

Global Development Languishes but the Human Economy May Grow Without Limits

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It is appropriate to dwell on the theme of the development of peoples and territories. It is now established that the government of the economy is responsible for reliable performance or degradation. Therefore, citizens confirm good governments and dissociate themselves in the case of a declining economy. All clear, not really. In practice, governments do not deal much with the economy. The main task of governments is to update laws and institutions as times change. Even the hypothesis that governments are confirmed by virtue of the reliable performance of the economy shows some distinctions. The community rewards the constant and cautious progress of development, which brings peace between the human economy and the nature that surrounds us. We must therefore admit that an accelerated development for many years, as in China, does not achieve the goal of neutrality with nature and does not find the consent of citizens. What then promotes natural development? The constant and cautious rule that must regulate development must be considered an obligation imposed by the laws of nature. Citizens are sensitive listeners of the development process and express consent if these rules are respected. So, the Chinese anomaly has not had consensus not only because of the one-party model. The majority of citizens have an intrinsic quality: they recognize well in advance if the economy is about to get worse and pull the reins of consumption and investment. While they accentuate consumption and investment if things tend to improve. There is therefore a relationship between the majority of the people and the good governance of the economy, in accordance with the nature that surrounds us. In China, the Chinese community has pulled the oars in the boat from consumption and investment after the post-COVID epidemic. However, this year the GDP will be close to 4% because the destination of the Chinese industry is the West, which becomes the float of the economy in China. On the subject of the decline in voter turnout in democratic countries, it is proposed that the community be listened to on the most important issues, with the aim of improving the exchange of information between citizens and parties. The weak connection between citizens and parties is the cause of the reduced voter turnout. Another issue well connected to what has been said. The incredible hypothesis that the long period of the Chinese economy is a symptom of a greater efficiency of the autarchic model, ignores that the long Chinese effervescence is the result of the globalization of markets delocalized by the West. We are witnessing a globalization blocked by the speculative deviance of the process and by the contradiction between accelerated development and the health of the planet. It is now inevitable that the Chinese economy will look to the next recession, a hypothesis that worries both Europe and America.

Keywords: social rapports, constant & coordinated development, collectivity reason, speculation waves

Introduction

It now seems clear that the most serious geopolitical problem facing all of humanity is not only the wars raging in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. No less strategic and I would say equally important and serious is the issue of coordinated and accelerated development in the coming decades. China seems to have understood that the extended period of accelerated development will eventually slow down in the coming years. Even in the West, the issue has become primary. The EU has given a personality in the world of economics, Mario Draghi, the task of designating the things to be done to give impetus to the economy of European countries that have long shown prolonged weakness. For the United States, the issue of the 2025 presidential vote has moved on the fragile terrain of the economy between Republicans who attack the terrain of low wages and inflation and Democrats who recall the measures to support the salaried and the recovery of inflation in the management of President J. Biden. It remains that the prospects for the near future are not promising even if a global recession does not seem imminent. A picture of stagnation that becomes dangerous in the face of the emergency created by the malaise of our planet that shows signs of uncontrolled overheating and increasingly intense and devastating atmospheric diversities. Faced with this serious adversity, which humanity must correct, it becomes clear that the choice of development must mark a turning point with the abandonment of fossil fuels and the search for new renewable energies without residues in the atmosphere. Therefore, we are faced with an antagonism between development and the well-being of the planet that welcomes us (Cossiga, 2018a).

Yet, we need to give a boost to global development to have resources and financial means to start the works to combat global warming, meanwhile acknowledging that the times for the replacement introduction of renewable energies are long, and in any case may be not sufficient to definitively set aside fossil fuels. While waiting to be able to have nuclear fusion energy—in theory unlimited—scientific and technological research takes on a preponderant importance. It is not enough that of companies that strive to increase their revenues and improve their profit and loss accounts, largely pervaded by speculative spirit. I note that even politics does not seem immune from blame when it dedicates little space to the issues of the planet's malaise and rejoices in controversies always with the intent of gaining more consensus from citizens. Controversies that always revolve around the economy boast of the tepid improvements of the economy, ready to attenuate the echo of errors and shortcomings.

At this point we cannot underestimate that the powers of governments in economic matters are limited and that these limits coincide more in adjusting the architecture of institutions, that is, adapting them to new needs rather than promoting and defining the potential for development. Yet, citizens offer consent to governments for a history of development and are instead dissenting in the case of disappointing or negative growth. A clear contradiction. Why? The theorem of economic development requires greater analysis. Meanwhile, it is now evident that communities have an intrinsic feeling about the direction of the economy. In fact, it is up to them, all citizens, to decide whether the prospects are good and therefore consumption and investment can be relaunched. Or the prospects are uncertain and on the contrary, it is necessary to pull in the oars for consumption and investment, with the consequent slowdown or blockage of growth. Well, it is not individuals who have this singular property but the community that reasons and moves like an individual who has the last word on the unequal path of economic development. It is useless to try to explain this characteristic of citizens; we can only say that it is an intrinsic property of the utmost importance. Because the formula of democracy (Soroka &

Wlezien, 2010), is based on this property, which gives the majority the task of deciding on the choice of government leadership.

