

THE DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS AND ITS RISKS UPON IDENTITY

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I. Introduction: general specifications

1. The surface of the planet amounts at 510 million of km². Of this surface, 361 million km² (71%) represents seas and oceans (the planetary ocean), while the rest of 149 million km² (29) represents the mainland (continents and islands).

Whether the surface of the planet – with very few alterations – is approximately the same, things are not the same when we talk about its population, which is in a permanent dynamic; today it is over 7 billion people. Given this situation, taking into account only the mainland – continents and islands – at a rough calculation, each inhabitant of our planet approximately 0.021 km² can enjoy utilizing. This is the static average, since the density of the population is extremely different/ large geopolitical spaces (average number of inhabitants 49.97 km²). Putting it shortly, there are territories with demographic agglomeration and there are territories with low density of people (the geopolitical factors like economy and culture directly influencing the low density of the population – scanty resources included – with high differences between the rural and urban environments).

2. In the last two centuries, within the demographic evolution, two major events took place:

- a) The moment of the “*demographic revolution*” – early 18th and early 20th centuries, when in the developed countries where the scientific and technical revolution occurred, a reduction in mortality and an increase in the number of population registered (we refer to the moment of Malthus’s theses concerning the rapport between the number of population and survival means);
- b) The moment of *demographic boom*, a process occurring in the 1950s in the poor countries characterized by a high raise in the number of the population.

The following table is enlightening in this sense:

Annual average rhythm of population increase/ time intervals

Time interval	Annual average rhythm of population increase	Population / absolute values
1750-1850	Up to 0,5%	1128-1402 million
1851-1950	Up to 0,8%	2486 million
1951-1985	> as double: over 2,5%	4000 million in 1976
1986-2000	> 2,5%	4500 million
After 2000	> 3,3%	6500-7000 million

Note: the authors are responsible for the data by correlating the official items

3. Based on two factual realities of universal impact – limited available territory and the increase in an almost exponential rhythm of the global population today – we can issue *an ascertained reasoning* and at the same time, we can formulate *an interrogation of predictable values*.

The ascertained reasoning – today the world faces a major demographic crisis.

The interrogation of predictable functions: to what extent does the current demographic crisis endanger the (European, national, of communities, of the human being) identity?

II. *Concepts: the demographic crisis, identity, identity crisis*

II.1. The demographic crisis is a complex phenomenon affecting the entire globe population by generating dysfunctionalities and major cleavages of different amplitudes and intensities with serious consequences upon the human condition, of the human factor existence itself on the globe.

The demographic crisis is manifest of an entropic tendency in the preservation and evolution of the socialization process. The complexity of the phenomenon is at the core with its contradictory tendencies and objectifying elements of impact transformations at the level of the demographic factor, of the provoked multidimensional crises.

The significant aspects giving the complexity character to the demographic crisis are:

- ✓ Devaluing of the social capital by fecund positive contamination (the attribute “positive” does not express an appreciative element, but the rapid contamination); alteration of the social capital externalities (R^+ ; R^-);
- ✓ Increase of delinquency and multiplying the risks concerning the (individual, group, regional, national) security;
- ✓ The contradictory character of the fertility (depopulating of North, overpopulating the South); the total rate of th fertility decrease under the necessary level for the population to remain at stable quota in the North and increase over the necessary level for the population to remain at the stable level in the South (RTF = the average number of children of a woman in her entire life – in North should be over 2 while in the South, at the maximum 1);
- ✓ Drastic decrease in importance of the role and functions of the family (in the North the items referring to marriages and the children born in the family are in freefall, while the items concerning divorces, children with one parent and children born outside marriage are continuously raising);
- ✓ De-structuring of the civil society, breaking the moral values, decrease of trust;
- ✓ Amplifying the migration phenomenon from South to North, from the “poverty islands” towards the “green areas” (rich or relatively rich) with diverse significant consequences:

economic, political, cultural, juridical, religious etc.: the role of the army is significant, it became “reserve army” (made of immigrants), used to control the price of the labour force by the multi-, supra- and transnational companies;

- ✓ Amplifying the poverty in the overcrowded areas and irrational consumption of the resources versus the interest for preservation the own resources in the developed areas;
- ✓ The enumeration can go on.

