow-minded life-long euthanasia or procrastination of death. Bioethics should more appropriately in most cases be called “bio-profits”. Aesthetics used to be the knowledge and pursuit of the beautiful. It has hence become the proclamation of the ugly! Economics was conceived as the science of the generation of the wealth of nations, it has, alas, become the science of global poverty – not to say poverty globalization!

This eerie and devastating reversal of first intentions and original programs in man's pursuit of Truth and Knowledge is not only deeply disconcerting, it may well and literally kill all of us before our natural life-span of humanity has the chance to run its course in the long run. Speaking in full earnest who can conceive of a mother worse or as bad as the kind of futuristic Dr. Mengeles and Eichmanns who just loom around the corner behind the test-tubes of bio-engineering? The mother's first objective is love, protection, and compassion for the child. The lab scientist who is to replace her prides himself of an objective distance to the object and end of his study. Compassion and all fundamental qualities of Humanism are factored out of the equation at the outset!

If philosophy is made by fools; theology, by devils; psychology, not just by head shrinks but rather by basket-cases, cranks, and psychopaths; politics and political science, by handlers, spin doctors, and manipulators devoid even of the most

common of sense; law by flunkeys and sycophants; biology, by henchmen and hatchet men; esthetics, by instigators of the non-esthetical; and economics, by poverty-mongers why bother with all this in the first place?

The reasons for this turning upside down and inside out of not just departments of knowledge but worlds of application may be found in a not so distant path of our history:

1492 – Columbus actually did not fall off the earthly disc as predicted by the keepers of the grail of knowledge collected up to that date. He had just rung the death knell on the Middle Ages. They were the “Dark Ages” for us, not without reason if we reasonably keep in mind that a future age may well look upon our war-torn and poverty-ridden centuries we pride ourselves to call ‘enlightened’ as a Greater Dark Age.

After the sacking of Rome, 410 C.E., by the *furor Teutonicus*, other empires smaller than the Roman tried to assert themselves for many centuries in various parts of its former territories and beyond. The Catholic Church and the steadholder of St. Peter’s chair ruled the spiritual aspirations of man while a feudal lord ruled over their worldly needs and protections. If a feudal lord had managed well the coalition-building of other lords and succeeded in putting himself at their head, he was called king. The feudal age has thus been called the rule of the warrior. Not entirely without reason.

In the lawlessness reigning in most parts of the recorded world in the interregnum between Rome and the Renaissance all manner of robbers, murderers and ‘land pirates’ were trying to leech off the work of the farmer and the common man. Why work if you can simply murder some one with impunity, rape and kill his family and farmhands, or make them your serfs, take all his possessions, slash and burn and devastate all that’s left of his property and live merrily ever after?

It was a rough age indeed, communication was nearly nought and the fire and sword of petty chieftains ruled who were going after even pettier and more barbaric gratifications. Not all of them though were entirely without a warrior’s ethos and code of honor. The warrior’s dharma was simple: protect the weak from the transgressions of the overbearing and uphold the law against the unjust. So in the wake of marauding hordes of the brothers of Attila the Hun, there came men, skilled at arms and versed in the science of war who offered their services to small farmers and hardworking landholders. It was a simple deal: I protect your life and you give me a just share of your food and shelter. The more successful the skills of the warrior caste the more they rose in the esteem of the common

people and the more they were elevated with special gifts and with the ruling of the strongholds and fortresses which overlooked the area to be protected from a higher vantage point.

Physical elevation in time and usage became psychological: the warrior was looked upon as "noble"; overlords and kings, or the warrior's warriors were sometimes looked upon as 'divine'. Some of these thus ennobled stayed levelheaded and on a par with the people, the majority alas, abused their position and arrogantly exploited the people in turn. Beelzebub had driven out the Devil and now he reigned. The feudal age was born and it rapidly grew ever darker.

All this came to an end with Columbus daring the prevailing doctrine of confined land. When Columbus' Santa Maria, Nina, and Pinta raised the land of one of the Bahama Islands, then called San Salvador, two hours after midnight October 12, 1492, he and his crew with this act verily shattered the old world! Nobody noticed that at the time as usual with history in the making. Nevertheless while he himself was no angel, he surely made many a little beelzebub tremble and fall.

Cities had risen and new 'barbarian empires' had been born. The system of castes or social classes had become steep. The former protector-warrior sat on the throne unimpeachable, unreachable by the people, surrounded by a coterie of strategists, sycophants, and counselors. Tyrants prevailed against justice. The people were starved and bled worse than by robber barons or social vampires. The church, founded to uphold the light of the Spirit, was as often as aggravating a factor of social misery as a mitigating one. The strongest and most centralized power was Spain. As the *prevailing* superpower she had repelled the reign of the African Moors and upheld the purity of the Faith through the purges of the Inquisition. Its practice against 'heretics' and 'infidels' peaked in the 12th and 13th Century. It gave the Dark Age its defining moment and its sinister quality. Spain ruled the oceans supreme, it had empowered Columbus and his brethren of the seven seas and it surely took in the profits from their exploits big time!

