

G.I.P.S.I: Greece-Italy-Portugal-Spain-Ireland - The Decline of the West?

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“[...] the crisis we are witnessing is the crisis of a center/periphery system, that of the Imperialist Western European model [...]”¹

FL	GIPSI	Germany	EU
Nature	Low ecological consciousness; supermarkets purchasing behavior; lower price criterion; agroindustry; massive fishery; nuclear plants; depletion; pollution; overaging.	Higher ecological consciousness Demography: massive overaging	Demography: overaging; supermarkets purchasing behavior; lower price criterion; agroindustry; depletion; pollution
Gender	Lack of parity, burden of household and parenting to women; the increase of unemployment rates affects more women than men; gender violence increases; patriarchy; feminism.	See EU	Women may lose job first in austerity-unemployment
Generation	Austerity policy hits young hardest (unemployed up to 55%). Pensions cut in huge percentages; Precariousness for elders also due to the cost of health imposed by austerity measures. Except for Portugal, general solidarity against austerity: young (students) + pensioners	See EU	Austerity policy hits young unemployed hardest.
Race/Ethnic	Gradient of intolerance from Portugal (less intolerant) to Greece (high intolerance); poor HR enforcement and guaranties; immigration flow inversion and emigration.	Deflection of class conflict to German vs. Turkish immigrants	Accession of Turkey Yes / No. Anti-GIPSI discourse in may be anti-Turkish in disguise: TIPSI, G mobbed out).
Nation	Spain: One state, at least three nations. Fragmentation deepens due to (anti)nationalist discourses to divert attention from austerity measures and/or for political opportunism.	Only small nazi/fascist parties. Majority rejects them.	
Region	Harshest critics of the European Union. <i>Greeks</i> see themselves as Europe's most hardworking people, the cradle of western civilization and one of the two most strategically important Balkan countries, with Turkey. <i>Spain</i> : Periphery with Imperialistic nostalgia; Not anti EU, but blaming EU; Symptoms of EU illness – impotence and complacency with Troika. The <i>Irish</i> are not anti-EU or anti-Globalist (yet). <i>Portugal</i> : Oldest country of Europe, and a caller for solidarity.		Massive nationalist anti-EU backlash. Hungary, Poland, Western European Right wing parties (Le Pen – type)
Class Political	Center-Right (Neoliberals) Troika led running except for Italy (troika technocrats) and local administrations in Euskadi + south Portugal run by left. Masses are politically confused, fragmentation and apathy in most of the GIPSI due to: - lack of participatory democratic system (electoral law in <i>Spain</i> does not invalidate elections with less than 50% voters to polls); - no executive responsibility engaging mechanism – corruption; - raising of neo fascism.	1% controlling politics: Self-inflicted austerity. 2 Neoliberal parties masquerading as “Social democrats” and “Christian Democrats”;	The EU started as Keynesian project. Typical actors involved_ Social + Christian Democrats, Provinces, Towns/Communes. It is now a 1% Neoliberal project. Typical actors: CEOs of TNCs, National executives above populaces and local governments.
Class Economic	Unreal economic growth before the crisis due to EC development assistance (except Italy, Ireland); Services over Production; TNCs; Agroindustry; Importation; Dependency on ex-colonies (Portugal); Real Estate bubble; Tax evasion; Austerity measures stripping social services; top 1% - oriented policy (bank bailout guarantee); High private debt due to massive mortgaging; High public debt due to banks bailout; High military expenditure; High joblessness; Homeless people and <i>peopleless</i> houses; in Spain 1.737.900 homes with 100% unemployment.	High production and exportation.	EU-Constitution: rejected wherever the 99% could vote. Replacement: Lisbon treaties.
Class Culture	Anthropocentrism, verticality and centrism (except for Euskadi and Catalunya in Spain); colonialist mentality (even for many of the 99%) in Portugal and Spain; Predominant capital ideology- Money sequence of life and economic growth; More solidarity and mobilization against austerity measures in Ireland and Spain.	Hysterical fear of (Hyper)inflation (historic deep culture – memory from Weimar)	1%-motivated institutional deficits: No EU/Eurozone treasury No Eurobonds State deficit limit also in crisis periods
Class Military	NATO		

