

Why we should not leave Earth – yet

There are many talks and speculations about colonising the Universe, establishing diasporas on Earth orbit than go to Mars, Titan or other resourceful moons or micro-planets [1]. While a couple of movies and TV series plot upon possible conflicts the human kind may face in the event of expansion [eg 2] some of the fundamental problems and their rootcauses are naturally overlooked.

These early colonies in the movies are built on purpose aka exploiting some sort of natural resource. Social conflicts also appear and the development alternative social values. In real-life plans purpose built colonies are indeed the first step. There are hardly any comments about social issues though. Nevertheless this part could be of great importance as history shows us.

Our current world is still based on exploitation; exploitation of nature and human alike. These are still the views of early capitalism and the slave-work based economy of the 17th -19th century and prior. The profit focussed efficacy and the model of continuous growth as the measure of success can give a dynamic development in an open system but it cause problems in a close system.

In a closed system resources are a constrain, there is no free expansion (either territorial or market), no drain out for side products or waste or escape from problems which accumulate over time. These systems either find balance or equilibrium to survive, or explode/collapse. Open system is the contrary of all of the above.

By the age of industrialisation Europe approached to become a closed system. Resources became more of a constrain, the population growth and social inequalities started to make pressure to endanger status quo. With the Reformation (16th century) and the Renaissance (15th -16th century) new ideas emerges in religion, philosophy and the way people saw the world around them. The original ideas of the rigid social system of feudalism, the rule of life and death, the total exploitation of others started to ease up. The French revolution started in 1789, the Slavery Abolition Act in Great Britain in 1833 and many other small changes initiated a transformation in the thinking across the society. Of course it has been a process, reaching over centuries – and has not yet finished today. The result of these transformation as the European Union (EU) is today, one of the most egalitarian society with broad welfare and social security network for all.

On the other side of the world the colonised America shows a different evolution to Europe. Although the settlers were the very same people as in Europe the American democracy and social system has some significant differences.

While Americans followed suit and the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 abolished slavery, racial discrimination is still an everyday issue. Healthcare is still considered a wealthy privilege and social security is shallow. The false idea of free market rules the American style capitalism which based on the very same principles than previous exploitive systems. The mindset is still the same, the only priority is profit maximalisation. They can only be forced not to be disruptive or inhuman with harsh laws and deterrences. When these controls are not present they default back to full sociopath behaviour. Of course this mentality has spread around the world as financial competition doesn't reward human values.

I argue that this different development between Europe and American democracy and social welfare is due to the fact that Europe became almost like a closed system that period while America was an open system for long. The abundance indian territories which could have been acquired by force and constant influx of exploitable immigrants took the worst out of those already in power.

In conclusion because colonisation happened before the social transformation could reach a stable stage in Europe those medieval ideas and the instinctive human nature prevailed and transformed differently from those in Europe and the colonised America even though the human material was the same. The reason behind could be the Europe was a closed system while America an open.

Today, the society and economy also riddled with challenges but in a global scale.

We are on the brink of ecological catastrophe as the climate change is running out of hand and the rapid spread of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation taking over human workforce. We are still without political realisation of the consequences. The creative AI djinn is out of the lamp creating deep fake content uncontrollably and promoting value-less and knowledge-less contents free of charge. While some of the issues are vaguely identified, real structural solutions are not developed yet [3].

And while some part of the world like in the EU certain studies are made to address certain inevitable social changes, like the basic/universal income [4, 5] or law is being formulated against AI [6]. There are broad opposition against these changes sometimes in many societies [7]ⁱ (although trends are changing after Covid lockdowns opened eyes for the future [8]).

In economy, 'sustainable' became a slogan in practice nothing much happened.

Some changes are on the way but it is still a long way ahead as not even the problems are precisely defined. Beside political actions we also need new philosophical theories in sociology and economy and transformation to an improved social systems (9, 10).

The globalisation is not only economical but also spread around ideas of democracy and egalitarianism. That process is far from complete, there are plenty of cases of relapse even in Europe itself. At the time of writing Hungary and Poland shows profound deviation for instance [11, 12].

The Earth became a close system by now and we are at early stage of transformation but how does it influence the colonisation of Solar system or beyond? Is not that the expansion could solve all the problems we are facing here on Earth with climate change, resource shortage or overpopulation?

No. It won't solve problems. Not for long term. But early expansion will create new ones.

If any migration to the space begins before the social/economic/philosophical transformation is complete not only in Europe but globally, humankind face the same situation like in the case of the nation colonisation. The new open territories will result taking the worst out of human nature again. The direction of divergence of the new worlds and the Earth is unpredictable. With the current speed of technological development the power of destruction will reach the magnitude of total destruction even in space war. Since the targets are isolated by the vastness of space even the peril self-destruction will not hold back the insanity of a twisted minded leader as current political and war events in Ukraine shows [13].

I find it imperative therefore that we as humans make that step toward mental evolution to avoid contaminating the Galaxy and develop to a more effective society for the benefit of all of the human race.

Alas, with the acceleration of AI and the uncontrolled global climate change the pressure grows more rapidly than it was previously foreseen. The last two Global Environmental Forum

(COP26, COP27) was unproductive at best [14,15], the CO2/methane emission grows [16], devastating wars pollute the environment [17] yet we hypocritically try to enforce electric cars on everyone [18] as if it would make any differenceⁱⁱ. The universal credit system may mitigate some of the future distribution problems but by itself alone doesn't solve the problem how to occupy billions of people to give them purpose, reason to develop or get up in the morning.

But new social or economical system has not emerged yet, not even on theoretical level. This new system has to deal with several issues among those of new value system, new priority order in success and development, social activity, healthcare, balance between cultural integration and separation in close proximity, migration, resource distribution just to mention some of the main ones and need to take account basic human instincts and their distribution in the population [9].

Luckily in the view of this essay the pressing issues develop quicker than space technology so even by the most visionary hopes, space colonisation will not commence before we face with our own doom here on Earth.

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- i One of the reason I see in opposing social care at western societies is the word 'social' itself. Many people identify the word 'social' with socialism and reject it from a gut feeling without thinking, citing the atrocities of communist regimes. While of course there are many valid arguments against these social systems none of the (ex-)communist countries have/had neither socialism not communism. They instead group dictatorship. A social state not equal with a socialist state.
- ii The electrical vehicle (EV) transition is unavoidable and a good thing altogether. The problem is only the forced transition in the name of environmental protection. The EV system lacks infrastructure, economical and efficient battery technology, waste management technology and enough renewable energy source. In the meantime if every vehicles were replaced in the transition it would impact only a total of 12% of global CO2 emission including cars, transport vehicles, everything [19] On the other hand it requires huge cost from public money, individual spending and results in an estimated loss of half million jobs in the EU alone [20]. In the meantime effective technologies to recapture CO2 dwindle [21], deforestation doesn't change [22], China's (taking up 28% of global CO2 emission) and India's emission grow [23], permafrost melts releasing huge amount of methane [24]. While we could do something with these issues what would matter from that money and effort, politicians rather support lobby interests and delude themself and the public with fake actions. That is the hypocrisy behind the EV transition.