Junk bonds had not been invented yet and the equivalent of stock markets had not really come about or were just nascent in Holland. The way to make a 'killing' was not to speculate in shares unbacked by real wealth, but to armor a few caravels for some wild-talking, unwashed, fierce-looking, unshaven stranger and send him yonder the horizon. and let's make no mistake: What the overlords and kings and nobles who armored these desperados were after was not some idle talk about an alleged New World. What they were after was territorial expansion, raw materials, natural resources, fabled treasures purported to lay hidden in other earths or even being carried in broad daylight by native populations yet to be

discovered. In other words, they were after one thing: Land as the newly arising class of mundane thinkers or 'worldly philosophers' was soon to call it. Portugal quickly entered the challenge to exploit the raw materials of the 'new worlds' out there and so did the more Northern, less sun-swept realms of Holland and England. France was to follow soon thereafter.

Let's remember: Columbus thought he had discovered the Eastern seaway to India, hence the West Indies are situated not a comfortable day's sail away from the Malabar coast, but halfway around the world in the Caribbean. A cutthroat competition ensued between the main players, Spain and England, fought to the death of their empires for naval supremacy and control of raw materials in the overseas territories. The economies of India and Asia were captured not by Columbus but - after Magellan - by the Dutch and later British East India Company.

The commercial age had begun. It could not have done so without three further death stabs at the Dark Age: The Renaissance, the Reformation and the Dawn of the Age of Reason. Whatever merits or demerits these later developments had, whatever separated them in motive power, thrust of intent, or integrity or lack thereof of those carrying their banners: Leonardo, Luther, Descartes, they had one thing in common: They put the individual right smack into the center of the universe where hitherto had been nothing else but God's strictures as interpreted by the clergy or the inchoate chaos on the social and political plane as described above.

Of the economic schools of thought the first three that merit that description after the Sinking of the Dark Age are: Mercantilism, Physiocracy, and the so-called Classical School of Economics. Mercantilism barely merits the designation "school" as it really was a set of firefighting measures to keep the king's treasure chests full with no other end worth mentioning. Physiocracy tried on the other hand to start understanding the not yet founded science of house-husbandry and nation-husbandry or Political Economy - as it was soon to be called - from the bottom up not from the top down. It correctly saw it as a set of mutually corresponding motions and tried to understand the true nature of these motions. Classical Economics then tried to mediate between the two - albeit badly at that. It quickly became the balancing act of the Indian chieftain with "one foot in the boat and one in the canoe" about which we will learn more later. These schools basically covered the better part of the 17th and 18th Century with the attempt of the Classical School at mediation reaching into the 19th and even the early 20th Century.

The triad of Economic Schools: Mercantilism, Physiocracy, Classical Economics are mirrored in the main schools of the 2nd half of the 19th Century and the essential part of the 20th. Socialism already looms large in Utilitarianism which saw clearly that it is necessary to overcome the velleities and imprecision of the Classical Economists but could not get its backbone & guts together to go the whole hog. Socialism under the stewardship of Karl Marx did not only do that, that is run in the open door of the quest for social justice inherent in Utilitarianism, it unfortunately set the entire house of wealth-begetting on fire in the process! As Mercantilism and Physiocracy were mutually exclusive so were Socialism and Capitalism. The later really was nothing but Neo-Classical Economics or in its postmodern guise Monetarism or Supply-Side Economics. As Demand-Side Economics tried to mediate between two irreconcilable extremes it was ultimately condemned to the same failure as classical economics. All this can be phrased in an organic movement of the Hegelian dialectic in which one initial step is negated in a counter-step only to be 'sublated' or moved to the next level while retaining its essential truth and discarding its apparent outward fallacies in the third step to be negated in turn by the new statement:

Mercantilism – Physiocracy = Classical Economics

or M – PC = CE

Classical Economics – Socialism = Demand-Side Economics

or CE – S = DSE

Demand-Side Economics – Monetarism = X

or DSE – M = X

As we shall see in more detail these sets of Hegelian equations are broken up by a new and rather incalculable movement of the Economics of the New Frontier which clearly – and the 1st US Secretary of Treasury notwithstanding – rejects, not sublates, Mercantilism while retaining or trying to retain the best of Physiocracy and the most purist forms of Classical Economics. Henry George then becomes obviously a Neo-Physiocrat and Neo-Ricardian with an incalculable third element that leads to the wide open gates of the Other Side of Economics. It is this “incalculable element” that we are mainly set in the following to pursue further ...