

# HOLONIC PROPERTY : EXPECTED CONSEQUENCES ON SOCIETY AND GLOBALIZATION

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## Abstract

This paper is a proposal, aiming to a solution of some major global problems of our time as for example the destruction of nature, terrorism, criminality, the increasing differences in wealth among nations and individuals, towards a sustainable development. In order to do so it is proposed to transcend outside the present social context, towards a modification of the present economic organization of our society.

This proposal views the present problems as an increase of entropy in our society and planet. Consequently, it proposes a way of increasing social order and restoring and protecting the existing order in nature. This may be achieved through a modification of the present economic organization of the society, expected to increase social cohesion and at the same time, maintain and extend the democratic rules that both can guarantee an increased variety and order necessary for sustainable development.

The basic points of this proposal are:

1. The services and production of goods will be provided by profit organizations, namely by free *private holonic economic enterprises*. The property of these profit organizations will be a holonic one, namely a property that is distributed (even to a minimal extent) to all higher social holons of which the central profit organization (COP) is part. These *higher holonic owners* will include the local authorities, the state, the U.N. The role of higher holonic owners will include the redistribution of wealth and services from the areas and human holons of abundance, to those of suffering. Besides, they will guarantee (offer) the covering of basic needs, in terms of food, shelter, health and education. There will be a monitoring and control of the degree of profit and of the quality of the services and production of goods.
2. Goods and services that individuals and families enjoy will belong to companies or to the holons, in which they (or their members) will work or belong. Salaries will be offered mainly in terms of shared goods and services. All persons working in a company will be considered as shareholders. Individual property will be minimized.
3. In order this economic organization of society to be realized, democratic functions and computers have to be used more widely.

Under this organization of society it is expected that:

- a) Money could not be possible a factor to motivate criminality,
- b) Terrorism will have no reason to exist since social and national injustice with the present form will extinct, and
- c) The supra holons will protect themselves from the lower level holons to damage nature that harm the supra- holon of humanity.
- d) Holonic property is expected to contribute to the unification of the planet earth and to the acceleration of a humanitarian globalization.

## INTRODUCTION

After the so far relevant failures to find an adequate solution to some major global problems of our time, within the context of the present society, the effort of this paper is directed towards a search for a solution outside the context of the present society. Problems such as for example the destruction of nature, terrorism, criminality, the increasing differences in wealth among nations and individuals. A solution that allows at the same time a sustainable development.

## **History**

There are many problems in our society such as violation of nature, violence, criminality, terrorism, excessive materialism, lack of food and of medicines in some areas of the planet, and great differences in wealth among individuals, countries and continents. These problems are increasing in the last 20 years in spite of the attempts to reduce them. The present paper is based on a proposal which included the concept of fraternity, presented in a systems conference at Asilomar, California in 1996 organized by Bela Banathy and to a team that was searching for the ideal society.

## **The necessity of the systemic concepts**

Such a society based on holonic property has never existed before, since it is based on the concept of holon (Koestler 1967, Baum 1984) which presupposes the concept of a system. A system can be defined as a set of elements, their properties, their relations and their emergent properties. A holon is a system that is part of a similar system and belongs to a similar system and so on, into a hierarchy of systems organization (Laszlo 1972). Under the previous definition of a system, the environment of a holon will be similar holons having properties and relations and forming emerging properties at the highest level and so on. Human holons include individuals belonging to higher holons such as families and organizations, belonging to city holons, belonging to state-holons, that form holons of supra-national organizations and finally to the meta-holon of the earth.

## **Balancing variety and order**

The present society is increasing in variety, through the progress of science and technology, the independence of many nations, the progression of democratic organization and the establishment of the freedom in the context of human rights, the freedom of the international companies. At the same time order is diminished in terms of destruction of nature, terrorism, violence of its many facets and criminality related to drug abuse among others. All the above increase the entropy. Here lies the question: what can be done to reduce it. A first simple answer is to reduce the variety by imposing the same culture, the same values, the same type of cars, airplanes, housing, into the globe, restricting the weapons of their type, reducing democratic functions and freedom and to increase order by controlling the nations, the people, with stricter laws and prohibitions. This is a solution for the increasing entropy world wide, however it is useful to consider an alternative one. The above solution is based on the principle that evolution and progress of living systems, including the social ones, is a result of reduction of entropy in systems far from thermodynamic equilibrium (Prigogine and Stengers 1984).

Paritsis (1993) theoretically shows that evolution and developments of living systems rests upon the increase of both variety and order and not just in terms of a reduction of entropy. He discussed the essential and core role of the increase of variety and of an optimal order (not the maximum) depending on the degree of variety, for the system to function well. He applied this idea to the case of sustainable development (Paritsis 1999). Under this view it is necessary to guarantee the maintenance and the increase of variety. Then the focus of a solution ought to be the increase of order, parallel to the maintenance and increase of variety. Such a solution is discussed in this paper. This paper envisages a society in the context of which, the present problems will basically vanish (others may appear). It offers a vision on the basis of which a design for a society could be realized and a pilot study for the implementation of the involved ideas could be possible.