In the case of Germany-GIPSI we can identify three parties: The “Oligarchy of EU Governments”² or the *Center*, GIPSI and citizens in GIPSI and in Center, as *Periphery*, and the *Financial Institutions* underpinning and underpinned by Center. And seven underlying contradictions: Financial economy/real economy; *Inness/Weness*; Center/Periphery; Center in Center/Center in Periphery; All/Nature and, not less important, Men/Women; Middle aged/Elders/Youth. The Race fault-lines are to be interpreted through Class fault-lines lenses.

Diagnosis

- The US has lost its **economic** hegemony position by 1980 and will now lose its status as **military/political** superpower by 2020. But neither the state US nor capitalism with its center – semiperiphery – periphery structure will disappear by then. There will be neither a new **political/military** superpower nor a new **economic** hegemon but perhaps a hexagon with slightly more regional interactions in all IEMP fields (Galtung et al).
- One of the reasons for the decline of the economy in the GIPSI and other European Union member states was being too reliant and dependent on one region - the US.

¹ ITALY – GREECE, WHICH FUTURE? Erika Degortes- TPU for TPU- ACT 6 concrete cases

² <http://www.globalresearch.ca/confronting-the-eu-oligarchy-of-governments-joining-forces-for-another-europe/5307411>

- The US and the EU are dismantling their internal class-, interregional and nation state - cities/communes alliances that would be part of stable center- and particularly hegemonic position in the world system since the end of the 1970s (switch from Keynesian to Neoliberal regimes).
- In the US and in most EU and OECD countries the 1% (or even 1 0/00) top dogs have appropriated all economic gains since 1980. In this respect the structures has become periphery-like.
- In the EU the regional cohesion regime of the first decades have been replaced in the neoliberal turn of the Lisbon treaties by an internal center (Germany, France, the North)-semiperiphery (downward mobile GIPSI upward mobile Baltic states) - periphery (Ex-Comecon/Ex-Ussr) stratification that is less steep than the global one but moves in this direction.
- The Regime Troika – GIPSI states is a somewhat moderated version of a classical IMF/World bank – periphery debtor state relation; people don't yet die by the millions within the EU.
- Most EU states and the US central governments set provinces communal/town administrations on a starvation diet.

Prognosis

- Capitalism however will end in this century, perhaps by 2050 (Wallerstein et al); the economic center – semiperiphery – periphery structure may fall with it. It has already lost its capability to generate profit in the real economy (this is NOT West-specific) and is now abandoning its stabilizing class and geographical alliances
- IMF/world bank or troika regimes have never worked. The effect of austerity will be a downward spiral like in the years after 1929 for the whole EU. Then the choice will be between Nazi/Fascist Keynesianism and Liberal (New Deal) Keynesianism. Last time only military Keynesianism in both political forms brought the solution – and WW II.
- In most EU countries the fascist parties already exist in a more nativist (national) or more tribalist (sub national, regionalist see Italian Lega) variety and they will continue to grow.
- Persistence crisis: "The euro will survive the crisis, even if the current level of European rescue fund (for example the 421 billion) bailout after Greece and Ireland will not be enough to cover the funding requirements of Spain as if it would need help³."
- There are a lot of reasons to worry, OMT (Outright Monetary Transactions programme) euphoria will wear off and investors will shun GIPSI debt once again because of: Spanish in requesting support, Probable exit of Greece accompanied with the OSI (official sector involvement) actions and the rising of Syriza-led coalition that goes to the brink with the troika and is too inexperienced to pull back. The Italian Eurosceptic parties with a certain amount of , anti-austerity, anti-bailout rhetoric. A net present value (NPV) applied to the Greek debt will not only hit the ECB, but lending states are also unlikely to be willing to accept a NPV haircut or rescheduling of their loans.
The common EZ budget realization suggested by Van Rompuy was not enough without political will . German (and Dutch, Austrian, and Finnish) electorate feel are paying higher taxes that are redistributed not only to basket cases like Greece but also to Ireland, which benefits hugely from a low corporate tax rate. Now The German Constitutional court together with both houses of the German parliament are in full control of the ESM (budget and policies) and the Bundestag must be kept apprised of how the ESM funds are being used. (A clear sign of imperialism).
- In some countries, where organized non violent protests against the austerity measures are lacking (Portugal) or diminishing-not visible (Ireland, Italy, for instance), people feel they are on their own now; this means individual anomy, and criminality and suicide may rise alarmingly.

