The Emergence of Global Civilization, A New Layer of World Civilization

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THE EMERGENCE OF GLOBAL CIVILIZATION, A NEW LAYER OF WORLD CIVILIZATION

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Introduction

The purpose of this study is to define processes triggering the emergence of Global Civilization by the end of the 20th century. In addition, proof that the fourth wave of globalization leads towards the emergence of Global Civilization as one of facets of World Civilization is provided, including a conclusion suggesting a proposed direction to lead the further development of World Civilization.

The Four Waves of Globalization

The first wave of globalization took place in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the Atlantic Europeans (from Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands) migrated to new colonies in America and Asia at the rate of tens of thousands per year. For example, half a million Dutch migrants moved to Asia (Indonesia mainly) between 1600 and 1700 out of a maximum population of 1.9 million (Parry 1966). The “Little Ice Age” in Europe and the growth of population as well as progress in construction of long-distance sailing ships, and firepower triggered this wave. Raudzens (1999) argues that this colonizing conquest caused nineteenth-and-twentieth-century European imperialism directly and perhaps did much to cause industrialization as well.

The second wave of modern globalization took place from 1870 to 1914 due to advances in transportation, reduced trade barriers and migration of 10 percent of the global population to less densely populated countries (from Europe to America, from India to Sri Lanka and Africa, from China to Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Singapore, and so forth). Protectionism and ineffective economic policies led to an increased gap between globalizers and the rest of the world. Two World Wars and the Great Depression stopped the global economic integration as too far reaching for the post-war and post-crisis times.

The third wave of globalization took place from 1950 to 1980 and its goal was to integrate economically the richest countries: Europe, North America, and Japan. Policies of trade liberalization were developed within frameworks of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
(GATT) and the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Exports from developing countries were limited to commodities.

The current fourth wave of globalization takes place on the threshold of the 3rd Millennium, and is the most extensive. The world is shrinking fast and comes together as a Global Civilization, which shapes our lives, and changes politics, work, and families.

The Enabling Factors of the Fourth Wave Globalization

Technological advances in transportation and communications technologies.

These technologies provide the infrastructure for globalized operations. Table 1 illustrates the decreased costs of transportation in the last 160 years (1830-1990) and Table 2 shows how the costs of communication and computers declined in the last 40 years (1960-2000). During the first and second waves of globalization, technology provided incredible productivity in making and moving things. In the third wave, technology is driving the productivity of information itself.

Table 1. Transport Costs, 1830-1990

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Wheat, Percent of Production Cost</th>
<th>Ocean Freight 1920 = 100</th>
<th>Average Air Transportation Revenue per Passenger Mile (in 1990 US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Baldwin and Martin (1999), World Economic Outlook, May 1997, Table 11.

Table 2. Communication and Computer Costs, 1960-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>60.42</td>
<td>1,869,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>41.61</td>
<td>1,999,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>6.32</td>
<td>27,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>7,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Info-communication technology (ICT) triggers a shift in the postindustrial society’s *modus operandi*, which is based on new key features (Bell 1981):

1. the shift from a goods-producing to a service economy,
2. the increasing reliance on theoretical knowledge, and
3. creation of a new “intellectual technology” based on computers and other smart machines.

Manuel Castells (1996) observes that “what has changed is not the kind of activities humankind is engaged in, but its technological ability to use as a direct productive force what distinguishes our species as a biological oddity: its superior capacity to process symbols.” The ICT technology does not replace agriculture and industry but optimizes them. It leads towards the informatization of the Global Society, which by connecting all of us makes us the Global Open Society (Anderson 2004). The emerging Global Digital Consciousness (GDC) as the symbiosis of humans and machines, provides cognition and external memory systems that support the Global Civilization and vice versa. Hence, the GDC is composed of:

- infosphere (computerized info-communication systems composed of databases, applications, and networks)
- cyberspace (the Internet and Web applications)
- mediasphere (radio, TV, cable)
- mindsphere (global ideas generated by previous global spheres).

The Globalization Index, which breaks globalization down into its most important component parts, indicates that the “most wired” countries in the world are beneficiaries of globalization. The Globalization Index tracks the movements of money in terms of investments and business transactions in the era of “electronic capitalism” (Bledsoe 2001).

