

Conscious Evolution and Creative Design of Syntropic Economic Theory

By Ivan Klinec

Introduction

Creative design of the syntropic economic theory has a significant place in the transition of present human civilization to a higher evolutionary stage. The processes of conscious evolution that can transform the current form of civilization are primarily associated with the conscious implementation of ethics and ethical behavior in economic systems at all levels.

It is associated with the transformation of current reactive economic systems to anticipatory economic systems. Thinking about the future consequences of today's economic activities is directly related to ethics as a key element of future economic systems. Syntropic economic theory is associated with the transition to a global economic system, which will replace competition and fighting by cooperation and co-creation.

Conscious Evolution and Syntropic Stage of Evolution of Human Civilization

As the twenty-first century begins, human civilization is on the threshold of conscious transition to a new stage of human evolution. American futurist Barbara Marx Hubbard in her excellent book *Conscious Evolution*¹ described the process of conscious transformation of human civilization as a way out from current global cri-

ses and problems. From her point of view the conscious transformation of humankind is the necessary and only way to the future.

Another famous American futurist and great visionary, R. Buckminster Fuller, described the transition from the entropic stage of human civilization to the syntropic stage.² The current entropic stage of human civilization is primarily oriented toward profit and its transition is connected with the human mind because mind is bound up with syntropy, that is, the creation of the new, and with organizing and overcoming entropy.³

Conscious evolution is connected with the creative design of all products of human thinking. Very good example of creative design is the concept of Blue Economy created by Belgian entrepreneur Gunter Pauli,⁴ who is also professor of system design at Politecnico di Torino.

Methodological Grassroots for Syntropic Economic Theory

Economic theory concerns evolution—the same is true of all the other scientific fields. The main stream of economic theory is the dominant source for the global crisis facing our current civilization. The principal reason for this is that mainstream economic theory no longer reflects societal evolution.

The economic theory of the mainstream is

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industrial age economic theory and the transformation now ongoing in global civilization is connected with the search for an economic theory suited to the information age. The main shift in economic theory therefore will be its transformation to a theory based on the information age paradigm.

The solution to the crisis of current global civilization is intimately connected with the creative design of the new syntropic theory of economics that can support the shift from the current industrial age economy to the new information age economy.

We have the appropriate methodological tools for such a syntropic model of the information age economy in the works and in the theories of R. Buckminster Fuller,⁵ Luigi Fantappie,⁶ Albert Szent-Georgyi,⁷ Erwin Schrodinger,⁸ Ilya Prigogine,⁹ Isabelle Stengers,¹⁰ Ossip K. Flechtheim,¹¹ Robert Rosen,¹² David Bohm,¹³ Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen,¹⁴ Alfred Korzybski,¹⁵ Fritjof Capra,¹⁶ Gunter Pauli,¹⁷ Hazel Henderson,¹⁸ Alvin Toffler,¹⁹ Barbara Marx Hubbard,²⁰ Antonella Vanini,²¹ Ulisse Di Corpo,²² Leon S. Fuerth²³ and many others.

The evolution of economic theory can lead to a new understanding of our rapidly changing economic reality. We can understand the ongoing transition to a global civilization and solve its emerging problems via our improved understanding of global economic reality. The new syntropic economic theory can enable us to overcome the traditional struggle between individual economic theoretical schools and can also make it possible to create the basis for a unified economic theory.

Outline of the Syntropic Theory of Economics

The new syntropic paradigm of economic theory aims to redirect the economic system towards the future and to overcome the present split in economic theory, establishing in its place a unified economic theory.

