
THE SOCIAL TURMOIL IN EGYPT ARE NEW EVIDENCE OF THE RISK OF CIVILIZATION IMPLOSION

Global democracy is possible only in the presence of a new industrial revolution!

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Adriano Autino, President, Space Renaissance International
Gennaro Russo, President, Space Renaissance Italia

What is happening in Egypt these days surrounds and anguishes all of us, but should suggest us to stop and meditate about, even beyond what media offer to us in terms of facts as well as political and social analysis, that are always confined to the contingent.

We want to take a cue from the article, appeared on the front page of La Repubblica on Thursday, August 8, written by Ian Buruma, entitled "*If the world applauds the coup in Egypt.*"

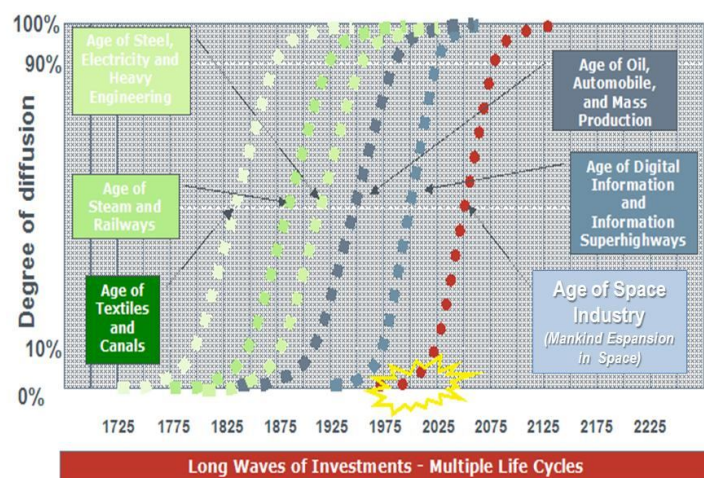
The article discusses the two similar political cases of Egypt and Thailand, countries in which, at different times, educated, democratic and liberal citizens applauded military coups against democratically elected governments. In Thailand in 2006 and in Egypt in July 2013, the leaders, elected and then deposed by military, Thaksin Shinawatra and Mohamed Morsi, were *reactionary democrats*, according to the Buruma's analysis, since they considered their election victory as an absolute mandate, that would allow them to tamper with the Constitution and behave like despots. The Turkish prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan "belongs to the same species" too, Buruma says, as well as probably would the leaders of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in 1991, if they came to power.

We don't aim to delve too much in the analysis of the political processes discussed in the article. However we must note that, in all cases, all of the mentioned countries didn't experience a true industrial revolution. But yet are imbued, as it is logical to expect in the world of global communication and information, from a widespread longing for social growth, and democracy as well, understood as the rule of law where persons are finally citizens, and no more subjects. Between the above mentioned ambition, already present in Western countries at the time of the great bourgeois revolution, and democracy, however, there was the great process named industrial revolution. Industrial development in fact, today very much criticized and greatly underestimated in different ways by all of the political parties, was for better or for worse the cradle of democracy, since it allowed the development of a vast majority of average informed and educated citizens, able to orientate and to choose (of course with all the exceptions that unfortunately we well know!) in a secular and aware way, without being over-influenced by fundamentalist religious thoughts.

This aspect, of the industrial development, essential for us, is not considered at all by the article. It gets lost, instead, in more or less byzantine hypothesis about possible methods to add the "salt" of democracy in societies which come directly from tribal regimes, without being affected by an industrial revolution, by mass education systems, public health or the so called "welfare". The analysis is fully internal and focused on temporary politics, and therefore capable of detecting perhaps some problems, but certainly not possible solutions.

Moreover, the large social processes ongoing in Africa and Middle East are certainly not isolated. They are instead part of a social development wide thread, theorized for over two centuries, which is nowadays generating an overall situation increasingly characterized by a state of decay/involution, especially in its most advanced part. Raise of population, scarcity of natural resources and current mankind inability to find new ideas or new ways to move forward let us to portend a macroscopically negative perspective: the probable implosion of human civilization. The history never exactly repeats itself, and today the reaffirmation of the values of bourgeois revolution - freedom, equal opportunity, secularism, the oxygen of democracy - is only possible by opening a new horizon of development, the *Space Renaissance*. After all, even the first bourgeois revolution came after the renaissance and the discovery of the new world ...