B. Manufacturing Outsourcing.

In the 19080s, the developed countries began to outsource manufacturing to countries with cheap labor. As a result, poor countries broke into global markets of manufacturing goods and services, whose export of manufactured goods and services rose from 25 percent of total export in 1980 to more than 80 percent by 1998. The most successful countries in this trend are Brazil, China, Hungary, India, and Mexico, and another 20 countries. They, with 3 billion people, reached a level of growth 5 percent higher than developed countries. The rest of the developing world trades less at the beginning of the 21st century then it did in 1980, which means that 2 billion people are marginalized, with some countries showing even negative growth. In more successful,
developing countries, the poverty level decreases. The total number of poor people in rural China alone was reduced from 250 to 34 million from 1980 to 1999 (Stern et al. 2002).

C. Lowering Tax Barriers.

The reduction in average tariffs is highest in South Asia, from 65 percent in the early 1980s to about 30 percent in 2002. In the same period, Latin America, East Asia and the Pacific lowered tariffs from 30 percent to 15 percent, Europe and Central Asia from 15 percent to 10 percent, the most industrialized economies from 8 percent to 5 percent. Only Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa lowered tariffs by small percentages, maintaining them at roughly the 20 to 25 percent levels that existed in 1998 (World Bank 2001). Countries like Ethiopia and Uganda liberalized trade significantly. Average tariffs in rich countries are low, but they maintain barriers in exactly the areas where developing countries have comparative advantage: agriculture and labor-intensive manufacturing. The cost of protection by rich countries and paid by poor countries is at the level of 100 billion US$ per year, which is twice the size of aid from the Northern to the Southern hemisphere (Stern et al. 2002).

Globalization Benefits

A. Higher Economic Growth

Almost every product or service market in the major economies of the World Civilization has foreign competitors. Increased foreign competition is in itself a reason for a business to globalize – in order to gain the size and skills to compete more effectively (Yip 1995). The globalizers are mainly Americans, Europeans, Japanese and Chinese. The more globalized developing countries increased their per capita growth rate from 1 percent in the 1960s, to 3 percent in the 1970s, 4 percent in the 1980s, and 5 percent in the 1990s. The less globalized developing countries experienced negative growth, -2 percent, in the 1990s. Rich countries’ saw a positive 2 percent growth during the 1990s (Dollar and Kraay 2001).

B. Poverty Reduction

The globalization impact on poverty reduction is well illustrated by the cases of Uganda, India, Vietnam and China in 1992-98. These countries were able to reduce poverty by 6 to 10 percent annually. The number of people living on less than 1 US$ per day declined between 1960-2000, from 1.4 to 1.2 billion (Stern et al. 2002).

C. Life Quality Improved
The quality of life measured by infant mortality, life expectancy, and adult illiteracy has improved significantly from 1960-1999, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Infant Mortality, Life Expectancy, and Adult Illiteracy 
Selected Countries and Regions, 1960–1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country, Region</th>
<th>1960</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lives births</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult illiteracy rate (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lives births</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult illiteracy rate (%)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ghana</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lives births</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult illiteracy rate (%)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Latin America and Caribbean</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lives births</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult illiteracy rate (%)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United States</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lives births</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult illiteracy rate (%)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Development Indicators and World Development Reports (various issues), World Bank

**Problem Causing Factors**

A. Inequality

The fast pace of the third globalization wave causes widespread anxiety, because it leads to inequalities within countries and among countries, including developed countries. The latter by outsourcing their production and services trigger labor layoffs in their countries. These trends can be viewed as civilization aid provided by developed countries for developing countries at the cost of their own labor. In the long term, the outsourcing strategy may reduce the number of consumers in developed countries, who will not be able to buy even less expensive products and services from developing countries. It may have an impact on the research and university communities in developed countries, because they will have fewer industries waiting for innovations and less students to educate for jobs, which no longer exist in their own countries. There is an opinion that income inequality growth in some countries, such as the US, India, China, and Poland is
caused by the impact of technology change on workers' skills rather than by globalization. On other hand one cannot neglect the fact that in India, China, and Poland such income inequality is possible only because globalization causes more demand on these countries' labor.

B. Digital Divide

ICT technology acts as both a greater lever of opportunity and an amplifier of inequity. Table 4 illustrates four paths of human wealth development and its impact on the “digital divide.”

