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GLOBALISM IS UNSTOPPABLE, BUT...

Abstract: Economic globalisation is almost impossible to reverse. Globalisation in the fields of science and technology is unstoppable.

With his slogan, 'America First', President Trump's government is made up of leaders in international trade and globalisation. He has brought on board several Goldman Sachs executives, the paradigm of anti-protectionism.

Financial, industrial, and trade globalisation will not be questioned.

Globalisation of people and cultures however, will be. Controversy lies in the risk of identity loss and the great power of the liberal worldwide trade system.

Opposition to globalisation comes from the fact that the western-world middle classes are the losers in this process.

On the other hand, the opposite is true in developing countries. In China, the middle class grew from one million in 1990 to 340 million in 2015. That translates to an increase from 0.3% to 35% of the urban population.

Populism and xenophobia are some of the consequences of the fear of immigrants taking jobs away from local inhabitants and causing wages to lower.

To that must be added the issue of demographics. In developed countries, 2.1 children born per woman is the minimum rate to ensure each new generation is as populous as its predecessor. The European average in 2015 was 1.58.

In the Netherlands, 50% of new-borns are Muslim. In France, the same can be said of 30% of the population under 20 years of age.

Are we heading towards 'Eurabia'? A resurgence of nationalism, and xenophobia.

The world as we know it today is wealthier, but more unequal too. Technological change has contributed to that effect. In particular, information and communication technologies.

Globalisation powers economic development. However, inequalities in income have grown.

Key words: *populism, xenophobia, immigration*

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*Mr President,
Academicians, Professors, Doctors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to begin by saying that reversing economic globalization appears to be almost impossible.

Globalisation is the consequence of the fast advancements in technology, information technology in particular.

In the last few decades, scientific research has led to technological breakthroughs that were until recently unthinkable.

The Space Race, IT, biology, are transforming the world at an almost uncontrollable speed, and are making the future very difficult to predict. We can barely begin to imagine it.

Globalisation of science and technology is unstoppable. Financial, industrial, and trade globalisation shall not be questioned.

On the contrary, that of people and cultures, will. The revival of nationalism and the emergence of populist movements comes partly from that questioning. They serve as a pressure-release valve for the general discontent of the population. It can be largely attributed to economic globalisation. This is not, however, the only answer. Demographics is an additional issue which shall be discussed later on.

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Populism and xenophobia are some of the consequences of the fear of immigrants taking jobs away from local inhabitants and causing wages to lower.

Emigrants flee famine and misery, and tear borders, walls, laws, and conventions apart.

An estimated two-hundred million people are willing to flee their country of origin in search of better life prospects elsewhere.

This is not a European or American issue, nor is it about ethnicity or religion. It is a matter of balance between wealth and poverty in the world.

Paradoxically, immigration contributes to economic growth and to the fact that lowest pay jobs are given to newcomers. Political and social rights are, however, not easily obtainable for those who live and work among us.

Globalisation enables free movement of goods, capital, and services. It would seem logical to lift barriers to accommodate the need for a dignified life.

If solutions to manage this new world order, we stand on the brink of a social conflict which could break out at any time.

Meanwhile, a recent UN study dated 2005, pointed out that the European Union would need 160 million immigrants by 2050 in order to maintain economic growth rate.

Yet integration in the host country is minimal.

There are four adaptation phases:

- a) Survival. Anything at any price.
- b) Settling. Looking for and finding accommodation.
- c) Regrouping. Bringing the spouse and children over, and later, the rest of the family.
- d) Returning to one's origins. Trying to do in the new home what one was doing in the old one.

Satellite dishes are an extremely important tie to their original identity. Indeed, those dishes that allow them to stay connected to their mother tongue, their habits, their ways of living. They grow up and live in ghettos to keep their identity.

That is where a great problem arises: lack of integration. Adapting, fitting in. Assimilation is made difficult.

Whoever settles in a new country should not only embrace the local laws and language, but also the culture and behaviour. They ought to live just like any other citizen of that country.

This does not usually happen. When integration does not happen, living in a ghetto is the easiest solution, a no-brainer. That comes with its consequences.

Accommodation should rely on interculturality and ethical uniformity based on universal rights such as equality, personal rights, gender equality, religious freedom, the separation of Church and State, and the preponderance of ethical norms. One cannot compromise on the respect for these values.

Xenophobia, involving the assertion of nationalism, stems from the fear that newcomers may endanger social harmony.

In addition, as mentioned earlier, the longing for a better life encouraging migrants overlaps with the demographic problem affecting most western countries.

2.1 children born per woman is the minimum rate to ensure each new generation is as populous as its predecessor.

A rate of 1.9 makes maintaining identity in the medium term difficult. It is a slumping society headed for cultural extinction.

Well, the European average was 1.58 in 2015. France's total fertility rate was 1.96, the UK's was 1.8, Germany stood at 1.5, while Greece, Spain and Italy were close to the 1.3 mark...

In the Netherlands, 50% of new-borns are Muslim. Within 15 years, it could very well be a Muslim country. France could find itself in a similar situation within the next 30 years. Today, 30% of the population under 20 years of age is Muslim.

It is estimated that 100 million Muslims will be living in the EU. That does not even include Turkey...

In 2006, a certain Muslim leader named Muammar al-Gaddafi said Allah was making Islam victorious without even going to war. 50 million Muslims already lived in Europe, and their growth rates were much greater than those of local populations. Conquests and violence were replaced by immigration and high birth rates.

Some have even spoken of a road towards Eurabia.

Let us add facts and movements used by populism to justify nationalism:

- Agnosticism against faith
- Family breakdown
- Free abortion
- Good-going and relativism
- Radicalisation of feminism
- Gender ideology

These ingredients work towards the extinction of the European culture, i. e. western culture.

In short, let us say that the world we live in today, partly thanks to globalisation, is wealthier. But more unequal too. Globalisation powers economic development but inequalities have grown larger.

Add the great migratory movements and the result is a revival and radicalisation of nationalism, and the unpredictable and worrisome perspectives that come with it.