

Growth and its measurement

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It is interesting to see change being perceived as either growth or decline from different points of views. It is interesting also, given the nature of this universe, where there are only transformations – since energy is neither created nor destroyed and the sum is a constant – how human languages and vocabularies have evolved to describe only the immediate and the transient to have them appear as permanent and absolute. Of course, these myopic vocabularies enable us to stay focused on what needs to be dealt with here and now and hence admirable and convenient. However, from many strategic points of views the transformational aspect is more relevant to ensure efficacy of designs, plans, and programs. This paper will address the opportunities available to manage transformations in a way that will be conducive to both the businesses that are supposedly only concerned with the immediate and the humanity at large that strives – at least, intellectually – to ensure its eternal survivability. Is it politics, then, that strives to strike a middle ground in this battle? In any sense, truth which is perhaps a perception of known facts gets determined by a judicial process that strives to balance fairness against mercy at a given point, that is also transitory, in these dynamic relationships. So, why does any one pay attention to only growth and its measurement while leaving out the dynamic aspects of relationships? The only answer I could come up with is, 'perhaps, because it customary to do so.'

By bringing into this discussion the customary and the traditional framework, I have established the on-going nature of relationships, be they long or short, and the component of wisdom in the aforementioned judgmental processes. Management of growth or any other similarly observed phenomenon is a continuum in the many and variegated relationships spectrum. How does one measure and keep track of relationships that barely budge in ions of existence alongside those that change in micro- or milliseconds and bring wisdom to the individual responses at a point of decision making? The answer, perhaps, lies in the creation and use of a new methodology I have chosen to call time-technology.

While we are accustomed to thinking of time as a phenomenon

of nature, especially the solar system-based nature; the word time is much more complex and meant to include non-biological nature as well. Time, viewed in this manner, is a derivative of a relationship. Any change in that relationship is measured as a phenomenon of time. Intellectually, words and phrases in any language are disjointed concepts leaving circumstances to determine their meaning, relevance, and the perception of facts, as truths, by the participants of that language. Time-technology framework provides a mechanism that is independent of spoken, written, or any other form of languages; thus providing a new medium of communication. Use of time-technology would be essential to measure growth, or lack thereof, especially in the wealth management industry, since wealth is an intellectual concept and its use in a modern society is not just limited to providing an income or growth to its holders. Growth occurs in the absence consumption, or more likely smaller rates of consumption than the increments in inputs. In either case, the underlying relationships are perceived to be constant and are not validated in reality. Economic bubbles are the outcome of such misperceived constancy of relationships.

Having outlined in the discussion above the topography of human perceptions and the communication limitations of the language mechanisms we could delve into the solutions that can protect and enhance measurement of values, be they cultural, financial, and social or of any other statistical or non-statistical groupings. The significant advantage, by the departure from the language mechanisms to the time mechanism, is the elimination of the need for a hierarchical view of relationships that constrain and obscure other significant and dynamic factors that underlie any relationship. Another advantage might be the elimination of the need to trade off or prioritize options and have them available for comparison throughout any relationship.

These two advantages alone could and should justify its creation and adoption and pave the way for human existence without the need of politics. The physics of the dynamical forces in all relationships would alone determine the final out-

come of human survival. What about providing warnings and adjustments before catastrophic and irreversible outcomes? In a sense, migration methodologies, such as the one proposed here, will become automatic and evident long before language induced reactions that may fail to avert the forces of destructions. The speed or the rate of transformation would be the only self-adjusting mechanism to accommodate the capabilities of the participants. Using this lone characteristic of change it ought to be possible to manage any transformation.

Poverty in a human society is the result of limiting human capabilities to the view of biological universes. When non-bio universes are included poverty will not only disappear but along with it human philosophies that constrain human potential to a non-existent strife of human conditions.

Making the transactional tools available when and where needed by the humanity is the function of the intellectual institutions of any society. Having created the banking and the financial institutions of modern economies, the next step is to empower these institutions with the ability to offer services that are relevant and enhance their creativity to absorb the many shocks likely to result from many divergent views. Linking and holding these processes tight to the known phenomena of bio-universes will only result in greater poverty among the many and a concentration of wealth in the unnecessary and outdated philosophies of the past.