From this enumeration, an *essential particularity* of the factor showing the current accession and the profundity of the demographic crisis becomes clear; despite the fact that in the beginning the crisis was not global, by globalizing the effects it turned out to be global.

Some authors approach the demographical crisis unilaterally as a “raising crisis”, in that they keep in mind only the depopulation generated by decreasing RTF and the birth rate (diminishing the natural increase of the population). The approach is poor, which does not take into account that in essence, the phenomenon is also *a structural crisis*, which affects the population in its “depth” (that is in its less obvious and less visible layers).

Yet, the demographic crisis does not signify only the diminishing of population (so a lack!), but as we stated above, it also signifies an increase (almost exponential) through a total rate of the fertility way above the normal. From here, the *different remedial policies* derive (even opposed) for stimulating the natality in the North and prohibiting it in the South. The phenomenon preserves its complexity exactly through its dual nature; it becomes a phenomenon via two processes: as a demographic surplus in an ongoing increase in the South and as demographic deficit, continuously increasing, in the North.

At present, the surplus (in the South) > the deficit (in the North), which indicates an alarming situation:

$\Delta E - D \rightarrow$ increasing positive value

ΔE = difference between the surplus and the deficit

D = deficit

II.2. *Identity and the identity crisis*

The term identity etymological originated in Latin (*identitas – identitatis*) express a perfect similitude. Used in the law – as a phrase for the overall of data through which a person is identifiable (the individual’s identity). In mathematics – it expresses a relation of equality in which variable elements intervene, true for any values of these elements. In logics – the *principle of identity*, the fundamental principle of thought imposing for the logical forms to keep one and the same meaning during the same operation. In the experimental sciences – the property of a thing to keep the fundamental characteristics for a long time so on and so forth. On the other hand, the term *added* to other terms (national identity, community identity, cultural identity, educational identity etc. expresses *a set of qualitative essential features through which the before mentioned identities define*. These attributes *identify* and *differentiate* a fragment of the existence via the rapport with others (of the same type or different) rendering it intelligible in the coordinates through which it is what it really is. Both in the denotative meaning, but especially in the connotative one, *the identity* expresses *the relevance* of the attributes conferring it *uniqueness, rarity* and *the aims* of the designed fragment (having the role of definiendum). For instance, *the national identity* expresses those qualitative attributes making of the respective nation relevant one, features that differentiate that nation from other nations. Via the essential

qualitative features, the national education identifies through the rapports with the education in other cultural areas, pointing at what *we mean* and *how much we value* within the European/international educational space.

Approached from the systemic perspective, the problem of identity occurs in terms of *compatibility* and *differentiation*. Approached from the functional perspective, the problem of identity occurs in terms of performance, prestige and acknowledgement of the elements value defining the identity and validation on the national/ international¹ level.

From the perspective of our undertaking, the national identity is interesting in that we are concerned with revealing the consequences of the demographic crisis upon it, the risks to which the national existence exposes by amplifying, continuity and increase in intensity the dysfunctions of the demographic factor.

The coordinates defining the national identity are:

- ✓ A population constituted with individuals united by the self-consciousness of belonging to the same ethnicity;
- ✓ A physical-geographic space supporting the specific cultural space;
- ✓ A language of national circulation;
- ✓ A set of specific traditions, artefacts and customs;
- ✓ Values and norms shared by the majority of the national community members based on the trust in them and mutual confidence;
- ✓ A special order substantiated through specific values and norms;
- ✓ A cultural, educational, scientific and technological heritage;
- ✓ A psycho-religious characteristic ensuring it continuity and spiritual relevance (“soul power”).

The new existential matrix², through its coordinates ensures the proper framework for de-structuring the national identity, *the demographic crisis* being the phenomenon with the highest proportion in de-structuring the social capital.

