

Ivan Klinec: Holistic Economics for Sustainable World

The search for new economic theories for a sustainable world is one of the preconditions of change of present patterns in economic life of the individual, the society and the whole civilization. The whole present human civilization is under pressure to change its activities toward sustainable development, toward support of sustainable living and toward the creation of a new sustainable world.

We are witnesses of failure of old classic economic theories especially when the global crisis of human civilization and the global economy is growing with high speed and the danger of destruction of human civilization is interconnected with present economic theories and the international economic and financial institution. Especially now, monetary theory is a huge source of destruction of economies and societies on the national and also global level.

The time of global crisis is also characterized by an emerging number of new economic theories as the new economics (Paul Ekins, Hazel Henderson, Pat Conaty, Manfred Max-Neef, Ernst Schumacher); green economics (Sara Parkin); steady-state economics (Herman Daly, John Cobb); geonomics (Patrick Carson, Julia Moulden); bioeconomics (Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen); socioeconomics (Amitai Etzioni); regenerative economics (Paul Hawken); humanistic economics, real-life economics and many others.

All these new economic theories are characterized by diversification of the view of economic reality, search for designing new economic theories based on the law of Nature and the Universe and common dialog or multilog in searching for ways from the present global crisis of mankind. Common for all these theories is also a holistic view of economic, social and civilization reality. We are witnesses of an emerging holistic economic theory, which is created together by all new economic thinkers oriented toward sustainable development and a sustainable world.

The basic characteristics of the emerging new holistic economic theory are following:

1. The view of the economy as an open subsystem and part of higher systems as are the society, Nature and the Universe (Henderson, Parkin, Georgescu-Roegen, Daly, Ekins, Goldsmith, Schumacher, Capra, Gore).
2. The view of the global world economy as one undivided whole, the view of this economy as implicit order and the view of economic development and the globalization process as holomovement, with using the theory of wholeness and implicit order, which was created by David Bohm.
3. The view of partial economic theories and economic theoretical schools as partial maps of economic reality, as fragmentary views of one undivided reality and the view of economics as one science connected from a great number and diversity of partial economic theories, all of which have their own time, space, purpose and limits, and no economic theory is possible to be absolute in any time and any space.
4. The change of view of reversibility of economic processes and view of economic processes as irreversible with the focus on economic dynamics instead of economic statics.
5. The implementation of term and conception of entropy into economic theories with its relationship to the whole economy and society instead of using the term uncertainty only in relationship to decision making processes and management (Georgescu-Roegen).
6. The change of view of the role of information in economy in direction to view it as in-formational and structure creating factor, which is creating a new structure of economy, society and civilization (Toffler, Naisbitt, Drucker, Davis, Davidson, Tapscott, Kelly).
7. The view of economy as a dissipate structure, which is dissipating energy, materials and information and creating a new structure of society and whole civilization around the civilization attractors in the form of economic productive factors as are soil, work, capital and information and which determining structure and profile of economy, society and civilization.

8. The value reorientation of individuals, society and civilization toward sustainable values and respect to Nature and to the laws of Nature and the Universe.

9. The view of the emerging global economy as the challenge and chance of renewing the original significance of economics as the science about house holding and overcoming alienation of their original significance in the industrial era, in global world economy man has to be housekeeper first and manager, businessman and financier second.

The design of holistic economic theory is at a starting point and must be done by a great number and great diversity of economic thinkers from the whole world from various countries, but the speed of its creation is one of the main preconditions of changing the present direction of humankind toward a sustainable world and overcoming the emerging global crises.

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