

# MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK

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Newsletter - No 6 - 1992



FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
at the University of Malta



# MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK

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# MEDITERRANEAN SOCIAL SCIENCES NETWORK NEWLETTER

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## **E**ditorial

The inspiration leading to the formulation of the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network by the Vienna Centre in 1987 was, primarily, to coordinate research within the Mediterranean region, with the hope of nurturing unity and development among the people of this inland sea.

This idea emerged from the awareness of evident scientific collaboration that exist among Northern European institutions and which is sadly lacking in the Southern part of Europe. It was precisely for this reason that we deemed it necessary to direct our attention to the South and encourage dialogue on a scientific level. We have already established contacts with various research institutions within this region and our major step will be to concretize these contacts by bringing people together on themes of unity and integral development.

In this light, we intend to organise a series of meetings for social scientists working on research concerned with the Mediterranean Region, aspiring that our philosophy will be translated into a reality. This sixth issue of the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network Newsletter features papers concerning sustainable development, island state economies and the aftermath of the 100 Day War.

The first article, "Pondering the Challenge of Sustainable Development" by Godfrey Baldacchino, gives insight into the ever-intriguing complexities surrounding sustainable development and the threats posed by irresponsible natural resources depletion onto future generations. It accentuates the policy implications involved in the actual operationalisation of sustainable development, and challenges the reader to question the consequences of non-sustainability.

Godfrey Baldacchino brings into comparison the differing global attitudes pertaining to the North and the South in terms of progressive, economic development and the resulting effects of industrialisation on their environments. In his article, he focuses on special microstates experiencing the repercussions of eco-catastrophe, declaring that these countries should serve as forewarnings to the larger economies; and also places Malta within this perspective, being a microstate itself.

As the name "Some Characteristics of Small Economies" implies, the author purports to define all those aspects that establish small economies. Lino Briguglio ascertains this position from four viewpoints, namely, foreign trade, export goods, the public sector and the 'vulnerabilities experienced by such economies. The author

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*Editorial*

comes to the conclusion that these conditions are usually profoundly evident in small island states. This article, then proceeds to identify and account for the various constraining factors that impinge on these islands' economies.

Finally, Marios Nikolinakos's paper focuses on world political and economic situations after the Malta Summit of 1989 between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. This paper emphasizes the Malta Summit as signalling the eventual disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Block. Here the author expounds on the challenges implied by these rampant changes to the world order, with special emphasis on the unification of Germany and the political prospects that this process ensues.

He also discusses the relevance of the role of the United States as an "international protector", with reference to the dangers poised to international stability by the Gulf War. Particular attention is given by Marios Nikolinakos, to the more generic themes related to recent political developments, such as the advent of post-modern globalisation and its effects on socio-economic progress.

*Carmel Tabone O.P.*

# **P**ondering the Challenges of Sustainable Development

**Godfrey Baldacchino**

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## **The Argument**

This article seeks to put into proper policy perspectives the current discussion on the attraction of "sustainable development". It is attempted by forcing an application of the often rhetorical nature of the argument and thus exposing the difficulties, particularly those of a political and socio-cultural nature, which impinge on the theme. These may inhibit what looks like a universally desirable policy option, from coming into action. Reference is made to the peculiar circumstance of Malta, suggesting that implications of the concept are of even greater relevance to our own country. Yet, such a local realisation is socially still far from visible in this present day and age.

## **Defining the Jargon**

Already for a decade, green is definitely the world's political colour<sup>1</sup>; and in this context, a new jargon phrase is being tossed about in the mass media and various policy documents: "Sustainable Development". It stems from a concern that many activities undertaken in the name of development have actually squandered the (often finite) resources upon which development is based. In industrialised countries, the rapid consumption of natural minerals such as fossil fuels and metals, is a major concern. In the least developed countries, over exploitation of natural biological assets is usually the major threat to sustainability.

Definitions of "sustainable development" usually portray the improvement in people's material well-being through the utilisation of the Earth's resources but at a rate that can be sustained, at least over many decades; but preferably indefinitely.

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This article has previously appeared in *Hyphen: A Journal of Melitensia and the Humanities*, Malta, Vol.7, No.1. 1992, pp. 47-53. Reproduced by the kind permission of the editors.

A definition which has achieved wide currency speaks of a "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".<sup>2</sup> Sustainable development is a situation in which the development vector (which may include some elements as real income per capita, health and nutritional status, educational achievement, access to resources, basic freedoms...) does not decrease over time.<sup>3</sup>

The basic idea could not be simpler: to live off nature's interest rather than depleting its capital.

### **Documenting the Ills**

The problems associated with irresponsible resources consumption have been documented *ad nauseam* by various concerned organisations and individuals, so much so that some of the key arguments appear to have successfully filtered down to the mindframe of the public at large. In the advanced industrialised economies of the North, chemical pollutants and high levels of combustion lead to acid deposition, air and water pollution and lead poisoning, with military expenditures becoming the major culprits of resource misallocation. In the still developing South, the main environmental costs are associated with the degradation of the natural resource base - deforestation, soil erosion and the dumping of toxic wastes are occurring at alarming rates. Undoubtedly, when rural livelihoods are undermined, people migrate to the cities, where inadequate water and sewage services, and the degraded sites on which the poor are forced to live, pose other environmental problems. Not to mention, the global consequences of global warming and ozone depletion, which do not discriminate between first world and third world candidates.

### **Identifying the Debate**

The adherents of sustainable development challenge the very foundation of the mainstream interpretation of the development problem. They question the fundamental assumptions of both neo-classical "modernisation" approaches to development<sup>4</sup> as well as more radical neo-marxist structuralist critiques of underdevelopment.<sup>5</sup> In spite of their glaring differences, both of these perspectives take for granted the production of more and more consumer products as synonymous with development. This approach is claimed to be not only wasteful but also reduces the long-term prospects and the very life-chances of future generations, especially among the poor.

The policy implications are starkly crude and shattering: there is the possibility to consume and produce less and differently, moving from a consumer to a

conservation economy, where production growth and conservation are not mutually exclusive.<sup>6</sup> Critics, nevertheless, argue that this kind of approach is unacceptable because it constitutes in effect a pre-industrial 'back-to-nature' condition which is equivalent to a rescinding not a reformulation, of development.

### **Between Rhetoric and Practice: The Great Divide**

Few would contend that sustainable development is now a pervasive buzzword, even in the circuits of policy rhetoric. The term, however, is not so readily operationalised and enshrined into real life projects. A significant issue here is the question of interest promotion and preservation. The process of rapid industrial development which has triggered the reactive outcry for sustainability, has also served to consolidate the economic significance and (in consequence?) the political power of a number of interest groups in society. Indeed, the rationale behind rapid industrialisation is often couched in terms of the vastly improved benefits which accrue to large sections of the community - lucrative and steady profits to investors, taxes to the state, mass jobs to the workers, cheap and plentiful products to consumers... the beneficiaries of industrialisation will not be easily dislodged from the privilege of enjoying what has now become more than simply a way of life, but, in many respects, the only feasible one.

In the North, many are unwilling, or perhaps even unable, to envisage a life without so many presumed necessities; concern for sustainable development is tantamount, in their eyes, to a radical and therefore unacceptable reduction in one's standard of living. Paradoxically, in the South, there is mounting suspicion that sustainable development is nothing but a respectable facade for the thwarting of third world development. The First World has had its industrial field day. Now, with signs that its competitive edge is being eroded, the sustainable development argument being put forward may yet help to preserve Western ascendancy. The South appears just as determined as the North to reap the benefits of industrial development, regardless of the associated environment costs. It seems that the environmentally harmful side effects of industrialisation pale into insignificance in contrast to the resulting growth and prosperity; and the prophets of gloom and doom would no doubt be silenced once again as industry itself matures and conjures up new techniques and technologies with which to postpone the fateful appointment with eco-catastrophe.<sup>7</sup> Far better, therefore, to taunt the distant spectre of maldevelopment than to stem the clamour by growing proportions of populations for the consumer goods produced by the technology of the industrial society.

Certain Third World radicals denounce the tenor of the current eco-debate, accusing it as being mainly ethnocentrist and elitist by virtue of having depoliticised the character of the conflict in the world between the *haves* and the *have-nots* by



magnifying the contest between man and nature.<sup>8</sup>

The remedy for the growing international conflict and tensions, they claim, lies in tackling its root cause, namely, the global inequality and oppressive and exploitative institutions which impose and perpetuate the ugly malaise.

### **A Local Perspective**

It appears only a question of time before Malta finds itself locked in the throes of this debate. Some of the reasons behind this personal prognostication are obvious, others not so. Malta is first of all a developing country with a still young history of political sovereignty. It has therefore, all the raw ingredients for adopting a rampant industrialisation strategy as a development option. This, Malta has done over the last thirty odd years with a certain commendable momentum; achieved and maintained thanks to a repertoire of adequate incentive provisions to foreign investment accompanied by a convenient and attractive geographical position close to the largest market in the world. Its traditional role as a strategic fortress economy in the Mediterranean, with the inculcation of various industrial skills which that implied, provided the country with a flexible workforce trained in basic technical expertise and routines, thus implied a useful advantage in trying to entice foreigners to set up shop locally.

