



DOI 10.2478/sbe-2018-0030

SBE no. 13(2) 2018

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## IMPERFECTIONS IN OUR FUTURE

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### **Abstract:**

*Our future is polarized and unpredictable and means progress as this regards the evolution of technology that may bring about the union between man and machine as far as the present technological environment is enlarging. But, until then we have to face imperfections that are synonymous with the problems that affect humanity: aggression against some states, conflicts that need to be settled, discrepancy between the rich and the poor, the positive and negative influences of the internet, CO2 emissions in developed countries, redirecting towards markets with lower risk potential, even the battle with death. And, unfortunately we have the alienation of the modern man in a breakable world. We know that the future can become what we wish it to be as far as we have a purpose and positive outlooks and take the correct decisions.*

**Key words:** *Evolution, Inequality, Technology, Dominate, Positive*

### **1. Introduction**

The future can be utopic for some writers such as Raymond Kurzweil (2013) who considers that the human genome can be analyzed, improved or even rewritten with the help of genetics, robotics and nanotechnology. If we were to rely on the law of inversed acceleration then the evolution of technology would entail the superiority of artificial intelligence, to the union between man and machine. Until then we'll measure the rhythm of progress regarding technology and the progress of calculation power. The evolution of technology is a form of evolution that is developing in a more and more alert way.

But it is interesting to scrutinize the trends that have brought us in this point of evolution as well as the choices or problems we confront with and the forces that supply this progress of technology. But the evolution of technology has actually entailed the alienation of people, of the modern man, and a more difficult communication. Interpersonal relationships suffer and there is a splitting of man's

identity. Utopia becomes synonymous with stagnation where people will lack the motivation to do something. The lack of any purpose is the lack of the soul.

So the meaning of life might rise questions for each of us. Even if the world is filled with suffering or so often and so much it is chance that seems to be very important, the human being is full of hope. (Iddo Landau, 2007). It is us who have failed to find the right meaning of life. But our lives already have a meaning which we must enhance and maintain with more hope. A full life to be lived is not impossible (Brene Brown, 2010) but it means our efforts to do everything better and better.

It seems that the economists are equipped to predict the future (Ignacio Palacios Huerta 2015) as far as their ideas are based on both theory and practice. Some are optimistic, others are rather gloomy but they all consider important the following:

- The increase in inequality
- The change of work and wages
- The economic rise of China and India
- The repeating cycle of crisis
- The economic outcomes of political extremism
- The effects of climate change

Humanity consists of such things that entail imperfections in a world that is changing continuously with the advancement of technology that is more and more predictable.

Then, we can ask ourselves questions such as:

- is artificial intelligence created by us going to dominate?
- how many of us are going to desire the so called spiritual machines as they realize that in comparison with the biological evolution, the technological one will be controlled by an elite who will decide in what way people can access it and in what way it can be used to manipulate.

In this respect, which is the price of success?

Genetics, robotics, nanotechnology are but Pandora's boxes. Can anyone take the responsibility if the "deity" created in this way is but the one that humanity has dreamt of. Is there any guarantee that in case something is wrong we can stop it and put it back in the box?

## **2. Landmarks of imperfection**

**Polarized and unpredictable future that is synonymous with progress,** and comes with surprises and is very polarized as well as unpredictable (James Canton, 2007). In a world where once stable regimes fell within a few weeks and economies collapsed quickly uncertainties and change are indeed the only predictable factors for the business world. But even if we can't predict the future with accuracy we can get ready for it.

There might be too much consensus and fewer objectives. There are too many problems within the southern EU (Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal). Both the consensus and the aim describe the future as they are basic elements for politics. But the terms are opposed : the aim refers to what it should be in future while the consensus defines what it should not be accepted ; the aim regards a foreseeable future where “we” gets volatile meanings while the consensus refers to an unpredictable future but it settles the term “we”.

It is obvious that within the EU for example we do not live as we wish to but as we can. The crisis affects some of the liberal agreements, does not strike the foundations(the idea of freedom, rule of law, fundamental human rights, individual liability).