The same social civilization and the logic of individual freedoms is based on this certainty. The same certainty that has put the Soviet empire in crisis in the recent past and that today calls into question the resilience of autocratic regimes, China, and Russia in the lead. Well, this singular capacity of communities is not an end but could be linked to the relationship of correlated protection between humanity and the planet that welcomes us. In the sense that the breaking of the balance between humanity and nature could be a recent fact, due precisely to the development at all costs that is the cause of global warming. In short, the “constant and cautious” rule of human development would have allowed the maintenance of the balance between humanity and nature. While limitless growth has prevailed, it also breaks the balance of the systems, human, and natural. In short, the adjectives “constant and cautious” have been replaced by the irregularity of human development. Thus, in the post-World War II period, the West experienced a miracle of development, which was followed by an acceleration of economic development in Asia and in particular in China and India for over half a century. The acceleration of development, blocked in the West by the inflation of the 1960s and 1970s, moved to Asia, thus creating the conditions for a global speculative climate with the transfer—well beyond the rules—of industrial plants from the West to China (Cossiga, 2024). The concentration of industrial plants in Asia and China created the conditions for an acceleration of development not only in Asia but also in Western countries, thus, breaking the rule of constancy and caution that should regulate the relationship between nature and humanity. Constancy and caution as limits to the development of the human race is reflected in the behavior of communities that not only approve of development trends in line with the adjectives “constant and cautious”, but essentially disagree with all positions of both weakness of development and excessive strength of the trend of economic growth. This can explain both the recurrent weakness of economic systems recently in Europe and the breakdown of the mechanism that has so far allowed the leap forward of large but once backward economies in Asia. In some ways, therefore, the expected slowdown in global development would be a natural necessity, to avoid a further worsening of the relationship between humankind and nature and, at the same time, to give new impetus to scientific research in universities and study centers to mitigate the phenomenon of global warming.

The issue of global economic development is even more complex because, in the face of the natural request for a slowdown, the request to accelerate economic growth emerges in opposition, as required by the need to have new resources for renewable energy and added funding for universities and study centers to find alternatives to fossil fuels; Also, because the times for replacement with renewable energy are long and new potential is needed while waiting for fusion energy to be available, which promises unlimited energy.

On the geopolitical level, things are no less complex. First of all, despite the natural objections, the speculative phase that implicitly linked the transfer of industrial plants to Asia to the speculative boom in financial values related to multinationals does not seem to be over yet. In other words, it is the speculative phenomenon that links the falling management costs for plants transferred to Asia to the speculative increases in financial capital on the related values on the stock exchanges, particularly the US one. As a consequence, the phenomenon continues, albeit in the direction of the countries of South-East Asia.

As we have said, government of the economy promotes the institutional and regulatory framework, as well as public order, to adapt the current scenario to the passage of time and technological change. Communities, on

the other hand, have the sensitivity necessary to perceive sufficiently in advance if the prospects of the economy are changing in a favorable direction. In this case, the willingness to consume and invest in new job opportunities increases. If, on the other hand, the prospects—according to the intuition of the communities—worsen, the brake is pulled collegially both for consumption and for investments in new activities. Thus reasoning, the basic engine of the development of the economy for humanity remains undetermined. Without prejudice to the fact that neither governments nor communities hold the key to development and since development is to be interpreted as fundamental to knowing the laws of nature and the laws of the economy itself, we must accept the thesis that development, within the limits of “constancy and caution”, is a natural phenomenon, in the sense that a development compatible with the nature that surrounds us follows a natural order. In other words, the phenomena that accompany the development of humanity are to be considered as results of natural orders, or laws of nature. In this same perspective we can judge the alteration of the rules that impose a natural “constancy and caution” on human development. A constant move that is replaced by a cyclical wave with recoveries and recessions, in addition to monetary phenomena such as inflation and deflation (Brendan, 2022). Another recurring theme in the economic scenario is the frequent divarication between financial values and the real economy, that is, errors in damage to normal constant development. All these anomalies are disturbances, even serious ones, have the purpose of inducing communities to intervene to give consent to governments that can use them for the gradual return to the logic of natural compatibility of economic development. Therefore, the economic context can be depicted as a majority in the community that has the gift of intuition and tends to govern the pace of development according to the parameters of constancy and caution, while the governments of the economy update the economic and regulatory framework. The tendency of the human economy to develop could be a natural tension. A natural law, not unlike the laws that govern nature around us, unravels the natural development of humanity and sets limits to the disorder of the economic system subject to human errors of management. It is not surprising that the irregularities, up to the overheating of the planet, on the development path of the human collectivity always fall within the orbit of human error.

The Multiplication of Political Parties Seems to Be in Contrast With the General Rule of Collectivities That Work Through Majorities and Minorities

Economic development is part of the destiny of humanity and can be defined with two adjectives: “constancy and caution”. It is supported by the unlimited tendency of the economy to the growth of goods and knowledge, despite all the adversities that humanity has gone through. On the other hand, it is no less significant that there are natural forces that contribute to the direction of development, consistent with the nature that surrounds us. Even global warming and devastation with floods and droughts are inescapable signs that it is necessary to change the pace of development, but not to give up. The error along the path of development is therefore admitted but the harsh natural rebuke is not long in manifesting itself. We can believe then that the path of development is marked. If we also admit this predestination with reservation, we can believe that humanity has the possibility of making mistakes but of correcting them. It is the governments in economic matters that are responsible for the errors and their corrections. Governments that are also responsible for institutional and regulatory updating; actions that must follow the evolution of knowledge and the economic scenario. Furthermore, the sounding board, so to speak, of the development process is found in the communities, which have the singular premonition on the direction of the development of the territory, a singular faculty that gives communities the powers to control

