Article

Shortcuts from the last period of the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment on the view of economic aspects

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Abstract: The current work analyzes the social history from the point of view of social aspects and connects them to economic issues. The economic issues are many times behind the social changes of historical facts. This paper shows through the economic events of the last period of the Middle Ages till the Enlightenment period that the economic aspects were a significant part of social impact. The applied methodology is based on the logic and the comprehensive analysis of historical events. The Cycle of Money shows that Capitalism is not going far by a sustainable orientation and by it is own structure can’t face wide social aspects, something that the economic system of Economocracy can achieve.

Keywords: Social History, The Last Period Of The Middle Ages, Enlightenment, Economocracy, Cycle Of Money

1. Introduction

This paper studies the period from the last period of the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. It shows that the social aspects of history are strongly related to economic issues. The macroeconomic and also microeconomic problems seem to always affect the social aspects. The money cycle determines that the average index of the money cycle is 0.5 because the profit of one economy is the loss of other economies [1]–[47]. The money cycle shows the importance of using all the economic units of an economy promoting that way the social aspects of an economy. An economy is developed appropriately when its function and the structure of it are adequate.

2. Materials and Methods

The current methodology is based on the analysis of matters of history using comprehensive analysis of facts following logical patterns production on deduction to achieve the current results. Therefore the analysis has used the slicing and grouping of concepts by sections pending on the subject. In
that way, a complete overview has been achieved and conclusions have been revealed.

3. Definition of Social History

Social history differs from the concept of traditional history in that it concerns something beyond the classical concept of time. The essential difference between the two instances of history is that in social history time is relative and has characteristics that lie on multiple levels of time. It is the school of the Annales that founded the concept of social history, from Febvre and Bloch, through the publication of the eponymous magazine Annales, which took place in 1929 [48]–[53]. The Annales school did not consider the influence of events and events but instead sociology and geography. In the 1960s, social history departed from its previous meaning, focusing more on radical and anti-colonial movements, accompanied by massification in higher education, and technological innovations. In this way, social history takes shape, consolidating its form.

4. The last period of the Middle Ages

The last period of the Middle Ages is also known as "the Age of Famine". Over two centuries from the 13th to the 15th century, several natural disasters occurred in Europe. At that time there was a problem of malnutrition, as the crops did not meet the needs of the European population, this was due to both overcultivation and weather conditions [54]–[56]. The final blow came from the so-called "Black Death," which was a plague pandemic. Hunger and misery seem to have played a significant role in the lack of progress in all respects. While wars also led to a deterioration of the existing situation. In any case, three factors hindered progress during this period: famine, plague, and wars. As a result, the population has shrunk by two-thirds. While in the church we have the so-called "Babylonian Captivity", which the Pope submitted to the French crown[54]–[79]. The Great Schism and the Italian territorial papacy occurred, which rocked the church. It is obvious that hunger was a result of capitalism as the Money Cycle Theory (or the theory of the Cycle of Money) shows that the profits of some countries are exactly the losses of other countries [27], [30], [39], [44], [80]–[142]. The problems of the economic system are based on the non-productive money of the interest rates which can be faced only by non-productive money of the economic system of Economocracy.

5. Renaissance
The Renaissance covers the period of the 15th and 16th centuries. It should be mentioned that it also covers the period when Greek civilization was essentially revived (1350-1600). That is classical studies developed, as a result of which the Greek language returned to the scientific world. Through the Greek spirit, science and art were revitalized, bringing new ideas to the forefront. The Renaissance emphasized man, hence humanism, unlike the Reformation, which saw man as something with negative connotations. The so-called humanists were mainly members of the aristocracy. Whereas, the reformers were persons of the church [143], [144], [153]–[157], [145]–[152]. The Reformation generally refers to the Protestant Revolution (1517) and the Catholic Reformation that broke the Roman Catholic Church’s relationship with Northern Europe.

6. Commercial Revolution

The Commercial Revolution occupies the period from 1450 to 1800, when there was a development of trade, with overseas discoveries leading to the creation of new markets while introducing new types of consumption and precious metals. The result of the commercial revolution is the rise of capitalism. During this period, crafts began to take the place of guilds and handicrafts. While general partnerships appear as well as joint-stock companies. In general, mercantilism was based on state intervention and an increase in money in the royal treasury. Mercantilism was associated with statism because of its extensive state intervention in the economy and was thus inextricably linked to autocracy. Merchantism found supporters in Bondaine and Hobbes.