Therapy

I. GIPSI – EU - World

A resolute behavior means looking for capabilities instead of looking for guilt.

³ American Bank citygroup

Mutualisation of the debt or of so-called "unconventional" that the European Central Bank may take, will not bring a lasting solution, because this crisis is not a crisis of sovereign debt crisis, but competitiveness exacerbated by the adverse effect of the euro on growth⁴.

Berlin would better come to the table with all other EU members and together reflect on how to solve this crisis for mutual and equitable benefit. Admitting that the current crisis is due to a wrong solution to the implosive effects of capitalism that the EU has not been able to recognize at the time and has perpetuated. Assuming responsibility for faults by each of the EU members for what they have done wrong and for what they have not done at all and would have been useful even needed. Public apology starting with the European Commission up to local administrations for wrong decisions and actions, which have worsened the social situation, will be critical to initiate a process of reconciliation with the citizen. Repeal of antisocial measures and reform of the political and economic framework of the EU to start the reconstruction process. This process unfolds on (at least) four axes:

1) Horizontalize EU: A Confederation ruled by a Citizen Conference formed by **one representative for each 10000 citizens (or 100.000, or more, to be defined...)** of any nation within the EU + **referenda**, would name executive commissions that will be held responsible in front of the Conference. A **common financial policy, with “a new euro statute that guarantees symmetry, balance and equality between peoples”⁵**, which **shall permit local currencies**, and operate a “modification of Economic and Monetary Union membership criteria to require that all its member countries to ensure the exercise of human rights as defined by the United Nations with social and political indicators in addition to the fiscal and monetary. And so that **countries have to achieve social objectives such as full employment and universal social and human rights as a condition of membership.**”⁶ In addition, participatory democracy with general interest overriding individual interest. Many of the solutions proposed in the text cited are to be considered.

Topple the Neoliberal regimes with 99% popular fronts. Switch to Keynesianism. Recreate the provincial and communal/town service jobs (schools, health centers, infrastructure ...).
Fix the most idiotic error in the Euro zone-architecture: create a treasury.

Ensure enforcement of parity policies and use Peace Art—Journalism—Mediation to enhance a culture of equality.

2) Enhance self reliance and sustainability: “European policies to **promote the social cooperative**, thus progressing in the democratic management of enterprises.”⁷, and empowering bottom and periphery. In this sense, European policies shall -- support **local self sustainable communities** (creating public local infrastructures for processing local products for instance); encourage revitalization and dignify of rural areas -- foster **self-employment**, private and public paid employment, even private-public paid employment -- and ensure **social security for all**. Stabilize the physical and ecological parameters enough to enable a Postcapitalist civilization after 2050. This already creates a huge amount of jobs.

Permaculture as a system design with **time banking** to overcome braindrain and menial jobs, thus leveling out social gap; wired **communitarian public services**: job board and labor office; housing office; collective and individual housing; collective learning space to share knowledge; **open education** projects focusing on skills for life, empathy, collective work and cohesiveness;

⁴ Jacques Sapir, director of studies at EHESS-Paris « Il est urgent de dissoudre la zone euro » *Le Monde.fr* | 03.09.2012 ;

⁵ *Hay alternativas*. Vicenç Navarro, Juan Torres López y Alberto Garzón Espinosa, 2011, Ed. Sequitur, Madrid. p211

⁶ *Ibidem*

⁷ *Idem*

cooperativist self-managed system of public health; open source technology; collective public transportation; **conflict working space**.