The main characteristics of the syntropic theory of economics include the following:

- Understanding that the economy is a living system and that all subsystems of the economy, along with economic organizations and institutions, are also living systems.
- Reorienting economic theory and economic systems towards the future by applying the concept of syntropy to economic models and economic theories, and implementing long-term horizons to policymaking to produce a positive impact on economic reality.
- Understanding economic theory as a mental map and as a map of economic reality. All economic theories are only mental maps limited in the time and in the space. The plurality of humankind and not the struggle among them is the basis for a syntropic theory of economics.
- Understanding that economic laws evolve much as economic reality is evolving. The basic law of the syntropic theory of economics can be the information age theory of value instead of the industrial age theory of value.
- Creative design of economic theory is necessary for the design of economic solutions to the problems of global civilization and of local economies and communities.
- Understanding the global economy as a field. Disruption of the field in one area will lead to the instability of the whole global economy. The field theory of economy is key to understanding the current global crisis.
- Redefining the basic core of economic theory based on the theory of syntropy according to Luigi Fantappie and R. Buckminster Fuller and implementing the concept of syntropy into our model of economic reality.
- Understanding civilization evolution as a change in civilization attractors. We can understand economic productive factors on the basis of such civilization attractors. The industrial age attractors were work and capital. The information age attractors are information and knowledge.

- Understanding the economy as an implicate order according to David Bohm with the hidden code of civilization being the main principles of civilization. The evolution of the economy is therefore simply part of the holomovement involving the whole of civilization.

- Understanding that the role of humans within the economic system includes being part of the collective body as well as individuals. The human can act as an individual or as a part or member of the collective body. It depends entirely on human free will.

- Understanding the role of ethics as the key element in all economic systems and also as a precondition for their appropriate behavior.

The Economy as an Anticipatory System

Reorienting economic systems towards the future requires the inclusion of long-term horizons into economic models, economic theory, and also into policymaking. The economy has to be transformed into an anticipatory system of the sort described by Robert Rosen. The economy can be understood as a living organism with its structure, organization, laws, etc. in state of continual transformation.

Luigi Fantappiè described concept of syntropy as the opposite to entropy. In the year 1942 he published his book *Principles of a Unitary Theory of the Physical and Biological World Based on Quantum Mechanics and Special Relativity*.²⁴ In this book, according to Ulisse Di Corpo and Antonella Vannini, he showed that retarded waves which diverge from causes located in the past, are governed by the law of entropy (en = apart, tropos = tendency) and correspond to mechanical and chemical phenomena; while advanced waves, which converge towards causes located in the future are governed by a law symmetrical to entropy, which Fantappiè named syntropy (syn = together, tropos = tendency).²⁵

The economy as an anticipatory system has

to deal with causes located in the future which are the new attractors forming economic, social, and civilization systems. Leon S. Fuerth created the concept of Forward Engagement²⁶ which is oriented toward the inclusion of long term horizons into policymaking and can be a tool for reorienting economic systems towards the future. The implementation of long term perspectives into the policymaking process is one of the 15 global challenges of the biggest future-oriented project in the world The Millennium Project.²⁷

Economics as a Mental Map—Plurality of the Economic Theory

The view of partial economic theories and theoretical schools as partial maps of economic reality and as fragmentary views of one undivided reality enables us to view economics as one science consisting of a great number and diversity of partial economic theories, all of which have their own time, space, purpose and limits, and reminds us that no economic theory can possibly be absolute in all times and places.

Economic theory is not economic reality as all theories are only maps of that reality as Alfred Korzybski points out in his works on general semantics.²⁸ Economic theory therefore has to be a puzzle in which individual economic theories are but pieces, and each has the possibility for innovation or change to make it fit better in the puzzle.

The Evolution of Economic Laws—Information Theory of Value

Understanding that economic laws evolve in ways similar to how economic reality is evolving can add the aspects of dynamics and irreversibility to economic theory.

The basic law of the syntropic economic theory can be the information theory of value. During the industrial age the dominant law of the economics was the work theory of value, which was the subject of discussion between various schools of economic theory.

The concepts of entropy and syntropy and their implementation in economic theory can help create the information theory of value as the main antientropic law in the syntropic stage of human evolution. Information is the main source of value in the information age just as work was the main source of value in the industrial age.

Creative Design of Economic Theory and Economic Systems

Creative design of economic theory and economic systems is necessary for attaining economic solutions to the problems facing global civilization. The totalitarization of economic theory, which occurred during the period of communism and also during the last decades of free market utopia, shows us that creative design and new solutions for the global economic system are the necessary and indeed the only way to escape the current global crisis and design a new economic system that respects the higher laws of nature and the Universe.