III. *The demographic crisis, the risks of losing the identity and the issue of silent evidence*

*The issue of the silent evidence*³ is one affecting our knowledge. Originated in the story told by Marcus Tullius Cicero more than 2000 years ago regarding the “drowned worshippers” creating sceptic reactions to the odd Diagoras. The issue points at the series of consequences created by neglecting the *silent evidence*. Specifically, the issue lies in a *distortion*, a difference between *what we see* and the *reality*, the observer suffering a deviation in approaching the factual realities (a deformation of it).

Therefore, our nature forces us not to value the effort to render the silent evidence intelligible (the silent evidence – “is what the events utilize in order to hide the random, especially that of Black Swan type”⁴). The history offered us many examples in which by not

¹ See Adrian Gorun, Contribuții la reconstrucția identității educației naționale (Sinteze), Editura „Academica Brâncuși”, 2015, p. 8

² See Horațiu Tiberiu Gorun, Adrian Gorun, *Al Doilea Tratat despre educație; (Virusii culturali și virusii proiectați)*, Editura Universitaria, Craiova, 2017, pp. 45-50

³ See Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Lebăda Neagră, impactul foarte puțin probabilului*, Editura Curtea Veche, București, 2010, pp. 123-153

⁴ Ibidem, p 134

taking into account the hidden evidence, they reached wrong appreciations thus altering the human knowledge. This is also valid in the case of the impact of the demographic crisis upon the national identities, the silent evidence put between brackets. We will analyse a few distortions (“deviations”) specific to the two phenomena, which the time factor makes evolve processual.

III.1. The distortion (deviation) derived from the duration of some civilizations

Approximately 10000 years ago BC, there were only three advanced civilizations, China, India and Middle East. Europe and the Americas had their brilliant civilizations, too, but much later. The fact that the geo-climate factors are responsible for constituting, maintaining, flourishing and decay of civilizations and the communities with such civilizations, but also “responsible” for the historical course. All these factors were responsible to the extent they depended on the demographic factor. Where the geo-climate factor was unfavourable, the survival of some increasing populations was difficult.

The unilateral approach of this relation – that between the geo-climate factor and the demographic factor – led to neglecting the silent evidence concerning the power regimes putting an imprint upon the identity of the civilizations. In fact, peoples like those Mesopotamian and Egyptian were concerned with cultivating the fertile lands around Tiger, Euphrates and Nile taking steps only in protecting their own resources and without being preoccupied with colonizing other territories. While other peoples like the Greek, Roman or the Germanic ones proved warrior peoples and the theocratic regimes were useless in the face of their military regimes. Thus, the expansion was possible even if in the territorial unifications of Mesopotamia and Egypt the theocratic power had a significant role.

They did not take into account the silent evidence concerning the rapport demographical factor – identity and given the situation, in a reality, which the successors distorted, that being that in the history few were the cases when the civilizations constituted, developed and survived via making use of their own natural resources. Mesopotamia and Egypt were two distinct civilizations, victims of the first migrating wave.

III.2. the Distortion derived from the comparative study of the civilizations

The colonizing western civilization triggered the second migrating wave. In essence, it is the same processes of economic expansion, which, in ancient times based on acquiring and exploiting the rich resources of the neighbours. Ignoring the silent evidence when conclusions emerge concerning the civilizing role of the colonialism, reside exactly in hiding the real aim of the colonizers: that of enriching the resources by dispossessing the colonial populations of their natural resources.

This “deviation” underlies the current hierarchical order of the areas/ countries by comparing the present economic potential without issuing any judgement towards the spoiled potential. Moreover, the silent evidence communicate also, if we “listen to them” carefully what happened to the populations and the civilizations about which nobody knows nothing.

“The American epopee – Th. Milleman informs – was definitely the most radical. Christopher Columbus discovering Bahamas Archipelago, on 12 October 1492, after he sailed 45 days, then Cuba, Haiti and the rest of Antilles marked the end of the Arawak population. The Spanish colonizers exterminated the Indians designed to be slaves in real concentration camps. Finally, they preferred the collective suicide instead of miserable life conditions enforced by the

conquerors. Then, a little later, Herman Cortés with few hundreds men and few horses conquered Mexico, destroying the Aztec Empire, in 1521. The epidemics and enforced labour decimated the autochthonous population”¹.