As in any new crisis we take refuge in the illusion that long discussions will entail correct decisions- such as the problem of finding the right solution for the refugees. It gives us the impression that we live in a sick Europe. We must stop to look for the negative consensus because we need the opposite. We need polarized political options to take into consideration and thus we deviate from looking for a solution to satisfy everybody and identifying one half acceptable. For example we can decide in favour or against nuclear energy without endless discussions on combined energies. The EU is an alliance for a common future exclusively defined through the common future. The existing problem is produced by the present crises of this future. And a sick future can be surpassed only by the image of a new one. We must rely on something. And this is first the political power. Imagine direct European elections with the participation of millions of EU citizens; through these elections the citizens might influence directly both the future of the president and the political power. And if the Europeans expressed their option concerning a political super regional power, then they would automatically take over the responsibility for the future of the European politics. Therefore a polarization is being formed, a vacuum that is to replace the lament of community red tape through the true power relationships. After we laid the basis for this power center then we'll observe, debate and influence the way to act. So far we had preferred peace instead of conflict. Maybe confrontation might be more efficient and then agreement, understanding. What if citizens accept this version? We are skeptical. But we must think for a better future. The EU is a historical accomplishment and the unique positive outlook for millions of people. The EU is but outdated by its problems and must take action, not in a hesitant way but determined.

We speak more and more about the control that extended from the newspapers and TV towards the internet with a constant preoccupation to monopolize the sources that influence opinions and to prevent, censor or fight opposite media campaigns. We must not forget that the aggression against Ukraine outlines the active role that corporatist structures and the use of civil staff can have in a hybrid conflict. More and more we observe the role placed by disguised civil armies in asymmetric conflicts situated on national territory or as allies. They are involved with an inconstant frequency in unconventional aspects in order to produce some distant effects(

degradation of cybernetic infrastructure, of telecommunication, cybernetic attacks, involvement in some psychological operations..).

The civil infrastructure is mostly used- corporatist or electronic(the internet) and civil objectives as well as elements of critical infrastructure( blockage of internet services, cybernetic attacks on data). Some skills and competencies are taken into account( digital, linguistic, communication, ..) at different levels of complexity( trolls, hackers) allowing some ranking some specialized structures that can be used for military purposes. In spite of their bad aspects we consider that the propagandistic messages represent an environment for communication that can be decoded by all parties involved, the study being a useful step within the understanding of the purposes and wishes of the opposite part.

Even if the concept of hybrid war is no longer a novelty, the present technological environment that is enlarging sets at the disposal of non state actors and of states an offer that allows the working of new atypical scenarios. The accent lays on surprise, complex doctrines that allow gradual approaches that may influence the human activity.

### **The social and political fights must not be ignored:**

#### *First, the discrepancy between the rich and the poor*

There will always exist inequalities and problems in the world as John Goodman( 2015)outlines by asking the question why some countries are rich and others are poor.

The richest 400 Americans have the same financial resources as the rest of 150 mil people who belong to the inferior side of society. The inequality in the USA is higher than in Yemen, Pakistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia. There does not seem to happen any improvement in the future. This discrepancy seems to be stronger than that between the white men and the black people, between Christianity and the Islamic world or even between the right politics and the left one. The future might entail a conflict between the rich and the poor people all over the world.

The poor people represent 85% of the world population, while the rich people are going to control half of the global wealth

Wealth has never been equitably distributed but globalization of economy deepened the gap between the rich and the poor. It is true that some developing countries have benefited on their integration in the world economy. Specialists say that the number of poor people in India dropped from 39% to 26% and in Asia too. but the increase in inequality can have negative impact on the economic growth and eradication of poverty. This process deepened in USA no doubt but also in Germany, Finland, Israel, Luxemburg, New Zealand, and it is very high in Mexico and Chile. In Sub Saharan Africa and other poor countries there was a drop in income in the last 30 years. It seems that the international community consciously allows that 3 bil people, (that is almost half of humanity) live with 2 dollars a day or even worse. And this happens in a world that has never been more prosperous as now!

