

Registration number: 424

SUMMARY

In a globalized world where human lives are taken as if they were just numbers in a graphic and the environment is treated as a unlimited source of resources, people have to wake up and lead the way to drastic changes. Never has the world seen so many catastrophes and disasters happening in such small period of time. Millions of people live in atrocious poverty and, still, most of the persons who had the fortune of having a decent and comfortable life do absolutely nothing to help them. Academics and researchers haven't yet found the answer to these problems. How can we improve well-being in this chaotic situation?

ESSAY

The scarcity of food and energy are one of the many key issues in the crisis we're passing through. Both of these two problems can be associated in one major theme: commercial interests. That's really no surprise because we live in a liberal capitalist society, it means that where everyone has to look for his own interests in order to accumulate wealth and survive. It's a society where individualism is praised in detriment of collectivism, that's the philosophic base of the capitalist system. In its initial formation, this individualism should be a force that would regulate the entire society bringing welfare to every of its member. Writers like John Locke and Adam Smith believed in this affirmation. However, it proved to be wrong, it's not hard to notice that this kind of liberal capitalism only brought more poverty, social disparities and injustices. Even though, many economists still praise this unfair system in its most recent incarnation, the neo-liberalism. The fruits from these attitudes can easily be seen, as I will point out.

Can we imagine a society preoccupied with the environment when its priority is individualism and your own prosperity? It's impossible, and that's why the environment is constantly being deteriorated, because it's profitable. Many people might say that, nowadays, we can spot dozens of big enterprises and companies that are worried with our environmental issues. But that's a very recent happening, and the cause for this mysterious change is that taking care of the environment has suddenly became profitable. Commercial interests move our societies; profit is the propulsion for every decision. No enterprise would propagate environmental aid issues if it wasn't good for its own publicity.

That's the main point I want to get to. In a society where everybody only looks for themselves and commercial interests are the main priorities, every person that truly cares for the environment and social injustices, can do very few, or nothing, to help. The energy crises could be easily surpassed if the petroleum lobby wasn't so big, even scientific advances in the researching of new energy-forms is influenced by politics and economics decisions. The electric car could be a popular vehicle long ago if the governments wanted to, however, it would not be profitable for the big oil industries to have petroleum losing power. The same problem can be applied to the food scarcity, our world plenty of possibilities to solve this problem if it only was profitable. However, food scarcity only affects the poorest populations and the dominant wealth people have no commercial interest in giving these people more welfare.

What's the way to improve well-being and welfare in this context? This is the long-searched answer that many try to find. We could, at least, try not to be too pretentious and begin with small measures, such as, distributing the opportunity of learning and education to everyone. Education might be the key answer to this whole problem. I strongly believe that education is the most efficient way to humanize us, human beings. Only information and learning can bring from inside us, the essence of solidarity that sometimes is so easily

lost in this brutal society. There are no bad or good persons, there are persons that were unable to receive proper information as how our world is regulated, there are persons that are not aware of the potential harm they are responsible for, even though, they are persons full of love and care.

Through education we would reach awareness; through awareness we would reach humanization; from this point on, anyone that believes in the benign essence of the humane spirit, as I do, could say that humanity would wake up for their own needs, and individualism, the biggest enemy of welfare, would fall down, and a sentiment of fraternity would take its place.