economic development. Thus, when the rules of “constancy and caution” are eluded, the community takes back the scepter of power, with the expression of collective consensus and dissent. Therefore, a composite picture emphasizes the need for humanity’s knowledge to progress, because it is the third leg that supports human progress. With these further brief considerations we can examine, from this perspective, the theme of economic governance. Usually, consensus or dissent for the government in office is linked to the reliable performance of the economy. I would add that good performance is defined by two adjectives: “constant and prudent”. Not just any development but prudent economic growth based on the needs of nature that welcomes us. As I have had the opportunity to say in my recent work (Cossiga, 2024), the long phase of acceleration of Chinese development is not in accordance with the rule of the natural well-being of the planet. It is not even in tune with the Chinese people, whose vast community cannot have failed to intuit that the excessively accelerated march went against the constant routine imposed by the natural balance. With the singular paradoxical effect, the new mandarins have linked the great strength expressed by the economy to the structure of power. I mean that a robust party apparatus in China has not corresponded to a parallel increase in the consensus of the Chinese people, who intuited that the accelerated promotion of development was not an indigenous phenomenon. But it had by now transformed into a transfer of pollutants and a global speculative phenomenon to reduce production costs and thus incentivize the financial values of multinationals.

The accelerated Chinese development is contrary to both the natural rules of compatibility and to the story of global development, which tends to harmonize as best as possible the economic and social conditions of the different territories that are lagging behind on the road to widespread well-being. The Chinese anomaly, which in 50 years has gone from being a relative backwardness to a leading country competing with the United States, is not without consequences on the issue of the relationship between the centralized power structure and the large Chinese population. Given the evidence of the Chinese population’s favor towards the West, it is worth highlighting the decision of the National People’s Congress (NPC) in March 2018 to adhere to Premier Xi’s request to set aside the dual mandate rule for high party offices, a decision that seems to satisfy the premier’s claim. In reality, it is destined to have major repercussions on the organization of power in China. In fact, the dual mandate rule is an essential node to guarantee in a centralized country some necessary exchange between the population and party offices at all levels. Eliminating the double mandate rule means that the turnover in party spheres guaranteed by the resignation of those responsible at the end of the second mandate is excluded. This turnover thus ignited the power struggle between the contenders for succession. This game had repercussions on the entire scale of party positions at various levels, starting a turnover between citizens and party men. It is clear that cutting this limitation to two mandates represents a serious wound to turnover and a stabilization of top positions at stage of the party structure. With the closure of the physiological process of turnover necessary everywhere at any stage of social life.

This decision, is not only selfish but also forced division between the people and the mandarins, whose meaning is not easy to define. It confirms, beyond the hegemonic claims of Prime Minister Xi, that a new insurmountable wall has emerged between the party caste and the Chinese people. We have already seen that after the pandemic. The Chinese community, far from adhering to the calls of the nomenclature, decided that the long story of super-accelerated development with industrial offshoring from the West was over and reduced the tension on consumption and investments, increasing the tendency to save. Two independent phenomena paint a picture of a relationship between a blocked nomenclature and the Chinese people on distinct positions. Just as different were

the popular reactions to the decision of the top Chinese leaders to tighten the brakes to control COVID-19 and the vehement response of the community that forced the leaders to review their position.¹

In fact, whether in an autocratic or democratic regime, it is now clear that communities are becoming the voices for the local and global economic direction. The dynamic impacts not only democratic nations but also states and territories heavily affected by the suppression of freedom, such as Iran and Russia. In China, recent warning signs, from rising debt to the housing crisis, seem to be igniting new forms of psychological resistance or at least a subdued exercise of power of direction. It is essential to recognize that the global economic landscape is experiencing a significant shift in energy usage, which will result in a gradual and then more rapid decline of fossil fuels in the coming years, altering the distribution of global financial wealth (Smith, 1922). Although it is difficult to predict the potential consequences of these changes, it is possible that the economic barometer could tilt towards the strengthening of citizens' rights even beyond the economic aspect. Furthermore, let us not forget that it is communities, before forecasts and statistics, which provide the first indications on the direction of the economy in the coming months. Returning to the managing economic systems, even in advanced democratic countries, there are signs of fatigue in the exercise of democratic powers and duties. This fatigue should not be confused with a lack of interest in voting. The problem may stem from delays in changes within the political class and in the relationship between citizens and their leaders, not only in democratic countries.

Let us remember in this regard that in the post-war period in Italy millions of citizens were registered with the Communist Party and large memberships also involved the party of the Christian Democracy. To date, the framework of citizen participation in political issues is weak or very weak, due to the changing times or the possibility of drawing information on political positions through the media. But the problem of individuals and, even more so, of communities is certainly not only receiving information but rather participating as individuals and taking a position as a community. Well, receiving only through newspapers or TV the positions (synthetic and without analysis) of the political parties can tire over time also because that circuit of discussions in the neighborhoods with the political representatives that in the past created a strong bond between voters and elected officials is being irreversibly closed.

In other words, the same phenomenon of rigidity in the exchange between communities and political systems, both of ideas and of personnel turned to politics, is at the basis of the alleged weariness of the electorate. The problems of this status quo between politics and community are many, starting from the financial aspects for the financing of parties, to the accelerated pace of life compared to the past, to the feeling of impotence of the average voter in terms of participation in decisions, to the laxity that follows. In short, although singular, the feeling of exclusion that strikes citizens in the face of strategic decisions that are adopted by the leadership of the country and the territory seems in some way similar in democratic countries as in countries with totalitarian regimes. This does not take away the fact that citizens in autarchic regimes look with propensity to neighboring democratic countries, for the area of freedom that does not involve them but that is felt.

¹ Deputy Director of Foreign Policy James Palmer then focuses on China, where, in recent weeks, anti-COVID restrictions have been the catalyst for the largest wave of protests in the country since 1989. The fuse that triggered the mobilizations concerns a fire that broke out in an apartment in Urumqi, in the Uighur-majority state of Xinjiang, in which at least a dozen people lost their lives. The control measures linked to COVID-19 have made it difficult to leave the condominiums and delayed rescue efforts, but students have also taken to the streets against Xi's excessive power. The protesters hope that the inability to manage the crisis will fuel opposition to the president.

Indeed, the two phenomena that are found, in democratic and non-democratic countries, would seem to indicate that we are not at a divergence but at a narrowing of the processes underway. In both cases there is a restriction of the exchange of the respective positions between citizens and the political class, and in theme of the replacement of the political class that becomes weak. Doing politics becomes a long-term profession without the necessary exchange between work and political activity. It can be considered that politics for life or the hegemonic position along life, as in China, are part of the same process that have as their perspective the progressive insufficiency of political systems to reflect the will of the citizens. Returning to the countries of democratic tradition, the wind that blows from the democratic countries is a decline in popular participation in the ritual of voting, at different territorial levels. A phenomenon, the turnout at the polls, affects both at the level of cities, regions, and states. And even more singularly it involves the European elections, even though the construction of the Europe of states is equally welcome and considered a desirable and achievable objective. How can we explain this phenomenon if we do not think of a default in the update of the relationship between voters and elected? Certainly not in the sense that we can return with some adjustments to the more or less recent past of the maximum turnout at the polls. There are no conditions for a restore to the past that then never returns.

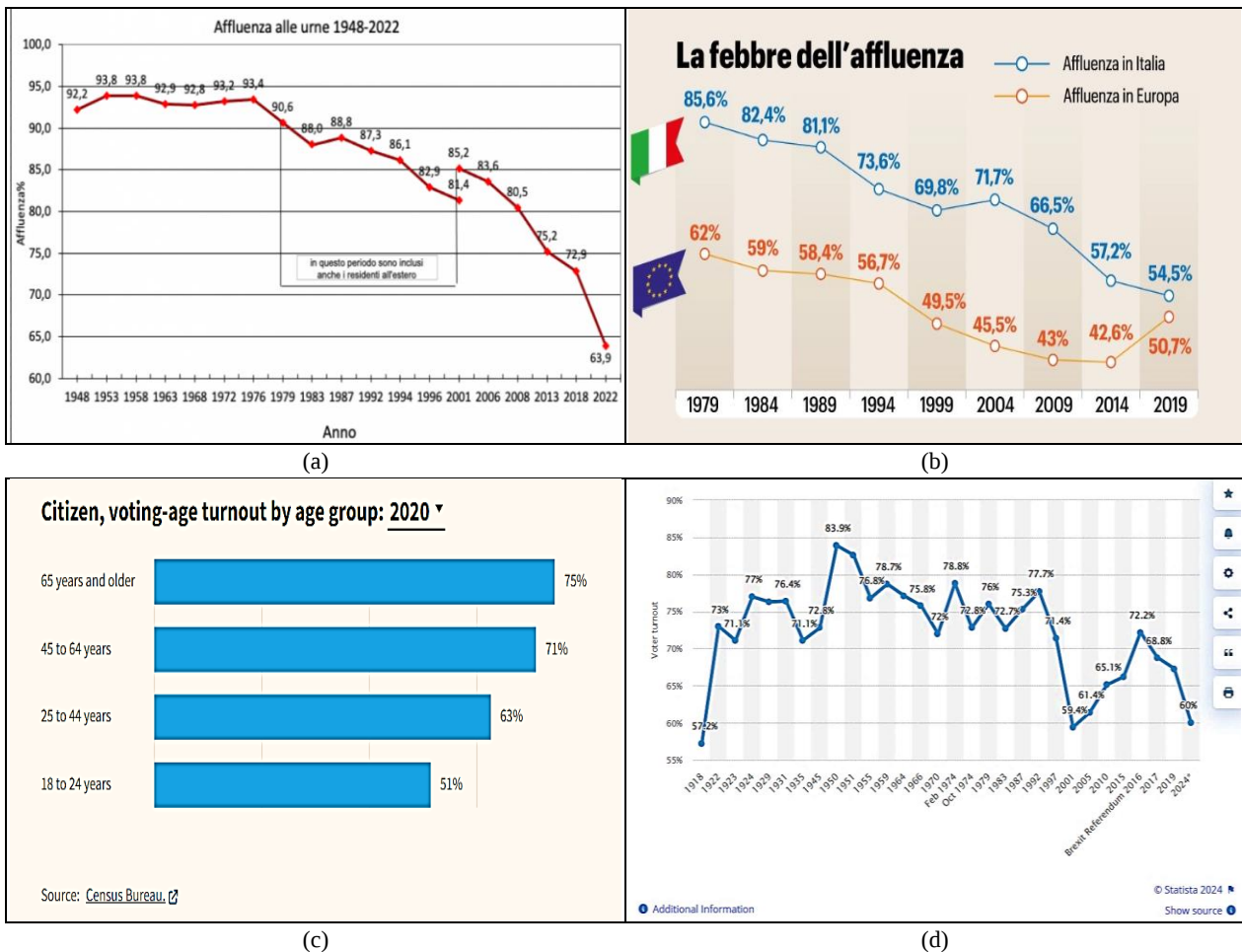


Figure 1. (a) Percent voting turnout in Italy 1948-2022; (b) Percent voting turnout in Italy and in EU 1979-2019; (c) Citizen, voting-age turnout by age group: 2020; (d) Voting turnout in general elections and in the Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom from 1918 to 2024. Source: Census Bureau.

A method that we can experiment with to search for the feasible coincidence between politics and citizens is to ascertain the will of the voters for delicate and important legislative decisions. Note that citizens are the first to perceive the change in tone of the economy and to behave accordingly. The same must be confirmed for decisions that in any case concern important economic issues, which are those that should be submitted to the confirmation of the voters. Keep in mind that the community decides autonomously by majority and is not divided into multiple positions, like political parties, in many situations, not only in Europe. Ergo we must expect that the decisions adopted by the communities always have a clear majority between consents and denials. As can be seen, another factor of difference on economic issues is the potential multiplication of parties while the position of the communities always remains bilateral, between majority and minority, to choose programs and leadership to which to entrust the responsibility of the economy.

For this universal character of collectivities, that is, the choice by majority, the multiplication of parties, and the presence in parliaments of those elected with fractional percentages, it seems to be in contrast with the general rule for majorities and minorities, in other words, right or left, without each part being able to divide in turn, as in the British system. Accepting the principle of the majority that leads and the minority that follows would seem to be a great step forward in clarifying the relationship between leadership and citizens, in the sense of simplifying the electorate's ability to choose, without the complication of articulations that are often artificial and a sign of quarrelsome minorities. On the other hand, this scheme is within the English tradition, from the United Kingdom to the USA to India to Australia, etc. The break with this tradition has represented a sign of uncertainty in the evolution of the democratic system that intends to seek a better understanding with the electorate, but with results that over time signal more objections than consensus. It cannot be ruled out that the electorate itself promotes this multiplication of political representation as a sign of displeasure for the poor communication between voters and elected officials. But it would be the minority, always waiting to become the majority, that intrigues to confuse and not clarify the field. Furthermore, this clarification would be unacceptable for the stable majority not only because it is such but also because it is always present in the communities, which we could imagine as a collective personality that carries out the task of spokesperson for the tendency towards "constant and prudent" growth of human development.

It Must Be Argued That the Current Point of View Cannot Be the Pre-eminence of Some Nations Over Others but on the Contrary, the Convergence of Development Levels

As we have said, the community majority is also abstractly against deviations from the natural order of development. It is therefore against and disagrees with governments that present in the management of economy of the conjuncture cycle, monetary adversities (inflation or deflation) and in any case trends that are not consistent with the constant and cautious natural development, coherent with the evolution of nature around. Therefore, it becomes inevitable a rapid succession of governments in office, which are blamed for falling especially due to the disparity with respect to the ideal motion for the health of the planet. It should be added that these errors in the management of the economy are tools of alarm for the community, so that it intervenes with his dissent of majority towards the management in progress. We can recognize the errors as an aid for the development line to return to natural compatibility and to the constant and controlled development line. The error messages—from the economic cycle to the monetary anomaly—are all solvable with the return to constant growth through a single instrument, also automatic, that is, allowing the economy to follow the natural correction, that is, a short or less brief period of recession. The recession or slowdown of the growth cycle must not, that is, be hindered by support

maneuvers. Anyway, I add that not all support maneuvers are prohibited. They should be excluded only when they invest and block the correction tools that often require negative growth to heal the economic system and consent the return to the cycle of constant development. In America, in the first decade of the 2000s public debt had fallen to historic lows, after a 1990 boom in development and a dramatic drop in debt. At the outbreak of the great crisis of 2008-2009, this hidden treasure was of significant help. It allowed the US treasury of the time to draw generously on public spending to refinance large real estate companies, on the brink of bankruptcy, to revive the industrial sector, to support indebted families. At the end of 2009, public debt had increased from 50% to 70% and continued in the following years, putting a brake on the robust post-financial crisis recession. As can be seen in Figure 2, in 2009 the recession of the US economy marked -2.6% but already in 2010 signs of recovery could be seen. Italy, on the other hand, faced the financial crisis at the end of the first decade with a high public debt, equal to over 100% of GDP. Without any margins on which to operate, it was decided to resort cautiously to new debt to support the serious financial crisis, but with negative results, a drop in GDP -5.3% and public debt that jumped to over 120% of GDP, due to the collapse of income. Staying at the case of Italy, we can consider about the hypothesis of giving a significant hand to the debt at that time to contain the GDP fall, following the US model. In Italy too. In this hypothesis, we could in fact assume both a smaller drop in GDP and a moderate increase in debt to income.

A world economy in danger both from deflation and from uncontrolled speculation, a danger that is far from being overcome but that is also present, with the world economy *inter alia* grappling with the difficult financial situation in China and the deflation that is afflicting the economy of the country. Then there is the pressure exerted on the real economy by the inexhaustible delocalization of industrial production from the West to Asia and to China, which has so far been driven by the continuous growth of the financial value of multinationals, a phenomenon now in its final pages because the globalization of markets has pushed delocalization beyond measure, beyond the same advantages in terms of production cost reduction. Both the excessive shift of delocalization and the impact that the exceptional growth of China, for over 50 years, has had on the ill state of the planet that welcomes us, will loom yet over the real economy in the coming years. The contradiction between economic development and the malaise of the planet has been accentuated, which in the meantime requires a stop (Kose, Otrok, & Whiteman, 2019).

Returning to the general theme of the global economy, which then means the life of all humanity, the hypothesis is that we are experiencing a global speculative crisis that has developed due to excessive transfers of industrial plants from the West to Asia. An excess that has changed the economic conditions—now more anemic—created by the globalization of the markets that have favored the transfer of labor and capital to less developed areas and especially to China. However, the direction of offshoring in China has continued beyond measure. Therefore, the positive choice of globalization has derailed. At this point, speculation still works to push up the financial value of multinationals, which in turn oppose the political thesis of Onshoring and Nearshoring, in order not to pay the post-speculative costs of returning home or near home of the transferred plants. The offshoring process itself is therefore running out of steam because it has come up against the contradiction between the accelerated development of the recipient country of the transfer and the malaise of the planet, due to the concentration of excess greenhouse gases in large urban areas. How to get out of it?

Or rather, will it be possible to get out of the “speculative bubble” that weighs on Asia, Europe, and the USA economies, generated by the degeneration of globalization itself? What could be a reasonable and appropriate solution? It is a process, offshoring, that ideally moves in the perspective of a coordination of

development between territories and continents, to favor the less fortunate areas that are late on the path to economic growth. A necessary rationality that could guarantee accelerated global development to humanity, which must seek solutions to the fearful issue of global warming. To have a chance of success, the strategy must promote the common development of territories and continents to have more resources and capital to allocate to technological and scientific research, to the priority search for accelerating the replacement of fossil fuels with renewables, access to nuclear fusion energy and so on. On the other hand, the issue of same survival is intricately linked to the solution of the never-ending issue of “world hunger”, which in short requires a more correct distribution of wealth that tends—without exceptions of time and space—to concentrate in all countries. Filling the sandwich for the poorest in the world requires as a priority the solution to the problems of coordination for balanced and widespread development in the different areas of the world. Consider that the issue of coordination of global development would have the chance to attenuate the importance of wealth in social relations, contain the opposition that currently exists between development and the malaise of the planet, contribute to reducing or eliminating the hegemonic tendencies of the USA and China, giving primacy to the UN, renewed in its structures, starting with the problems of community development (Oliver & Shapiro, 2006).



Figure 2. (a) USA full year GDP growth 1999-2023; (b) USA gross federal debt to GDP 1999-2023; (c) Italy full year GDP growth 1999-2023; (d) Italy gross debt to GDP 1999-2023. Source: adaptations in data <https://tradingeconomics.com/>.

Based on these perspectives, it is reasonable to argue that an improvement in living conditions at a global level is a step in the right direction. To this end, the main countries should agree, at the UN level, to give strength and impetus to a special fund with adequate capitalization and a global organization that has the task of forcing and accelerating the development of the most backward areas (giving strength to UN “UNIDO”). To this finality, it would be very appropriate for this innovative instrument for humanity to exclude in its organization territories and states at war for hegemony, referring to Putin’s Russia that pursues an unlikely design of the tsars in the neighboring European and Asian states, to the Iran of theocrats, that for the mere survival in a tormented Middle Eastern area, supplies capital and weapons to neighboring countries, although partly of Sunni religion.

Returning now to China, the singular claim on islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans is an archaic testimony of the borderless territory before prehistoric humanity. In other words, we must look kindly upon the desire for unlimited territories that is the unconscious and atavistic goal that justified the power of imperial Rome, of the barbarian hordes of the Mongols, up to the Emperor of the French, Napoleon the Great, who dreamed of a Europe of states ahead of its time. Now applying this legend to China’s hegemonic quest for Taiwan may seem unlikely. As for how to explain the puzzle of a giant country and such a courted island, I could also bethink that at the bottom there is the desire to look for an enemy in any case to distract the Chinese population from the imminent problem of the economic crisis, after a phase of accelerated development that lasted many decades.

The potential crisis of the Chinese economy, as we have said, seems inevitable due to the contrast between the acceleration of development and the malaise of the Planet. China—the world industry—has also been the cause of the dangerous increase and localization of greenhouse gases and global warming. Humanity has the obligation to balance its presence in the nature that surrounds us. On the other hand, the disadvantages of the choice of Western multinationals to transfer industrial plants to China are putting an end to the first globalization of markets. Globalization welcomed as a process of leveling but then diverted by the choice of multinationals to prefer a market, the Chinese one, already well plowed. It must be argued that the current point of view cannot be the pre-eminence of some nations over others in terms of economic, scientific, and social level, but on the contrary the convergence of development levels in all territories, continents, and nations.

Now it is clear that in the face of the objectives of global coordination of development, the claim of individual states for even minimal portions of territory appears inconclusive and unjustifiable. A sign of backwardness of the ruling classes that does not correspond to the innate modernity of the orientation of the communities. The orientation of the community moves in coherence with the state of development in each country. It must therefore be assumed that there is no difference between the two countries at the top of the economy, the United States and China—regarding the orientation of their respective communities. Well, in the United States, the adhesion of states and peoples for the formation of the great country has always prevailed. In China, the adhesion model is not applicable because Taiwan has a tradition of democracy. Well, given the modern orientation of the Chinese community, the claim of the Chinese nomenclature in Taiwan should not find consensus.

China Has Long Been the Destination of Industrial Relocation From the West, Far Beyond Measure and Against All Reason, Fueling a Global Speculative Effect

More interesting on the topic of the economy, is the question of the slowdown of the long race of China’s development. The nomenclature seems overly concerned with respecting the forecast of a 5% increase in GDP

in the current year. A level, unthinkable for the economies in Europe and the United States, which instead is considered possible for the Chinese Republic following the brilliant performances of the previous 50 years. The possibility that this desired result can be achieved seems to be linked to the history that has allowed the exceptional leap of the Chinese GDP. The choice of globalization for a massive industrial offshoring from the West to China has been a determining element of this progress. Therefore, the signs of slowdown of the economy of the Middle Kingdom are linked to the exhaustion of the phenomenon of “liberalization of global markets”, which was followed by the pre-bankruptcy crisis of the Chinese real estate giants. This latter phenomenon occurs after a speculative period of increase in the cost of housing, which was followed by a crisis in the sector with the collapse of the cost of houses. The excessive increase first and the collapse later, are the cause of the bankruptcy state of the real estate entities and the considerable number of unsold homes.

The change in the economic horizon in China was felt in advance by the citizenry who in response pulled the brakes on both consumption and investments. That said, the prospect of a 5% increase in China’s GDP pursued by the new mandarins is linked to the lifebelt of the great industrial circuit that in recent decades has transformed Chinese cities into the world’s industry via offshoring. In other words, the lifebelt of the specious 5% development would be linked to the stability of the economic situation in Western countries that are the point of arrival of the long production chain from China to the West. Reducing the long industrial production chain is a current issue that is difficult to implement due to the costs it entails and the associated risks of inflation. Onshoring or returning home is the “financial crisis” that has taken over from the great speculation that led to the concentration of industry in China. A very costly return strategy after the speculative outburst of Offshoring, which has gone beyond the limits. A renewal of globalization of the markets would not be a way out, because it is now necessary for the development line to be more balanced between the continents. A result that can be the landing of free market forces but that requires a supranational coordination, the concord of the major current protagonists, the willingness to rediscover the spirit that in the post-World War II period pushed the United States to think and implement a plan of aid, in particular to Europe in difficulty to relaunch the post-war economy. It was not charity but rationality because it is not possible to run alone in economics but a market network as homogeneous as possible is required.

China’s long race on the road to development is the lived representation of the possibility of interfering with the progress of nations that are late in catching up. In a sense, it could resort to the model followed in China, to give strength and strengthen the potential of states and territories that are late on the road to development. The concentration of industrial production in the Middle Country has finally put an end to globalization, highlighting a sort of intolerance to excess industrial production on the natural front, which has reacted with a singular worsening of weather conditions in Chinese cities. Not only that. Faced with a pace of development that has become unsustainable, the economic reaction has manifested itself in the pre-bankruptcy crisis of the Chinese real estate sector, a visible symptom also of the relative dissent of the same community. The Chinese community, in fact, sensed and decided well in advance the change in direction of the economy, pulling the reins of both consumption and investment, so that the effervescent real estate market in China, raised up to skyrocketing costs, has died down, while the prices of houses in the new neighborhoods fell below cost and remained unsold.

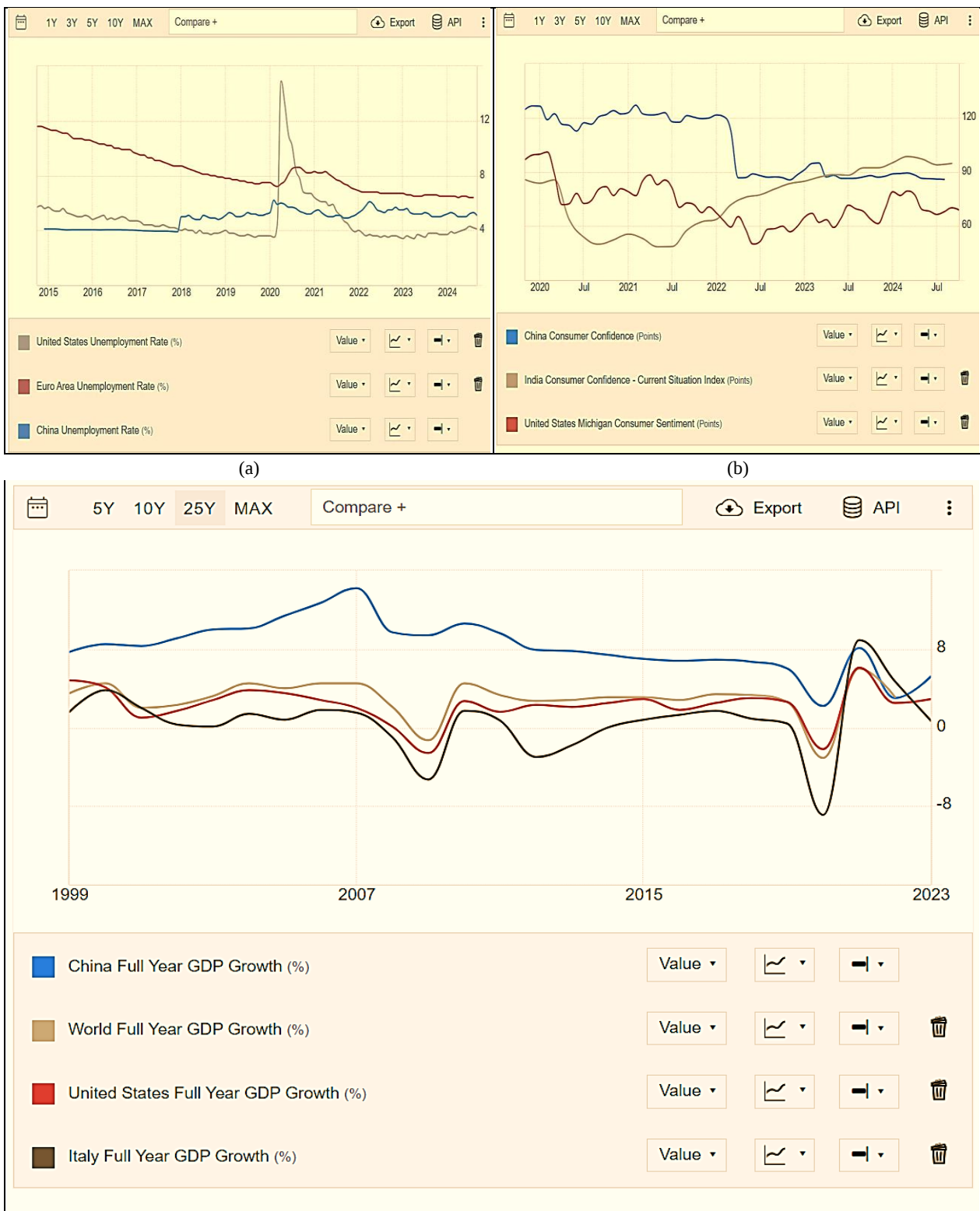


Figure 3. (a) China, Area Euro, United States unemployment Rate; (b) China, India, United States Consumer Confidence; (c) World, China, United States, Italy Full Year GDP Growth. Source: Adaptations on data <https://tradingeconomics.com/>.

Market globalization therefore must deal with a setback that not only marks the economic situation of China, after many years of growth in the economy of the great Asian country but also involves the economy in the West. Europe is feeling the effects of the fall in Chinese imports, while exports from China are holding up because they are tied to the ordinary return to the global market of production transferred to China. In Figure 3, at the bottom of the page, you can see the trend of GDP in the principal areas, the trend of unemployment and consumption compared always between the principal areas.

Still on the subject of the Chinese economy, it has been argued that excessive delocalization from the West to China has fueled a speculative effect, accelerating beyond measure and against reason the delocalization of industrial production in Asia. Let us consider that with offshoring the donor country, i.e. the West, has given up work and gross product, while the receiving country has acquired work and gross product, where they have fueled activities, services, and goods for families. A transfer promoted by the globalization of markets with the theoretical objective of a more homogeneous diffusion of industrial activity in favor of the less industrialized and backward countries in the development path. Globalization therefore is a model of distribution and homogenization of the different phases of development of the continents. The positive phenomenon has then revealed itself to be distorting, because offshoring has been directed towards China, favoring the development that has accelerated beyond measure, with speculative effects. The development of the economy in the West has only recently slowed down while, on the contrary, it has taken off in China, until the slowdown imposed at a natural level by the excess on greenhouse gases concentrated on Chinese territory and the perverse effects of global warming. Well, the phenomenon of globalization has distorted, becoming a speculative process, which has altered the push for coordinated development between territories and continents through offshoring. The localization of the driving force of offshoring in China has meant pursuing a path beaten for decades (reduced production costs in industrial production); a phenomenon supported by the divarication between the real economy and growing financial values first at all for the multinationals involved in the transfer. The global economy has at present entered a phase of greater difficulty, as demonstrated by the weakness of Europe, the result of the recent American elections, the financial crisis in China. On the contrary, asset values and stock exchanges do not disappoint in the West, almost as if to balance the losses in the real economy. A development model that has brought China among the world protagonists, also thanks to the choice of the mandarins in the nineties in favor of the opening of the globalized market.

Conclusion

The experience of China, which is at the milestone of over 50 years of accelerated development, shows that the possibility of unrestrained growth can be replicated with some precautions and avoiding falling into the trap of the natural reaction that condemns excess atmospheric pollution. There is therefore a potential opportunity for a new phase of globalization to be relaunched, establishing that the new phase of offshoring is aimed at coordinating countries and continents, Africa first, that are behind on the path of development. The conditions must be created so that the new guided globalization can take place. Let us not forget that this is a binding strategy, that is, essential because humanity needs a strong development of the global economy to prevent and hold the damage of global warming, an aim that postulates greater resources to be allocated to universities and study centers for the search for new tools for the control of greenhouse gases and the temperature rise of the planet, with the simultaneous abandonment of fossil fuels.

On the current horizon of the global economic situation, it is necessary to argue about the consequences of the slowdown of the Chinese economy. Contrary to pessimistic expectations, it can be argued that the annual Chinese gross product will continue to grow for two or three years at a rate of approximately 4%, an excellent result that is made possible not by virtue of the Chinese economy itself but by the stability of the economy in the West. In fact, due to a strange rebound effect, it will be the stability of the West and therefore the absorption of industrial products made in China on behalf of multinationals that will support the gross product in the large Asian country, a good result, also why the Chinese community has already reacted with a cut in consumption and investments to the decline in prospects with the exhaustion of globalization.

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