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**Workshop Title: Europeanisation and Social Transformation: Legal vs. Cognitive Aspects of Change**

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**Sub title: European self intolerance blocks real social transformation**

The objective of this paper is to propose a thinking process which will cause better living with progress and prosperity for the contemporary societies. The core of this analysis is the perception of the notion of time and its side effects on society, religion, politics, philosophy and the need for change. In simple words a social transformation can be achieved by experiencing the "Art of Living"

+Pure science, arts and philosophy blends the **time layers** [*Time-layers are the layers that can view cultural behaviors and events based on a time frame in relation to geographical or mental space*] of European history and re-evaluate practices that overcome dead-ends. These time layers can be seen as **transparent, semi transparent or non-transparent** depending on the philosophical view of the **notion of time**.

A **western linear approach of time** creates *non-transparent* time layers because it causes a non-stop evolving structure of thought which leaves behind a series of "behaviors" which are incompatible with the archetype ethics "The essential nature of every human being is perfect and **flawless**. But if you stay for years immersed in the world, it's easy to forget your roots and to take upon an artificial nature. - Lao Tzu". This resulted a type of **social intelligence** which could lead to **phenomenal** "revolutions" as an energy release from a social bottle neck or even better a new interpretation of "change". All this momentum turns into new common practices for ruling and more specific a new era of

politics of controlling societies, people and consciousness. "*Everything is subject to interpretation and this interpretation that dominates at a specific moment, it's a matter of power and not of truth*" Nietzsche . Milan Kundera stated it as the "Fight of Man against the power is the fight of memory against the oblivion"

An **eastern circular approach of time creates** transparent time layers since the process here is repeated again and again. This causes another type of social intelligence which is based on **habits and customs**; "habits overrule the unreflecting cattle" William Wordsworth. This cycle or repetition has a limit. This limit appears especially when other neighboring societies achieve things in an "easier or better" way. See for example the anthropological cases of tribes which they do **not feel threatened** by other neighboring societies and their perception of the neighboring practices are considered more comfortable or easy. Then, their cycle reaches that limit and a new cycle begins causing new habits based on the absorption of the "new" cultural elements.

This circular approach works perfect for everything which is related to nature. When it comes to social structures, after a while it needs a strong bonding material which will dominate the system such as religion. Imagine Middle East societies without religion or the threat of the west.

Finally, the notion of time, as a time platform, influences the perception and the mechanisms of structuring the human thinking process which has a direct impact on society. Societies are now even more complex and definitely more **dynamically multilayered**. For that reason an "avatar" or a vehicle is needed in order to travel within these layers. This vehicle is based on the time frame which blends the linear and circular approach.

The question is how can someone view time and how time is related to "self" and social behavior. How can science (measuring time), arts (playing with time) and philosophy (challenging time) can come up with a new **time "platform?"** A semi-transparent approach which enables someone to shift or move its focal point of thought, combining or excluding time layers of society can be the answer. An approach which it does give someone the chance to diagonally travel in time by viewing simultaneously, if desired, the time and social layers exactly like an archaeologists who is viewing the different layers of the excavations (stromatography).

What is the key of uniting Europe and the world in general which could lead to common understanding of life? Definitely not by deleting all the ethical gaps left behind and covered by progress. European ethical gaps as a result of the colonialism and post colonialism, are realities which cannot be forgotten unless there is an acceptance and a real collaboration (not by ruling) with the countries that suffered from this behavior. Progress is the cover up to maintain this system. Progress Vs Ethics results a predetermine economy causing new realities based on new interpretations.

Europe it is an excellent example which in a very paradoxical way tries and in a way successfully, to widespread the perception that EU can offer the tools

for initiating social change. Giving a fair chance to marginal groups, caring for the citizen but the same time leaves all its past "improper" actions to the historians to talk about and have no political responsibility. Maybe that is why Europe is based on **tolerance** and **not in attraction** .

The answer could be a new social transformation. Why this transformation? Because there is a need to bypass the dead ends and injustice. These dead ends are the **impurities** which grew over the years within western democracy and the life style we live which is basically against the nature. We may still give power to the people but these people are overflowed with information and incapable of going back to basics and/or manage their own time.

