

THE MAN BETWEEN REGIONALIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract : The purpose of this study is to highlight the fact that man is essentially a global being, defined by certain defining regional traits induced by the environmental conditions in which he has evolved and is evolving. In this sense, using at the same time and complementary a series of research methods (observation method, synthesis method, analysis method and description method), we analyzed the evolution in time and space of man, activities, settlements, and international relations. The results thus obtained confirmed that man is essentially a global being defined by certain regional particularities induced by the particularities of the environment in which he evolved.

Key words: spatio-temporal evolution, globalization, regionalization

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INTRODUCTION

Man is a structural element of the environment, being influenced by him in his spatio-temporal evolution, which in turn was conditioned by the favors and restrictions that the environment made available to man.

At present, man manifests himself against the background of technical and technological advances as one of the most important agents of environmental modeling, putting his mark on both the abiotic component (geological substrate, relief, soil, hydrography, climate, etc.) and the biotic (vegetation, fauna). Basically, we can say that man has become a global factor in shaping the environment. Unfortunately, human impact on the environment is often negative, with destructive effects that are difficult to estimate in the long run, and only in a few situations can we speak of a positive impact. Thus, man has acquired a new status in relation to the environment in which the structural element has become a global modeling agent.

Globalization and regionalization are two concepts frequently analyzed in the literature from various points of view, among which are: defining concepts (Beck, 2018; Robertson & White, 2007; Scholte, 2002; Beniuc & Moscviciov,

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2022); their dimensions and social implications (Appadurai et al., 2001; Sassen, 2003; Fischer, 2003; Kitching, 2022), economic (Jakob, 2022; Contractor, 2022), cultural (Tomlinson, 1999; Siregar, 2022; Crețu & Sochircă, 2022), institutional (Djelic & Quack, 2003; Gems et al., 2022) etc.

The mechanisms by which man intervened on the environment are spatial evolution and its imprint rendered in the form of activities, settlements, and international relations, seen as a collective form of manifestation of human relations.

At a careful analysis in time and space we can easily observe the regional / global character of these mechanisms and indirectly, those of man. In this context, the aim of this study is to briefly capture the spatio-temporal evolution of man, activities, settlements, and international relations to substantiate the hypothesis that man is essentially a global being, defined by certain regional characteristics in which he evolved. and evolves.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study aimed at the brief analysis in time and space of the "man", of the activities, settlements, and relationships that he develops, to highlight the regional and global character of the human being. The following research methods were used for this purpose: observation, analysis, synthesis, and descriptions.

THE HUMAN COMPONENT

To demonstrate the fact that man is a global being by its essence, in this paper we have analyzed and highlighted some aspects related to its spatio-temporal evolution. Although the history of the earth begins 4.57 billion years ago, unlike that of the universe, which begins 13.7 billion years ago (Dalrymple, 2001; Manhes et al., 1980), the history of man on earth is relatively recent date. The first archaeological evidence of its existence dates to 3.2 million years ago and refers to the species *Australopithecus Afarensis*. The area of spread of this first human prototype is in East Africa, more precisely in Ethiopia (Hadar) and Tanzania (Laetoli) (Adrian, 2009a). The evolution of man has continued over time so that about 2.4 million years ago in the same area was attested *Homo Habilis*, a species still quite controversial in the literature (Ignătescu, 2010). Later, 800,000 years ago, the existence of *Homo Erectus* was certified by archaeological discoveries, whose area of distribution, unlike that of its predecessors, is much more extensive. Thus, traces of its existence have been attested in Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Algeria, Morocco, Zambia), Asia (Indonesia, China) and Europe (France) (Adrian, 2009b). The completion of man as *Homo Globalis* took place with the imposition of the species *Homo Neanderthaliensis* (230,000 - 30,000 years) and *Homo Sapiens* (200,000 years), the two species disputing their supremacy for a long time, traces of their existence being attested in Africa, Asia, and Europe (Stringer, 2012). After the disappearance of *Homo Neanderthaliensis*, the area of *Homo Sapiens* it spread to Australia (Lake Mugo, 32,700 i.Hr) and America (12,000 to 10,000 i.Hr) (Stringer, 2012).

The spread of man throughout the globe and its evolution from a physiological and intellectual point of view (the evolution of the human species over time from *Australopithecus afarensis* to *Homo Sapiens*, the Intelligent Man) has been determined directly and indirectly by several factors

between which: geoclimate change, human adaptability, and technological progress (Gombrich, 2006).

