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Crises: A challenging issue for the future

Cristian Dan Pirvu, Cerasela Pirvu, Laura Vasilescu and Anca Mehedintu*

University of Craiova, Romania.

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Nowadays, the world is marked by multiple deep changes with different consequences. One of the features is that we are faced with a “bunch of crisis” that affects all components of social life along with the environment crisis - the earth crisis. We can also mention that in the whole system, there is a crisis correlated at the same time with a significant cyclical state. Cyclicity which we meet in society and in nature will accompany us in the near future, but we can not predict the consequences at the regional or global scale. In essence, crises, imbalances and weaknesses will always be in the future, both in nature and in society. The generator causes are multiple; some of them can be objective, while others result from an inappropriate human action. In other words, we will live in a society, an economy, an environment of crisis, and a time of repeatability of a whole series of processes, phenomena, in all three environments.

Key words: Crisis, cycle, global changes, vulnerability, risk.

INTRODUCTION

Crises, imbalances and weaknesses are phenomena that characterize the evolution in time and space, both in nature and in society. What distinguishes one time from another, a period from another, is the frequency, the presence of one or more forms of expression at the same time. But there are many voices that often emphasize that man by his many foolish and inadequate actions, has become on the one hand, his own enemy and on the other hand, the enemy of nature. Consequently, the survival is still a subject of meditation. Intensifying concerns, the battle of ideas on this subject are supported by the fact that we live in a time marked by a multitude of challenges, obstacles, crises, uncertainties and vulnerabilities. When referring to the crisis, it should be noted that nowadays, they have multiplied and act simultaneously with a high degree of depth, acuity, cyclic, both in society and in nature.

In the society, we find crisis in economy, culture, education, health, and human relationships. Each of these has internal causes, but also influences from other social fields. In terms of nature (earth), the crisis concerns different sides, from these, a particular importance has

the global warming, depleting of non-renewable natural resources, multiplying, and repeatability of disasters (floods, earthquakes, drought, abnormalities in a series of natural phenomena). These disturbances and imbalances of different ecosystems will strongly affect the future developments and the prospects of human society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nowadays, the world is in a state of global crisis - very complex. The deep crisis in which we live should be a challenge in the sense of its awareness by the entire population of the globe, of modifying the degree of perception, action, behavior, including the system of values - mainly cultural and educational.

About education and its consequences, we can find many appreciations in the literature. Regarding the meaning of education today and its negative influences, it seems particularly relevant what was recently said by Malita (2010): When you see how much damage has been made to education in different places, the empty language of values and non-operational concepts, the worship of wild individualism and freedoms stripped of responsibilities, immediacy frenzy and acceptance of consumption models, from clothing to amusement and,

*Corresponding author. E-mail: ancamehedintu@yahoo.com.

hence, the way of thinking, do you not wonder that mankind has entered into the period of serious crisis of economic, political, structural and decadent culture.”

The current global crisis was and still is the subject of many relevant studies. Thus, Capra (2004) says that at the beginning of the last two decades of the twentieth century, we are in a state of deep, global crisis. There is a complex, multidimensional crisis, whose sides touch every aspect of our lives - health and livelihoods, environmental quality and social relations, economy, technology and politics. It is a crisis with intellectual, moral and spiritual dimensions; a crisis of unprecedented scale in human history. For the first time we have to deal with very real threat of extinction of the human race and all life on earth.

In the mentioned study, Capra (2004) introduces the concept of dark side of growth having as starting point, the cyclical development of the economy that involves alternation between positive developments (growth/economic development, both quantitative and qualitative) and negative (that is, stagnation, reductions of GDP in the economic and financial crisis accompanied by unemployment, inflation, decreases of purchasing power and others).

For several decades, economic crises have occurred not only at regional level, but the attention paid to these regarding the economic thought is relatively limited, although they have become an almost permanent companion for the evolution of human society. Only with the appearance of the first Great Depression of the XXI century, the economists, financiers, politicians and other professionals turned their attention to the issue of crisis, their relationship with economic growth and development process. And we dare to remember the need for bending on other problems, respectively, the current economic thinking crisis, as a new stage of this process in time and space. Why that? Because this crisis was reached through the promotion of ideas, sentences and ideas, more or less obsolete, and by ignoring the realities, but also new ideas that would have answered those states. Often, it is more than necessary, to return, through the study, to the theory and concepts of the great economists of the past, even forgotten or ignored. It is known that in the past, the issue of economic crises has been studied correctly by great economists such as Marx and Keynes. We believe that it is necessary to remember and to use these analyses today, fact that has already begun to happen.