During the commercial revolution, slavery was revived, which had disappeared around 1000 AD. As a result, humanism suffered. The 17th and 18th centuries saw changes in agriculture, with landowners enclosing their estates. In other words, they turned to animal husbandry. They also adopted scientific techniques for cultivating the fields, thereby increasing the yield of their fields. In particular, clover and turnip crops improved animal feed, while many of the fenced estates were converted to pastures. In other words, fertilization has made it possible to put an end to set aside. Absolutism refers to the period from 1500 to 1789 when the reign was strengthened. It was strengthened because of wars, wealth, and Protestantism. In England authoritarianism ended earlier than in the rest of Europe. After Elizabeth I's death, James I of the Stuarts allowed God-given absolute monarchy by abolishing both parliaments and imposing many taxes. The same policy was followed by his son Charles I.
problem was that he strengthened the Anglicans against the Calvinists, provoking the Scottish rebellion. Cromwell eventually killed Charles I. Charles II was pro-Catholic and broke with the regime. Finally, the glorious revolution occurred, covering the two years from 1688 to 1689 (a century before the Declaration of Human Rights). Parliament had powers to choose a successor, i.e. a Charter of Rights.

7. Thirty Years’ War

The Thirty Years’ War covered the period from 1618 to 1648. It was a disastrous period in European history. The Thirty Years’ War was started by Czech nobles who declared Bohemia an independent state. The king of the state in question was Frederick, who was a follower of Calvinism. Calvinism was a Protestant movement whose main place was man’s destiny based on the Divine Grace of God. This war had elements of mainly religious content, which took place within the Holy Roman Empire. From a religious one, however, this war turned into a power war between the Habsburgs (House of Austria) and France. Peace came in 1648. As a result of this war, much of the population of Bohemia and Germany perished, while France seems to have won by acquiring Alsace and Lorraine. The Holy Roman Empire was significantly weakened.

8. Spiritual Revolution

The Spiritual Revolution concerns the period from the 17th to the 18th century. The Spiritual Revolution concerns the early period of the Enlightenment. The founders of the intellectual revolution were Bacon, Locke, Descartes, and Newton. These four philosopher-scientists allowed that barrier to be created between the Middle Ages and the Enlightenment and thus took a very important step towards scientific progress, since Bacon in his work questioned the acquired knowledge, based on his work New Organ as well as the Progress of Knowledge, while proposing induction as the main method and thus contributing significantly to the intellectual revolution. Bacon favored observation and against scholastic logic while avoiding anything related to authority and tradition. Therefore, where Bacon placed the burden of his questioning of scientific knowledge on questions that were on tradition and authority because they were not consistent with questions of observation. Descartes, unlike Bacon, instead of the inductive method, followed the abductive method, that is, the method based on self-evident truth.

One can reach definite conclusions through the abductive method, for example in the case of geometry where axioms are self-evident truths. In
other words, it seems that two methods were followed, which are in contradiction with each other because in one case we have the abductive method and in the other case we have the inductive method. In any case, the intellectual revolution broke its ties with the Middle Ages and through classicism allowed the revival of the ancient spirit. Locke in turn supported philosophy around natural law and was against established beliefs and any restrictions that restrained the spirit of man. Newton noted the need to challenge acquired notions, as did Locke, he also stated that nature is not governed by divine interventions and that humans are subject to the laws of the universe. Mention should also be made of Hobbes, who believed that there was nothing but matter. Even though is a form of matter, that is, he was a materialist philosopher.

9. Enlightenment

The Enlightenment accepted classical civilization and proved Christianity as a social system. Emphasis was also placed on the problems of this world by moving the Enlightenment away from Christianity. The heavenly and future world was rejected, and superstitions could be combated with humanism. Therefore, the Enlightenment emphasized three elements, which were none other than the acceptance of classical civilization, the problems of this world, and humanism. Humanism could be achieved through Economocracy which aims to reform the economic system in such a way that faces the problems of Capitalism.

10. Discussion

The economic aspects are most times part of social issues [115]. The economic system of Economocracy can convert debts into normalized levels facing that way the unfair parts of capitalism making a system of economic debts without any solution for increasing debts to a system that promotes the social view of the economy.

11. Conclusions

The current study links social history to economic concerns by analyzing it from a social perspective. The social shifts resulting from historical events are frequently preceded by economic concerns. This essay demonstrates how the economic developments from the late Middle Ages to the Renaissance era had a considerable influence on society. The logic and thorough understanding of historical events form the foundation of the
applied approach. The Cycle of Money demonstrates that capitalism is limited by its structure and is unable to address broad social issues, something that the economy of an Economocracy can accomplish. The economic system of Economocracy can face the structure problem of Capitalism which is based on the losses of some countries for the profits of other countries through the additional non-chargeable amount of money pending on the GDP of each country.

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