

GLOBALISATION, FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE 2015-2050

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Статья посвящена вопросам глобализации, продовольственной безопасности и сельского хозяйства.

21st century Globalisation – Worldwide Expansion of American civilization power and decline of traditional European culture and other national cultures

The growth and decay of human life forms in many thousands years of mankind is characterised by many transformations. Countless individuals, families and local communities lived in the past in very different human metabolism with nature and in very different spiritual interactions with each other.

According to Oswald Spengler each era of a human *'high culture'* goes through a life cycle of about a thousand years. Their ascent phase is called culture, followed by civilisation as their period of decline. We are living in the final globalisation stage of the Western world era. It is the decline stage of a culture what was coming from Western Europe. Its downfall is characterized by the worldwide emergence and growth of the North American civilization of capitalistic mass consumption and entertainment.

The declining old Western European culture was characterised by national economies and societies based on small urbanization and national identities of the people, where families and communities had a constitutional role. Widely shared feelings of responsibility were typical in the old European times. In music it was the world folk music of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Tschaikovsky. Heroes in literature were Shakespeare, Goethe, Balzac and Tolstoi. Emotions, love, patriotism, trust, truth, justice, law and order were playing important roles in national soul and social life.

Today the Americanisation of the world is based on supermarket mass consumption, electronical communication in form of mobile phones, internet, TV and radio. Characteristical is also an international tourist, entertainment, social health and aid industry. All spheres of globalised American life are computerised. In music we have the world of Rolling Stones, Michael Jackson and Lady Gaga. Hollywood media productions are substituting world literature as main medium of spiritual communication. The main feature and core element of the current era of globalisation is the high and ever increasing dependence of national economies and societies on global financial powers. More and more money makes the world go around.

Globalization as the dynamic social-ecological development of total mankind has reached a complexity beyond human comprehension, unpredictable like global weather patterns. We can see several phenomenoms but we cannot completely understand all the interactions. Similar to the the climate we know only some general principles. For globalisation two basic assumptions are essential:

A) Demographics, technology, labor, consumption, rule and ideology shape

the particular historical existence and development of the human life forms.

B) As in biological evolution, social development also adheres to the law that communities and societies who are not sufficiently vital (birth rate, individual life expectancy), resistant and persevering against competing groups and societies (military, economic, technological, ideological strength) have low chances to survive.

Today we have a strong population growth in Africa and Asia. In Germany, Russia and other European countries the indigenous population will decrease while total

world population will grow from now 7 billion to about 9.5 billion people in the year 2050. The EU and especially Germany is subject to the strongest immigration pressure, because North Africa and the Middle East are close neighboring regions.

In 2013, worldwide 232 million poverty/war refugees were migrating to new home countries. Only a few million of them have so far arrived in Germany and the EU. However, in my estimation, in Africa and West Asia the population is growing permanently by 20-30 million/year and 1 to 3 million people of them will probably migrate annually to the EU, of which approximately 20-30% will move to Germany. As a result of that demographic development and EU immigration policies, as early as by the second half of this century (probably approx. 2060) ethnic Germans will no longer form the majority population in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Today worldwide five out of seven billion people are using mobile phones. Only the poorest two billion people are excluded from that state of the art communication. Nevertheless, the majority of the world population is poor and does not participate in advanced mass consumption what is typical today for USA-EU-JAPAN. In these western world countries and societies there is already an over-consumption of energy, goods and services which is caused in large part by the global finance system. By the issuing of credits, loans, bonds and shares, Western banks are creating global money and purchasing power often detached from economic realities just out of nothing. Additionally, only a few hundred big and medium sized western companies are owning the most advanced technical know-how. Finally, companies such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Master Card, Visa, AmEx, Standard & Poors, and Moodys have global monopolies in social and economic data processing. As a result, today's and tomorrow's North American pre-dominance of global economy and politics is based on three essential power columns—money, technology and information.

Through their capacity for learning and adaptability, human beings are generally prone to be manipulated. Today people of all countries have access to internet and other mass media. They are reading newspapers, watching TV and listen to radio.

More than one billion young people are currently members of Facebook. No religious or communist youth organization in history had anywhere near as many members and followers. Only the Catholic church worldwide counts as many young believers as there are members of Facebook. TV, radio, mobile phones, internet and social networks are nowadays worldwide the core instruments for mass manipulation. They are used especially for wide and intensive target group oriented commercial advertising - but also as an instrument in the worldwide competition of ideologies and

religions. Global power today means not only financial, economic, military and political power – but especially informatic and medial power. Therefore it is an extremely important strategic task and challenge for the North American elites to understand and control the complete global electronic communication.

