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THE CONTOURS OF A POST-PANDEMIC SOCIETY

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Abstract: *Current global pandemic has posed new challenges to the Blue Planet. Coronavirus has shown that the rich and the poor, the weak and the powerful are the same for virus. Positive contours: humanism, talent, progress. Negative Contours: Selfishness. Pride, arrogance. The former French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said during the pandemic: If life changes, it will change for worse.*

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INTRODUCTION

A new human worldview providing common space for everyone and for everything is developing in the world.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Speaking about pandemic Pope Francis (2020) I noted: "This is the moment to see the poor. Jesus says we will have the poor with us always, and it's true. They are a reality we cannot deny. But the poor are hidden, because poverty is bashful... To "see" the poor means to restore their humanity. They are not things, not garbage; they are people... We can't settle for a partial welfare policy".

As Pope (2020) says, "On the one hand, it is essential to find a cure for this small but terrible virus, which has brought the whole world to its knees. On the other, we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalisation, and the lack of protection for the weakest".

In the words of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (2020) "There is more than enough food in the world to feed our population of 7.8 billion people. But, today, more than 820 million people are hungry.

And some 144 million children under the age of 5 are stunted – more than one in five children worldwide. Our food systems are failing".

According to the comments on the inaugural address of the US 46th President Joseph Biden (Kipiani, 2021), one of the clear focuses of the US economic policy over the next four years would focus on the "middle class", regular care for American families, and not just in times of crisis.

The Catholicos Patriarch (2018) of Georgia notes, that "On the one hand, human rights must be protected and, along with that, the traditional values, spiritual-cultural and intellectual potential should be developed". In a pandemic, the governments saw the need for self-sufficiency, and the dependence on others became unprofitable. Local production and the revival of agriculture have become the number one priority for all countries, including Georgia.

True freedom is there, where unemployment is not a problem and people do not fear of lack of food. Contemporary American Economists Campbell R. McConnell and Stanley L. Brue (2000) point out that the stress of losing a job can be compared to the stress of arrest or death of a family member.

There are not enough resources on earth for everyone to live in prosperity, therefore, someone's prosperity means someone's hardship. About 97% of the earth's income is in the hands of a handful of billionaires. The world population seems too large to Malthus and his followers, who threaten us with the spread of the worst epidemics (Mankiw, 2008).

In China, out of 1 billion 430 million population about 800 million are employed. In 2015, they repealed the law that prohibited having more than one child. In India 60% of population escaped poverty.

Unlike Malthus, the scientists argue different. Harvard University professor Gregory Mankiw (2016), the former chairman of the U.S. Presidential Economic Advisory SAO, considers population as one of the major factors of productivity. More population means more scientists, more engineers and more workforce. By means of proper use of population even surplus production can be achieved.

Economists and social scientists are constantly arguing about the impact of the population growth on society. Most clearly this impact

is reflected in the increase of the workforce. Large population means to have more workforce for production of goods and services. Besides, it means to have more consumers of the goods produced. English economist Malthus (1798) formulated an opinion that "may be history's most chilling forecast. Malthus argued that an ever-increasing population would continually strain society's ability to provide for itself. Mankind, he argued, would forever live in poverty" (Mankiw, 2008). According to Malthus, the population growth could be stopped by misery and vice. Mankiw (2016) noted that "Attempts by charities and philanthropists to alleviate poverty were counterproductive, he argued, because they merely allowed poor to have more children placing even greater strains on society's productive capabilities".

Fortunately, Malthus's forecast turned out to be far from reality. "The world population has increased about sevenfold Over the last two centuries, but the average living standards are much higher. Because of economic growth, chronic hunger and malnutrition are less common now than they were in Malthus's days. Famines occur from time to time, but they are more often the result of income unequal distribution or political instability than the inadequate production of food" (Mankiw, 2016).

The basis of human society, its driving force is the progress of human mind, science, civilization. The progress of society is a regular process. It is based on objective economic laws and progress. No one can change them. The human knowledge is developing leading to more complex, perfect, effective, multi-productive forms. The leading role of theoretical knowledge as the basis for the implementing innovations and policy making is clearly seen.

One of the methods of reviving our economy in a pandemic situation is to return to the public sector and define its role as part of the strategic, long-term and conceptual investment process. According to Marina Mazzucato (2013), a professor at University College London, United Kingdom, it is necessary to debunk the myths about who creates value and where the wealth comes from.

