

Pax Minoica-As a New Paradigm for Human Development

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Abstract: The paper — “PAX MINOICA — as a New Paradigm for Human Development” — deals with the problem of potential catastrophic war on earth and the ways to have positive peace. It was always suggested, that humanity was always violent in general and there were always military campaigns of one nation, ethnic group or race against “the other”. “Human beings are violent and power-hungry” — this motto was almost unchallenged through the centuries. This paper is about to question this assumption and find out other examples.

Is it possible to change our mind-set through looking at the history and creative development? We looked through the research of an amazing Georgian Psychologist Dimitri Uznadze and also a great research on a peaceful Minoan civilization conducted by Dr. Rismag Gordzeiani, who found that dynamic creativity is a productive substitute for violent behavior.

Key words: Pax Minoica, Dimitri Uznadze, Rismag Gordeziani, mindset, perceptions, peace, John Burton, Johan Galtung, zones of peace, Christopher Mitchell

JEL code: N930

1. Introduction: Contemporary Crisis and Theoretical Implications

Most contemporary events in Ukraine and blatant Russian Military aggression are most obviously accompanied with significant signs of the global catastrophe. This last conflict on European continent has shown us that the *Cold War Order Détente* is not working anymore. The world has become more multi-lateral and at the same time, new global powers have emerged. One of the main identifiers of the new developments after the dissolution of the Soviet Empire has shown us that the basic human need for Identity and Freedom, as John Burton and Johan Galtung have identified them has proved that large numbers of people are ready to revolt and risk their livelihoods for the idea of INDEPENDENCE. These ontological basic human needs are also coupled with the need for security that big powers also possess and their anxiety that their enemies are going to attack them if they do not preemptively act has led us to number of invasions, most notably extremely flagrant Russian aggression against an independent state of Ukraine. Misperceptions on Security are leading big powers to attack — even in some cases unprovoked their real or imagined adversaries. When Christopher Mitchell talks about the Structure of International Conflict he describes the role of misperception very well and how it happens that based on wrong fears and insecurities leads to the large-scale invasions and occupations of whole countries. This factor became even more important after the end of so called Cold War Détente — where the traditional “Spheres of Influence” doctrine was crushed by new independence movements. The large movements of decolonization spread through the world after Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

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has shown a very good example of Nonviolent Struggle for Independence. This became a greatest example to follow in the last 75 years of human history, where many nations have identified with Gandhian notion and waged successful liberation struggles from different empires of the world. Dennis Sandole already in 1993 has identified the need for a major Paradigm Shift in the structure of international relations, since right after the breakup of the Soviet Empire it was became obvious that the old order of detente was not working since the start of Nagorno Karabakh, Abkhazia, Pre-Dniester, South Ossetia conflicts. Ukraine was not on the radar during the 1990s, but it was already easy to see that the new emerging countries as well as established empires were not going to stop fighting for the territorial expansion. Hannah Arendt describes this process very well in her basic work on Origins of Totalitarianism, where she connects the conflicts in Europe between two world wars in 20th century with the rise of nationalism. Through last 30+years entire world community is observing that the traditional notions of Nationalism and Imperialism — both have proved extremely dangerous for the fate of humanity. Now we are facing the realistic threat of the World War 3 — if there is no New Paradigm for Peaceful Development — where small nations and big ones can coexist on this small planet not just Tolerating Each Other But Building Positive Peace as Galtung has suggested some time ago. Many sceptics have asked if and where and when there is an example of peaceful development in contemporary world. Of course, we have some small or bigger examples of this. We need to mention the example of Costa Rica — Democratic Country with Non-Militaristic Development policies. President Oscar Arias was able to prove that the State Can Absolutely Exist Without Depending on Military. However, of course, the question remains if there are some larger international actors who are willing to enact these policies. Here we are again dealing with the question of perceptions around the basic ontological human needs on security, identity and freedom. President Zviad K. Gamsakhurdia in his well-known lecture in 1990 has implied that there were many examples of NONVIOLENT CIVILIZATIONS in Pre-Hellenic times around the world. They were present in India, South East Asia, Oceania, South and Central America, Africa and of course, the well-known Minoan Civilization around the island of Crete that has lasted for about 500 years and it was eventually destroyed not by the war, but by the natural disaster.