Beside electronics and energy fields the global food production and distribution plays an important role in the given and upcoming competitions, fights and wars between religions, states and social groups in today's and tomorrow's world. Therefore besides such IT technology leaders like Intel, Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Amazon and the US/British Oil&Gas companies the global technological leadership of Monsanto in agricultural/bio genetics is also highly important for the extended reproduction of North America's economic and political global dominance within the next decades.

In contrast to the United States the technological, economic and political power of EU states will most likely decrease until 2050. Especially Germany will lose its traditional innovative industrial power because of permanent downgrading of the education level in its population. Choosing the example of the German capital Berlin, the two Berlin Social-Democrats Thilo Sarrazin and Heinz Buschkowsky argued in two books that migration was ruining the industrial and economic power of the most important German city for the past 50 years. In the first half of the 20. Century such fundamental innovations like X-ray, TV, digital electronic computing, jet engines or electrical high speed trains were invented and produced in Berlin. Today the metropole is a widely de-industrialised area where the community is unable to build and finish the city airport in a planned and orderly manner. A hundred years ago Berlin was a world center for science and technology. But today it is famous for example for its funny Love parade.

Global Agriculture and Food security 2015-2050

The population forecasts for Africa assume a doubling of the current 1.1 billion people by 2050. Here we will see the strongest demographic growth in the world. Facing this population growth, even today social conditions on the African continent are posing obstacles to sufficiently feed its rapidly increasing number of people based on their own agricultural production growth.

When traveling in the East African highlands of Ethiopia it was very depressing to see that it is not the climate and nature, but the very bad social conditions which constitute the enormous obstacles for the development of regional agriculture and local food industry. I visited a teaching farm that was exemplary built and operated several decades ago as part of a Swedish aid project. After the Scandinavians left, the model farm fell into disarray. The Ethiopians were unfortunately not able to operate the farm well in their cultural, economic and social conditions.

We find situations of social backwardness and corruption in most of the African countries, resulting in only two basic options to avoid famine and malnutrition on the continent. A first solution is that large parts of the mobile population, i.e. young people with small financial means, leave their home countries as refugees or asylum seekers, looking for a better future in Europe, Asia or America for themselves and their families.

The second possibility is that Africa is supplied on a large scale with food from other continents, comprised primarily of agricultural and food imports from North and South America and Europe. The associated funding will be raised to a lesser extent by African exports of oil, gas, and raw materials, but for the most part by assistance from the international community and the high developed Western Aid-Industry.

In contrast to Africa or the poorest countries in Asia, where food shortages result in hunger and malnutrition, the issue of food security is different in the more developed BRICS countries Brasil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Here, the term Food Security mainly revolves around questions concerning the standard of living in the nation, people's prosperity and welfare. Russia, for example, imports about 40 percent of its food today. Imports are mostly meat, meat products, dry milk, milk products, fruits and vegetables – all of which are products that expand the range of edible goods, so that nutritional quality and public health can improve.

Economic policy in Russia has been oriented in recent decades towards primarily exporting the country's raw materials and energy. In return, these revenues finance imports of food and other consumer goods, as well as imports of technology.

Should Russia be forced to greater autonomy in its food supply through its own reorientation or external pressure, a new orientation within economic investment and social policy needs to take place. Instead of banks and big industry, private and cooperative agriculture would have to effectively support the government in expanding and developing the small and medium-sized enterprise sectors of the Russian agriculture and food industry. This affects not only providing funding for technical modernization, but also the development of an associated agronomic and food business training structure with the improvement of social infrastructure in villages and in small towns. In order to achieve all these objectives, it would probably be helpful to review the agricultural cooperative movement in Brasil and Western Europe for learning purposes.

In Brazil for example, a large part of agricultural and food exports is realised by very powerful agricultural cooperatives. For Russia, it would be a good opportunity to study Brazilian experiences and to combine this learning with the Russian experiences of positive and negative effects resulting from the cooperative system in the Soviet Union.

Agricultural development in the EU and in North and South America indicates that, through economies of scale, industrial agricultural and food production is gaining continuously higher market shares in comparison to the small and medium farmers.

