

## Inside the Universe of Freeware

- towards an Economy of Gifts and Reciprocity, by Alexander Dill



***The creation from nothing, the creatio ex nihilo*** has always served as a model for economic activity. To achieve everything and to invest nothing seems to be the highest form of effectiveness.

**So what is economy?** - that's a question neither economic sciences nor the public are posing.

Astonishing? Not indeed.

We are totally involved in economy and therefore can't even think anything happening beyond our aim to succeed.

Today economy - sorry: *Global Economy* - totally penetrates our daily life. Hard to imagine any act, which can not be interpreted in terms of *success, milestones, efficiency* and *mission statement*.

We *spend* and we *save* money, lifetime, attention, health and love. We became *controllers*, always making up the balance of our being.

The way we do so, is part of economic investigations, meaning the *quotes* and *charts* ranking our preferences. Finally they are separated in *loosing* and *winning* behaviour.

When I'm going to ask *What is economy?* I will not do so as a philosopher. Why? I don't want the question to get close to the question of *truth*. Whatever economy will be after my reflections, it will be far beyond metaphysical categories as *man, god* and *love*. Economy is a only a means to an end.

And the new definition of economy will stand at the beginning:

*Economy is the balance between three origins of freeware: natural resources, public goods and personal gifts.*

And what about money, labour, markets, stocks, credits? If you want to continue to understand economy through the eyes of mainstream interpreters or in terms of Adam Smith (1778), you should stop here. If you want to share a trip to the paradox universe of Freeware, you won't be the same after it. (Nor did I)

According to Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, economy can be called a *global public good* today. This leads to several competing consequences:

- The call for democratization of institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), like it is demanded by Joseph Stiglitz, George Soros and others.
- The promotion of private ethical rules and codices as Corporate Governance, like the World Economic Forum (WEF) and mainstream companies do
- The transfer of profits to charity, as Bill Gates and Warren Buffett practice it today

They all intend to diminish the casualties of Global Economy, of the so called *globalization*. The governments lead economic profits and surpluses to public purposes by charging taxes.



Meanwhile *security* is also regarded as a public good, the worldwide military expenses are thirty times higher than the budget of the whole United Nations network. This fact might be an indicator for the misanthropic anthropology of economy. The so called *self interest hypothesis* is still the only philosophical base of economy. It tells us, that men are selfish and egoistic, wherefore we need military and social welfare. For the individual economy is an endless promise of achieving private wealth. And because the big majority of people in all countries never reaches this objective, the elementary experience of economy is expressed in those words:

***I want my money back!***

This sentence is constitutional for any individual approach to economy and it explains the governmental and private efforts, to save "their" money over the time., by legal or illegal ways.



Kenneth Galbraith once wrote: "Most of the privileged groups would better die than to give up one of the smallest advantages they own."

Watching economy like that, we will of course be able to explain war and theft. But we will be prisoners of a hopeless pessimism. So let's stop to complain the hopeless reality of economic life and behavior and start up a clear encounter about what economy really is, how it works and how it can be seen different.

By the way: *Is economy really efficient?*

Global Economy generates *profits*  
profits generate *private wealth*

private wealth is transfered by  
governmental *taxes* and *private charity*  
in *public goods*:

military&security  
education  
social welfare  
health  
arts&sciences

In my book I will discuss four issues:

- 1) *What is economy?*  
The history of economic sciences and the anthropology it is based on.
- 2) *Is economy really efficient?*  
Investigations of paradox phenomenons in economic life and its failure.
- 3) *How can reciprocity become an essential part of economy?* Searching for best practices in hidden areas.
- 4) *Is Freeware the economic answer to the global challenge?* Launching the International Freeware Index to provoke the hidden assets of Freeware.