Use the housing surplus to create a social housing policy that benefits to the neediest, and offers space for fostering social-health-cultural activities. Involve banks, builders, State, NGOs in partnership for social solidarity.

Basic needs served first, with local production and services, regional exchanges of surplus left after inverting in top technology (barter between GIPSI consumption products and German technology). *Quantum satis* reflexion is indispensable as well as restraining growth.

3) Open for Eurasia, by bridging the Western - Eastern Europe and Balkans gap. And broaden interregional: Proactively increasing efforts to build relationship with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other Asian countries like China, Japan and South Korea. Also known as ASEAN plus Three nations, not only on narrow economic sphere, but on the social, cultural and education too. For example, more students from European countries could be sent to study in Asian universities. More cultural exchange could be done between these countries, as the exchange of historical artifacts between museums, or *the International Art Peace Project "Kids Guernica"*, reuniting mural paintings realized by children in different places in the world.⁸ And the same for EuroMed. This would help GIPSI and EU to rebuild relationships with former colonies, and it would give both -- the former colonizers and colonies -- good opportunities for a reconciled past and a constructive future. In other words, transforming the image "From Colonizers to Collaborative Partners".

And use **ASEM as a space for mediation** between GIPSI and the EU, and to deepen relationship with Asia (?). Therefore, the ASEM agenda need to be rejuvenated and proactively propagated.

4) Reshape Europe –West relations by initiating dialogue with Latin America; heal past traumas and reconstruct futures. A path Northern America will be further invited to walk.

On top of all, cut off military expenditure, **train peace forces for positive peace**.

All along Nature, gender, generation, origin, race, believes inclusive.

EU sustainably managing internally the crisis establishes interregional relations for joint construction of a structure of Peace. And within a global context - UNLIO.

This is how a Nobel Prize is earned.

II. GIPSI – World – EU

And if this is not acceptable by EU Oligarchy, **GIPSI decouple and recouple in more horizontal relations** with other regions (see Galtung THE EUROPEAN FINANCE CRISIS: GERMANY/GIPSI 29-10-12 TMS). GIPSI show Ageing, both because of historical antiquity and present aging demography. Nevertheless GIPSI has a „courageous and rebellious“⁹ recent past too , and this identity is being kneaded now in the youth. Recuperate own historical achievements that can benefit to humanity, regenerate ancient traditions to regenerate life; let Mother Earth and humans knowing her language to show the way¹⁰.

⁸ www.kids-guernica.org

⁹ As the Spanish past defined by Stephane Hessel in its book *Indignez-vous!*, Indigène éditions, Montpellier, France, 2010.

¹⁰ Erika Degortes, *ITALY – GREECE, WHICH FUTURE?*, TPU for TPU- ACT 6 concrete cases

Austerity policies are hitting the most vulnerable first, they are causing suffer and misery, even death; exacerbate direct violence; yet are acting as social catalyst for (negative) shared goals – solidarity against austerity and system. But there are (positive) common goals of social equity germinating, the transcendence of class-ideology-gender-generation-race in the Spanish 15M, stands for it. And then, there is also apathy, despair, underlying. Transform despair in hope and negation in positive goals. Transcend borders and make them 99% shared.

What else can be said?

Maybe that all the prescribed for the first scenario above can be a GIPSI process.

And we cannot close this GIPSI chapter without these few words: Women are natural life carrier. Most of them are extraordinary resolute and have been handling crisis all of their lives. Do not fear them, learn from them and collaborate with them, complement them in a harmonious yin&yang union. And value the elderly for they are keepers of the treasure of a past that goes beyond their own', many rivers have shaped their ocean.

Conclusions

Postcapitalist horizon (next 500 years)

Keep self-reliance program points 1)-4) in Johan Galtung „THE EUROPEAN FINANCE CRISIS: GERMANY/GIPSI 29-10-12” as independent as possible of larger scale political/economic structures (EU / IO / TNCs, perhaps also nation-state levels) and physical infrastructure i.e. everything that may break down with capitalism.

Start thinking **now** about which kinship-based, market or redistributive system could replace capitalism. What would make the center – semiperiphery – periphery and other faultline differences comply at least with Rawls-rules.

