

We need to build-up a culture able to understand emergy to make possible Degrowth, Eco-Socialism and Communitarian Organization

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Communication

INTRODUCTION

We assume that those who make decisions understand and are interested in systemic or holistic assessments. But my experience in Brazil and my interpretation of what is happening in other countries reveals that this is not so. Unsustainable projects are being implemented everywhere as a joint effort of national governments and private enterprises. How is this possible?

The answer is that decisions are based on a goal of maintaining control of the unfair exchange between world system' center and periphery. This unethical behavior is based on a pragmatically-oriented Eurocentric Philosophy that neglects other societies and destroys their cultural values and devastates their natural systems.

The problem: the prevailing economy is based on a philosophical model that implies continuous expansion, accumulation and concentration of richness

The ultra-competitive economic systems based on central countries that work with the help of peripheral countries' elites, are overcoming the more simple cooperative ecological systems, such as native ecosystems and traditional societies. Acting this way, capitalist economies promote serious crises, including: financial, global warming, species extinction, rain disturbances, soil erosion and fertility loss, water pollution and acidification, increasing inequality within social classes in countries and between countries, cultural losses and alienation.

The solution: union of progressive forces

If we are to overcome this disastrous global situation, we need a large-scale collaborative effort, and from a broader base than the Complex Systems Scientists alone!

In order to promote the creation of a really rational society that could understand Complex Systems Science, scientists, including those that work with Emergy Assessment, will need to interact with other groups and movements interested in building a new global system based on ecological modes of production, consumption and recycling.

A viable solution requires global interaction, including scientific evidence on sustainable and equitable economic arrangements of production and consumption.

Taking this in consideration, Energy Methodology should be critically revised and it will be essential to **build interfaces with social movements** in order to discuss the fundamental principles shared by energy science and other scientific and philosophical approaches.

The essential questions

- Who is interested in changing present system?
- Why do they want to change it?
- How can we talk with them?
- When do they demand change?
- What are their strong and weak points?
- What do they want from us?
- How could we benefit from the interaction?
- How can develop a framework from which we can interact?

Who is not interested in changing present system and who is favorable?

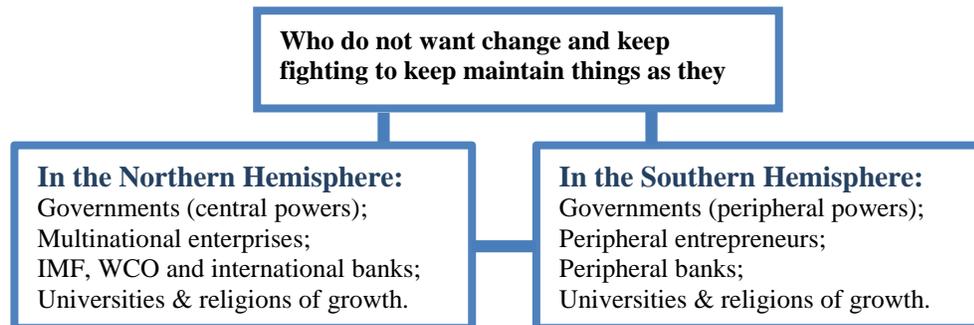


Figure 1. Social forces that oppose to a Prosperous Way Down.



Figure 2. Social forces in favor of a Prosperous Way Down.