Business cycles are the outcome of the structural zigzags of relationships. Using a time-technology framework it will not only be possible to understand this phenomenon but also to take actions when warranted to streamline growth of societal well-being. Societal well-being consists of harmonious relationships among many variables, biological as well as other forms of energies. To restrict our horizons to the languages designed to deal with only the biosphere is likely to prolong the human strife and the gloom and doom associated with that view. With time-technology information will be available as and when needed without it becoming a political tool avail-

able to the highest bidder. Anyone that deciphers the DNA of time would be awestruck by its intelligent design, marvel at its consistency, and the ability to function in any and all environments.

It is natural to wonder who or how will this time-technology be built? The answer is as obvious as the question itself. Eventually our data mining tools will decipher these patterns from the vast amounts of data that are constantly collected and stored in data warehouses. Let us hope that these patterns will not be misrepresented, distorted, or misinterpreted by our biologic. Barring that eventuality, time-technology is the next step beyond the information age. Financial service enterprises that choose to use mathematical techniques to decipher these patterns at societal, community, business, and enterprise levels to ensure societal well-being and harmony sooner than the others will profit greatly and survive any consolidation movements. MIS and CIO functions will have to widen their horizons beyond the customer data to look for these patterns. It is likely that even large regional trading blocks of many nations will not be able to ensure adequate growth of their economies because the forces that propel change are the result of human relationships. A new industry capable of mapping many ideas, thoughts, and motivations of human psyche may have to emerge as the feeder industry to enable this vast transformation from material wealth assets to human relationship assets that take into account the meaning of life as perceived by various generations of humanity. Many scientists from all walks of human endeavors may have to collaborate to peer beyond the biospheric atmosphere of the civilizations up to the 21st century to bring about this vast leap forward. Educational institutions may have to delve deep into their intellectual pockets to create new academic disciplines that move away from behavior modification education to a behavior identification, explanation, and learning environment to facilitate innovation. Governments and religious institutions may have to abandon mere enforcement of laws and traditions to, instead, favor inquiry and adjustment as change and transformation dictate for universal well-being. National and sectarian perspectives may have to yield to pragmatic and wiser

human attributes. Products and services created to these newer markets might sustain the economies – be they urban or rural, domestic or foreign – and perhaps in the foreseeable future eliminate poverty in the bio-universe. Universal wisdom may have to precede universal affluence. To bring about this universal wisdom it will be necessary to link humanity with its past and future alongside its literature, laws, traditions, convictions, beliefs, and faith in a transcape that is visual and accessible to everyone all the time.

Education and cooperative work among all the cultures with universal respect to every individual would have to be the foundation of this transcape. The maturing generations of the affluent east and the west provide the unique opportunity for the next 50 years to start on this wiser path to human well-being. If the younger generations could be led by the wise counsels of the transformed aged, then, the increasing life expectancy of the affluent societies will turnout to be not a burden on the exchequer but a resource to devise a system that could make the transformation permanent.

Few examples of bubbles in the measurement of growth are in the linear relationship of eating habits and health. As the societal members indulge in higher caloric food, let us say due to heavy advertising by a company that is part of the restaurant industry, and there is a demand for fitness products by a percentage of the population that succumbs to its enticement, and there is an increase in the demand for medical services by another percentage of the population that falls victim to the product promotion, there is a cause and effect. In a free enterprise system, product innovations and product promotions are expected and even encouraged. So, there is a new equilibrium in the markets and there is growth in multiple sectors of the economy. Is there a higher human well-being or is this a bubble? If there is a crime and it becomes a wave and the institutions that deal with it all respond to solve those problems, there is growth in related sectors. Do these activities foster human well-being? If yes, how is that computed? What is the final benefit to the sum total of the economy? The above examples should make it

