

INTERNET EDUCATION FOR THE MAIN ISSUES ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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Introduction: *International politics in the millennium 2000*

According to what Eric HOBSEAWM says in his book “The Age of Extremes: a short history of the XXth Century”¹ (from 1914 to 1989) the main issues that the XXI Century will have to face will be:

1. Demography
2. Ecology

In my opinion, both issues content the seed of what it will also be a part of the Foreign Politics in the near future, and from which we already can perceive some of the most basic elements.

It is also necessary to make clear that we cannot make sharp affirmations while we are going through such important² political, cultural and economical accelerating processes as the ones taking place in this Millennium “jump”.

It is my wish to make clear that this changing process we are going through, as well as other previous ones in our Society³ is

¹ First Vintage Book Edition, February, 1996 New York.

² See IHT, from 26th of March 2000 central page article with the title “Weapons on the Web? It’s hard Sell for Clinton” which gives a brider view about other important issues of the International Politics regarding nuclear Security.

³ The transition from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic Age took a lot of time but even though a shorter time than the transition from the Agricultural to the Industrial Civilisation. In any case the matter **time** has to be observed with most attention in the transition from the industrial to the post-industrial Civilisation and moreover into the Digital civilisation in the last years. (See my article from 3rd may 1994 in the Spanish newspaper El País, “The Information Highways”).

happening in such a way that old and modern factors are coexisting. However, in this occasion the transition from the post-industrial Era defined by Daniel Bell ⁴ to what can be called the Digital Society⁵ is reaching such speed limits that it cannot be compared to any other previous moment⁶.

For these reasons we must also consider other elements:

- The slower, though constant transformation of the concept “Nation-state” which has been delude in Supranational Unties as important as the EU, or in regional aggregations as settled as MERCOSUR or NAFTA, which have a more simple structure than the EU but all of them to be globalise through joining efforts over the old national frontiers.
- This will result in the favouring of the Regional Culture values at the Region’s Commission among the 15 members of the EU, that by the way, is working with more flexibility and should be day by day more promoted in the EU structures.
- For example, the regional Languages phenomena, as contrasted with the important language units of the world, English, Chinese and Spanish, will appear on the net as an integrating element through the increase of elements⁷ for simultaneous translation which will lead to the use of our Computers with speech commands adapted to any language and processed to all our speakers.
- It is then when the Communication phenomena will be ready for the change of social conditions, costumes, working habits and the relative calculation of longevity in our Society around year 2001, when the EU might already have created 20.000.000 new jobs.

⁴ See “Towards a post-industrial society”, 1973.

⁵ See Wired Magazine from August 1999.

⁶ This can be verified in the magnificent work of Aurelio Peccei “Testimony for the future” published by Taurus, Madrid 1981.

⁷ See Michael Dertouzos “What will be”, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, 1997 PP.56 and next. Where there is an excellent exposition of these kind of simultaneous translation “elements” and of Computers that are able to receive speech commands.

I. The Demographic factor

Demography will have a descending tendency with progressive⁸ ageing of the population. This is already been confirmed in Japan, U.S.A. and all the European countries, having special incidence in Italy, Spain and South Korea.

These tendencies will create the need of important migrating movements all over the Planet **as an alternative to the lack of manpower.**

Regarding Europe it is important to recall the decision of the EU Extraordinary Minister Council in Lisbon the last 23 and 24 of March⁹. Spain, after a terrible xenophobic incident in El Ejido, is regularising all the immigrants who have sent an application before the 1st of June 1999 in the same terms as the Spanish citizens. These applications¹⁰ will be studied in a long period.

We are also better prepared due to our common language with the Latin-Americans which make possible that almost 400 million people is able to communicate through the use of only one Language. This is an unquestionable power to be used in International Politics in connection with migration what will also be, with no doubt, an issue where it will be necessary to talk about Education and respect for other cultures and civic manifestations, using the Net to spread this education so it is not only in the classrooms¹¹ that we can learn about it, and making use of all kind of possibilities to favour Solidarity and spread the optimism and tolerance that the new on-line cultures have.

⁸ See the Report of the "UN Population Commission", published the 21. March 2000.

⁹ Even countries like Denmark which are reluctant to liberalise its immigration movement due to the small size of its territory and the numerous emigration from Pakistan, Turkey and Africa have accepted the opening of residence periods for more than 5 years for "Digital" workers of any kind. The same is happening in the German Federal Republic and in Spain where the demand will be higher. ...