Table 4. Paths of Human Wealth Development vs. the Digital Divide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B</th>
<th>Option C</th>
<th>Option D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- M - I</td>
<td>+ M - I</td>
<td>+ M - I</td>
<td>- M + I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Option A describes a case of individuals who have neither money nor information and eventually no opportunities to improve their conditions.

Option B reflects “old money” which has been or is being made in a traditional manner. It is a exemplified by an uninformed individual or company, who over time will lose to those who have better information.

Option C illustrates a case of people or companies having both money and information, so their economic/social position will grow. It is exemplified by computer/software entrepreneurs who by the end of the 20th century became the richest people in the world.

Option D depicts a case of a person or company with little or no money but with access to better information that may improve its financial situation. This option is exemplified by college students and some early dotcom start ups.

Digital Divide is illustrated in a well-known metaphor, Jihad vs. McWorld, by Ben Barber (1996), who draws a line not between the political right and left but between two opposed tendencies, tribalism and globalism, each with own vision of the world’s future.
C. Volatility

The openness of national financial markets to global capital markets brings volatility of economic activities at all levels of the World Economy. The financial crisis in the 1990s was a good example of that kind of volatility, which was based on overvalued exchange rates and unsustainable fiscal positions. The lesson from that crisis is that free flow of capital requires appropriate intergovernmental regulations to correct the markets’ failures.

D. Antiglobalization

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 the death of fascism, socialism and communism is heavily advertised. If there is an idea that unites much leftist economic thought today, it is that globalization is the root of many evils. Many people from many international communities organize themselves against corporate power and corporate control. Globalization is perceived by them as the worldwide extension of capitalism, with stateless corporations, which are driven mostly by greed. The disappearance of alternative models of development provoked anguished reactions from the old anticapitalists, whose dreams just have vanished. For many young people, particularly students, capitalism cannot create an adequate response to the challenges of social justice (Bhagwati 2002). They also do not remember or do not know that centrally planned economies (in Eastern Europe and China) worsened rather than improved unequal access to resources. David Korten (2001) in his book *When Corporations Rule the World* provides an antiglobalist’s vision of the better world – of disarmament, tolerance, gender equality, less consumption, global trust-busting, debt write-offs, the transformation of international financial institutions into democratic, cooperative institutions, voluntary executive salary caps, grassroots democracy, etc. He offers a vision of a market economy composed primarily, tough not exclusively, of family enterprises, small-scale co-ops, worker-owned firms, and neighborhood and municipal corporations. He also argues that we should create societies that give a higher value to nurturing love than making money. These ideas are reminiscent of the *Small is Beautiful* (Schumacher 1975) conception. It is easy to define noble aims, but transforming those aims in a very complex civilization is a monumental task. How do we accomplish the transformation, through another Bolshevik Revolution?

The culmination of a three-year project by the International Forum on Globalization, whose members included Ralph Nader, David Korten,
Lori Wallach, Jerry Mander, and John Cavanagh (2002), presented a sober critique of globalization as well as practical, thoughtful alternatives. The authors assert ten core requirements for democratic societies, including equality, basic human rights, local decision making, and ecological sustainability. They demonstrate how globalization undermines each. Offering specific strategies for reining in corporate domination, they address alternative systems for energy, agriculture, transportation, and manufacturing; ideas for weakening or dismantling the WTO, World Bank, and IMF; and rebuilding economies that are responsive to human needs.

The opposite movement to antiglobalization is the globalizing right which promotes Adam Smith's free market forces, which should provide greater peace and prosperity for all and who speak for minimal tariffs and economic stability ("Peace through Trade") assisted by business-friendly international institutions such as WTO, IMF, World Bank, and so forth.

E. International Institutions in Question

The belief that international institutions such as the IMF can facilitate smooth globalization is challenged by Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz (2002) who states that the IMF is last resort for desperate situations. Furthermore, its remedies have failed often, even more often than they worked. IMF structural adjustment policies – the policies designed to help a country adjust to crises as well as to more persistent imbalances – led to hunger and riots in many countries. Even if the policies worked, they worked rather for those who are better-off, sending those who at the bottom to even greater poverty. The IMF thinks that to achieve long-term stability of a given country, some pain is necessary. Stiglitz agrees that some pain may be necessary, but the level of pain in developing countries created in the process of globalization guided by the IMF and international economic organizations has been far greater than necessary.