apparent for the need of a permanent backdrop against which growth measurements are understood and interpreted. When nations declare wars on one another or undertake civil reforms of one kind or another we need to measure their costs against an enduring background of human well-being. Otherwise, human efforts at progress might turnout to be more illusionary than real. The value of the national currencies in the international currency markets might be based on the short-term demand and supply for those currencies but to gain true importance as a currency of substance for its universal respect, a gold standard if you will, their economies might have to show sustained growth without bubbles of any kind at all levels of societal memberships. Investment in the building of this infrastructure to measure the well-being may have to precede the aspirations for the universal wisdom that was mentioned earlier. Universal affluence might follow universal wisdom. If our national governments were to function and fulfill their intended roles, our information systems of today will have to include every individual and that individual's life and its interaction with the rest of the universes during that life-time. Our information technology (IT) needs to create these linkages in a timely manner to provide depth to the census data. Decision making based on events and happenings need to be refined to a point where data is not deceiving or misleading but provides the correct sense from every perspective. Data and computing, in this scheme of design, become a utility that needs to be available to all communities just like water and air is essential for human existence. Knowledge economies can become sentinel and provide warnings long before catastrophes emerge and destroy its well-being. Community Based Consulting (CBC) that link innovations to people, their needs, and their societal process times are likely to produce the sustainable well-being of the entire community and help all of the ecosystems of the universes¹.

Linking of data to people, in a utility model might cause privacy concerns. Such concerns ought to be addressed by an intermediary layer of a middleware that will hide the actual identity of individuals. The purpose of using the actual data is to

¹ CBC - Community based consulting is a conceptual framework proposed by this author to help utilize the local resources of the communities before reaching outwards in increasing geographical or virtual circumference in case of emergencies or need of cooperative efforts from a point of need.

help make correct decisions in real time and ought not to produce any unintended repercussions to any members of the community and society as a whole. The fact gathering and the educational processes ought to be neutral to any philosophies and the resulting actions clearly sustainable at all strategic levels. The end goal of education ought to make each and every societal member a statesman; not just the likes of Jack Kennedy alone². Just as the process of making the air and water and having it available to all is a secret and mystery of nature, the data source and its integration in the societal processes ought to remain a mystery but nevertheless available for users. Our present day IT combined with these concepts of time-technologies could bring about the utopia dreamed in the literature. All we need now is the will to use the information as a solution to every individual so that the institutions can fulfill their missions and societies can function without systemic failures. Since 'statesman' citizens have to remain so throughout their lifetime and beyond, software agents representing them will have to be educated and kept abreast of the ever changing circumstances; hence, the need for artificial intelligence in every walk of life and everyday use. If we want peace and no strife to obtain it, there is no other cheaper and efficient way than developing a time-technology framework. Our investment in the space technologies has produced great dividends. In a similar vein, investment in time-technologies will help us navigate through difficult periods of human development. Use of AI agents will eliminate the need for behavioral modifications of humans and instead provide the leisure and luxury which, at least in the present day perspective, is not affordable by all members of any community even after declaring a war on poverty many decades ago by the most powerful. Will leisure and luxury alone result in a more contemplative and peaceful behavior on everyone's part? We do not know and probably can not predict; but at least we could feel better that knowledge and wisdom are applied in everyday decision making using objective technologies and no longer remain as concepts in the ivory towers of academia, and economic growth is not measured in meaningless statistics, or that wealth is not attributed to hollow economies.

Economic growth has to be defined in terms of core activities that are essential for human well-being and then categorized to help evaluate those that are temporary, such as the ones attributable to wars, famines, and disasters of one kind or another, much like the one time events in corporate annual reports. Lumping them all together not only misrepresents the truth but also leads to incorrect policy making in the name of job creation.

With such undistorted measurement of growth we will be able to allocate the resources to help improve societal welfare in a manner that is both efficient and effective from a strategic point of view. If our philosophers and theologians are yet to conclude the meaning and purpose of life, the only framework that would make sense is to be able to map all of the thoughts and actions of every individual without violating their privacies against the backdrop of not only a few specimens but the entire communities.

One of the uncertainties is the human perception. We need to resolve this through the exploration of the inner spaces, much like the outer space of the earth, of mind, body, and the spirit before any progress or growth could even be conceived. The notion of individual wealth could only exist after we are able to conceive of human values independent of biologic forms to compare and improve its deficiencies, real or imagined.

2 Leaming, B., 2006, "Jack Kennedy: the education of a statesman," W.W. Norton