¹⁰ Which has already provoked an increase of the illegal emigration ... at the end of March 2000.

¹¹ See the EUROCALL 98' Inaugural Lesson at the University of Lovaina, regarding the issue "From the classroom teaching to World wide learning" (9-12 of September 1999), page 48.

But all these concepts must be connected to certain collective consideration process as *mirrors*¹² to help to spread these “ideas/models” specially among the coming generations, whose education requires a **compromise/plan**, of at least 30 years.

In those years these generations must be educated on the respect for other cultures through optimism and tolerance in connection with the new social standards. They have to **compromise themselves with the change**, learning in the continuous and permanent education process, from the Net and in the new ways of “**curro working**”¹³.

II. The Ecological factor

It is impossible to try to summarise the European Environmental Agency’s Report to the Council of Ministers of the EU¹⁴ in a few lines, therefore I have decided to refer only to the main issues there mentioned¹⁵ and to focus in those which are already regulated in the EU or have no communitarian regulation, which are as well the main cause of contamination.

I am referring to the well grown and known 3 T’s:

1. Transport,
2. Tourism and
3. Territory (management and damage)

On the contrary in issues as:

1. Agriculture

¹² See my Book “Growth and Development in the 80’s” (p. 177 and next), published in Madrid on 1994 by Tecnos.

¹³ Is the work made with pleasure and good taste.

¹⁴ See EU Environmental Cabinet Meeting, 24th of June 1998. AEMA report “Environment in the European Union in the beginning of the XXI Century: facts and perceptions”, by Domingo Jiménez Beltrán, Executive Director, Copenhagen.

¹⁵ Evolution and social economic challenges. Cross-border contamination, whether changes, risk for bio diversity, Residues and their processing, Water, environmental Taxes, ...” but the prospects are better”.

2. Energy and
3. International markets,

better regulations and criteria, regarding their environmental impact, already exist in the EU.

The curves reflecting an increase of the Transport depending on leisure and spare time, in addition to the progressive and obvious damage of our land on the Planet are well known by everybody¹⁶, what in my modest understanding means that we are quickly approaching a “critical mass” that seems to be approaching our lives. This is just **everybody’s** issue, and I repeat, **everybody’s**, with no exception.

This will be and should be the issues of the International, Transnational, Global Politics or what ever you prefer to call them, in a few years! But what is important is to be conscious about the need of starting to learn how to “administrate” the achievements of our knowledgement, information and Communication society.

The Education I mentioned before ... on-line-with-the-others, will also be an essential element in the National Educational Plans of the next ten years. It is an issue for everybody, from the processing of the wastes to the environmental decontamination.

III. The cultural element

However, it will be more and more necessary to include cultural elements, that through uses and customs, will result in **more tolerance** in any of the matters related to the three R:

1. Race,

¹⁶ All the melted ice from the Antarctic Iceberg, which is 300 kilometres long times 70 km wide, as the Island of Cerdeña, which will take a very long time to restore is a real and frightening example for the navigation and the Antartic ecosystems.

2. Religion,
3. Regions.

This three matters must be **basic** in the Educational planning for the future generations.

From the scholar year 2001-2002, the Internet network will be finished in all the Spanish schools and it will be as possible as compulsory to start to extend the electronic regional and even local Networks to favour communication and the balanced use of the NN.TT. specially regarding Media, and moreover of those N.N.T.T related to Music, Games and Leisure in general.

This Regional Programs, similar to those created in 1997 in [Ciez@net](#) and the previous project, *Info Ville* of Villena, to increase the dialog on local issues, will fit very well into the EU budgets¹⁷. In the case of Cieza these issues were about the bank of the Segura river, the Local Hospital, important Sports activities, implication of the local NGO's and specially the one for handicapped people called "*Tocaos del ala*" in Cieza (Murcia), which is a result of the on-net-communication. This NGO has created a new kind of dialog and tolerance some of them very interesting to study closely¹⁸.

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Copenhagen, 2000.03.26

¹⁷ See "EU Calls for Fast Move into Digital Age", IHT, December, 19th 1999 the Prodi's program.

¹⁸ See the book "University Education, Community life and Disabilities" on <http://www.um.es/undis>. It is a very interesting project for participation of universities and handicapped people in Community Conferences. See also <http://www.ciezanet.es>