Another important aspect in the growth regarding inequality was the increase of rewards for persons who had a high level of education and who took benefit of the new technologies. The rich people will probably transform into a new type of people and become cyborgs similar to gods made up of organic and of non organic-parts. We have monopoly and capitalization of some companies. Multinationals evolved towards monopoly. The problems regarding the long periods for nonpayment the taxes for companies such as Starbucks, Google, Apple mean that the main role of modern governments is to represent the big companies. This means that the interests of the big businesses will always prevail over those of common people or over environmental protection. This process can be noticed in an emerging economy such as Romania's. Here, companies like Coca Cola, Mc Donalds, Microsoft, VW Nestle, Danone, South African Breweries have pushed aside the local competitors. Over 60% of soft drinks and water bottled in Romania is sold by Coca Cola. The beer market is controlled by SABMiller. There has been recorded a robust economic performance for the Ursus company where the revenue increased by 15.8 percent, (Sustainable development report 2013); Microsoft dominates the software market and after intelligent investments in government area and in schools it succeeded to keep the competitors based on Linux outside the market. EU supports such practices by enforcing standards that only the biggest corporations can afford. Millions of Romanian farmers confront with the ban to sell their own production of milk even if this is much more superior than anything like that can be found in the supermarkets. The beer and its prosperous business has increased due to the warmer weather that stimulated consumerism. The profit of multinational companies on the Romanian market, namely Ursus Breweries, Heineken, InBev increased with every year. Ursus Breweries the subsidiary of the American SAB Miler ranked first as profit was concerned, an increase with 46% as compared with the last two years. The turnover was of 867,8 bil lei. Sells were stimulated by the global warming. Multinationals cover more than 70% of the beer market in Romania. The figures are impressive.

#### *Secondly, the internet*

In spite of some negative influences that the internet has there are a lot of positive things we must value. But still there are many people who have no access to this technology. it's unbelievable that in the USA more than 100 mil people do not have internet at home. At the world level it is estimated that 200 mil women have less access and this of course is a disadvantage. On the other hand the cybernetic threats will increase in 2018 and the arms of the spying agencies will get to hackers so, the cybernetic redemptions- ransomware- and blackmail will become more and more aggressive. Ransomware is a treat that blocks the access to the data of users and asks for money that is going to be the main criteria in selecting the victims. The Bitdefender specialists believe that those who control the informatics threats will focus on targets in companies and PC networks. Most threats will multiply from one PC to the other without the involvement of the user to cause substantial damages as in the case of WannaCry. The number of files attached to mails ( in spam) will increase mostly like PERL or

PYTHON. As the migration to the Windows 10 system is going to become wide spread, the number of attacks operated without files that abusively use utilities in Linux system for Windows will intensify. The attackers explored the vulnerability that would have been used for spying by some governmental agencies in order to deliver to victims different informatics threats and the Bitdefender specialists consider that the situation is going to be repeated very soon. So the global landscape of threats in informatics within the next period beginning with 2018 will consist of ransomware, Trojan bankers, miners of virtual currency( files that use the power of processing of infected PC in order to generate large sums of money) . but there will be changes of behavior for each of them. Specialists in informatics security anticipate that ransomware will use the power of processing video cards not only that of the processor to make the encryption process of data more rapid and to avoid the security solutions installed on the PC.

Another tendency that was anticipated regards the use of polymorphism to flood the internet with new versions of some treats already known. The attackers will allow against cost the access to engines of automatic generating malware for those who are interested to infect the PC. The efforts of the attackers will aim at algorithms of artificial intelligence used by the security solutions to detect dangers. The attackers will focus on finding vulnerability in components that are to be found at the basis of the operating system. The functioning of WiFi and Bluetooth will be studied by the hackers as any identified vulnerability can be used at a large scale and it is difficult to find it.

#### *Man-robot*

Things we have seen in SF have become reality. These are Elon Musk's ideas that inspire and spark our imagination (Ashlee Vance, 2015). It is clear that technology is going to make us rethink the modern workplace that for sure is to be different from what we had years ago.

People get redundant in some domains because of the robots that take their place in all fields of activity. And robots become more sophisticated and essential in economy. As economy is working today, the elites are not going to be very happy in order to sustain unemployment for ever. And therefore, people's feelings might be directed against robots. Artificial intelligence and robotics will create on another hand more working places as far as innovation is being guided in a responsible way. Machines are not made by themselves, but on the contrary man is responsible to guide the innovation. Each generation was afraid of the technological development but more working places were created as such and now it is more difficult for us to know what working places will be looked for in the next 30 years. I do think that there will be a deficit of skills in the next years in the working places. It is no longer about man versus machine but man and machine working together to solve the problems of the world. More than 57 mil workers, that is 37% of the American workforce are freelancers. At the same time companies will adapt with this change such as Pfizer and Samsung that adapted to the online environment in order to find freelancers. And this is a forecast for 2027.