The second reason behind Malta's imminent engulfment in the sustainable development debate is related to its social-economic status as a microstate. The country is one of around three dozen sovereign states in the world today which have a relatively small territorial size. In spite of having low population levels in absolute terms, the territorial limitations of these very small - hence, micro - developing states, creates an even stronger pressure on already scarce resources. The population densities are thus typically higher than would be expected, and these can be exacerbated by the relatively high proportion of unexploited land area; due, for example, to desert, dumping of toxic waste, flooding or high tide.

Malta shares with these countries an intensification of the problem of the management of space - which is a most precious resource. Such microstates can be thus considered as laboratory test-cases which allow us to examine the effects of rampant industrialisation and of the policy decisions and outcomes of the powers that exist, in trying to come to terms with the tensions of development and environmental preservation. These countries could serve as advance warnings of undesirable scenarios: already the archipelagic reef microstate of Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean is an unwilling prime candidate for the catastrophic effects of global warming. It will disappear quietly beneath the waves due to sea level rise unless the causes behind global warming are halted and preferably reversed<sup>9</sup>

## A Necessary Sacrifice

Is this the shape of things to come? Will the errors of microstates serve to illuminate and educate wiser, larger neighbours whose size and scale can afford them to experiment without experiencing shattering, devastating side-effects? Will the microstates suffer the consequences of non-sustainability and would their noble sacrifice be a necessary demonstration effect to stave off similar disasters elsewhere? One may dread to think in these terms but the questions are not altogether fictitious and fanciful ones. The Tuvaluan case may seem farfetched and remote, but consider our own unfolding stories of "development" and its costs; the dedication of so much land area to industrial sites, the burgeoning volume of traffic, the debate on the building of the new power station at Delimara, the problem of waste disposal and sewage treatment, the contraction of fertile agricultural land...

The problem is not simply one of finite and scarce resources available for exploitation; it is compound by the wide distribution of near continental consumption values. Our cultural identification with the Western world leads so many of us to strive for luxury goods and behaviour patterns the country can ill afford to bear. Subsequently, policy makers locked in the democratic framework appear powerless and cannot but ventilate and provide still wider opportunities for conspicuous consumption to try and ensure political survival. There are few viable and not politically suicidal devices at hand to restrain such a rampant cultural phenomenon. As the Premier of another micro-territory aptly put it: "We are a bicycle society with Cadillac tastes".<sup>10</sup>

## The Hidden Salvation of Tourism?

Perhaps we have all too readily embraced the advantages of industrial development without assessing its negative side effects. In a way, our option for tourism - an option which most microstates have taken up successfully but initially on a "second best" basis may be a blessing in disguise since this tertiary sector activity, unlike mass manufacture, has a stake and a much more active interest in preserving the environment. Tourism, for all its limitations, may be more attuned to the principles of sustainability.<sup>11</sup> It is also mercifully exempt from the iron logic of economies of scale.

Malta has taken such commendable initiatives on the world stage in favour of environmental preservation.<sup>12</sup> It would be bitterly ironic, apart from tragic, were it to end up as an exponent of how **not** to develop....

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10. The statement was made in the 1960's by the Premier of Montserrat, a Caribbean island with a population of about 14,000 and still a British Colony.
11. For example, Connell, J. (1988) 'Sovereignty and Survival: Island Microstates in the Third World', *Research Monograph No.3*, Sydney, Department of Geography, Australian National University.
12. These include such commendable initiatives as the Concept of the Climate as Common Heritage of Mankind and the United Nations Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

# **S**ome Characteristics of Small Economies

**Lino Briguglio**

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## **I. Introduction**

It cannot be stated that small economies are generally richer or generally poorer than large economies. Out of a total of fifty five economies with a population of less than one million, the World Bank [32] classifies twenty two as High-income economies, with a GNP per capita comparable to those of OECD countries, twelve as Upper-middle-income economies, fourteen as Lower-middle income ones and the remaining seven as Low-income economies. This distribution of small economies in terms of GNP per capita shows quite clearly that there is considerable variation in their economic performance.

However small economies do have certain similarities in view of their size. In this paper four issues associated with small economies will be dealt with. These are [1] degree of dependence on foreign trade [2] the degree of concentration on a few exported types of goods or services and [3] the size of the public sector and [4] the special vulnerabilities of small island economies. Since we are dealing with small, as against large, economies, it is necessary to define what is a small in this regard, and the paper starts with a description of the indices used to rank countries in terms of size.

## **II. What is a Small Economy**

The first question that comes to mind when analyzing small economies is the definition of what is small. In fact what constitutes a small economy is subject to debate. Traditionally smallness has been associated with "price-taker" economies, that is those economies which cannot influence their terms of trade. This definition in a way corresponds with the concept of a small firm in microeconomics. Such a definition is not however of practical use in classifying economies according to size,

### *Some Characteristics of Small Economies*

since most developing countries, including some of the larger ones, are price takers in most of their exports.

There are three variables which, in empirical work on the subject, are usually associated with the size of an economy. These are the size of the population (see for example [21]), the size of the land area (see for example [9]) and the GNP of the country in question (see for example [24]).

Land area tends to be misleading at times as an indicator of economic size, since there are economies which cannot definitely be considered as large, but have a large land area.

Suriname, Guyana, Iceland and Greenland are some cases in point. GNP may also be a misleading index, since this depends on the stage of development, rather than on size. In fact, one finds economies which are considered as very large, but which have a GNP equivalent to that of economies considered to be much smaller. For example the GNP of China is comparable to that of Spain and that of India to that of the Netherlands.

Some authors have attempted to compute a composite index which takes into consideration land area, GNP and population size. Such an index requires the weighting of the three sub-indices, an exercise which, in the absence of statistical criteria, becomes somewhat arbitrary. Jalan [15], for example, has assigned equal weights, whereas Downes [10] has used the method of principal components to derive different weights for the different sub-indices. It has been suggested that, generally speaking, such a composite index of size tends in any case to classify as small those economies with a small population, say with less than 5 million, (see [25]) and that therefore it would be better to take population as an index of the size of the economy, rather than to construct complicated indices with dubious interpretation.

As a matter of fact, many authors prefer to use a population index when discussing the size of an economy. The use of this index has a number of advantages in this regard. From an economic point of view, it reflects to the size of the labour force, and therefore constraints associated with human resources. Population is also related to the potential number of consumers. Therefore this index is intuitively appealing because it conveys a measure of size based on the suppliers and the buyers of the goods and services produced.

From a statistical point of view, the index is less ambiguous than others associated with land area and GNP. Many analysts would agree, for example, that although Iceland has a large land area (bigger than Hungary) and a relatively large GNP (equivalent to that of Zimbabwe), it still remains a small economy because its

population is less than one third of a million.

#### *Population Size Cut-Off Point*

Even if one accepts population size as an index of the size of an economy, there remains the problem of what population cut-off point to take when grouping countries into small and large. Some authors prefer a relatively high upper limit. For example a UNIDO study [34] identified a 20 million population size as a reasonable dividing line between large and small countries whereas Kuznets [21] takes a population cut-off point of 10 million for this purpose. Chenery and Taylor [6] consider economies with a population of 15 million or less as small ones. Other authors, such as Jalan [15] and Demas [9] propose a population cut-off point of 5 million.

Some publications classify small economies as those having a population of 1 million or less. For example a study on vulnerability of small states published by the Commonwealth Secretariat [8] chose this upper limit to identify small economies because "almost all states within this limit tend to experience the special problems particularly associated with small size". This cut-off point was also used in a UNITAR study [37]. The World Development Report [32] and some UNCTAD publications (see for example [35]) also group countries with a population of less than 1 million in a special category.

It may be suggested that dividing economies into just two categories, namely large and small ones, may be too restrictive since very small economies with a population of under one million face a different set of disadvantages due to their very small size, when compared to economies with a population of a few million. Lloyd and Sundrum [25], for example, suggest that a three sub-set partition, large, small and micro, would be more meaningful, since this permits giving special attention to very small states.

Hein [12] categorises studies on small economies according to the population upper-limits which the various authors used to distinguish a small economy from a large one. One general conclusion that emerges is that the choice of the upper bound is very often made on an ad hoc but pragmatic basis, depending on the nature of the study and the group of countries that the author wants to focus on.

### **III. Dependence on International Trade**

A common characteristic of small economies is their relatively large dependence on international trade. This dependency is usually measured in terms of the ratio of exports, imports or exports plus imports to GDP.

A cursory look at international trade statistics would confirm the tendency that small economies tend to have a relatively larger foreign sector. The present author [3] has tested this relationship on a sample of 110 countries, using the Spearman Rank Correlation. The countries were divided into four main groups, according to income per capita as given in the World Development Report [32], so as to compare like with like in terms of stage of development. The results indicate that there is a statistically significant negative correlation between population size and foreign trade ratios for all per-capital groupings, indicating that the dependency on foreign trade tends to be bigger as the size of the economy becomes smaller. Other studies which have produced similar results or assumed a similar relationship include Chenery and Taylor [6], Chenery and Syrquin [5] and Kuznets [22].