2. Possible Roots and Problem-Solving Solutions

Here, we are shortly going to discuss what are the main points of achieving the New Paradigm for Peaceful Development:

- 1) Perceptions on the threat to Ontological Basic Human need of Security. As we have seen that Russian President Vladimir Putin has consistently appealed to the threat from enlarging North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a direct threat to the existence of Russian State let alone the Empire. Many experts consider this perception of the threat being blown out of proportion and obviously misrepresenting reality. NATO Chair has emphasized consistently that it is not true that NATO has plans to attack Russia. But the counter argument of authoritarian regime is that North Atlantic Treaty Organization is created to counter then Soviet and now Russian expansion – but on the contrary through last 30 years we have seen the expansion of NATO to the very borders of Russia. On empirical level, it is hard to deny that this has happened. NATO has expanded and now is bordering with the territory of Russian Federation in multiple locations.
- 2) On the other hand the newly independent countries that consider themselves the victims of Russian Imperialism through last 200-300 years make a point that they have no defense against superior military

capabilities of Russia and they are looking for some sort of a shield to protect their needs for freedom, identity and security. President Volodimir Zelenski of Ukraine has implied that his country needs to have capacity to defend itself against imperialist aggression. This point also proves to be a “self-fulfilling prophecy” in today’s situation. It is now very difficult to deny that Ukrainian President did not have a valid point, since he is facing a very real threat and invasion from Russian occupying forces. Ukraine is now suffering one of the most bloody invasions through last 75 years since the end of the second world war.

- 3) International Community and the United Nations Organization is still paralyzed to act to defend small and lesser powerful countries against the invasions by bigger powers. The Basic Perception That the Strong Will Always Dominate The Weak Is Still Obviously The Paradigm. However, this paradigm has failed significantly in the last 30 years and many international organizations acknowledge that “détente order” is not working anymore. As a result, the probability of armed confrontation between NATO and Russia Increases Every Minute. If the humanity is not going to rethink the path of its Military Industrial Development and Zero-Sum Thinking This Will Eventually — Sooner or Later — Lead to A Devastating World War That Would Leave No Winners or Losers. Whole humanity will suffer as a result of a big misperception if there is no way to find new solution to the age old problem that feeds imperialism and nationalism — how to deal with the misperception of insecurity?

3. Misperception or Change of Mindset?

Burtonian analysis of perceptions by the conflicting parties leads us to a good place, but is not holistic enough to deal with the contemporary problems at the world stage. Perception is just a small part of human mind-set that is integrating intellectual and emotional aspects of our nature. In his work on “Mind-Set Theory” well-known Georgian Psychologist Dimitri Uznadze talks about different aspects of this phenomenon. In his works on this subject, he believes that the Change of Holistic Mindset Is Possible and It Was Proven on Many Experimental Levels. Uznadze also mentions the phenomenon of short-term as well as perseverant will that participates in the long-term formation of MIND-SET. It is extremely important to consider this point before, during and after military confrontations, where adversaries often rely the Traditional Power Politics Approach As Part of Their Mindset. Now we as a humanity face a global threat of nuclear, biological, chemical war and our annihilation.

As the need for Paradigm Shift in International Relations And Global Security Architecture Is Apparent — we need to consider holistic approach to changing a Mind-Set of track 1 representatives. As Dimitri Uznadze said Shock Might Be A Best Factor to Changing A Mind-Set. Threat of global nuclear conflict is very obvious in the military confrontation between the West and Russia in Ukraine.