### *Co2 emissions*

Climatic changes become dramatic and the huge clouds of dangerous gas might entail a catastrophe in future. They are becoming more alarming in the developed countries. It is estimated that in 2040 the percentage of Co2 emissions will be more than 127% as compared to the present. The climate crisis is a challenge for us to restructure the global economy. It is alarming and calls us to be careful with an economic system that is failing us in many ways (Naomi Klein, 2014). If greenhouse emissions are reduced then we can cut down the gaping inequalities and rebuild our broken democracies and even create sustainable cities. Such an example is Masdar which was meant to demonstrate the pattern of green living as the leaders in the country had already invested in something else but oil.- namely in tourism, tech, and renewable energy. 70% of the country GDP comes from non oil sectors now. It is no doubt the city within an evolutionary process, being the first planned sustainable, a beacon of clean energy. It relies on the cooling effect and platinum buildings, there is a large square like building, there is also a Teflon coated wind tower that helps to direct cooling air down a shaded street and some other futuristic buildings.

It should have been an example of clean energy at work, being projected to revolutionize the thinking about cities and the environment .

It seems that the city is testing the future on people, it is an icon for richness as well as for innovation.

The system built in Masdar was very expensive but within the coming years but now in an era when zero emission electric cars are available we no longer speak about an unusual novelty.

And the city unfortunately fell short of its original goals. It should have been a sparkling spot of the UAE but instead out a too ambitious plan it came with too many imperfections( Goldernberg, 2016):

- It is inhabited by students of the Institute of Science and Technology. They are given free tuition and accommodation. There should have been 50 000 residents and 40 000 workers to commute for work.
- Only 5% of the planned city has been built
- There should have been 300 companies but most of them are in name only and there are no solid future plans.
- The completion date was extended to 2030
- The futuristic landscape has barely occupied office blocks, deserted streets.
- The transport system was supposed to have 100 stations but it was scraped after the first two.
- There are no cars within the city but electric vehicles.
- Only half of the city's power will be renewable.
- The city has not reached full carbon neutrality

The city failed from what was supposed to be( Cat Distatio 2016) and looks like a ghost.

That is why we must be more careful with the relationship we have with nature and with each other and consider it as a catalyst to change the broken economic and cultural priorities.

### *The battle for Africa*

More and more we speak about the redirecting towards other markets with lower risk potential. More and more investors were directed towards the black continent for the opportunities and best business project ideas. There is a guide to be taken into account by all those who want to develop businesses.(Juvenal Turatsinze) and start up ideas as in checking the blog (growthafrica). One of the greatest fight is that for African resources. There is no secret that countries like China, India, SUA, Brazil and others have divided their influencing areas but the results were ridiculous. In Africa there is a trade market that values bil of dollars but this battle might one day start the third W.W..

The economic crash has increased this necessity to redirect towards Africa. Those African markets that have a stable political climate are a good choice. The IMF announced that no other continent will register a greater economic development in the near future. The investors are on one side the traditional ones- ex colonial powers, mostly France and Great Britain but China is already present in all countries. India, United Emirates, Russia, SUA are present too. there is also a demographic potential and labour force(more than 70% of the African population is under the age of 35), an emerging average class as the population of Russia and Brazil. There are countries that have brought huge profits and are still very rich. Senegal is an emerging market with an adequate geographical position suitable for commercial exchanges, with fields of interest in energetic domain, telecommunication, trade. It also ensures favourable legislation framework and it encourages foreign investments.

South Africa is the second economic power on the black continent representing 25% of the African GDP. This country is becoming an economy based on science and information with emphasis on technology, electronic commerce, financial services, mining industry, telecommunication, IT, processing agricultural products, car industry. We have BMW, FORD, VOLKSWAGEN, DAIMLER CHRYSLER< TOYATA.(12% being exported ). There might be a risk for investors such as :

- Fluctuation of national currency
- Lack of diversity in the economic sectors. Emerging markets tend to focus on the financial system and extraction of minerals. There might be limited possibilities of choice which can entail the risk for the investors.
- The financial and economic crisis in Africa

In spite of the risks, countries like Sierra Leone with the huge reserves of iron - 12,8 bil tones, with diamonds, Liberia with iron export, Senegal or Gambia, Burkina Faso, Guineea Bissau are countries that promise a lot. Romanian investors like Ovidiu Tender or Frank Timis believe in them and in the future of Africa as they have already successful businesses here. They have as arguments the shortage of resources at a world level and insufficient exploration but also the increase of local population and therefore the number



of consumers. Both have already demonstrated the prosperous businesses that can be done in such countries.

Africa is a challenge and has peculiarities ( Diana Games, 2014) ,the continent being now a different place with improvements in all domains. Once ignored, now it has entered a new era of investment and business opportunities with extraordinary potential both in terms of human capacity and resources. There are increasing companies and multinationals that take advantage of the continent but at the same time they face the challenges and try to adapt to the business environment and new trends.