One reason for such a higher dependence on foreign trade in small economies is their small land area. Small economies tend to lack natural resources, and hence their import bill tends to be relatively large when compared to the total final expenditure. In many of these countries, the drive towards industrialisation has given rise to a form of production with a relatively small value added content and a relatively large import content. In Malta, for example, imports account for about 45% of total final expenditure, and about 60% of imports are associated with industrial production.

Another factor influencing the size of the foreign sector is the small size of the domestic market. Small domestic markets cannot support efficient production in many industrial enterprises, and this forces small countries to expand their markets via exports of goods and services. Again taking Malta as an example, about 40% of total final goods and services are purchased by non-residents. It might strike one as odd that a country like Japan, normally associated with foreign trade, exports only 10% of its total final sales, whereas many small countries export over 50% of their final sales.

Is such a relatively high dependence on foreign trade a disadvantage? Most authors associate one principal undesirable effect of this characteristic, namely that it renders the countries in question too much exposed to what happens in the rest of the world, rendering them economically vulnerable to external shocks. They tend to reap huge benefits when the international market expands, but at the same time they lose more than proportionately when their "clients" pass through a recessionary phase.

A related problem is that the degree of openness of small economies gives rise to a relatively high degree of export instability. There is empirical evidence to suggest that larger economies tend to have more stable export receipts than smaller economies (see [26], [29] and [11]) although some authors have argued that the

reason for export instability in small economies may also be related to the types of products exported (see Helliener [13]). Many small countries depend on exports of primary products such as sugar, petroleum, ferro-nickel and alumina - and the prices of such products have a tendency to vary more than the prices of manufactured products.

The discussion on exports in small economies often focuses on merchandise exports. Some small countries however depend to a very large extent on export of services, particularly tourism. In Malta and Cyprus and in many Caribbean and Pacific islands, tourism plays an important role as a source of foreign exchange earnings and a generator of employment. Tourism is a volatile industry, since it depends on the whims and fancies of non-residents, which in turn depend on many non-economic factors outside the country's own control, such as changes in the political environment in the region, and changes in the financial interest of foreign tour operators and foreign airlines. For these reasons, earnings from tourism tend to be relatively unstable (see [7] and [31]).

#### **IV. Concentration on a Narrow Ranges of Goods and Services**

It has been observed that the industrial set-up and the export market of small economies tend to be concentrated on a few commodities (see for example [28] and [33]). A number of authors (see for example [25]) argue that this is the result of the size constraint. A small economy finds it difficult to support a large variety of industries requiring very large scale production or vast quantities of natural resources. Some small countries depend on one major primary industry, such as sugar, others on a few secondary industries such as clothing and electrical components, and others on tourism.

Thomas [33] has produced a table showing groups of exported goods which account for a very large percentage of exports of small economies. These groups include food, textiles, wood, chemicals and metal/machinery products. Thomas found that the degree of export concentration tends to increase as the economy gets smaller.

Bennathan [1] has tested the hypothesis that smaller economies tend to have a higher degree of export concentration than larger economies. He found that population size tends to be negatively correlated with an index of export concentration - suggesting that the smaller the economy the more it is likely to depend on a few exported products.

The consequences of too much dependence on a few products constitute serious disadvantages on the countries in question, most of all because of the dangers



associated with having too many eggs in one basket. Too much concentration on one or a few products may also lead to excessive fluctuations in export receipts. (See [20] and [27]). If demand for a particular product group changes, the country depending to a large extent on the exports of that product would be faced by a large decrease in its foreign exchange earnings and a large decline in its GDP. Such a decline would have serious consequences on employment as well.

## **V. Problems Related to Public Administration**

It is often argued that small economies face administrative disadvantages in view of their size. Jacobs [16],[17] lists a number of problems in this regard. These include:

- (a) small manpower resource base from which to draw experienced and efficient administrators
- (b) diseconomies of scale in public administration
- (c) certain specialized services cannot be economically predivided for a small population
- (d) the practices inherited from the colonial power have resulted in a top heavy public service, which was affordable under colonial rule, but which is very costly (though difficult to dismantle) for the small state itself
- (e) in small states people know each other well, and are often related to each other. This tends to work against impartiality and efficiency in the civil service and against a merit-based recruitment and promotions policy.

The question of the inability of small countries to reap economies of scale in administration merits special consideration. A small country, for example, cannot do with a fraction of a prime minister, and although the staff required in the Prime Minister's office would be small in a small economy, it is not always possible to work on the law of constant proportions.

Certain overhead costs in public administration cannot be proportionally divisible according to population size. The present author (see [3]) has analyzed the relationship between population size and the ratio of government current expenditure to total final expenditure using the Spearman Rank Correlation test. The exercise was applied to 110 countries classified into four divisions of per capital income as given in the World Development report. The overall tendency was that the government current expenditure ratio tends to decrease as the population size increases.

This aspect has also been treated in Butter [4]. He notes that the number of agencies, institutions and bureaus do not decrease proportionately with size, and that given

the fact that a government department requires a minimum size to operate, the number of clients per government department is relatively low, giving rise to a high average cost per client.

## **VI. The Special Problems of Small Island Countries**

Many small states are islands. These face the problems of smallness just described, but in addition they also encounter disadvantages because they are islands. In particular, islands tend to have more transport and communications problems, to be more prone to natural disasters and to be environmentally more fragile and then non-island states.

Islands are constrained to using air and sea transport only for their imports and exports. Land transport is of course out of the question, and this reduces the options available for the movement of goods and of people. Moreover, a number of islands are located in remote areas and are archipelagic, and this causes delays and unreliability in transport servicing. Producers in island economies are often forced to tie considerable capital in stocks of material and finished products to offset delays in delivery. As already noted, small economies tend to depend on international trade to a higher extent than larger ones, and the transport disadvantages just described therefore are of particular relevance to smaller economies because they affect a larger proportion of final sales.

However it is not just remoteness that effects transport costs. Many islands cannot exploit modern technologically advanced means of transport, since the relative small and fragmented cargoes required by such countries excludes them from the major sea and air transport routes [35].

Natural disasters in many islands are caused by a number of factors including hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions. In tropical areas, cyclones hit smaller islands with more intensity than larger land masses. Islands located in the oceans are quite often tips of submarine mountain ranges which have a high propensity to erupt into volcanic activity. These natural disasters often devastate the economy of island countries, and can wipe out entire villages and cultivable areas [36].

A related problem faced by islands is their environmental fragility. For example, if the predicted global warming were to materialise, many small islands states would face large land losses as a result of the rising of sea level. The requirements of economic development in islands, such as building coastal regions for the promotion of tourism, and using pesticides and fertilizers to improve agricultural yields,

tend to have a stronger negative effect on small island economies, where the ecosystem tends to be very fragile. An additional danger faced by many small remote islands is that their location renders them attractive for dumping of toxic and non-bio-degradable wastes, a requirement becoming increasingly important for the industrialised countries.

## **VII. Other Factors**

There are other factors which may be associated with small size. These include the extent to which the size of a country renders it more or less a price taker and therefore unable to influence its terms of trade [23], the constraints imposed by the inability to exploit technological advancement [23], the scarcity of expert personnel due to the small population from which such personnel can be drawn [25], the extent to which international aid and capital flows are directed towards small economies [13], the degree of welfare that small economies can enjoy in comparison to large countries [30], and the extent to which small states are politically vulnerable [8].

All these factors pose serious disadvantages on small economies. However, there is no evidence to suggest that small economies tend to grow at a slower rate than larger ones, or that GNP per capita in small economies is generally lower than in larger ones (see [8]). On the contrary, it has been shown that small countries have been among the most rapidly growing developing countries [2]. This would seem to suggest that there are compensating factors at work. One possible advantage enjoyed by small economies is that, as a result of their openness and small size, such economies tend to become increasingly specialised and competition becomes a way of life among their populations.

Some authors (See for example [2]) have noted that producers in small countries tend to be very flexible in their response to sudden changes as a result of the experience gained from having a large foreign trade orientation from the earliest stages of development. On the socio-political level, small countries tend to exhibit a high degree of cultural homogeneity, and everything else remaining equal, it is easier in small countries to reach a consensus regarding social and political issues.

However, the relatively good performance of many small economies in terms of economic growth and GNP per capita, should not be interpreted as a sign of economic strength. Small size is in itself a sign of a fragile and vulnerable structure, exposed to what happens in the rest of the world, and depending to a very large extent on developments outside its control. Many small countries have managed to grow and improve the standard of living of their population in spite of, and not because of, their small size.

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# **T**he World After the Malta Summit **Political and Economic Implications**

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## **I. Introduction**

The present paper will not venture into a thorough analysis of the historical data. After all, what is the use of venturing to analyse statements of statesmen and government officials made "at times under special circumstances", when a short run consideration is apt to upset any rough conclusion.