On the industrial side, considering the life cycle of the great technologies spreading, typically characterized by a periodicity of 100-200 years, we realize that after the Ages of Textiles and Canals, Steam and Railways, Steel, Electricity and Heavy Engineering, Oil, Automobile and Mass Production, Digital Information and Informatics' Superhighways (still in the midst of its spreading), humanity is now waiting for the next industrial revolution. Some analysts see in Molecular Manipulation the new development engine. We, at Space Renaissance, believe that the new revolution can only be the Age of Space Industry.



In fact, any line of development purely based on Earth's resources, could eventually provide a few decades of breath, but anyway would soon clash with the limits of the Earth's resources, as already the Chinese and Indian industrial revolutions are experimented. We strongly rely on Astronautical Humanism philosophy, and we see a Space Renaissance, but this necessarily needs the growth of mankind awareness that the world in which we live is not a closed system, rather the cradle in which we spent the first part of our lives. We are now sociologically and technologically mature to widen our focus beyond the boundaries of our beloved Mother Earth and to expand in Space, where the available resources are virtually endless.

The current despairing need of industrial development of the regions defined "pre- industrial" like Egypt, is counterbalanced by the equally desperate need for new industrial development of regions defined, with much complacency and carelessness, "post- industrial". There is no valid method to add the salt of democracy to countries characterized by strong aspiration to growth! As noted by the Nobel Prize Amartya Sen, the information is much more important than gunboats, and the poor and underdeveloped people will "wake up" only when they get the information of the higher standard of life that exists in other countries... For sure, from the point of view of ethics, it makes a deep impression that the Egyptian army, in order to defend democracy against Islamic fundamentalism, stains itself of the murder of hundreds of people. But it should not be surprising. In these countries the consideration for the value of life has not even yet reached the lowest (and declining) level that exists in the industrialized countries. Even in industrialized countries, in fact, democracy is in a state of serious crisis, where the political parties and the various ideological



currents do not have the capabilities for issuing true and strong development projects. That's why the civilization is living in conditions that prelude to a serious decline of general civilian and ethical values: because of the social processes in place, which collide with political leaderships completely incapable of guaranteeing the industrialization of emerging countries and re-industrializing the advanced countries.

A particularly appropriate example to represent the current status of civilization is the one of the frog in the pot. If we put a frog in a pot of boiling water, the frog will immediately jump out, saving its life, but if we put it in a pot of cold water on a fire, the frog will stay in the pot and slowly die. Our civilization is like the frog and the pot in which we are immersed is becoming more and more dangerous, but slowly. Gradually we get used to the worsening of the conditions and, in absence of drastic action, we will find ourselves in an unsustainable conditions and civilization will implode.

The development of the industrial economy is a key factor. Without growth there is no hope for democracy, peace, freedom, a concept originally proposed in 1776 by Adam Smith in "The Wealth of the Nations". Smith noted that the welfare of the lower classes of a nation depends on economic growth, and noted that stagnation and economic decline may lead to a worsening of poverty. In a static economy (condition entirely theoretical) a unique opportunity to improve their living conditions is to replace someone else (*mors tua vita mea*).

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The basic problem is that seven billion people are now too many for our planet, and any reduction or decrease policy can only lead to the implosion of civilization. The Earth, whatever the radical



environmentalists and the degrowth advocates say, is not sick: she's pregnant! The fetus (human civilization) has become large and needs to get out of the womb of Mother Earth, and to be born in a larger context: our solar system. The parallel immediately suggests that the exit from the womb (the closed environment of our beloved Earth) should represent the expansion of humanity into space. The Space Renaissance movement was inspired by these concepts. Any industrial development needs in fact two primary factors: raw materials and energy. Two elements that can be found in great abundance just outside Earth's orbit. The Near Earth Asteroids represent a huge almost pure metals mine, and of pre-organic



elements, ice, and all what we need to build infrastructure in the geo-lunar system, in the region that was called "*the Greater Earth*", the Earth's magnetosphere with a radius of 3.5 million kilometers. The solar energy flowing in this region since billions of years and still to flow for more billions of years (whether we take advantage of it or not), can solve the energy problem for hundreds billions of people for many millennia. It is clean, renewable, and constant: 1400 continuous watts per square meter, compared to 700 W/m² on ground in regions of maximum insolation, only during the day and with clear skies!

