

19. Crisis, whatever it means.

*It is sometimes harder to agree to a thing
than to understand it ...⁵⁵*

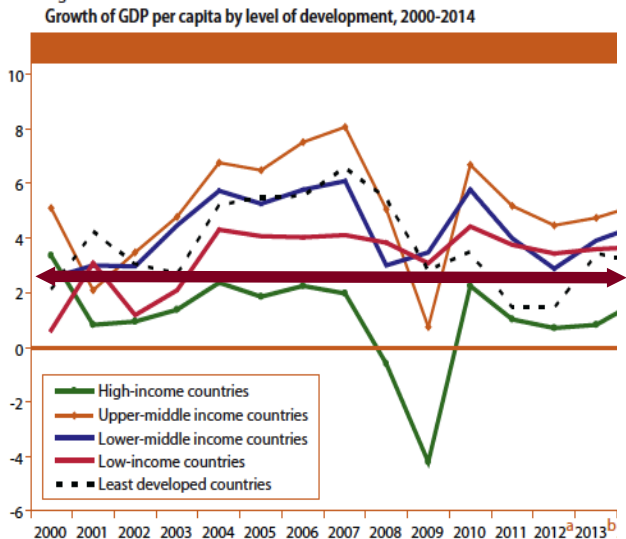
It happens to hear that we are passing a time of economical crisis, which causes social emergency. But these assertions and statements are not completely true, to be very generous.

Crisis is when an unstable and dangerous situation affects an individual, a group, a community or the whole society. It is defined for the negative changes in security, economic, political, societal and environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, with little or no warning.

Some keeps on saying there are no money, and that this is the cause for economical crisis. It is because of the economical crisis. By the way, it is notably specular to what third sector says, when there are some “do-not” part to justify to the users.

“Sorry folks, there are no money to assure what you are entitled to”. There might some smell in the air when one hears this.

The knowledge of an effect depends on and involves the knowledge



⁵⁵ Ref.: F. Nietzsche, *Schopenhauer as educator*, 1874

of its cause, Spinoza⁵⁶ once wrote. Time for a reality check.

Economically speaking, data⁵⁷ shows that the exchange of goods and money are substantially stable over the last 13 years.

Even more impressive are the data on global wealth⁵⁸. Data are impressive and draw an opposite scenario than the mainstream media.

They shows a general increment over the last 15 years: « ... despite a decade of negative real returns on equities, several equity bear markets and the collapse of housing bubbles, global wealth has more than doubled since 2000... average wealth per adult has hit a new peak, but inequality remains high.»

Overall, despite the pretended recovery from recession, the average wealth per adult has reached a historic high increasing by +4.9%. In the US the richness is 20% higher than the peak before the “crisis”⁵⁹.

Another shocking data is the forecast of an additional 39% increment of global wealth in the next 5 years⁶⁰. This can be translated as another massive movements of resources from one to another part of the society.

If the economy is globally stable in terms of exchange of goods and GDP, the global wealth increases twice for a small majority of people, while inequalities doubled for the rest of us, what are we talking about?

The crisis is all but economical.

The question is who benefits from talking about the crisis in the sole

⁵⁶ Ref.: Spinoza, *Ethica*, 1677

⁵⁷ Ref.: United Nations, *Global outlook of the World Economic Situation and Prospects* 2013

⁵⁸ « ...taken together, the bottom half of the global population own less than 1 % of total wealth. In sharp contrast, the richest 10 % hold 86 % of the world's wealth, and the top 1 % alone account for 46 % of global assets » Ref.: Credit Suisse, *Global Wealth Reaches New All-Time High* 2013

⁵⁹ Ref.: Credit Suisse, *Global Wealth Reaches New All-Time High* 2013

⁶⁰ Ref.: Credit Suisse, *Global Wealth Reaches New All-Time High* 2013

economical terms. Maybe economy itself.

It is time for two brief “sliding-door” stories.

Their starting points are similar: a person is always been told about the economical crisis and the necessity of austerity. This person has been effected directly from the austerity measures. His life was screwed up.

In the first short story, the person got emotionally involved with the news, understanding it as a request of alliance; unconsciously processing it as an hidden request of compliance; sitting silently and blaming the unfairness of destiny.

In the second short story, the person sits at a table and reads these data from the United Nations and the Credit Swiss report. The person hears some music far in background. A voice can be heard. It is reality singing “I think I did it again, I made you believe ... I played with your heart, got lost in the game ... oops, I am not that innocent!”⁶¹. Almost, the hidden silent whisper of economy. It is very possible that this individual won't necessarily remain silent. End of story, or maybe a new beginnings...

If the economy is stable, it means that there is no lack or loss of money, which actually doubled in term of wealth, but a different use and diffusion, which produces negative changes, effecting the quality of life for the vast majority of people. It is not a matter of economical crisis.