It is simply important that one should try and defect the overall outline and trends, the projection of events and consequences on the future - in other words the effect on the world of changes made, and what the new political and economic constellation of the world system actually is. Such a concept of the new status can lead to the confirmation of certain new parameters in the world system or of certain variables determining the margins within which countries and economies will function in the years to come. This system of new parameters and variables may restrict freedom of function, create a more monolithic international system with more sources of antithesis and conflicts than the system prevailing to this date.

A first interpretation could probably be represented by the approach that focuses on the internationalisation of productive forces, consequently a result of the function of modern technology and the main underlying force that has led to the break up of the bi-pole system.

Marx ascertained an undoubtful law , as I believe, in the prologue of his work "Introduction to the Critique of Political Economy", which was currently associated with ethnic societies. Now this law is found to be applicable on a nation-wide level.

The development of production forces (read: technology) has reached a point that cannot be endured by the prevailing organisation of productive relations (read: organisation of the international society in tight ethnic countries). Such a circum-

stance leads to a break up of productive relations and a new formulation which meets the new standard of the productive forces. It seems that we find ourselves at the beginning of this new historic phase that mankind has entered.

The 2nd and 3rd December 1989 summit in Malta between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev initiated the new developments. Despite the fact that there are no official records of the meeting besides the historic common press conference of the two Presidents on December 3rd 1989, it has become known that the meeting revolved around discussions (according to the US Foreign Secretary Mr James Baker) concerning the "peaceful and regulated transition of Eastern Europe from the old to the new political and economic order". Besides the processes of change in eastern Europe, other important discussions involved the relations between USA and the Soviet Union (especially economic relations), the policy on disarmament as well as matters affecting the environment.

In keeping with such a concept, the issues that were later dealt with involved the two Germanies and the mutual confrontation of the Iraq situation. However, it is clear that the Malta Summit marked the (a) establishment of pax americana involving the simultaneous (b) weakening of the Soviet Union and (c) EEC as well as the creation (d) of a unified Germany.

The present paper purports to present some theses for discussion on the formulation of the international political system and international economy subsequent to the Malta summit and the future developments.

## **II. Formulation of the International Political System Pax Americana**

The developments and events that followed the Malta summit seem to have established the monocacy of the United States as well as an excruciating route towards the dissolution of the last, to this date, historic form of "Russian Empire", as the latter had been formed after World War II under the communist regime in the Soviet Union. The end of the war in the Gulf finalises and establishes the US "chairmanship".

*1st Thesis:* Notwithstanding the establishment of the american monocacy in the new international political system, the political economic and social changes on an international basis shall not be of a single significance at this time would be so opportune. The political and ideological changes are already observed, the effects of which cannot be determined yet. The United States became established as the "international protector" and "god father to the world" without a rival. We may be up against the start of a way toward a unique centre of authority, a form of Universal

Government sought by Bernard Russel in the '50s (fifteens), however now implemented in an unorthodox manner: not as a government deriving from the operation of many countries, but as a mono-state government, i.e. a form of "international dictatorship". Parallelism to the "Athenian Alliance" in ancient Greece is striking.

*2nd Thesis:* In the ideological sub-pedestal of the new system the communist ideology is missing, whereas a big void still remains as regards the social utopia and the social aspirations of the world in the sun-set of the 20th and the dawn of the 21st centuries. The existence of, first, a "social vision" and second, an "ideological enemy", is the historically proven component of social consistency. Islam and the threat in the form of a new "pan-arabic unification", are not sufficient to offset the "communist threat", notwithstanding their particular prospects. The probable ideological content of Islam is of restricted, regional significance. International capitalism, besides the fact that if it comes out a winner in the conflict following World War II, has by now been accepted and cannot continue to be considered as "the enemy". Thus, there are no longer any "ideological enemies" or positive visions.

The 'now system' appears ideologically unfounded. Under the circumstances, there exists a void which history will soon seek to fill in.

*3rd Thesis:* The collapse of the "russian empire" in the Soviet Union via the Perestroika and the victory of the "allied forces" in the War in the Gulf, enable the american diplomacy to radically change the map of the world by establishing new states in the following area (for the time being): the Soviet Union itself, Eastern Europe, the Balkans-through the minorities issue stirring up the Middle East and the Arab World.

*4th Thesis:* The dissolution of the Soviet Union gives rise to two (2) principal questions.

First: Why has the dissolution occurred so suddenly and unexpectedly, how has it happened so fast and what is Gorbachev's role? Is he "saviour of his country and democracy" (sic) or "a servant of american interest"? It is an undoubted fact that behind the american campaign in the name of "democratic liberties" and "human rights", there hides sheer logic of political and economic interests. Why and how has Gorbachev played a role in this game? What was the target and what was the interest served, since perestroika itself included, structurally built in, the elements of dissolution of both the eastern european system and the strict soviet one? As time goes on, Gorbachev appears either as "superficial" "naive" and "hasty" or as "a national traitor".



Secondly: What are the "dissolution prospects" of the Soviet Union? It is historically documented that Russia played a historical role whenever its various nations were unified. Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Empress Catherine II, Stalin have been historical figures that united the peoples living in Russia under a despotic regime, each time creating a powerful "russian empire". It was therefore natural that the way opened up by Gorbachev should confront reactions on the part of the military and party establishment. Yeltsin is actually keeping up the Perestroika policy of the initial phase which was leading to dissolution. The way to dissolution will be stopped by either Gorbachev or the military, conservative establishment via another personality. Yeltsin is the very person who, voluntarily or involuntarily, eventually plays the american game: dissolution of the Soviet Union into small states, which is an anti-historical movement as well since the forces of globalization of the economic system lead toward elimination of national boundaries and ethnic states and aim at the creation of broader spaces of free traffic of man and goods.

In any case, the Soviet Union will no longer be able to play even a second part on a world-wide basis. The disarmament process, the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the ethnic issue which can only be solved either through complete political liberation and consequently, dissolution through dictatorship, and finally, total economic inability, lead the Soviet Union to a point where it will accept any term in order to survive. The United States will not take advantage, economy wise, of the vast Soviet Union market, before the US has been totally exhausted and politically subjected.

*5th Thesis:* The European Economic Community (EEC) is proceeding toward economic integration at the end of 1992 and, gradually, toward monetary and political integration thus threatening to become a great power in: first, the economic field through the admission of other countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well in several forms of co-operation (association, trade agreements, adhesion, etc) and second, the political field as long as the process of political integration is successful. There are already the third element active aspects of an integrated military or defence form by means of the West-European Union.

This is the target aimed by the economic aid and support programmes developed by the Commission of the European Communities toward Eastern Europe countries. Countries such as Germany, France and Italy have already been activated in this respect.

In such processes, there are certain inherent negative factors, first, the discerned formation in practice of a two-speed Europe; second, the unification of the two Germanies which has been effected unexpectedly though excluded in the Malta summit. This unification was promoted by the United States as a deterrent or

dissolution factor of the integration and strengthening of the European Communities. It is a reasonable and anticipated fact that a unified Germany will soon become the third economic power in the world after Japan. Such power will be expressed in the forms of political influence and is bound to constitute a point of reaction on the part of France and Great Britain. One has to keep in mind that there is a common plan with France as regards to the political integration of Europe, whereas Great Britain's attitude is negative, the United States supports Turkey to seek admission to the Common Market. At this stage, Turkey will be - if it is admitted into EEC - the only muslim member country. Given that Islam is transformed into an Ersatz of Communism (see 2nd Thesis above) and that it constitutes a powerful (not only religion wise but also politically) force in Turkey, the EEC acquires a potentially negative dissolving factor in its bosom.

It is obvious that the United States aims at a subjected regulated, not so powerful European Community, and is therefore doing its best in this respect. With a powerful Germany and Turkey as a member country, the process of monetary and political integration of the EEC grows weaker and is held back; of there are already signs. Undoubtedly, the wild attitude of the EEC with respect to the War in the Gulf has proven that, to this date, it has not been able to play a leading role despite Mr Delors's intentions and wishes.

*6th Thesis:* The dissolution of the Warsaw Pact exposes the matter of safety and further existence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The questions arising are: first, whether NATO will survive and what its objectives will be; second, whether Western Europe will acquire a defensive economy through the further development of the West Europe Union; third, what Germany's role will eventually be in this framework. Exclusion of Germany's armament does not necessarily exclude the possibility of its becoming a military power indirectly, for example through a "new" NATO or through the West-Europe Union.

On the other hand, certain trends towards NATO strengthening in lieu of transformation recently referred to by President Gorbachev as well as the Western accusations that the Soviets are by passing ECF agreement with respect to the decrease of land forces, clearly indicate that the matter of disarmament, European Security and military alliances has not been solved yet. NATO circles have once more been occupied by the matter of a new strategy according to which NATO will be accessible to Eastern Europe countries former members of the Warsaw Pact - this achieving isolation and weakening of the Soviet Union.