There is some hypocrisy in the argument that developing countries should open markets for goods from developed countries that keep their own markets protected. This type of policy makes the rich richer and the poor more impoverished -- and more angry. This approach for example takes place in agriculture, when the WTO wants the developing countries to open their markets for products subsidized by developed countries. They resist this policy because it would destroy their unsubsidized agriculture. Hence, the free global market is illusion.
The optimal solution, as viewed by Stiglitz, is to see cooperation between government and markets to minimize their limitations and failures. This cooperation should be led not only by financially oriented mind-sets but also by socially-oriented actions.

D. Culture Invasion

Globalization causes concerns among developing countries that it threatens their power, culture and the environment. The rest of the world, including Western Europe and Japan is afraid that American culture will dominate them. The developing countries are too small to compete with Hollywood movies, fast food chains (McDonalds) and so forth. They are also too weak to debate the legal issues governing the Global Economy and environmental issues, when they suffer from global warming, while developed countries generate most of the carbon dioxide.

The issue of standardization or homogenization should be guided by the differentiation and harmonization rules, allowing for different solutions at national levels and universal solutions, when they are applied at the global level. The application of these rules will keep civilization active and developing.

Why Global Civilization?

The fourth wave of globalization leads towards the emergence of Global Civilization because this civilization meets the general criteria of civilization (Targowski 2004). For example:

- The human entity as the Global Society is composed of certain segments of the societies of 8 autonomous civilizations (Western, Eastern, Islamic, Japanese, Chinese, Buddhist, Hindu, and African), which apply global culture and infrastructures;
- Culture has global character, which means that similar patterns of behavior are practiced (de facto by certain segments of those societies only) in those autonomous civilizations, for example such ones as “English,” professional and student dress code, music, movies, food, drinks, and so forth;
- Infrastructures of information (the Internet and Global Area Networks), transportation, finance, and economy reach every autonomous civilization and integrate them into an emerging Global Society and Global Economy.

However, Global Civilization is not another autonomous civilization, which can be called vertical ones, it is in fact a World Civilization,
which horizontally penetrates autonomous civilizations as it is shown in Figure 1. Some critics may say that the reach of Global Civilization in the least developed autonomous civilizations is yet very modest (for example a small number of users of the Internet or telephones). On the other hand this reach is observable and known in those civilizations whose elites are rather active users of Global Civilization.

![Diagram of Global Civilization]

**Global Civilization in the 21st Century**

At the end of 2nd Millennium, two civilizations: Western and Japanese were at level of saturation, which pushed them to external expansion, leading to the creation of the Global Economy. From the end of World War II until 1973, the United States experienced sustained economic growth. But at the beginning of the 21st century, the U.S. with a saturated national economy looks for assuring sustainable growth by exercising competitive advantage through lowering costs with the help
of outsourcing strategies around the globe. Outsourcing provides growth of the American national economy without the creation of new jobs. This process is copied by other states of the Western Civilization. Of course, the reaction of victims of globalization is strong and loud. It looks like workers of the Western Civilization are not satisfied by the rise of Global Civilization, but stateless consortia and some developing countries are.

Almost every product or service market in the major economies of the World Civilization has foreign competitors. Increased foreign competition is in itself a reason for a business to globalize – in order to gain the size and skills to compete more effectively (Yip 1995). The global competitors are mainly Americans, Europeans, Japanese and Chinese.

The Global Economy is only possible because it is supported by Global Infrastructure, supporting global communication (the Internet, Global Area Networks), global transportation, global finance activities, global scientific knowledge creation and dissemination, global management practices, even global peace keeping (with less success). The Solar Model of Global Civilization is shown in Figure 2. The Global Civilization is controlled by an invisible power, composed of global financiers & banks, stateless corporations, outsourcing CEOs (receiving fat bonuses for better performing stocks), G7, IMF, WB, WTO. The evolution of this civilization is driven by the following process of wealth formation with the help of technology:

*From an Invisible Hand to an Invisible Wire and to an Invisible Power*

![Figure 2 The Solar Model of Global Civilization in the 21st Century](image-url)
From an Invisible Hand to an Invisible Wire and to an Invisible Power

The Global Economy influences the rise of Global Culture, which is characterized by a lack of the organized Global Society, therefore, this new type of culture does not remind cultures of nation-states. National societies regulate their economies according to their cultures’ practice and expectations through the political process. If there is a lack of an organized Global Society there is no social pressure to regulate the Global Economy (Soros 2002), since the Global “Greed” Society prefers a lack of such control with the exception of promoting low tariffs.