The neglected silent evidence do not say anything about the vanished populations. Considering this evidence would complete the picture of knowing the demographic rapport – identity in these geopolitical areas.

In conclusion, we should not abandon the idea according to which the colonized territories represented for the West free resources of raw materials and cheap labour force in the museum of history. This idea underlies historical realities and mirror the neo-colonial policies today.

III.3. The distortion („deviation”) derived from presenting the demographic crisis truncated

Approaching the demographic crisis only from the perspective of the alarming decrease of natality and RTF leads to incomplete conclusions. In this situation, the neglected silent evidence envisage two aspects of the current world. On the one hand the exponential explosion of the demographic factor in the South of the Globe, on the other the alteration of the national identity in the North, as a consequence of the massive migration (from the poor areas intensely populated towards the richer areas, of low numbers of population) and hybridity of the life model. The continuous hybridity generates reversing the predominant aspects. The numerical increase of the migrants gradually endangers the civilization constituted along the time in a specific geographic area.

Here is a picture result of neglecting the silent evidence. “In Europe, the natality proportion does not overpass 10%, except for the immigrant’s natality. In Maghreb, the proportion overcomes 30%! Half of this population is under 15 and the life span is superior to that 60. In the moment it gained the independence, Maghreb had half of the French population at those times, namely, less than 25 million inhabitants. Today the population is 72 and by 2025, it will have outnumbered 98 million!

The French population increases only with the migrants and its natality, mostly Muslim. When a French woman of European origin for many Indo-Christian generations – the majority of the French population comes from European immigration – gives birth to a Christian child, the immigrant in Northern Africa coming from Maghreb gives birth to four Muslim children. (...) Is France prepared to accept on its territory, most of the youth, candidates for immigrant status, accept their origin to finally become a Muslim country?² The same question is valid for other European countries too, especially after the migration wave of the past years.

III.4. Distortion („deviation”) derived from the ghost theory of globalization

Globalization is equally worshipped and contested. The supporters of the globalization considers it inherently desirable and universally inevitable, seeing it as the model-matrix, the standard and ideal to pursue by removing the gaps and cleavages, alleviating the poverty, avoiding the conflicts etc.

¹ Thierry P. Milleman, Fața ascunsă a lumii occidentale, Pro Editură și Tipografie, București, 2008, p. 32

² Ibidem, p. 39

Therefore, the globalization is the panaceas of the present issues in the world. This set of ideas form the ghost theory of the globalization, a theory affected by *provincialism, descriptivism and formalism* precisely because it neglects the silent evidence detached from the *paradigm of the political development*. This paradigm put in genetic-functional conjunction the political modernization and development, thus reaching to a fetish-globalized theory. The paradigm comprise the vital issues hidden by the ideas of globalization precisely by the ghost theory of globalization. These issues area: the dichotomy of the societies with a state/ societies without a state, polarity and asymmetry of power, distribution of values and supporting the costs of the historical mismatches and unequal and inequity of the access to natural resources. There are also the limits of the internalization, the conflicts between the civilizations, the linguistic and cultural imperialism, the monopoly of decision, intermittent citizenship, alienation of the group status and individual status, artificial uniformity etc. In practice, precisely the *ambiguity and the inconsistencies of globalization* they do not take into account within the rapport between demographic factors – identity included.

III.5. The distortion („deviation”) derived from the need “to see” the cause

By nature, we have the inclination to look for logical explanations to everything. Based on causal explanations, pursuing *mainly* a phenomenon, which we declare an effect to the *generating precedent* (the cause). What is the cause of the present migrations? *The poverty*, we answer hastily starting from a succession, which our mind exercise. Only that does the poverty represent a cause of the migration *only* for some of migrators, many of them – even if not the majority – have hidden reasons. Are the members of the terrorist groupings poor intermingled among the immigrants arrived in Germany, Netherlands, France, Belgium or Spain?