The said problem was raised after the Paris summit meeting of the Conference for the Security and Co-operation of Europe in November 1990 which indeed meant to be a step towards preparing a second Helsinki within two years. Two years are,

however, a very long period compared with the speed events take place in this period of mankind's history, so that, most probably, conditions will be much more different from what one can foresee now.

*7th Thesis:* It is a widely acknowledged fact that the UNO comes out of all these changes weak and incapable of playing a decisive role. The weakness of the Great Powers and the various country blocks are transferred into the very international organisation which is gradually led to the role of "legalizer"! It is quite characteristic that such a part was satisfactorily played by UNO in favour of the United States due to the weakness of the Soviet Union and China. UNO has never been an effective political organisation, yet in the post-war period it has been able to serve as a forum where the acuteness of international conflicts was mitigated. Now, UNO tends to become an instrument in the hands of a single Great Power, the USA, and it is a matter of dispute whether UNO will be able to play this role for long in the framework of Pax Americana. Assurance of world peace and security paces de facto into the hands of USA which will define its own terms in the formation of the "new order". No matter whether it may be an unpleasant prospect, yet it is one that seems to be dictated by reality.

*8th Thesis:* The way the War in the Gulf was realised and its end, leave no doubts as regards to, either the intentions expressed by certain leaders or the great economic interests involved. Though it may sound repulsive, it is true that the interests of peoples are the last thing heeded in the formulation of international issues. The folly of the 100 day war, the mathematically committed venture of Saddam Hussein, and the outcome of the War leave no query as to the confirmations already publicly made that the Iraqi President was urged to invade Kuwait by the USA so that the latter might be given the opportunity to establish itself in the area and create conditions enabling "settlement" of certain problems. Thus, splitting of the Arab world was first achieved, the Iraqi war machine which had been set up by the Americans was disassembled, the way to Israeli's recognition and a form of settlement of the Palestinian issue opened up, potential role for two regional powers in the area Iran and Turkey were created and the possibility was established of re-determination of "state boundaries" in that area in the form of split, unification, reshuffling or rearrangement. All these possibilities do exist as regards Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the Emirates. Some arab countries call Saddam Hussein a "traitor" and "an american agent". One or another, whether voluntarily or not, the Iraqi President plays a role with specific target: the control over oil and markets by the USA had been made sure of.

It would have been humanly impossible to capture Kuwait just like that and things remain unruffled.

It is difficult to predict developments in the Middle East. It is however clear that there will be radical changes and that the region will remain turbulent for a long time.

*9th Thesis:* It is premature to discern the changes which will take place in other parts of the world. Trends of reclassification and rearrangements are already observed in Africa whereas no evidence of such possibilities is noticed in Latin America or Asia. In Asia there are still local problems, such as the unification of both Koreas. However, China's future appears to involve greater problems. In this country, development too should be expected, as no regime will be able to survive in isolation.

### III. Economic Prospects

In this short passage, I would not like to indulge in the short term movements determined by the effects of the War in the Gulf on the world economy. There are indications that the War revived the war industry at an international level, and consequently national economies, especially those of the United States, as well as the rebuilding of Iraq and Kuwait.

Nor would I like to discuss the oil price issue which, in the short term, is bound to create problems at both economic and political levels. The new order of events has weakened OPEC so much that oil price eventual determination depends on purely political factors and on controlled political decisions.

Particular attention should also be paid to the matter of a new course of re-armaments which will favour the international economic conjuncture, but prevent a peaceful development in favour of social requirements. It is evident that this matter cannot be discussed under the present paper. At this stage it is more important to try and clarify the trends which will formulate the global economic system within the new political constellation. I would like to discuss certain points again in the form of theses subsequent to the enumeration applied in the preceding paragraphs.

*10th Thesis:* It is a widely acknowledged fact that the trend toward globalization is growing and becoming more intense. The antithesis between development of productive forces, on the one hand, and the global society in ethnic states, on the other - as has already been pointed out in the introduction to this paper - is growing more striking with time. The rapid development of technology, not only of the arms sector, eliminates state boundaries day in day out. This trend, which has been manifested through the establishment of EEC and is expressed in its present form through the target of monetary and political integration, besides economic integration towards the end of 1992; is interesting to notice that it is not repeated. No other regional market or integration has been successful. During the discussions of the

Uruguay Round, and the impasse they reached last December, obviously became the effort to maintain "blocks" in the desired formulation of national economies protection and defence systems. However, the economic war does not neutralise globalization, which continues to develop. It is important to note that the globalization process does not necessarily go through more as a solution to the problem of political and administrative organisation of broader sectors.

One may be able to discern that the political aspect of the globalization process is solved, at this stage, through the primary role of the United States in the framework of Pax Americana. The USA will "ensure" the operation of the elimination of state boundaries effected by subordinate governments. Ethnic states may, at this stage, still remain as subordinate organising units ensuring a necessary organisation consistence, while state economies will come under the global market as provinces and consequently as organic parts rather than foreign bodies. At this stage, it does not seem that the regional organisation of global economy constitutes to the immediate target of political or economic organisation beyond the EEC. The USA target is to keep EEC weak and confront the Japanese potential (see also 12th Thesis below).

*11th Thesis:* From now on, the development of technology will constitute the decisive factor in the formulation of global economy operation conditions. Production of technology becomes decisive in the capabilities to control the global system. The USA fully controls the said production, so do Japan and some Community countries. These three poles are epicentric of the "global economic authority". The USA dictates the political terms concerning operation of the global economic system. It is worth noticing that, even if Japan and EEC run technology wise ahead of the USA, the political control remains in US hands. Nevertheless, the promotion of military technology in the United States provides the latter with a clear start, the more so subsequent to the Soviet stagnancy in this respect.

Perhaps, it should also be pointed out that while the unification of Germany is a feather in the hat of the United States, first as a power to control the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and second, a dissolution element within the EEC, there is an evident fear that Germany may develop into a great power. Germany may be the undoubted focal point of probable anti-thesis within the global system of Pax Americana in the Future under formulation after the termination of the War in the Gulf.

*12th Thesis:* The EEC and Japan are given the opportunity to promote their economic progress and development unobstructedly in the future and, perhaps, even advance ahead of the USA as far as technology is concerned. After all, it is this factor that primarily, forwards the globalization process. Any antithesis in the US-EEC-

Japan triangle will remain as dominant factors, but the remarks in the 11th Thesis are still applicable.

*13th Thesis:* So far one can conclude that the dominant issue will concern the control over the new markets of the eastern European countries and the Soviet union. Primarily, then of Middle East countries and finally of China.

As far as the Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe countries are concerned, the process has already been initiated with the intense competition involved. At this stage, European countries move ahead, followed by the United States in timid steps and then by Japan in the systematic manner. The way out sought by the western system since 1970 through Willy Brandt's Ostpolitik and President Nixon's step to China is now realised under different conditions. Through a new Marshal Plan (so requested), economic programmes (EEC) and big investments (Japan) the infrastructure conditions will be established, setting a development process in motion as soon as the political aspects in such countries have been settled. It is, however, worth noticing that such developments may delay progress, whereas it is still considered quite unlikely that these countries may return to the old regime.

*14th Thesis:* The problem of the gap between North and South does not seem to be effected, for the time being, by the new developments; nor can it be foreseen what form it may acquire in the light of the new conditions. It is, however, clear that political control over the global system shall be a decisive factor. The countries of the South will be included in the global economic system without having any prospects of resistance or influence of processes. No matter how unpleasant it may seem, any economic development of third world countries shall be dependent on their own capacity to become trouble-makers as long as they are not able to control internal social turbulence. But if regimes of dictatorship can maintain political and social control, development of third World countries is not determined by the needs of their peoples but, directly by the interests of the North. The point is whether political forces in these countries can acquire bargaining power through a bargaining position deriving from the strong position of certain social forces. I will venture a fully cynical conclusion: the modern world does not actually need the third World countries as peoples; not even as man-power or a market.

"Theoretically", they could as well not exist at all. However, since the North cannot extinguish them, it finds and will always find solutions in subjecting them so that they may not cause any trouble. In the present phase, there is no serious source of "resistance" in the Third World, either in Latin America, Africa or even Asia. The problem of the Third World countries will eventually remain as the subject of discussion of small marginal circles of left-wing orientation, philanthropist and the church. Cynical as it may sound, yet the conclusion does not lie from reality.

#### IV. Some Tentative Conclusions

It is difficult, if not impossible, to draw more concrete conclusions beyond a tentative effort at approaching certain trends that can be discerned, as pointed out in the theses outlined above. Yet, it may be useful to try and indicatively locate the weak-points of the new global system as follows:

1. Antithesis between USA, on the one hand, and EEC and Japan, on the other.
2. Role and future development of Germany.
3. Formulation of the political system in the Soviet Union. Future form of the modern "russian empire" or dissolution.
4. Problems arising from the formulation of a new balance in the Middle East.
5. International ideological void.
6. Control over oil production and price.
7. Reactions from Third World countries and control over them.