That so craved industrial development, which is so much needed by both developed countries and emerging economies, is only possible if our civilization will decisively take the unique available way that will warrant a two digits industrial development: the expansion beyond Earth's atmosphere. During the past forty years the major space agencies strategically focused on experimentation, exploration, telecommunications, Earth observation, spending more than one trillion dollars. These are all interesting and worth activities, but unfortunately they didn't, so far, lead to the development of the general civilian astronautics, nor lowered the cost of access to orbit, remained constant at about twenty thousand dollars per kilogram since the time of the Moon landing. It is now time, indeed we are overdue, to strongly focus on the *industrialization* of space, developing low cost earth-orbit technologies (largely existing or almost), being it an essential condition for the development of civilian astronautics, space tourism, large industrial and commercial settlements in orbit, on the Moon, in Lagrangian libration points. Space Renaissance International calls for the widest cooperation between governments, possibly under the umbrella of a global organization such as the UN, to foster the development of the new space tourism industry and civilian astronautics in general. It is obviously up to the most advanced countries to lead this process, since they already own much of the scientific, technological and engineering know-how. They will thus regain the true leadership of civilization development, which is not military but rather cultural. Only by witnessing the birth of large space projects, able to create millions of new skilled jobs, the young Muslims will find a more humanist way to develop their culture and, why not, also their faith, joining a wide growing process of the whole humanity. The respect of all faiths and ethics, as well as the true democracy, will then substantially move forward. Only when parents will regain hope of a better future for their children and grandchildren, a new spirit of cooperation might develop among good willing people. It is therefore in the interest of any government to set up reduced tax and support policies in favor of companies investing in astronautics, whatever their business mission.

Space Renaissance International therefore appeals to everyone for the creation of national chapters, as defined by the international statute, aimed at continuously promoting the above described program, and of its philosophical manifesto.



Fonte: Dipartimento di Ingegneria Industriale, Sezione Aerospaziale, Univ. Federico II di Napoli

The Space Renaissance Italian section was officially born on March 22, 2013 starting from the spirit, guidance and high-level goals of the international movement. Among its tasks, to translate into concrete actions the



underlying philosophy that animates Space Renaissance International. The strategic program of Space Renaissance Italia is thus the concrete

tool for the identification of objectives and ways to achieve them. It is aimed to the dissemination of knowledge and culture of the movement and intends to stimulate the emergence of a real private Italian *Space Tourism Business*, including components like Science, Technology, Tourism, Education (Training), Culture. The aim is to raise awareness of entrepreneurs and public administrators to activate those lines of action that SR Italia will seek to identify, motivate and develop. At the same time the action of SR Italia will be oriented to spread among the population -- starting from the younger generations, the potentialities of space -- the available tools and the ones to be achieved, to get more and more familiarity with space, and to become space tourists and space citizen.

Our focus on *Space Tourism* comes from two essential points: the first is that any human activity in space, and therefore also the expansion of civilization in space, requires an affordable and routine access to space capability. Getting aeronautics closer to space is now clearly the main road, as the space tourism activities management and running is demonstrating. The second is that Italy owns a remarkable tradition of capacity and appropriate scientific expertise, both industrial and commercial, only apparently far from what is required to develop space tourism. The same concept of tourism goes hand in hand with the national system vocation, often mistreated but undoubtedly existing and appreciated all over the world.



The activities of our Strategic Plan are grouped into work packages, endowed by specific titles assigned to transmit since the beginning their key messages. So, we talk about *Imagine The Future*, contributing to the development of the philosophical Vision of Space Renaissance and futurology. *Scientific View*, *Artistic View* and *Cultural View* are targeted to release and disseminate the Vision to the large public. We talk about *Space Learning* and *SR Academy* to deal with the

training of young people in the primary and secondary schools, and university students as well. We have introduced the *Make It Possible in Italy* wp in order to develop an Italian technical and



business capability in the trail of what is being done in the United States and somewhere else. Finally, we talk about *Enjoy The Experience* just to stimulate the commercialization of access to space from the perspective of a common man's approach to the Fourth Environment.



fonte: Space Affairs