Main ideas to promote a discussion and a collaboration

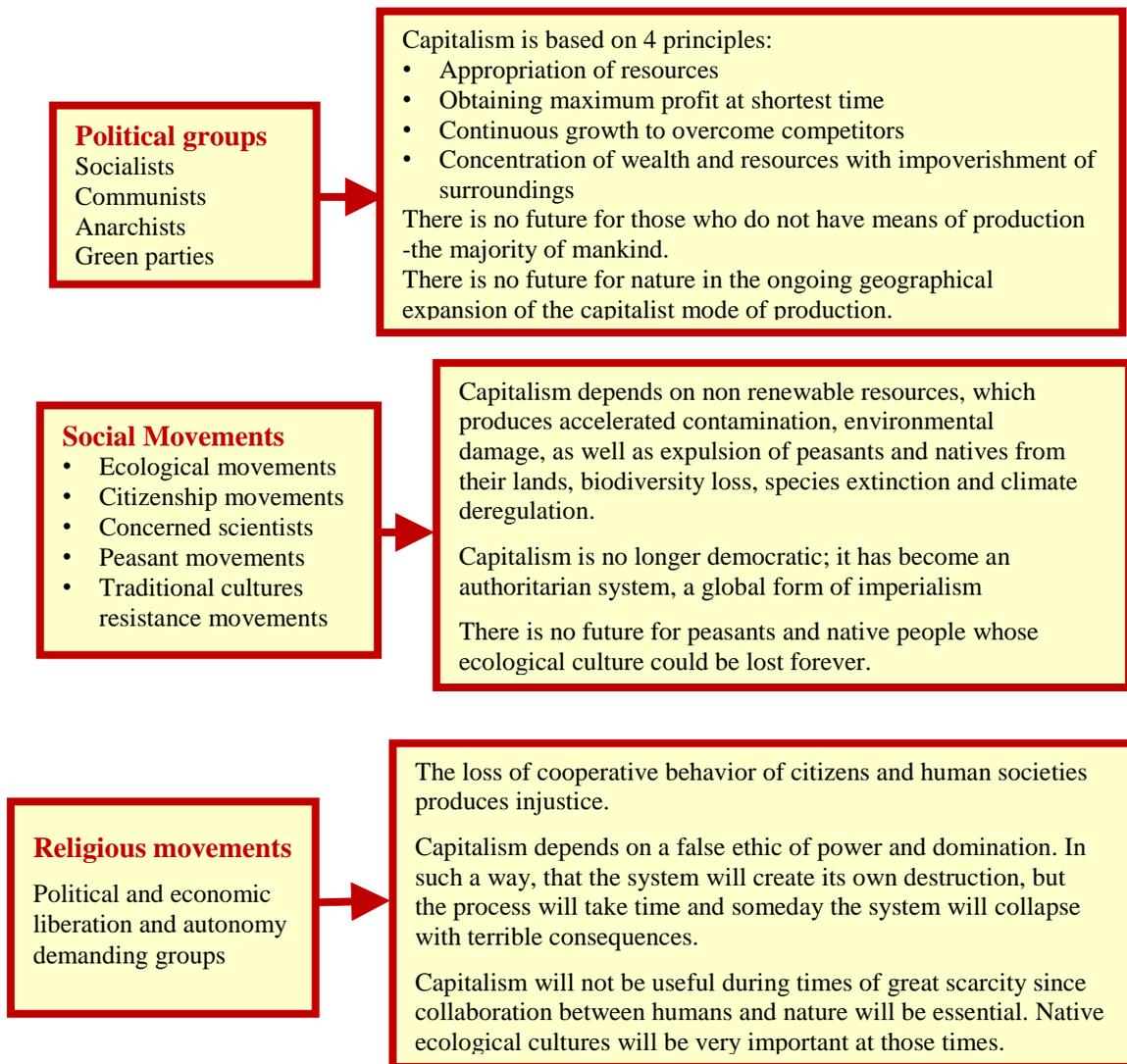


Figure 3. The basic ideas of the social forces in favor of a Prosperous Way Down.

The social forces in favor of a positive change

The social movements that are aware of the need for an ecological future are very diverse. Each group has its own conceptual basis that it is necessary to understand before establishing a productive dialogue. It is necessary to identify the main progressive movements to get knowledge of their philosophical principles and modes of action in order to establish common objectives even though the field of actions may be different. Some of their ideas are valuable and complement Emergy Science but some concepts they use are wrong and introduces mistakes in their methodological framework, in its case they can make good use of emergy methodology.

Timing is an important issue.

Some social activist movements consider that currently there are no conditions for a global action that can integrate all progressive movements. On the other side, reports on climate change, global ecological resilience, species extinction processes insist that the time for change has arrived because ecosystems recovery and human systems redesign demand decades of work.

Collaboration

Each research group, social movement or ecological initiative has valuable aspects and also deficiencies. The Emergy Science group, as other science groups, needs to explore our own strengths and weaknesses and correct its own deficiencies working at first in parallel and later with other groups, taking care to protect the beginning of collaborative efforts with other movements.

What do they demand from the Emergy Assessment Scientists?

1. Emergy methodology **information**, including good explanations of methods of visualization, measurement procedures, discussion of main indices and parameters, including examples that address their concerns and perspectives.
2. **Glossaries** that describe the **analytical categories** of other sciences in terms of emergy science and other scientific perspectives (for example: exergy), something similar to the **Rosetta stone**. Social, political and climate sciences describe their systems using complex variables called analytical categories, for example: class's struggles, accumulation, plus-value expropriation, production models and modes of production, hegemony, and ecological and social resilience.

Proposal

There are many different social and ecological movements; some are local, while others are regional or global. Each one deserves our attention when possible. Only after proving being able of successful interactions with them, then we could promote a **global platform for Biophysical Economy conscious of Degrowth**.

This network will be able to integrate the emergy, open systems thermodynamics and ecological and social aware movements to promote the desired change: **a Prosperous Way Down or**, as most people refer to this stage of evolution: **Degrowth**. This proposed platform could establish priorities for research, extension, planning, and networking.

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