Nevertheless, new "global" problems give rise to new social groups inside countries which will tend to express themselves in the form of political trends with international projections. Three problems of this nature can bring about such developments:

*First:* The problem of ecology which is now a dominant threat and leads to increasingly clear ecological movements.

*Second:* The problem of peace, which was reacted to with particular sensitivity on a global basis.

*Third:* The problem of immigration and minorities, which may be open to explosive developments in the future.

##### *Perspective Activity*

Coming to possible perspective activity, I feel that many items and many areas could be tackled, concentrating on the interlaced questions of underdevelopment, demographic growth, consequent migration waves from South and East to the North, with sound suggestions for consistent, locally rooted economic development in the non-Communitarian countries. It is a worthwhile field of research as, notwithstanding the strong statements, too many centres in Europe, including the enterprises, do not really accept out of fear of competition.

# **M**editerranean Social Sciences News

## **Cultural Symbiosis in Al Andalus**

An International Peace Research Association/UNESCO Project

### **The Project**

With the advent of the twenty-first century, humankind is witnessing transformations on all levels. One feature of this transformation is the impact of culture on different dimensions, such as development, international understanding, peace and a new economic order.

Parallel to this change, is an increase in two opposite poles: on the one hand, the rise in racism and intolerance, and on the other, the recognition of the necessity to work more systematically for peace in the minds of men, and to acknowledge the reality of an independent universal world.

Many may consider the conflicts in the Middle East as a sad example of inextricable conflicts. These conflicts are considered inextricable because perceptions and stereotyped images of the "other" override the positive elements that promoted and developed humanity.

However, it is only in the spirit and in the minds of men where lasting peace can be consolidated and, very likely, the recognition of a common heritage may help pave the way for a new collaboration among nations.

This peaceful, tolerant and fruitful coexistence between different regions and ethnic groups existed at various periods between the 9th and 13th centuries in Andalusia, Spain.

While Christians and Jews under Arab-Islamic rule did not enjoy the same status as Muslims, at different periods they were treated more advantageously than their own co-religious systems. Perhaps this explains why three diverse groups were able to contribute to the splendour of this era in such varied fields as philosophy, medicine, literature, music, astrology, astronomy and poetry.



Yet, there has been a marked tendency to sink into oblivion this cultural symbiosis. It is precisely this insensitivity towards history that motivates IPRA to bridge the past with the present, to offer one reality of the Ideal for Peace and tolerance under deeply heterogeneous conditions, such as Medieval Spain.

Indeed, there has been an increasing recognition all over the world that the human the HUMAN CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF PEACE should be further explored, that the cultural identity be looked into as a means to understand the diversity in human society.

Benito Perez Galdos literary hero, Santiuste; described this period as follows:

*Despite differences and rivalries, common roots and affinities were highlighted. They sought to establish a common culture that bypassed dogmatism and intransigence.*

*(Juan Gorytisolo, Chronique Sarracines, Fayard. 1981)*

In rejuvenating this cultural symbiosis, in restoring this period of multicultural collaboration, our tortured present may be healed towards a new era of peace.

This revival, this "Middle Ages Revisited" will illustrate us on how East interacts successfully with West.

"Under Caliph Abdul-Rahman II and Alfonso X, there was great tolerance under which scientists of different races and religions collaborated together," writes Juan Vernet in *What Culture Owes to the Arabs of Spain*.

This new society developed in Muslim Spain is viewed as a highly significant lesson in history from which we can derive key elements that are instrumental for building peace among various cultures and religions.

It is in this context that IPRA considers culture as a key resource in its work for peace and conflict resolution.

## Objectives

The main objectives of this research are **cultural and educational:**

- To develop a transnational dialogue that focuses awareness in the cultural creativity to peace.
- To encourage researchers and educators to direct their attention towards one common cultural heritage that binds humanity.
- To understand more deeply how different cultures have "borrowed" their genius

from each other at different times in history.

- To show how important it is for new generations to understand the role of respect and tolerance in peace building and international scientific cooperation for our present and future survival.

## **Targets**

### *Publication of Research Findings*

This book will be a compilation of the major research findings and will be directed to specialists in the field, peace researchers, social scientists and students in higher education institutions. It will be the product of the contribution of the Scholars Research Group.

### *Publication of a Book on Secondary Education*

This book will be adapted by a member of IRA's Peace Education Commission to secondary school education. It will concentrate on humanistic philosophy, art, literature, poetry, music, religion and architecture.

### *Publication of a book on Elementary Education*

A publication will put emphasis on tales and legends for young children. The daily interaction among peoples of different cultures and religions will also feature prominently. Through illustrations, it will attempt to reflect the subjective character of the people of this period. It will also seek to reveal social and domestic organizations, customs, traditional practices and values.

Initially these texts will be published in English. However, it is proposed to translate these books into Spanish, French, Hebrew and Arabic.

Through the UN family and through international educational associations, educators in the Arab-Islamic and Western countries will be encouraged to use these books in their countries' curriculum programmes.

IPRA's regional associations throughout the world, as well as its members in 70 different countries will also be instrumental in this process.

### *Television Programmes and other Media*

A cultural television programme and educational videos will be produced for the

use of school and other educational institutions.

### *Itinerary Museum*

Another important part of this research project is the preparation of an Itinerary Museum that could be hosted in different parts of the world. It will show, among other things, manuscripts, art, photographs, costumes, jewellery and various other items.

### **Meeting at UNESCO, Paris**

A first meeting was held in Paris in October 1990, to discuss the objectives of the project, funding and division of tasks. Three main items were on the Agenda. The first concerned the objectives of the project. It was agreed that the end result of the research project would be the publication of a scholarly book and books for young children. The source book will contain research undertaken by various experts in the field of architecture, literature, history, science, mathematics, fine arts, philosophy etc., relating to this historical symbiosis in the region of Andalusia between 8th 13th century A.D. Textbooks for children as well as an itinerary exhibition will also be prepared by IPRA members. Various researchers offered their assistance to seek funds for the project. Some expressed their wish to host one of the future meetings in particular the delegates from Guernica and Malta. The Paris meeting laid the foundation for the project. The different aspects of the project were discussed at length and a number of academic guidelines were agreed upon by all members.

### **Meeting in Cordoba, Spain**

A second meeting for all researchers was held in the beautiful and historic town of Cordoba convened by IPRA and Gemika Gogoratuz. This was inaugurated by the Major of the town Herminio Trigo. The Cordoba meeting had, as its primary objective, the discussion of the research so far undertaken by the researchers as well as the drafting of a plan of action leading to further meetings. The specialists in the various disciplines presented their research which was then discussed. Researchers came from Spain, Morocco, France, Egypt, USA, Portugal, Costa Rica, Lebanon, Tunisia, UK and Malta. In Cordoba the experience of cultural symbiosis, with its rich human dimensions and the complexity of its own philosophy, came together for the first time through the research presented. The specialist could thus sense the challenge of the symbiosis and the multiplicity of its insights for their own intrinsic value of their particular area of concern.

## **Meeting at Guernica, Spain**

This meeting, held in September 199 and hosted by "Gernika Gogoratuz" was a gathering of peace researchers to discuss the format the chapter leading to the specialists' research book should take. The contents and the layout of this chapter were discussed by the participants among whom was Dr Peter Wallensteen, a peace professor from Uppsala University. The volume containing the specialists' research, will contain almost one thousand pages and from the results so far undertaken, it transpires that it will be a scientifically valid reference work for higher education institutions and for school text books, exhibitions, and television programmes.

The Al-Andalus project, conceived almost four years ago by the Lebanese Sanaa Osseiran enters into a new phase; the coming together of the thoughts, the events, the interpretations, the views, the insights of the classical writers seen through the eyes of contemporary specialists and peace researchers. In a spirit of academic conviviality and friendship, the team of researchers is now ready to produce a synthesis of what has been thought and lived in the past within the context of the needs and responsibilities of future generations in their quest for peace among humankind.

The challenge for all researchers lies in understanding the spirit of Al-Andalus and in transmitting the message of peace through their scholarly efforts, to next generations.

## **UNESCO, Paris**

A fourth meeting was held at UNESCO in March 1992 to finalise the scholarly research undertaken by the various experts and to identify the objectives of the peace education manuals. An intensive three day debate took place over the papers presented. A number of amendements were suggested by the editorial board. Several recommendations were put for discussion over the format, the title and the production of the research book. This was followed by a discussion on the aims of the peace education manuals. Three books will be prepared for elementary and secondary education as well as a teacher's guide. The coordination of these publications is now in the hands of the Foundation for International Studies and of the University of Malta. A meeting for peace educators is scheduled for September 1992.

## Educating for Peace in the Mediterranean

A Foundation for International Studies/UNESCO Project

The Peace and International Education Programme of the Foundation for International Studies is planning to convene a Consultation on Educating for Peace in the Mediterranean in Autumn 1992. The following is a synopsis of the working document to be discussed during the meeting.