Philosophy, according to Plutarch is the **art of living** and for Epicurus "it must deal with essential issues which are directly related with the needs of life in a broader notion. If we do not get to know ourselves we cannot get to know our true needs in the wonderful journey called life. For that reason philosophy does not aim to anything but to self awareness". Also Aristotle said that "**Reflection** is the highest form of activity". What could be the a common bond which will unite the person with society? Self awareness. The good old get to know yourself of what the **Abraham Maslow** said "what a person needs to change is the consciousness of his/hers self".

The process of self awareness is in reality a continues training in a new way of thinking, experience and mainly action. Self awareness should be empirical.

For this reason what is proposed here is a "**new**" **time platform** which is a combination of the linear and the circular approach of the notion of time. It is actually the combination of the western and eastern way of thinking which it could combine and blend two sets of **old wisdoms** and while they remain old they can produce **new forms of structuring thinking itself**. This system is based on the idea that every cycle and every set of repetitions it has a limit which needs to centrifugalize its self in a linear way to the next orbit. This orbit is created to host another cycle, another repetition, another experience. If the surrounding behaviors are not influenced or related to it, then this will remain in that orbit or even going back to the previous one. This is basically how nature itself works at a molecular level. The only way to view it in another way is to actually ignore time and approach it via the **quantum physics** where time and matter itself are not needed to be part of the analysis. These are the real archetypes in ethics which are part of the peoples DNA and **confront the animal with the anima** (soul in Latin / psyche in Greek). This dialogue needs self awareness that can be achieved with education which will produce new knowledge. This knowledge will be useless if this does not lead to improved change. A society learns when it acquires and creates new knowledge which is put into practice and continuously improves itself in a way that will bring progress and prosperity. "It does not exist any progress without change in spite of the fact that change it does not necessarily bring progress - Demetris Bourantas" People become a functional part of the society when they are free to reflect and create. And they are really creating when they

manage to combine the personal benefit of the "me" with the social benefit of the "we"; the freedom of "I" with the freedom of "WE". If you think of it a 180 degrees rotation of a letter can make a big social impact.

Ethics, are vulnerable to two realities. These realities are **fear** and **full stomach**. A full stomach will never try to cause a major change. If blended with fear then it becomes a "**permanent reality**" feeling safe with your fears. This paradox is the result of artificial intelligence where man made machines try to study human being in order to rule the other. "The best way to control people is to frighten them" Noam Chomsky. We have to decide how we prefer to live; with fear or with love?

This, resulted over the years, to a legislation system which comforts people, turned them into passive personalities, have no interest for a major change but have the democratic right to complain. "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" Martin Luther King

Even if there are people in European public squares, occupying, demanding and challenging the system, this, will not work unless we include self-awareness in the process. This will create a critical mass which is necessary for every change. As Ludwig Wittgenstein said "the only thing you can do to improve the world is to improve yourself."

How can these complexities be simplified and regain human essential values? By shifting from **In-Habit-Ants into City-Zens**. People should not live as ants or by habit but should turned into people of having just basic needs, a Zen type of living. This will of course crush overconsumption, reduce or even destroy economy which feeds the existing system as we know it today and give no value or reason to exist of the legal system.

We should returned back to a bottom up approach and substitute the basic values on which social cohesion and symbiosis, social solidarity and human relationships are resting. This should work against the social complacency, the individual and social inertia. "*The biggest research of humanity is the within the knowledge of someone can do in order to be a human. Immanuel Kant*"

When you think that the world is using its last creative resources a new era which demands the existence a new genuine Man who fights to give essence to human life arises. This is the challenge to give space to an **ontological "evolution" of human consciousness and self awareness**. A new cognitive aspect of change which will be the outcome of a social desire as a derivative of a corrupted and failed system which cannot hide any more. Maybe the time has come for more self-organizing and constructivist learning social systems. A system based on **moral intelligence** . And as Nikoforos Vrettakos wrote " Consciousness in the depth of the Man and love it is the width"

"We are all in the mud but some of us are gazing at the stars" Oscar Wild