In their book on “Zones of Peace” Landon E. Hancock and Christopher Mitchell suggest some particular examples of these zones. There are more or less successful examples of creating Zones of Peace. UN enforced Peace Zones and Sanctuaries were more or less effective in Bosnia after the Balkan war. Jennifer Langdon and Mery Rodrigues talk about the Peruvian experience of *rondas campesinas*. Johan Galtung was personally involved in the establishment of Zones of Peace between Peru and Ecuador. Catalina Rojas talks about the *Peace Communities in Columbia*. Krista Rigalo and Nancy Morrison discuss the experience of *Operation Lifeline Sudan*. There are already different examples of creating nonviolent sanctuaries. Now we are dealing with bigger challenge — this is a bigger territory and bigger stakes for different participants. The entire international community needs to figure out the way to avoid nuclear catastrophe by changing our MIND-SET. From military industrial frame of mind, we need to switch

to the paradigm of NONVIOLENT ECONOMY. Shri Rajagopal PV has suggested this kind of structure of building integrating and global world order.

In contemporary conditions, there is an urgent need to abandon force-oriented and coercion-oriented approaches through Gandhian lenses. There is totally unacceptable to solve international relations problems today by means of force not only in moral sense, but also in pragmatic sense. It is perfectly well known what kind of consequences humanity is facing with this kind of approach. So Switching Our Intellectual and Emotional Mind-Set From Traditional Power Politics to Gandhian Nonviolence Has Become A New Categorical Imperative for Entire Humanity. This is the most pragmatic choice in today's world.

4. PAX MINOICA as a Future Paradigm for the Region?

Dr. Rismag Gordeziani talks about an existing peaceful order of civilization — PAX MINOICA — that was recently rediscovered and confirmed as a historical fact. This civilization around the Greek Island of Crete has existed for approximately 500 years – 2000 to 1500 B.C. Main element of this civilization according to Dr. Gordeziani was dynamic creativity as an alternative to organized violence. According to last historical research, this part of Mediterranean Sea was quite a big zone of nonviolence and peace during this turbulent period of history in the middle of Bronze Age. This discovery and work done by historians proves the point that it was and it still is possible to have Zones of Peace even in the most difficult regions of the world.

In this work and different, other works on Minoan Civilization, we can see that the myth of Inevitable Violent Nature of Mankind is seriously challenged and we can observe relatively long period of history within certain civilization without big campaigns of violence. This could be considered an example for positive peace within the area that saw different militaristic cultures around the world. Dr. Rismag Gordeziani based upon the research of Niko Marr, L. H. Jeffery, J. Latatz, J. Boardman, M. L. West and others is very well describing the main character of the peaceful and creative civilization on the Greek Island of Crete at approx. 2000-1500 BC.

It is absolutely possible and doable to implement this vision for Nonviolent Lands and Peace Zones — Contemporary model of PAX MINOICA. However, this should be by multi-national community — not just by one big country pushing other smaller countries to demilitarize. Russia and NATO both need to talk together with smaller recently de-colonized countries to jointly create this kind of Zones of Peace. Forced and coercive solutions do not work. According to Galtungian term there should be no RANK-DISIQUILIBRIUM in this new arrangement by the United Nations Organization. This is the time when the new global organizations will take a joint responsibility for peace and security guarantees to the weak countries of the world. This is the very purpose of the UN and now is the time to implement it jointly. The whole country of Ukraine and the whole region of South Caucasus are latest victims of military-industrial mindset among the political elites.

5. Conclusion

Humanity is facing unprecedented crisis of time. Our Perseverant Will Needs to Change the Paradigm of Our Thinking to Nonviolent Ahimsa — Because We Have Witnessed A Total Failure Of Military Industrial Way Of Life. We Are Coming to the Conclusion That Peaceful Civilization Has Existed and therefore humanity is capable of being nonviolent. What we need to learn is how to change the mindset of our present civilization to switch to contemporary and adopted variant of PAX MINOICA. This is very much possible.

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