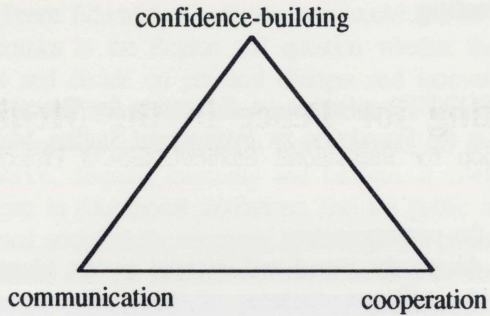
### Introduction

"The Mediterranean area, by virtue of its past and many of its present characteristics, is evidently a region where diversity does not preclude unity, and both are products of geography and history." (Samir Amin "Conditions for Autonomy in the Mediterranean" in *The Mediterranean* ed. Easyal Yachir, Un University, Zed Books Ltd., London.)

The challenge for the people of the Mediterranean region lies in coming to terms with the records of their history and with the design of a future dynamic policy for peace and development. It can be said that the Mediterranean region is made up of cultures rather than states, civilisations and not ethnic groups, systems and not organs.

The Christian, Jewish and Muslim Cultures have been the foundation for any system of government. Organically, they have been successful in any development and peace process that could have lasting effects. The main reason for this is that the Mediterranean region is fragmented into sub-regions dominated by prejudice, nurtured by ideological trends and interests. Meanwhile, the Mediterranean littoral lends itself to becoming the meeting point of technology and fundamentalism, justice and injustice, freedom and oppression, the strongest and the weakest, truth and ignorance.

Against this scenario, politicians continue to debate the future of the Mediterranean region. On the other hand, educators are in search of a strategy that could help build among present future generations of the North (Southern Europe), of the South (Northern Africa), of the East (Middle East) and the West (the Maghreb); three basic prerequisites for peace, namely, communication, cooperation, and confidence-building.



If one had to identify the problem of the Mediterranean, communication would feature prominently. For centuries, the commonalities of this region have been suppressed for various economic, social, and political reasons. Cooperation strategies have very often been imposed, forced and established out of sheer necessity. Consequently confidence-building could hardly take place. The 'Mediterranean Community' with its Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions has yet to appeal to popular consensual feelings that could trigger greater unity and a regional programme of concrete action.

Within these perspectives, a programme in education for peace could well bring the desired objectives of the realisation of the full potential of the inhabitants of this region within an innovative policy of development.

This project focuses upon the needs of present and future generations as the driving force behind any peace process that could be undertaken by the various countries of the Mediterranean. It will take geographical, historical, social and economic factors as conditions that have hindered or favoured peace-building; cultural and educational as factors that could promote solidarity, interaction and confidence. Yet, the two levels could well interact in such a way that each perspective will support one another.

The Malta meeting should therefore serve as a platform for educators from the Mediterranean region to air their views on a subject such as educating for peace in the Mediterranean. The time is ripe to create a long-term cultural dialogue on the education within the philosophy of positive peace conducive to communication (the fight against ignorance and prejudice), cooperation (the need for multi-lateral ventures) and confidence-building (the ultimate value of conviviality).

## **The Malta Meeting**

A three day UNESCO/FIS conference on **Educating for Peace in the Mediterranean** will be held at the Foundation for International Studies, Malta from the 5th - 7th November 1992.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to examine and discuss the formal and informal present educational sectors and systems within the different countries of the Mediterranean region and to consider and propose new practical models and directions within the aim of promoting individual, national, regional and world peace;
- to establish a Circle of Peace Educators and Scholars in the Mediterranean region. This circle will assume the responsibilities of consolidating, and where necessary, initiating peace education activities, and of phrasing and developing a long term strategy for peace education in the Mediterranean region. This circle will also liaise and collaborate with other peace institutes outside the Mediterranean.

The reasons for convening this conference are to promote, through education, human rights and fundamental freedoms, self and national development, the self determination of peoples, the equal dignity, oneness and interdependence of all peoples and nations, local, regional and global responsibility. These are all conducive to the building and maintenance of a culture of peace.

The Conference is, in its purpose and aims wholly in keeping with the objectives of UNESCO concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace, and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as expounded in a) the UNESCO Constitution of 1945, b) the UNESCO Educational Recommendation of November 1974, and c) UNESCO's Integrated Plan for Peace Education and Human Rights Teaching (1990-1995) to implement fully the 1974 Educational Recommendation.

While the Conference will focus on the Mediterranean region, in its ideals and objectives it is to be considered a continuation of the UNESCO meetings such as: Vienna Congress on Human Rights Teaching (1978); the Paris Intergovernmental Conference on Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education Relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, [with a View to Developing a Climate of Opinion Favourable to the Strengthening of Security and Disarmament] (1983), the Malta Congress on Human Rights Teaching, Information and Documentation (1987) and the Yamoussoukro International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men (1989).

During the Malta Peace Education Conference we would like to examine the present educational climates in the Region and question whether these are promoting peace, and discuss and decide on practical changes and innovations. We need to study to what extent our formal and informal educational sectors and systems are responsible for the conflicts and injustices that surround us, and for the passive acceptance of violence, disunity, insecurity and fatalism. It is of vital importance that we give students in educational institutions, and the public at large, the vision and the personal and social skills necessary to change the present situation in the Mediterranean Region. All the region and the international community at large would greatly benefit if we succeeded in building an education that bridges the gaps between our proclaimed ideals, legal obligations and the actual turbulent state of affairs. Indeed, our greatest hope in reversing the culture of war to a culture of peace, lies in education.

### **Peace Study Circle**

During the Conference we would like to set up a **Peace Study Circle** that will work towards the advancement of peace in the region including the Middle East.

Confidence, communication and cooperation between the Mediterranean countries are essential in the promotion of a culture of peace. The Circle will be responsible for peace research and education. The wide dissemination of scientific information and of the practical results and experience of peace research are of paramount importance in this regard. The Circle will be involved in dialogue and collaboration in all aspects of peace building (educational, socio-economic, legal, environmental, etc.) The Circle shall liaise with other regional and international peace institutions.

Starting with members who are directly involved in formal education, it is hoped that eventually, membership in the **Mediterranean Peace Study Circle** will extend to include persons from the different academic disciplines and professions and from all walks of life. Networking between the United Nations' bodies and agencies, the different Mediterranean countries, non-governmental organisations and the general public are envisaged as future activities of the Mediterranean Peace Education Circle. The Circle will define essential points of convergence in the Mediterranean region on which practical educational programmes can be planned, as well as analyse and research major points of divergence and hopefully devise educational programmes for their solution.

We would like the Peace Education Circle to meet on a regular basis and to concentrate on educational activities both of a general and of a specific nature.

To promote regional and international understanding the Peace Education Circle



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*Educating for Peace in the Mediterranean*

- could launch concrete projects. Here are a few tentative suggestions:
- A Peace Education Manual for Journalists.
  - The writing of a Mediterranean History book giving due importance to Mediterranean geological formation and prehistory. This book will take into consideration new developments in anthropology, psychology and sociology, and international relations and will discuss the human potential for peaceful co-existence.
  - A collection of Mediterranean poetry, tales and legends.
  - The writing of a book on Mediterranean traditions and festivals.

The Malta Conference is being held at a particularly important time in the history of the Mediterranean. On the one hand out of the Gulf crises, the proposal to convene a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) has emerged as a concrete way of solving the problems of this region. On the other hand, the end of the Cold War has shelved the North/South 'rapport' to the detriment of the developing countries on the shores of Africa and the Middle East.

With the increased awareness for greater communication, closer cooperation and the building of trust among Mediterranean countries, this project can be seen as a tangible contribution to a new dialogue among the present and future generations of this area of the world. The Mediterranean region is growing in population but in many ways decreasing in wealth and opportunities. Now is the time to build a solid ground to come together, to share our ideas, to propose new visions, to set targets, to work for clear objectives.

Education plays a vital role in this process. It could strengthen the already existing cultural and social ties; it could help young people tap the right resources, retreat into their cultures and traditions, find the conditions that favour peace and remove those that hinder development.

These challenges are of paramount importance. But they are to be met. The task at the Malta Conference is to identify a broad Mediterranean philosophical framework upon which the defences of peace could be built through education.

*James Calleja*

*For further information please write to Dr James Calleja, Executive Director of the Foundation for International Studies. Short communications on the topic and participation is most welcome.*

## **A**nnouncements

### **The Social Development of Southern Mediterranean Countries in Relation to European Unity and Crisis**

The Foundation for International Studies  
in collaboration with  
The Department of Public Policy of the University of Malta.

Aula Magna, Valletta - Malta  
28 - 31 January 1993

Non-EC Countries in the Mediterranean region are faced with the prospects of a single internal market which may not give sufficient and sustained attention to its relationships with non member states. This sphere of a "new European order" has raised visions of marginalisation from the large and lucrative market of a unified Western Europe. If such marginalisation arises, countries outside the EC, but nevertheless strongly dependent for their socio-economic development on EC flows, may find themselves in sudden serious jeopardy.