Currently, there are 7,952,460,000 inhabitants globally, of whom 49.6% are male and 50.4% are female. Their regional distribution indicates an overpopulation in Asia and the Pacific (55.9%), followed by Africa (14.6%), America (13.6%), Europe (12.7%) and the Middle East 3.3%.¹

At the national level, the hierarchy of the first ten places, according to the number of inhabitants, is held by China (1 448 205 919), India (1 405 811 923), USA (334 686 689), Indonesia (278 962 014), Pakistan (229 223 475), Nigeria (216 414 368), Brazil (215 269 255), Bangladesh (167 788 101), Russia (145 811 551), while at the op-posite pole are the Vatican (799), Tokelau (1378) and Niue (1622).²

As a result, man is now a global being, covering virtually the entire globe, except for climatically steppe regions and beyond. These include the terrestrial extremities (south pole and north pole), mountainous areas, located at high altitudes and desert areas.

HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The spatio-temporal evolution of man in his tendency to become Homo globalis would have been impossible in the absence of his action, an action materialized by carrying out a whole arsenal of human activities. These include hunting and fishing, agriculture, crafts, trade, transportation, industry, etc. Each of these activities appeared at a certain time, in a certain place, defining the "man" and contributing to its evolution. Also, between all these activities there are close interconditioning relations, relations that ultimately contributed to the progress made by "man" in the direction of his evolution towards what we generically call Homo globalis.

Hunting and fishing

Hunting and fishing are one of the first human occupations, along with "harvesting", dating back to the period of the "predatory economy", when man used only what nature offered him to meet vital needs (food, clothing, and shelter). From a temporal point of view, this occupation dates to the period of Australopithecus afarensis, 3.2 million years ago, when man was forced, due to climatic vicissitudes, to abandon his biotope and way of life, to "descend from trees" in search of food (Chen & Li, 2001; Adrian, 2009a). This moment is crucial in the history of human evolution as a species, as it is forced to develop other physical and intellectual abilities. Physical abilities were related to the transformations of the body that occurred when the man adopted bipedal walking "on two legs". Intellectuals have been concerned with the technological advances that man has made over time, from the use of wood and carved stone tools to the use of space satellites. What is certain is that the "need" and lifestyle have imposed on man throughout his existence, profound transformations, in a continuous rhythm, transformations which still take place today, but which we are not able to observe, they are being easier to observe on the scale of time geological than that of historical time. However, the rapid progress imposed by technological developments may in one way or another outline the possible

¹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/>

² <https://worldpopulationreview.com/>

mutations that the "man of the future" will suffer. We only need to emphasize a very simple aspect to make a scenario for us as "work is not for man, it is for machines". What work? The Physical or the Intellectual? Maybe both.

Therefore, hunting and fishing were primarily ancestral activities, which required and imposed some aspects related to dynamics, teamwork, and intelligence. The dynamic was closely related to the fact that man was not sedentary, he was in constant motion. In search of "prey", this determining, among other things, the beginning of the process of territorial expansion of man globally. Teamwork has prevailed for reasons of efficiency in hunting and fishing, the man finding that the success rate is much higher when work as a team and not individually. This aspect will be of major importance in the future evolution of socio - human relations. The development of intelligence has been a continuous process born of the need for man to adapt and survive a new living environment imposed by changes climate. Closely related to intelligence are the technological advances of humanity over time, from primitive hunting and fishing, based on endosomatic instruments to the modern type, based on exosomatic instruments. If at first *Australopithecus afarensis* hunting and fishing using only his own body, then *Homo habilis* learned to hunt with specially made tools (with sticks and sharp-edged stones), while today *Homo Sapiens Sapiens* hunts with firearms and fishes with ships and fishing boats.

Agriculture

At the end of the last glaciation (11,000 î.Hr), where topographic and climatic conditions allowed, agriculture emerged, characterized by the cultivation of plants and the raising of animals. It should be noted that the plant culture and animal husbandry had, at the beginning, a regional character, the two defining components being attested for the first time in the Sumerians, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, on the territory of the current state of Iraq, around 9,500 î.Hr, and then gradually spreading to India (6,500 î.Hr), Egypt (5,000 î.Hr), China (4,000 î.Hr), America Central (2,700 î.Hr). Today we can say that agriculture is a global anthropic activity, covering virtually the entire globe (Colin, 1998).