The crisis is not economical, if we can still define it “crisis”. It sounds more appropriate the word “useful” for that ridiculous percentage of global population that controls most of the wealth⁶².

In any case, economy, as any other living thing, fluctuates, evolves,

⁶¹ Ref.: The title track of Britney Spears second album, released in 2000

⁶² Ref.: David Graeber, *On the phenomenon of bullshit-jobs*, Strike magazine, 2013: «...if the 1% of the population controls most of the disposable wealth, what we call “the market” reflects what they think is useful or important, not anyone else...»

develops, moves. Years ago the production moved to the East to keep benefit at home, and it was called globalisation. Some were triumphant. Any benefit, a cost.

It is the way it works, from the time of our ancestors to modern capitalism: the cost-benefit ratio. In a liquid world, the west is now receiving the cost of its benefit, which results in an attempt to crush the standards in the quality of life for people. Specifically western people. Barking around the economical crisis sounds quite Wasp then.

Aside of the barking, nothing really happened. It is silly when a rocket ship explodes and everybody still want to fly, as a refrain from a 80s' song⁶³ still in the air. A sign of the time.

When the population increases and the resources are limited and not self-regenerating, to have a stable scenario, to maintain a given political and economical situation, the conservation is an option.

Conservation is also a physical principle by which the total value of a physical quantity remains constant in a given system. It is also known as the biological principle of homeostasis. Again, physics and biology come to clarify the metaphor both into social and inner scenario: the movements are to preserve, protect, restore and prevent the deterioration of the given system, and to avoid any change.

Within such structure, social rage is anything but a physiological response. Like what happens with psychosis, the amazing point is how it was compensated. The point is how silent the rage is, how quiet, how much resilience⁶⁴ was needed. Usually, a silent denial of rage indicates the presence of impressive defences, which are not necessary the wealthier way to face reality. A silent response or compliance can be sometimes closer to pathological denial and removal. The pathological denial and removal of frustration, angst and anger can be part of the movements beyond the suicidal phenomenon.

⁶³ Re.: Prince, Sign “☺” the times, 1987

⁶⁴ Resilience is the adaptive ability to absorb energy through elastic deform and release without creating a permanent distortion. As a process of bouncing back through stress and adversity, the risk is to reach the threshold of own limits.

Aside of conservation of power and privileges, a testing time to see how far things can change negatively for many while being stable for few, it is the general definition of restoration⁶⁵.

Emergency is an unexpected and dangerous situation which require immediate action. To be so, it must be unexpected.

If an emergency run through time, it is not emergency anymore. Every thing which endures through time, it is a constant. When the context is the constant, then the values of the variables become worth looking at to discover what it is necessary to keep the constants in their status.

By given nature, the constants are necessary and functional to maintain a structural given system. Because of their very nature, constants qualify the way a structural system works.

To drive something in term of emergency when it is not, it is reasonable to foster the maintenance of status-quo, it is worth for the business of the providers, while it costs too much for the collectivity. The majority of us. If it is not emergency but a constant depending on conservation and restoration acts, which costs to the collectivity in favour of few, it is a matter of maintaining the status quo.

If any NGOs is confident enough to read these lines in front of a mirror without honestly blushing for embarrassment, then probably the job has been done honestly.

Even the effort of defining social needs in term of emergency sounds closer to an attempt of maintaining the status quo. To the idea of making business out of it. To deprive, denial and dismantle the dignity for people to have at least the chance to say “no”. An effort to squeeze and neglect social rage. Which might be frightening, but it is vital, as any other conflict.

It sounds shocking, and usually is unpopular to hear, but when a care-worker is forced by external circumstances to constantly work into an emergency mood, this is what happens. Another happening fact is that

⁶⁵ Restoration is the action of returning, and the return itself, to a given regime of power, while conservation is the act of being conservative and adverse to changes

the cost raise up till un-effectiveness. It might be that the measure is wrong: history has shown that the costs to preserve a given condition are sometimes always effective for the leading minority.

Spinoza discerned between cause and effect.

In most cultures, the general idea is that a good citizen avoid conflicts. As Mindell suggests:

«...what it is defined as “evil” is the spirit of time with which the majority has troubles ... trying to compress and deny conflicts only makes them worst ... if the rage is admitted and elaborated, it is less disruptive then when it is repressed...»⁶⁶.

Another inconvenient truth, as any volcano might show.

There is no social emergency in this sense, but the effect of a given structure. Betting on the resilience and compliance is to bet on the down-phase of a bipolar structure. It is hard to question a structure when one is somehow part of it. This is what the so called “social emergency” stands for. The rest is newspeak⁶⁷. Or, as some people in need might say: «Go ahead, it is “so” third sector style, yo!»

⁶⁶ Ref.: A. Mindell, *Sitting in the fire, large group transformation using conflict and diversity*, 1997

⁶⁷ “Newspeak” is the artificial, ambiguous and euphemistic official language built for political propaganda, as Orwell wrote in *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)