In North America I had the opportunity to drive through the countryside in the state of New York. There you can see many abandoned small farms and the social impact of the industrialization and globalisation process that has left deep traces on the North American agriculture in the last fifty years. Farmsteads, villages and smaller cities are becoming obsolete. The youth are forced to migrate to the cities and to face the social and ecological problems of large city urbanization there.

Summary and a speculative long-term Outlook for Russia 2050/2100

In North America and the EU, globalization and progressive industrialization

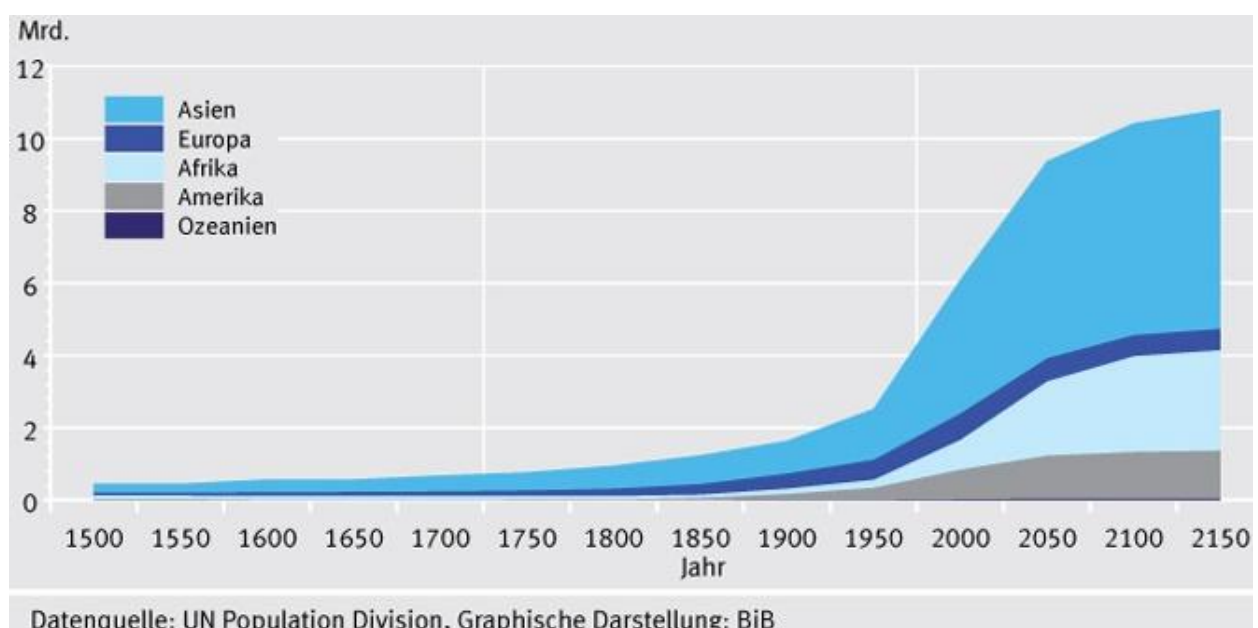
of agriculture and food production will further restrict the existence and development opportunities for small and medium-sized family farms and cooperatives. The social middle class will continue to shrink in the western countryside even more than in the cities.

Future western societies in North America and Western Europe will gradually but continuously approach a social structure of 1:19:80, in which 1 percent of very rich people is facing a small middle class of only about 19 percent of the population. By the middle of the 21st century, the vast 80 percent majority of the USA / EU population will be comprised from a new social underclass of different milieus, which are characterized by low, instable income and low skill and education levels. The majority of this emerging large western lower class will be formed by people with migrant backgrounds (immigrants of the second and third generation) from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It remains to be seen, whether the East Asian peoples and cultures can decouple from this development of Western civilization, whether, for example, the Chinese people manage to retain and return to their centuries-old tradition of education. P.R. China has a realistic chance at the second half of our century to become again a progress engine of human history.

Also highly unclear is the long-term future development of Russia. Oswald Spengler trust the Russians to replace the Western European culture later in the 22. Century with a fresh new Eastern European culture based more on spiritual values.

Whether this will be achieved may be doubted. But if history develops on this path, at some point in the middle or distant future, a mental-intellectual and political-economic decoupling of Russia from the Western way of thinking and behavior would occur. In this line of thought, the turn to Russian autonomy, the Russian decoupling of today's globalized world economy would in the long term be a potentially progressive and sustainable, future oriented, economic and social option.



Globalisation Background – Development of World Population (billion people)