Global Culture develops in order to support a global flow of ideas, capital, goods, services, and people. It interconnects different national cultures by common patterns of behavior. For example, English becomes the main language and the Western dress code as well as international food is applied in global activities of business, politics, science, entertainment, and art. Global communication culture is based mostly on the Internet and “CNN” culture. Global business transactions and political dialogues are supported by Western Culture’s patterns of behavior, encoded in policies of the World Trade Organization, IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations, and the UE. In general, Global Culture interconnects national cultures to conduct Global Civilization’s activities. However, because of the lack of the Global Society (or a pseudo “Global Government”), Global Culture is very weak in regulating the Global Economy and Infrastructures.

The integrated global production system creates a job crisis that affects every citizen of Western and Japanese Civilizations. Just a few corporations, thanks to their control of earth-spanning technologies (through the Global Civilization Infrastructure – “Electronic Global Village”), control a global commercial culture and conquer traditional societies. Their strategies and products/services can penetrate any village or neighborhood, which may lead to “a clash of civilizations.” On one hand globalization created the Electronic Global Village. On the other hand it divides the planet in the grip of global gridlock, where there are 1 billion people with a “computer password” and 5 billion without it.

Fortunately, John Naisbitt (1995) discovered the Global Paradox, which says, that

The bigger the world economy is, the more powerful are its smallest players.

He explains his paradox by providing examples of two trends: a)
the world integrates economically and b) its component parts are becoming more numerous and smaller and more important. These trends lead to the growing Global Economy and also to the shrinking of its parts, by promoting smaller entrepreneurs. As a result, human potential is growing faster than any other segment of society. This trend triggers an evolutionary shift in consciousness from ego-centrism to geo-centrism (Russell 1995). The latter also means that we are more aware of the shortcomings of Global Civilization, which brings the most profit-oriented benefits to stateless corporations.

Conclusion

The enhancement of less developed autonomous civilizations can be done by creating a world-system, identified by the metaphor of the Internet, dialogue and universalism.

The gap between the Western and African Civilization in economic terms can be estimated as 20:1 at the beginning of the 21st century. In the year 1000, the rich countries of today were poorer than Asia and Africa. For example, Chinese shipping technology was better than Portuguese shipping technology in the 15th century, but by the end of the 17th century, European technology’s superiority in shipping and armaments was evident. This progress was caused by the formation of universities (scientific knowledge), progress in printing (info-communication processes), and communication among geniuses (Copernicus, Galileo, Descartes, Pascal, Leibnitz, Newton, and others), who lived sufficiently close to engage in dialogue among themselves. The transfer of knowledge from Europe to overseas was most successful in the case of the British, who until 1776, established nine universities for just 2.5 million people in North America. Based on this foundation, the US blossomed later as the economic and technological leader of the world.

In general one can say that the World Civilization process through economic means was driven by (Maddison 2001):

- Conquest (imperial wars) or settlement in relatively empty and biologically rich areas,
- International trade and capital movements,
- Technological and institutional innovations.

The civilization process in the 3rd Millennium should replace the conquest & settlement factor by:

- Education and knowledge dissemination in underdeveloped and developing areas,
- Dialogue mastering in all civilization by communicating universal-
complementary values within Open Society ready for improvements. This is because knowledge and dialogue do not have saturation points, and strategies can be mastered in all vertical and horizontal civilizations.

The further harmonic development of World Civilization requires better knowledge and skills in conducting info-communication processes and systems supporting dialogue and understanding of World Civilization and its role in influencing all civilizations, particularly Global Civilization, which so far is developing rapidly, driven mostly by greed.

One can expect that this kind of “greed” will be replaced by the more acceptable criterion of Global Civilization, a noble task for the generations to come. On the other hand, Global Civilization at this moment cannot be stopped, unless the oil crisis will slow down or even stop the World Civilization. The French rejection of the European Constitution (in May 2005) has shown that they do not want to “Europeanize” (read also “globalize”) too far by creating a world without countries.

To protect interests of less developed countries against the greed of globalization, these countries should develop the emerging Global Civilization on their own terms (Bledsoe 2001).

References