### *Immortality*

The battle with death is to take place in the second half of the XXIst century.

Now we are thinking more and more about overcoming diseases and aging in order to live more. There might be a promise of human immortality due to the advanced technology that is extending life expectancy. Humans will have the option to live forever. One additional year is to be added every year to our life expectancy which is going to be based on our remaining life expectancy.( Judy Woodruff 2016)

The latest novelties in technology are the nano-bots that are going to swim in the people's sanguine flux and keep us healthy and potentially immortal. In his works Man Kurzweil comes with the interesting idea that we'll probably begin to like each other and become a meta-connection meaning that we will all be connected and plugged into the global network filled with data.

Ray Kurzweil (2013) considers that technology will make us rethink the modern workplace that will be completely different from what we had years ago. it will also give us the ability to replace our biology with more substantial hardware. Human consciousness will be copied onto an electronic medium. For all of us the future is exciting, daunting, but at the same time it can be terrifying .

Now we can reprogram health and medicine as software. Life extension can be viewed with three bridges:

- ✓ the steps that we take and are aggressive to remain healthy with the updated knowledge
- ✓ the biotech revolution where biology is reprogrammed from disease
- ✓ the nanotechnology revolution

The innovation is with the nanobots that are little robots in our body in the bloodstream that increase our immune system. If such systems are created all diseases can be recognized and reprogrammed to face new pathogens

According to the expert Ray Kurzweil (2006) in less than 30 years life hope might become eternal. The brain will remain active and will be able to reverse the process of aging. But problems will appear because not everybody on the Earth will get these nano bots. This being an American invention for sure it cannot be sold in ...let's say North Korea! Then a decision must be taken: who will be able to get this invention and who will not? Will immortality be only for the elite? If this is to become reality then we'll speak about the largest step ever made by humanity but at the same time the most disputed thing in the history of humanity. More than this it seems that Ray Kurzweil is

amazing at predicting that virtual reality will begin to feel 100% real. The ability to access the data of information on line will make our brains develop and the humans will progress more and more. It will be a passing to non biological thinking for the people.

Such predictions are amazing, mind-boggling, and important reminders that we are living in the most exciting time in human history. And all entrepreneurs should think about...

How will they affect the business world? How will they affect us?

Such predictions will be advantages but not for everyone. But we must also think about something that I consider very interesting in the progress of humanity, namely the example of the mobile phones. Their evolution is amazing as now even an African child with a smartphone connected to the internet has access to more information than the President of the USA had 30 years ago. Or let's come with another example concerning the cost of HIV treatment two decades ago (30.000 dollars) and the cost now (80 dollars )

There are no doubt secrets of eternal life (Sean Martin, 2017) within the next 100 years but we are convinced that more profound forms of communication will be created.

### **3. Conclusions**

Do imperfections threaten us? we have a sufficient number of valuable parts of our lives, even if the world is imperfect and the human condition involves various different imperfections.

Imperfections will always be part of our lives in today world and in future. The well known rules disappear, others take place; political, technological, religious, corporatist control will continue to exist, as well as manipulation, fear, traps in government, corporations, influential groups. It depends on us to discover what is wrong, negative, immoral in society and to try striving for changes, taking important decisions for ourselves. Nothing can be known with certainty. Nothing is objectively true or valuable. Highlighted imperfection of our world need not undermine the meaning of our lives. To have meaning in our lives is to have a life with a sufficient amount of value. And even if our lives are imperfect in many ways, they still typically contain a sufficient number of aspects of sufficient value. Hence, for most of us, it is possible to live a meaningful life in an imperfect world. But as we are humans we must not see imperfections as being some obstacles as far as a human being we are not perfect- perfection is something we have to aim at! The imperfections of each of us are exactly what makes us special and unique- only some of them can be improved, with others we continue to live for the rest of our lives. We want new technologies to be used in order to empower people and to strengthen democracy, to create closer knit communities of people who are living a sustainable style by giving more importance to alternative energy technologies and renewable resources.

Then, the future can become exactly as we wish it. Even if we live in a frail breakable world where the balance got lost as a normal state and we witness betrayals

and injustice, violence and anomalies, we do not wish an apocalyptic future. I do believe that time will tell us if the future has other plans for mankind or on the contrary we'll continue to live with imperfections.

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