Thus, Leo Panitch (researcher, professor of political science) recently appreciated that Marx is absolutely modern and Krugman (2009) believe that we live in a new era of economic decline and that John Maynard Keynes - economist who logically solved the issues of the Great Depression - is now more relevant than ever. In the work *Crisis Economics*, Roubini and Mihm (2010), referring to Marx, say that this was the first thinker who saw capitalism as inherently unstable and prone to crises.

The crises, whatever their nature, but especially the

economic and financial ones, are based on an inadequate link between economic theory and economic policy, not knowing or ignoring reality, requirements and trends at national, regional, and global level. Today, one should not ignore the fact that we live in a time of uncertainty, risk, vulnerability, turmoil, and even fear. Therefore, it seems useful to emphasize the appreciation of Bucholz (2004) that said “today’s world puts us in front of so many possibilities that we can not predict what we will do and much less what our children will do. They are not raised by people who know people, not because parents would be fooled or would be lazy, but because the world has become too big to be able to be fully known. Parents eventually need to teach their children on how to cope in conditions of uncertainty, not how to ensure stability.”

Proposed management

The current Great Depression of the 21st century, along with other known crisis, can provide a framework for the Great Change to come, for new models and economic growth strategies in the future. The searches for new models of economic and social development can be made and achieved only by a break with the patterns used until today, entered by few decades into a real crisis. In the spirit of this idea, let us consider that today, the premises for formulating a new theory, namely Economic Theory of Economic Break and of Great Change are created. This new theory will be different from the past ones, regardless of its dominant form - interventionist (directed) or liberal (neo-liberal).

Regarding the concrete evolutions, we ask if it is possible for another economy, another world. However, what was, would never be, neither in economics nor in finance, even in sociopolitical developments. Again, a split is necessary and possible, too. Crises should be more prevented and less solved.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology involved the completion of an ensemble of stages, methods and techniques for scientific investigation regarding the economic phenomena, contributing to an increased rigor of economic theory, subordinate to its nature and characteristics.

The scientific approach is based on study and analysis of information from the economic and social literature, on background of the contemporary world problems, on the crisis we face, the intense manifestation of the phenomenon of recurrence and cyclicity, long denied in previous decades, although has become a fact verified both practically and theoretically (doctrinal). The deep social events in some parts of the world, slowdown of economic and financial recovery, should not be ignored, even the possibility of long-term economic stagnation in the global economy.

This analysis has as main research direction, the constructive research, which is characterized by hypothesis or own opinions and their validation by performing demonstrations. In explaining economic phenomena the following steps have been involved: the hypothesis formulation (the creative-constructive moment) and

checking of the hypothesis and scientific conclusions (the critical – time-valued moment).

The research methodology involved, on the one hand, qualitative research that have identified the causes and mechanisms of the phenomena investigated, and on the other hand, the quantitative research by highlighting the size influences of the causes, based on the analysis of economic, social, political, legal, cultural factors that influenced the studied phenomenon.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

Returning to the first Great Depression of the XXI century, it can be seen only in some interdependence with a series of crises that took place in previous years and takes place today, bringing some very destructive effects for human being, society, civilization, progress, and behavior. The implications on economic growth will not be immediately seen, it would even be necessary for a real break in the way of thinking and acting. The main motivation is related to the crises already facing us for many years, the presence of negative events to a global scale, in turn generating other negative consequences: unemployment, inflation, poverty and others. Many times, a crisis of economic thought is talked about, although the increase of global wealth based mainly on globalization was always emphasized.