This issue can be explored from various aspects in the field of the Social Sciences; political, socio-cultural and demographic primarily, though not excluding the economic aspect.

#### **The Political Aspect**

This situation presents the need for more collaboration between countries within the Mediterranean Basin. Such collaboration should reach not only economic levels, but also political ones. As an example we can mention that development is often hindered by political issues such as sanctions, border conflicts, when in overcoming such barriers would be the key for development.

#### **The Socio-Cultural Aspect**

On the socio-cultural level, the Mediterranean presents common elements which can serve as basis for solidarity between countries in the region. This solidarity can be concretised in stricter forms of co-operations which are as yet untapped.

#### **The Demographic Aspect**

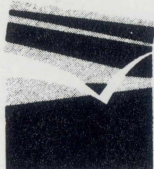
The promotion of Even Development throughout the Mediterranean basin serves to maintain the human resources which these developing countries, in particular, are much in need to preserve. The alternative scenario could be one of migrant workers forced to accept substandard working conditions in host countries, which conditions do not promote full human development.

Those who are interested in participating in this meeting or would like to present papers on the subject are to send an abstract of their presentation and a C.V. to Ms Rose Anne Zammit, Research Assistant by mail, Foundation for International Studies, St. Paul Street, Valletta VLT 07, Malta; fax (0356) 230551 or telex 1673 FOUND.

*Announcements*

## **International Ocean Institute**

**20th Annual International Conference  
Malta, November 1 - 5 1992**



### **PACEM IN MARIBUS XX** **Ocean Governance:** **A Model for Global Governance** **in the Twenty-First Century**

#### **Conference Agenda**

##### **Sunday 1 November**

- 10.00 Inauguration of the Exhibition 'From Grotius to the Contemporary Law of the Sea'  
18.00 Plenary Session: Key-note Address on the Common Heritage of Mankind, 21st Century

##### **Monday 2 November**

- 10.00 Plenary Session: Key-note Address on World Order in the 21st Century  
14.30 Working Group I: Energy.  
Working Group II: Food.  
Working Group III: Atmosphere.

##### **Tuesday 3 November**

- 10.00 Plenary Session: Key-note Address on World Order in the 21st Century  
14.30 Working Group IV: Outer Space.  
Working Group V: Science and Technology.

##### **Wednesday 4 November**

- 10.00 Reports of Working Groups, followed by Discussion and Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations  
15.00 Closing Session: Key-note Address: Humankind as a Subject of International Law. Official closing of Conference.

**For further information, contact:**

Anna Mallia, Coordinator - PIM XX, International Ocean Institute  
P.O. Box 524 Valletta, Malta  
Tel: (+)356(-)236596. Fax: (+)356(-)247594. Telex: 1946 OCEANS MW

Training Workshop on  
**ASPECTS OF MARINE  
DOCUMENTATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**23 - 26 November 1992**

**Valletta, Malta**

**Organised by**

The Documentation Centre, Foundation for International Studies, Malta  
Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Marine Contamination Hazards, Malta  
All - Union Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography of Russia  
**and supported by**

The International Ocean Institute, Malta and the  
Co-ordinating Unit/Mediterranean Action Plan, UNEP, Athens

**Purpose**

To evaluate experiences with regard to the system of collating, documenting and disseminating marine pollution, and protection materials in the Mediterranean region. The workshop will also deal with both publications and non-print materials and will discuss perspectives for the future.

**Structure**

The four-day programme consists of seven sessions and three workshops which will discuss and analyse the following three main topics: Documentation aspects including data base system, aspects of marine environmental legislation, threatened marine species and protected areas. Working groups will meet simultaneously and present their conclusions and recommendations at the closing Plenary Session.

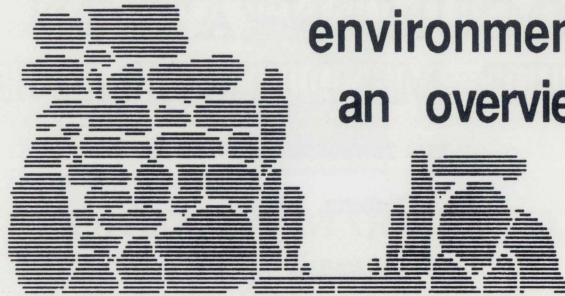
**Conference Location**

Aula Magna, Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta, St. Paul Street, Valletta, Malta.

**Enquiries**

Mr Damian C. Iwueke, Librarian,  
Foundation for International Studies at the University of Malta,  
St. Paul Street, Valletta, Malta.  
Tel: 0356-234121/2, 224067.; Fax: 0356-230551.; Telex: 1673 FOUND MW.

Training Seminar  
the  
mediterranean  
environment:  
an overview



Valletta - Malta 9 - 13 September 1992

Organised by the Mediterranean Environmental Management & Training Network,  
International Environment Institute

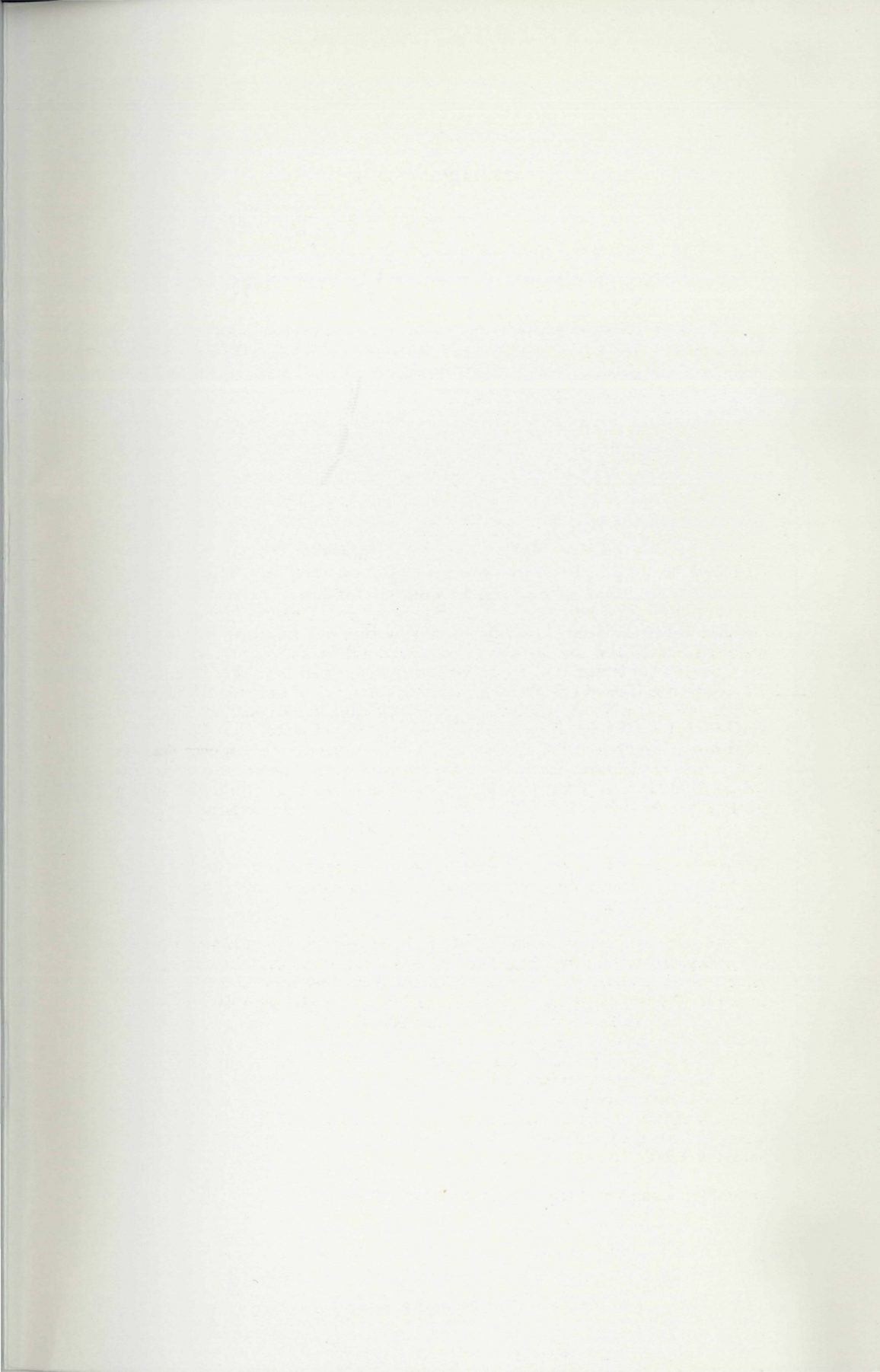
The Mediterranean is a unique region. It is the only remaining remnant of an ancient ocean that once circled the globe. It is fully enclosed by land, and the largest such sea. The interaction between land and sea is more pronounced and fundamental than for any other ocean or sea - this interaction drives the Mediterranean circulation and shapes its hydrology. The climate type is characteristic and only found in a few parts of the world. