

# Understanding the Transhumance and Migration as Phase in the Humanity Cycles

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**ABSTRACT.** The human society evolves and develops according either to intrinsic (natural) laws and to so-called laws of motion imposed by the challenges, impulses, came from the actions of different components of it.

The analysis conducted in this paper is considered as a precursor of the sequences of the human activities, or humanity general speaking, from ancient times, through the present times and towards the new trends in the theory of knowledge, in the manner of the discovery of what is "beyond" ("trans") humanity and the implications in the day-to-day life.

Even this process is declining today, it is very important, not only for the pastoral and rural traditions, but also for the health status of population. Eco and bio-products from healthy livestock, living in healthy natural environment, that is on way to go in order to preserve life and health of the people.

We've questioned also aspects of the superior level of transhumance: people migration, as a pulse motion and its impact on the daily facts and even some remarks on the refugees as ultimate stage of the migration (with intention to establish and work in the new locations).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

We start with definition of this composed term, in order to individualize it, to observe the distinction with the term specific to postmodernism *trans-humanity* but, at the same time, to understand the link between the significance of the term and the humanity cycles.

The term in analysis comes from two Latin words:

- a. *Trans* meaning "across", "beyond", "on the other side" and
- b. *Humus* meaning ground, land and **not human being**

But, *the facts involving this term have in attention a periodic motion of animals such as cattle, sheep, reindeer, in a word livestock, from the plains to the mountains and vice versa, from the mountains to the plains.* In this activity, of course, a leading role it is played by humans (shepherds and breeders).

In this particular case of **transhumance**, the notion "*trans*" is strictly referring to a space motion, something *beyond* evidence elements.

## 2. ECONOMIC AND LIFE CYCLES

The issue of economic cyclicity concerned many great thinkers, but the one who systematized it, providing a clear picture of how **Economic/Business Cycles** manifest, was the great theorist and subtle analyst of the economic phenomena and processes, Joseph Alois Schumpeter, who distinguished the following three types of economic cycles [6]:

1. **Short cycles (Kitchin cycles), 40 months long**, which were associated with the periodic movements in the stocks of goods

2. **Medium term cycles (Juglar - Marx - cycles), approx. 10 years long**, associated with the periods of renewing the fixed capital.
3. **Long term cycles (Kondratiev or Kondratieff cycles, as he is known in Western literature) -50-60 years long** (Schumpeter believed even 56 years long), related to the revolutionary processes of science and technology, which bring progress and innovate the economic structures.

The evolution (development) of the entire human society is following the three types of Economic Cycles, but also *the external impulses* (political, social, cultural) are also very important in the **wave evolution** of the economy and society.

A conclusion of the whole Schumpeterian analysis carried out in the well-known paper “Business Cycles” reveals the following relationships between the three types of **economic cycles**:

- a. A Kondratieff cycle includes 6 Juglar cycles.
- b. A Juglar cycle includes 3 Kitchin cycles.

This is a view which is closer to the reality of the economic and social life regarding economic cyclicity, which broadens (in the spirit of the Marxian approach, which considers the *four (4) phases* of an **economic cycle**) the economic as well as the external causes that may influence this phenomenon; this image suggests the complexity and difficulty regarding the analysis of the economic activity, a process which, in the light of the different discussions and opinions expressed in the specific literature, appears to be defined as **the period between the beginning of two successive economic crises** [7].

**Transhumance** means economic and life cyclicity and it not circumscribes, we think, to the above Schumpeterian classification. The alternating periods are in number of **2 (two)**:

1. *Autumn-Winter*
2. *Spring-Summer*

It's about, therefore, of the entire year, **transhumance** activity implies the movement between higher pastures in summer and lower valleys or plains in winter. Furthermore, factual, **the transhumance** includes 2 (two) manifestation forms[1]:

- a. *Vertical transhumance (valleys ↔ mountains)*
- b. *Horizontal transhumance (people and livestock staying at the winter base, or at the summer base)*

In the latter case, the stationary life and activities are influenced on a large scale by the climatic, economic, social, or political changes.

We see that these motions are linked with the general oscillatory waves of life (business) and allow the very efficient treatments for both livestock/humans and natural environment. Really, we may say that we are in the presence of *a priori* and *anthropic* strategy *win-win*.

### 3. SEASONAL HUMAN MIGRATION

Even we made the assertion that the process analyzed including alike humans and animals within cyclicity and two-ways motion plains ↔ mountains, this motion is particularly occurred and developed throughout inhabited areas, because it implies a mass of humans and livestock acting on large spaces.

As examples of **transhumance** activity developed during centuries and even functioning, we can highlight countries such as Scotland, Wales, Georgia (Caucasus and northern Anatolia), Italy, Scandinavian countries, Balkans people (as Aromanian, Yoruk...), Australia, North America, Central Asia and so on.

On another hand, **the transhumance is tightly linked to seasonal human migration**, which overlaps over *agricultural cycles*. While cattle, sheep, goats, are very important for mountain environment, in order to fertilize it by natural and valuable fertilizer (professor Radu Rey's

arguments regarding the importance of agro-mountain activities) [5], humans are working in the activities of picking fruits, vegetables and where it is needed of manual picking.

Due to the consideration that **transhumance** is something similar to *seasonal people migration*, in the recent decades, the migration of the working force, specially in agriculture domain, picking fruits, vegetables, even cereals, becomes a problem and reality in Europe, North America... From one part, the receiving countries, or regions, provide jobs involving a high degree of difficulty, using hands on the other hand, the workers are working hard to gather much money and send it in their homelands, influencing the GDP of the origin countries (see the case of Romania).

On the other hand and a superior level of the existence of people migration is phenomenon of refugees. We are not talking about the people migrating in certain periods of the year, in fact a truism recognized by the societies. The labor force migration has and has had beneficial effects from the economic and social points of view, effects which allowed *economic growth*.

A large number of the most developed, or developed countries (not only from Europe) support immigration policies on the long run, as being favorable for their development and existence. For example, Spain, tenth place in the world by the number of immigrants, has received between 2001-2008, 575,000 people, fact which explains the country population growth from 41 mil. population to 46 mil. population [4]. Another country with a pro-immigration policy is Canada. In a study by Karla Burguenos Angulor from 2005, it was shown that since '70s the first massive migrations were performed from Latin America to Quebec. The economic growth supposed quantitative growth of labor [2]. From this mass of immigrants in Quebec, the Mexicans had higher education, in proportion of 39 %, said Karla Burguenos Angulor.

We consider that for a country, especially for the developed ones, the migration process is an opportunity for the economic status, i.e. growth and a monitoring of these flows of immigrants (even refugees, in our days) and the helping for integration in national economic and social systems are considered as a success for both countries, receiver and donor, as follows:

- A share of the capital returns in the homeland;
- This capital assumes an increase of the standard of living also in the homeland;
- The emigrant contributes to pay taxes in the host country;
- At last, the immigrants contribute to the economic development of the host country.

In the majority of cases, the immigrants (participants to the migration process) decide to not return in their homelands and to go on in the receiving country. But, this decision making is very difficult to be taken, due to a multitude of endogenous and exogenous factors: socio-cultural, psychological, economics.

#### 4. MIGRATION AND REFUGEES' PHENOMENON- SECURITY PROBLEMS

The migration process of the people has existed since ancient times, when the individuals leaving to other favorable countries, for a better standard of living. Whether later, they returned or not in their countries of origin, they were targeted by economic analysis, including many variables, such as: capital flows, migration policies, labor force contribution to GDP...

The above mentioned aspects imply the involvement of the EU authorities in the co-ordination and management of activities of reception, integration and assimilation of these people. Today, statistics indicate that over 3,000 people cross borders illegally for searching better conditions of living in the most developed European countries. Furthermore, the problem is that these people intend to remain and to be integrated in the existent system of the receiving country.

Europe is facing with a huge problem: the refugees from some conflict zones (Syria, Afghanistan, Irak) which come in developed countries in search of a better life (staying and working). Authorities found that besides refugees could be found supporters of terrorist groups,

hence the heightened concern for a complex approach of this problem, in order to individualize those desiring to work for a better life and those watching to damage the existing system.

*The refugees* are, for the moment, the final stage of this chain of the understanding of the large term of seasonal migration: *transhumance* → *migration* (even with comeback) → *refugees* (persons desiring to stay and work in better conditions for them and their families).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The term of **transhumance** we consider that is the first stage from a tryptich regarding both the prefix "*trans*" and the concept of "*human/humanity*".

It is very important to understand the functioning mechanism of **transhumance**, its oscillatory motion during one year and its impact, mainly, with the rural culture and economics, but also with the general development of a society/ national economy.

Although, we clearly can see cultural and technological variations amongst these countries, the background and the main feature is the same: *comparative advantage* for human collectivities regarding the remote seasonal pastures, involving the valorization of the specific pedo-climatic conditions of each country or region.

As we see, **the transhumance** has not disappeared, continues to be influenced by the seasons and, little by little, is perceived as the activities of humans beyond lands (the case of migrations), but mainly as the activity of preserving traditions, crafts and insuring the health of people by providing eco and bio-products of the livestock and nature.

Migration is part of the human life cycle, but also from the economic cycles, because implies capital and life quality from a strict economic point of view, with a significant impact on the whole economic, social, cultural, political actual life.

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