For example, Capra especially appreciates the fact that “today, economic science is undergoing a deep conceptual crisis. The social and economic anomalies that this science can not adequately address - inflation and unemployment worldwide, unfair distribution of wealth (assets) and energy crises, among many others - are now painfully visible to everyone. The failure of the economic profession to address these problems adequately is a fact accepted by an increasingly skeptical public, by scientists from other disciplines and even by economists themselves. If we speak of a crisis of economic thought, a mismatch between the components of economic theory and practical realities, we can not agree to a complete failure of the profession of economist. However, very serious failures are linked today by the presence of intractable processes. Specifically, they include: huge budget and trade deficits, public debt (sovereign) even at the level of developed countries, high unemployment, significant disturbances in terms of monetary financial, currency, policy, disturbances and imbalances within the euro area, unprecedented growth of price for precious metals and particularly gold, etc.

We will emphasize for information, the elements that define some of the current crisis that strongly influence growth rates, economic structures, markets, productive and unproductive consumption, the employment level, living standards, etc.

The energy crisis caused, inter alia, important negotiations for oil trade and natural gas. In some cases, energy is used as a political weapon, and pricing policy, not infrequently, has no economic foundation. The

present crisis, through all its components, triggered a strong competitive struggle from technical, economic view in order to find new resources, and technologies based on new energy sources.

The food crisis - which has manifested even more acute in recent years, tends to evolve in the future in a global crisis and, along with the water crisis, will be the most serious through their implications. Specialists put a strong warning signal on certain issues such as ratio population/food production, unequal production and global distribution, sharp deterioration of the natural environment, sharp decrease of agricultural land per capita (some opinions say, correctly and we believe that in the future agricultural land will be as important as the oil), increased crop land areas for energy production against food production, hence an increase in poverty and hunger and many other aspects.

Water crisis is considered to be one of the future crises with global impact and perhaps the most serious, which will affect either household consumption, but also that of agriculture or other needs. The water is considered as the new gold. Water crisis should be a more complex concern in the current crisis, especially in the global environment crisis. The natural environment is an issue as important as the economy, a prerequisite for the survival of humanity.

All crises are required to be prevented or resolved. This requires action in the educational, cultural, and moral field in all countries, regardless of their level of development and civilization. Speaking in modern terms, it requires a way to rethink everything, to reunite and direct efficient action in the desired sense. We remember that the attention paid in recent years to the issue of education, culture, and behavior, unfortunately, no longer rise to the demand of our time. We can speak in these areas about deep crisis, both nationally and globally, despite the huge progress of internet communication, modern infrastructures, but also in regional and planetary movement of people. Perhaps the latter point, correlated with other factors, lead to deterioration in education, culture and behavior. Moreover, a significant part of the flows and cultural institutions, cross-regional, transcontinental, in other words, cultural globalization, fail to dissociate value from non-value, negative from positive, to achieve an optimum ratio between old and new, between tradition and modern. In our opinion, it is necessary to reinstate the appropriate report between the general cultures of the individual with practical, technical skills required by modern technology.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we say that human existence problems on planet earth, and crises we have to face should be considered on medium to long term. Short-term solutions for a problem or another are only palliative. Moreover, the future must be explored and developed only in a systemic

vision of inter-activity of all that is human life, including the fundamental relationship man - society - nature. In nature, we find many answers, solutions and the past offers many examples. Modernity does not always give us the best examples. Therefore, crises, old or new, should be compared with the past, but also with the future trends, the challenges ahead. We should make the option for life and not let it run erratically at random.

We should hope to other possible world, different from the one today, but alike with many values from relatively distant past. Besides the reasons mentioned and more others possible, a permanent warning signal regarding the world's population and the demographic crisis is with a focus on aging and a possible future social crisis (the unemployment has a significant weight in this case).

In order to understand contemporary reality, to find at least partial solution to economic, social, environmental policy, there are two elements: a) a deep, careful and immediate bend on what happens up to the global dimension, placing in the foreground the economic and financial crisis, the educational, moral and behavioral crisis; b) regarding the problem of economic crisis, cyclical processes and phenomena, it is necessary, in our view, to return deeply to the study of the concept of Marx and Keynes.

Amid the dispute interventionist - neo-liberalism, the interventionism seems at least for now the key to solve or ameliorate many dysfunctions and even imbalances.

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