After the global crisis of 2008, it became clear that the public sector should be actively involved in the economy to stimulate economic growth. In the modern period, the problem of the public sector is

considered by some economists to be an important issue of economic theory. According to Columbia University Professor, Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz (2015), healthcare, defence, education, social security, welfare issues, tax reform require continuous attention.

Our lives are in many ways subject to the influence of public activities. In a mixed economy, part of the economic activity is carried out by private firms, and part by public sector. Besides, the government changes the directions through various regulations, taxes, and subsidies. Government regulation of the economy has significant influence on production, employment, labour productivity, price levels, and resources (McConnell, and Brue, 2008).

The market economy is imperfect. It is far from the harmony it is attributed to and the ability to regulate everything.

The market system has many drawbacks reflected in negative quantitative and qualitative results of economy. The market system is characterized by saturation directed to a certain group of buyers satisfying their needs. On the one hand, it is characterized by a flexible adaptive production that can meet the greatest needs of consumers, and on the other hand, it is unable to cope with the vital problems of the society. The cyclical nature of market economy can lead to social and economic tension (Kharitonashvili, 2008). Government must stabilize the disturbed equilibrium (Kharitonashvili, 2016). It must be able to develop its domestic and foreign economic policy so that not to be dependent on the economic strength of others. It must have its own production and thereby be economic subject (Kharitonashvili, 2016).

Population growth and urbanization causes serious problems for environment. Both production and consumption of large amount of wealth can lead to an increased pollution of air, water and soil. Government must be on guard against pollution of the environment to prevent ecological catastrophe in the country (Lemonjava, 2005).

In a pandemic and afterwards, the role of the state is greater. In February 2021, the Government of Georgia decided to reform the state-owned enterprises.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In a post-pandemic society, the talented people are expected to come to power causing gradual large-scale transformation in society.

Dictatorships and totalitarian regimes are going to be a thing of the past. It is important to take care of future, to put forward the issues environmental, significantly to change the approach to education (Bell, 1973). Theoretical knowledge as the basis for the introduction of innovation and policy making should have a leading role. Society is ruled by meritocracy. Meritocracy means the management of society by the most talented [ibid]. As Georgian romantic poet Grigol Orbeliani says, "Let talent have an ample opportunity, and respect the dignity", we strive for that.

French thinker H. Saint-Simon (1948) considered the progress of the mind, science, civilization to be the driving force of human society. Saint-Simon believed that the philosophers, scientists were capable to build or destroy public relations. He considered that the scholars were important for their foresight since the science allows us to foresee the future; scientists can predict the future; the philosopher stands on the peak of thought looking at the world as it is and as it should be. The philosopher is not only an observer, but also an actor. He is a first-rate actor in the moral world because human society is governed by his worldview.

As Albert Einstein (2021) said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge". Education should teach people endurance, adaptation. These skills will become key in a post-pandemic society. "There's no challenges without a crisis. It's in a crisis where we can show the best of us". The main thing is the right mind and great effort. As Socrates says, "In every person there is a sun. Just let them shine". The higher education is basic, because the energetics of the educated people is in humanism. Dreaming is not enough to build a country – the reason is necessary. Humanism is destined just for the educated. The uneducated is fed only by the "invisible hand." Everything disgusting comes from ignorance (Lao Tzu). According to Georgian writer and public figure Ilia Chavchavadze (1837-1907), one may have a secondary education, but good upbringing is a must.

It is necessary to strengthen the economic role of the state - the "visible hand" is necessary. The metaphor of the "invisible hand" must be forgotten. Unrestricted competition as a moral value must be stopped. As D. Wilson, a professor at the University of Birmingham

says, it is to regulate corporate social life (Sy, Wilson, 2018).

In a postpandemic society, both rich and poor should have their own space leading to pluralism. All the citizens must feel the benefits of economic growth rather than individuals. Businessman will never become a good government official because the businessmen are just concentrated on their own profit. Government officials should be elected from among the educated people. With bad laws and good civil servants, it is still possible to govern. But with bad civil servants even the best laws will not help (Otto von Bismarck, 1815-1898).

CONCLUSION

Positive contours: humanism, talent, progress.

Negative Contours: Selfishness. Pride, arrogance.

The former French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said during the pandemic: If life changes, it will change for worse.

But still there is optimism. Unrestricted competition as a moral value must be stopped. Corporate social life needs regulation – says Wilson (2018), Professor at the University of Birmingham.

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