Go to the (very) bottom and the (very) periphery in searching for revival and ancestral wisdom, the findings will surprise, for the life code is in the seed, as in the beautiful poem of an anonymous Palestinian farmer¹¹.

¹¹ „ I never desperate. And is that I keep a seed, a small but alive seed that I'll save carefully and plant again.“

APPENDIX: TABLE WITH COUNTRY COLUMNS AND INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY REPORTS

FL	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Spain	Italy	Germany	EU
Nature	Air and water pollution.		Air pollution caused by industrial and vehicle emissions; water pollution, especially in coastal areas. Very low ecological consciousness.	massive meat consumption of industrial production; supermarkets purchasing behavior: lower price criterion; agroudustry; massive fishery; nuclear plants; depletion, pollution.	Air pollution in the cities, the management of soil and water, waste management, protection of nature and landscapes, climate change, transport management and protection Coastal and marine (Mediterranean).	Higher ecological consciousness Demography: massive overaging	Demography: overaging
Gender	Greece is still far from achieving equality in political participation or in the labour market for its female citizens.	See EU	Portugal ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1980, one of the first member states of the United Nations to do so. <i>Does this reflect in real life?</i>	burden of household and parenting to women (unequal leave for childcare); the increase of unemployment rates affects more women than men; gender violence increases; patriarchy; feminism.	2/3 of women between 35 to 45 years are underemployed in the economy (growth potential: 22% of GDP)	See EU	Women may lose job first in austerity-unemployment
Generation	Youth unemployment 55%, pensions cut in huge percentages; precariousness for elders also due to the cost of health imposed by austerity measures.	See EU Solidarity against austerity: young (students) + pensioners	Youth unemployment 35.4% and Prime minister encourages university graduates to emigrate; trend towards earlier retirement, and continuing relatively high poverty rates among the elderly.	52.34 % youth unemployment of a total unemployment rate of 25.02%; pensions cut; retirement age extended to 67; precariousness for elders also due to the cost of health imposed by austerity measures.	Italian population is one of the oldest in the world, the younger generations are the first victims of the economic recession that has hit Italy over the past decade.	See EU	Austerity policy hits young unemployed hardest.
Race/Ethnic	High intolerance for ethnic minorities as proven by the Lausanne and Neully Treaties for removing Muslims and Christian Slavs who did not identify as Greeks, from Greek territory.	Recent immigrants (non Irish nationals) have to go. (but: Irish nationals also restart to emigrate)	homogeneous Mediterranean stock; citizens of black African descent who immigrated to mainland during decolonization number less than 100,000; since 1990 East Europeans have entered Portugal; little or no racism/ethnocentrism	Exploitation of lower classes immigrants, menial jobs even for high qualified people by not recognition of their formation in origin (also before the crisis); "illegal" immigration "prisons"; poor HR enforcement and guarantees; immigration flow inversion and new emigration.	The decolonization in North Africa, the dictatorship in Eastern Europe, the economic crisis in South America and the industrial growth	Deflection of class conflict to German vs. Turkish immigrants	Accession of Turkey Yes / No. Anti-GIPSI discourse in may be anti-Turkish in disguise: TIPSI, G-mobbed out).
					of 50s and 60s have led to a strong migratory flow to the 70s. Situation causing the development of racism in Italy and closing the territory since 1989 (Martelli Law).		
Nation	Harshest critics of the European Union, Greeks see themselves as Europe's most hardworking people.			One state, at least three nations. Fragmentation deepens due to (anti)nationalist discourses to divert attention from austerity measures and/or for political opportunism.		Germany has only small nazi/fascist panes. Hitler memory active.	
Region	Severe EU illness and one of the two most strategically important Balkan countries, with Turkey.	The Irish are not anti-EU or anti-Globalist (yet).	Oldest country of Europe, and a caller for solidarity	Periphery with imperialistic nostalgia. Not anti EU, but blaming EU. Symptoms of EU illness – impotence and complacency with Troika.		(above maybe here)	Massive nationalist anti-EU backlash. Hungary, Poland, Western European Right wing parties (Le Pen – type)
FL	Greece	Ireland	Portugal	Spain	Italy	Germany	EU
Class [Political-Economic-Cultural-Military]	[P] neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn is on the rise. Greek coalition collapses and replaced by a Syriza-led (troika) [E] Bond buying from the EFSF/ESM and the ECB helps to address the fiscal crisis, but does not address the balance of payments crisis or the growth crisis in the peripheral countries. Greek politicians have been shamefully quick to strip basic social services from the country's poorest and	GIPSI Problem caused by top 1% - oriented policy (bank bailout guarantee). Illusionary spoils for middle class: housing bubble – now all gone. Welcome back to the 99%. Solidarity against austerity: working class (trade union) + middle/upper class (students) Mobilization against	[P] Parliamentary Republic. PSD-PP in power. Heavy on privatization, biased to bankers, capitalists, the rich. Prime Minister first order of business: the implementation of the 78 billion euro (\$115 billion) bailout agreed on by the previous government, the EU, and the IMF. [E] Almost no production, high on imports, bankrupt. Under dictates of the Troika. Heavily dependent on ex-colonies, especially Brazil and Angola, now creditors-helpers. Unemployment 16%. High social precariousness.	[P]: Parliamentary monarchy; no democracy but late transition; elected leaders (mostly PP) not representative- high absenteeism to pools- electoral law not ensuring a majority participation- no executive responsibility engaging mechanism - corruption; fragmentation and apathy (less in Euskadi – <i>Euzkadi Abertzale</i> naming local admin. supports bottom empowerment - and Catalunya-cooperativism growing). [E]: Economic growth in the 80s due to assistencial development. Recession in '92 due to Euro implementation. Starting recovery in '95 and expansion in 2002 due to the fall of the interest rate (real estate bubble); massive immigration increased internal consumption and covered the demand for low-	[C]: Italian culture is closely linked to the political history [P]: Italy is a parliamentary republic. Hence the problem of parliamentary rebellion that hinders the measurement of austerity in the GIPSI countries. [M]: Italy is very	1% controlling politics: Self -inflicted austerity. 2 Neoliberal parties masquerading as "Social democrats" and "Christian Democrats" Hysteric fear of (Hyper)inflation (historic deep culture –	The EU started as Keynesian project. Typical actors involved: Social + Christian Democrats, Provinces, Towns/Communes. It is now a 1% Neoliberal project. Typical actors: CEOs of TNCs, National executives above populaces and local