## **HOLONIC PROPERTY AND ITS APPLICATION FOR A SOCIAL ORGANIZATION.**

### **The concept of holonic property**

Holonic property, is a property that is widespread to all human holons in which a profit organization belongs. Namely, to the lower holons such as all the individuals working in the profit organization (or having shares), to the core profit organization itself (COP), and to the higher holons such as local authorities, the state, the supra-national organizations and the globe (UN). The holonic profit organization including the above can be called Holonic Profit Enterprise or HOPE.

### **The function of a Holonic Profit Enterprise**

The COP will function as a company. After covering the expenses and keeping a reasonable amount of money for its development, it will offer the rest of the money to the shareholders of the HOPE. A HOPE can be regarded as having three sub holons the lower comprised mainly by the

individuals, the central, being the COP and the higher comprised by the *higher holonic owners*, which will include the holons of the local authorities, of the state, of the U.N.

The salary and the income from the shares of the employees will be given practically not in terms of money but in terms of covering as much as possible the residence, the food, the education and the entertainment. There will be property of the COP that will cover the needs of the employees according to their position and salaries, including yachts, summer residence, bars, tours, voyages. The major decisions in COP are taken by the majority vote of the shareholders during the general assembly. In a society organized in terms of holonic ownership there is no place for pure individual property, apart from some personal belongings for personal use only. The property will not be in the hands of the individuals but in the hands of the holons and in this way it will be collective. Essentially, it will not be individual property in its present form.

One of the roles of higher holonic owners will be the redistribution of wealth and services from the areas and human holons that have more, to those who have less. Another function of the higher holonic owners will be, to guarantee (offer) the covering of basic needs of all individuals, families and groups, in terms of food, shelter, health and education. A third function of the higher holonic owners will be a monitoring and control of the degree of profit of COPs belonging to them. The degree of profit shouldn't exceed a certain percentage of the property per year. Besides, higher holonic owners will monitor and guarantee the quality of the services and that of the production of goods. Thus there will be an evaluation of services and goods offered by the various COPs in relation to their price and this evaluation will be open and disseminated.

### **Transition period**

From the present society it is possible to go smoothly and gradually to a society based on holonic property through democratic processes, unless a sudden collapse of the present society takes place.

The individual owners of a company will receive in terms of villas, cars, yachts, travelling and so on, their profit corresponding to their shares. They will be able to use them as before without being their property. For those who have property and life in the above mentioned ways without having shares in the company this property will go to the local authorities, though the previous owners will have the right to use it as long as they live. Thus no one will have to alter his style of life. This process of transition of the property to the local authorities can be gradual, according to the voting in the parliament. After the death of the owners their heirs will receive part of their use, specified by the law.

### **Expected desirable outcomes**

There is a number of possible advantages of the application of holonic property as core characteristics such as:

1. Induced motivation to the workers, since they have shares.
2. The companies (COP) cannot act against the interests of the citizens and the other human holons, since the local authorities and the state (higher holonic owners) will have direct access to information and influence on the company. Thus for example preserving nature.
3. The quality of the production of goods (e.g. foods) and services will be more protected than now since the local authorities and the state (higher holonic owners) will have direct access to information and influence on the company.
4. By giving the salary in terms of goods and services the motivation for work may be higher as it is proved in rewards (other than money) by companies.
5. The cost to cover the same needs (by shared when applied) through goods and services will be smaller than through salary, since it will be shared and to many consumers.
6. Among the individuals of the holons (and finally of the globe), positive feelings, cooperation love and solidarity will be developed instead of hate, antagonism, individualism, since cooperation and shared activities will be induced.
7. It is also expected the society to be developed more morally, and criminality to be reduced since it will not be possible to steal the money of the fortune of the others since money will not exist.
8. Terrorism is possible to extinct, since it will have very limited, if any, philosophical or other grounds to justify its existence and motivation.
9. There will be less needs for material resources, since there will be sharing and then less natural resources and destruction.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

An Information society could easily have as its base the holonic property since information can be shared and offered to others without being lost by the sources and also since computers will make it possible to calculate the profit of all holons involved and to distribute them. Industrial society was based on individual (directly or indirectly) property.

In order this economic organization of society, based on holonic property to be realized, democratic functions and computers have to be more widely used.

To summarize the core expectations from a society with holonic property:

- e) Money could not be possible a factor to motivate criminality.
- f) Terrorism will considerably be reduced if not vanished.
- g) The supra holons will protect themselves from the lower level holons from destroying nature or parts of humanity.
- h) Holonic property is expected to contribute to the unification of the human systems of the planet earth and to the acceleration of a humanitarian globalization.

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