The silent evidence hinder our understanding of one more essential aspect when we reveal the migrating waves. The aspect refers to the fact that the ex-colonists become colonizers, conquering “peacefully” the old continent. The invasion of Muslim populations constitute a Black Swan event, whereas taking into consideration the silent evidence may already lead to the third World War.

III.6. The distortion („deviation”) derived from cosmetology of events and mediatization preponderantly the obvious and visible consequences

More often than not, our observations underlie some statements lacking reality. Of course, during our endeavour toward *the sensational irrelevant* we can talk about *the non-sensational relevant*. This explains the weakness of our machinery, a weakness leading to vicious deviations, precisely because we do not consider the silent evidence. For example, assessing the number of the person migrating depending on their “visible” wealth, the poverty being the sensational relevant, will support the mental portrait of the present migrants. The portrait we have in our minds pretends re-humanizing policies for these people, compassion generated by solidarity and support. Therefore images of families with children wearing rags and hungered, with desolate people stopped by force at the borders of some European countries induce us compassion for those brutally “treated”. Yet, we do not consider the fact that among “the poor” and “desolate” people – so many times - the authors of some bombings, terrorists, drugs dealers hid. The media make public the visible and obvious consequences and those invisible and less obvious they keep under down low, they distortion the truth. For example, the

public opinion do not know that in order to allocate decent living means for the immigrants, with money taken from health, education, research, public order etc and the same money finance the decent living of the terrorists and especially those action engendering the identity of the permissive state with the immigrants. The silent evidence – through the Black Swans they trigger – may have devastating consequences. In short, the distortion derived from the mediatisation preponderantly of the obvious and visible consequences puts an imprint also upon the way in which the media appreciate heroic deeds and declare heroes some people, promoters of “the new humanism” and people who changed the human condition for the bad.

III.7. *The distortion („deviation”) derived from the illusion of stability*

The deviation “diminishing our perception for the risks we had in the past” especially for those who *were lucky enough* to survive these risks is the worst of the manifestation of the silent evidence. Put differently, although the menace is as intense as in the past, in the situation that the individual had survived, it also gains the belief that *it will manage* in the future risk. The illusion of stability bases on the fact that, looking back, we underestimate the risk degree of that situation. It is a conviction similar to that of Casanova, the legendary seducer, regarding the bad luck. We believe that the bad luck will avoid us, since *we are lucky enough* to manage any mess. We believe – and even feel – we are “the chosen of the fate”, making an illusion – that of stability – a personal quality, thus assessing erroneously to risks.

The recent history offers us enough examples through which the illusion of stability distort the silent evidence. Let us remind those “kneeled” by luck on 11 September 2001, for whom the conviction that they are above risk led them to death. Alternatively, the series of terrorists who managed to get away “in extremis” for some times, but finally suppressed when trying to organize a new attack.

The illusion of stability induces us the feeling of security in the case of some events to which humankind managed to survive: the survival in the way of the migrations waves, survival in the face of “the demographic revolution”, survival in the face of the low rate of natality and the overall rate of low fertility during some conflagrations etc.

Nonetheless, *encouraging the uninformed risk-taking* is unacceptable. Whether we reached at this point by accident, it does not mean that we should continue taking the same risks!

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We could also take into account other distortions generated by neglecting the silent evidence concerning the demographic crisis and losing the identity as *distortion derived from calculus of the chances from the advantageous position of the winner, distortion derived from the blindness in the face of the random, distortion derived from the error of confirmation* etc. We consider edifying, nonetheless, the previous analyses to find exactly the essence of the problem: that the identity is engendered in the face of emphasizing the demographic crisis. Gradually, the self of the community (expressed in the self-consciousness of belonging) transforms “US” in ”OTHERS”. Our “I” alters, migrating toward “ALTER-EGO” profoundly de-structured axiological.

IV. Instead of conclusions

The Romanian people is not a Nomad people in his being and existence. The migration accents endanger our national being, especially in the last period, by not taking into account the silent evidence by the deciding factors, (both regarding the migration itself, but above all, concerning the low natality rate and RTF). Do they want to metamorphose “WE” into ...”OTHERS”?