	<p>most vulnerable citizens. And they have been shamefully slow at probing possible tax evasion by the rich and well connected (De Soto Effect) [C] widespread lawlessness, intolerance mismanagement, partly complicit corruption and extravagance. "extractive elites" are other dangers. [M] NATO</p>	<p>government responsible for bank bailout guarantee / Austerity pact – election victory for</p>	<p>[C] Colonialist mentality, obedience, servitude, menial works, anti-intellectual. Heavy on religion (catholic), low on direct violence. [M] Portugal is a founding member of NATO and entered the EC (now the EU) in 1986.</p>	<p>level jobs in real estate and hospitality. Services over production; Tourism TNC exploited; Agroundustry - CAP. High private debt due to massive mortgaging; High public debt due to banks bailout; High military expenditure; High joblessness; Homeless people and <i>peoploleas</i> houses; Very low internal purchasing power and lowering due to austerity measures hitting basic needs. 1.737.900 homes with 100% unemployment. [C]; anthropocentrism, verticality and centrism (except for Euskadi and Catalunya); colonialist mentality (even for many of the 99%); predominant catholic; predominant capital ideology- Money sequence of life and economic growth. [M]: NATO</p>	<p>weak without the support of NATO</p>	<p>memory from Weimar time)</p>	<p>governments. EU-Constitution: rejected wherever the 99% could vote. Replacement: Lisbon treaties. 1%-motivated institutional deficits: No EU/Eurozone treasury No Eurobonds State deficit limit also in crisis periods</p>
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