Crafts

Crafts are ancestral activities that have accompanied the evolution of man since the time of the "predatory economy", when he used only what the environment offered him, without having concerns about the "care of tomorrow", the need to accumulate.

Regarding the time and place of the appearance of crafts, there is a diversity of opinions in the literature. However, archeological research has shown in Africa the existence of arrowheads made of stone dating back 40,000 years BC. From here, the art of making stone arrowheads gradually spread to France and England, on the territory of which several flint mines have been attested, dating from 8,000 to 2,000 î.Hr. ³

Another craft that decisively influenced the evolution and technological progress of mankind was "pottery", making pottery, cups, cookware, bowls, plates, glasses, and other containers for liquids and grains. Research conducted

³ https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istoria_uman%C4%83

in a cave in Hunan Prov-ince, China Mesopotamia (in the administrative territory of present-day Pakistan and India), contributing to what we call the "Indus Civilization" (Chakrabarti, 2004; Dani et al., 1996; Allchin & Erdosy, 1996).

Man's desire to live better and the technological advances made by humanity constantly, but continuously, have led to the emergence of other crafts, among which we mention: torso, fabric, making objects made of wood, metal (copper, bronze, iron, silver, gold), making papyrus, paper, glass, porcelain, etc. What is certain is that each of these crafts appeared at a certain time, in a certain place, and spread to the whole globe, so that at present the traces of attestation of their existence are to be found everywhere.

Commerce

When socio-technological conditions allowed, another human occupation emerged, namely trade. The transition of human society from a "predatory economy" focused on harvesting, hunting, and fishing, to a sedentary one, characterized by the emergence of agriculture and crafts imposed as a necessity the emergence of trade. It represents the totality of exchanges "of products through their purchase and sale" (Dex, 2009). At first exchanges took the form of "barter" which was a form of "ex-change in kind, without the intermediation of money" (Dex, 2009), then using cur-rency, "barter was then broken down into two operations: selling and buying. From this moment on, the real trade began" (Pațac, 2008, p. 16, quoting Rapin, 1983, pp. 11-12).

The first evidence of trade in China, Mesopotamia, and Northern Europe dates to 4,000 i.Hr (Pațac, 2008). At present, human life would be inconceivable in the absence of trade. Since then and until now, trade has undergone profound changes in terms of complexity and spatial distribution.

Transport

It represents an anthropic activity of prime importance in the crystallization of the concepts of regionalization / globalization, contributing to the "movement of material goods and people in space, in order to meet the material and spiritual needs of society" (Dumitru, 2015; Iloiu, 2002).

Over time, transport has evolved steadily in terms of quantity and quality, with the evolution of humanity, from rudimentary forms of transport "with animal traction" on unpaved roads, to sophisticated forms of transport (road, air, naval, space etc.), which requires a specific infrastructure.

The qualitative evolution refers to the progresses registered, on a temporal scale, the transport infrastructure, it being represented by the set of elements (means and means of transport) and of the relations that have been established between them. For a better understanding it is necessary to define the notions of "means of transport" and "means of transport". The means of transport are the mobile component (vehicles) used to move the substance, energy, and information from one place to another, while the means of transport are the fixed component, the material support, which facilitates mobility. The two components mentioned above, together make up, what we call, the infrastructure of means and means of transport, with a major role, essential in the functional interconnection of the regions of tourist emission with those of tourist destination and not only. To grow the functionality of the transport infrastructure between the means and the

transport routes, a series of functional relations have been established. Among these we can mention the relations that have been established between the air and road infrastructure, the railway, etc.

Quantitative evolution refers to the multiplication of modes of transport, on the one hand, and on the other hand, to their spatial expansion, thus contributing to the substantiation of the concepts of regionalization / globalization.

Currently, the transport infrastructure is a component of the environment, ubiquitous globally, being characterized by several features including safety, speed, accessibility, regularity and punctuality regardless of weather conditions, capacity high transport, economy, low aggression towards the environment (Surd et al., 2005).

Industry

Industry, along with other human activities, is another way of manifesting man at regional / global level. It is a complex process of "exploitation of natural goods and their transformation, as well as others, into means of production and consumer goods" (DEX, 1998). Although in the literature there is a wide range of approaches to industry from a typological point of view, special attention is paid to the classifications imposed depending on the nature of the production process and raw materials. By the nature of the production process, industry can be classified into heavy industry, "which deals with the production of the means of production" or equipment and light industry "which deals with the production of consumer goods" or consumer goods (DEX, 2009).