The creative design of economic theory can be an important part of the transition of humankind toward conscious evolution. The creative design of economic theory is therefore the conscious design of economic theory and its transformation into a tool for conscious evolution.

From Entropy to Syntropy—Field Theory of the Economy

We can understand the global economy as a field. Any disruption of the field in one area may lead to the instability of the whole global economy. The field theory of economy is key to understanding the current global crisis. Global interdependence is another way to view the global economy as a global field. The turbulences on financial markets, security threats, poverty, climate change and many other factors disturb the field's equilibrium and often initiate processes with global impact on economies all over the world.

Redefining the basic core of economic the-

ory, using the theory of syntropy according to Luigi Fantappie and R. Buckminster Fuller, and implementing syntropy into a model of economic reality can lead to creation of a new global economic system. According to R. Buckminster Fuller, humanity has now reached that critical moment of potential transformation in human affairs where class-two evolution becomes class-one evolution.²⁹

The drive to make money, wrote R. Buckminster Fuller, is inherently entropic, for it seeks to monopolize order while leaving unmanageable disorder to overwhelm others.³⁰ Mind on the other hand, is essentially anti-entropic³¹ according to him. The shift from entropy to syntropy is therefore essential for creating a global economic system based on the principles of sustainability.

Evolution as a Change of Civilization Attractors—Disruptive Forces

The key principle for understanding civilization change is to view the economy as a dissipate structure—that is, one which is dissipating energy, materials, and information and creating a new social structure for the whole of civilization around attractors based on truly productive factors, such as soil, work, capital, and information, which determine the structure and profile of the economy, the society and global civilization as these evolve.

We can understand the evolution of civilization as a change of civilization attractors. We can understand that economic productive factors are civilization attractors. The change of attractors from work and capital, in the industrial age, to information and knowledge in the information age is the main cause of the transformation of the whole civilization around the information and the information networks. Therefore the new structure of global civilization is network-centric instead of the hierarchic structure common during the industrial age.

Economy as an Implicate Order— Hidden Code

Viewing the global economy as one undivided whole, and viewing economic development and the globalization process as a holomovement, using the theory of wholeness and implicate order created by David Bohm,³² can help us understand the processes of globalization and their impacts on individual countries and national economies.

Understanding an economy as an implicate order according to David Bohm, can reveal how the hidden code of the civilization, described by Alvin Toffler,³³ is changing our economy, society, and civilization.

Evolution of the economy is therefore simply part of the holomovement of evolution throughout the whole of civilization. The interdependence of the global economic system and the synchronicity of economic and societal changes taking place in individual countries (as, for example, in the year 1989), can be better understood in this way.

The Economy as a Web of Connections—The Role and Importance of Social Capital

By viewing the emerging global economy as a challenge and a chance to renew the original significance of economics as the science of “householding,” we can overcome the alienation of economics from reality that occurred in the industrial age era, and begin to restore the social capital enormously damaged during the processes of globalization.

In the global world economy a human being must be a housekeeper first and a manager, businessman, and financier second. Therefore the financialization of the global economy has to be changed to make the global economic household of humanity paramount and allow the economy to serve as a web of connections that links communities on all levels and also as a tool for the restoration of social capital.

The dominant form of capital in the information age economy therefore has to be social capital and not the industrial and financial capital of the industrial age economy.

Ethics as a Key Element of the Syntropic Economic System

In the 2008 Millennium Project lookout study *Some Elements of the Next Global Economic System over the Next 20 Years*, ethics was identified as the key element of such a system. Within the next 20 years the great challenge for humankind will be to transform the current global system of casino capitalism to an ethical market economy and to redesign the markets to become servants of humankind instead of remaining in its current state as the main threat to human civilization. An ethical market economy is the other face of the syntropic economic system, in which ethics will be the key element.

Conclusion

The design of the syntropic economic theory and the syntropic economic system can lead to syntropic class-one evolution as defined by R. Buckminster Fuller.³⁴ The design of the syntropic economic theory is still at its starting point and must be undertaken by a great number and diversity of economic thinkers representing various countries, but the speed of its creation is one of the main preconditions for successfully changing the present direction of humankind toward sustainability and toward overcoming emerging global crises.

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