The uneven distribution of natural resources globally is a determining factor in the uneven distribution of the processes of exploitation, processing, and transformation of natural resources into means of production and consumer goods. Distributional discontinuities give rise to the regionalization process while the global distribution of industry contributes to strengthening the process of globalization. In conclusion, we can say that, if at the beginning, the industry had a local, manufacturing character, nowadays, thanks to the unprecedented technological evolutions it has a global character, being characterized by a great spatial extension and typological diversification.

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The construction of human settlements at the global level represents, together with the anthropic activities and the system of international relations, one of the determining factors in the appearance, evolution, and crystallization of the concepts of regionalization / globalization. Human settlements have appeared "as a natural necessity of man to take shelter from the inclement weather", "by the union and territorial grouping of several dwellings" since the Paleolithic period (Herman, p. 124). The attestation of the first human settlements is closely related to the attestation of Homo Sapiens. Today, most of the globe is inhabited by humans, in settlements with varying degrees of complexity, starting with hamlets, villages, towns, megalopolises and ending with urban conurbations.

THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The system of international relations, represented by the national states, the organizational relations between them (regional and international), multinational companies, terrorist groups, mafia organizations, etc., is another defining element in the crystallization of the concepts of regionalization and globalization (Herman and Grama, 2018).

"States are functional and organizational units that have been imposed in a certain place at some time on the background of technological advances made by human society, with a direct effect on the diversification of production forces, the emergence of social classes, economic development and the spirituality of humanity" (Herman and Grama, 2018, p. 49).

The main defining features that "individualize, shape and consolidate" the state as a form of political organization are the existence of a clearly defined territory, a form of government characterized by order and hierarchy and a permanent population (Ilieş, 2006, pp. 31-32).

Currently, according to the US Department of State 's Office of Intelligence and Research, there are 195 sovereigns ⁴ and independent states and 66 dependent territories worldwide. ⁵

The spatial distribution of the independent states of the world reveals that they have a global character, being extended to the scale of the entire globe (Herman & Grama, 2018).

Therefore, through the way of spatio-temporal manifestation, the national states represent a major component of globalization, along with that of organizational relations, multinational companies, etc.) (Herman and Grama, 2018).

International organizations are superior forms of association between states based on cooperation agreements aimed at achieving difficult-to-achieve goals for a single state (Herman et al., 2016, 2018).

They appeared in the 19th century and have evolved numerically, spatially and in terms of importance until now (Popa & Sarcinschi, 2007). The motivations that formed the basis of their appearance were political, economic, social, etc. "international organizations as associative structures reveals the fact that they are important vectors in shaping concepts of regionalization or globalization" (Herman et al., 2016, p. 57). The analysis of the distribution of the headquarters of international organizations can show the idea that Europe, through the cities of Paris, Brussels, Geneva, and Madrid, is the most important factor of globalization (Herman et al., 2016). Regarding the analysis of the locations of the headquarters, the regional organizations have a relatively balanced distribution at the spatial level, the main cities hosting such organizational entities being Brussels, Strausbour, Vienna, Cairo, Dubai, Addis Ababa, Mitrand, Singapore, Jakarta, and Lima (Herman et al., 2016).

CONCLUSIONS

From the present study, conducted following the analysis of the literature on the spatio-temporal evolution of man, human activities (hunting, fishing, agriculture, crafts, trade, transport, and industry), human settlements and the system of international relations (states and international organizations) shows

⁴ <http://www.state.gov/s/inr/rls/4250.htm>

⁵ <http://www.state.gov/s/inr/rls/10543.htm>

that man is a regional being with global aspirations. If the global character is given by the favors, the re-strictions imposed by the characteristics of the environment, the global character of the man is a specific feature through which he stands out from the other living beings. Over time, the regional / global character of man has manifested itself in various forms, among which special attention has been paid to the organization of communities from tribal structures, kingdoms, empires, national states. Also, the regional particularities are well highlighted in the incipient phase, from the beginning (the appearance of man, of the main activities, of the human settlements, etc.) they are transforming into global particularities with the evolution in time and space. Therefore, the regional particularities are structural elements of the global ones. At the beginning, each global feature had a regional, character which, through evolution and spatial diffusion, acquired a global status.

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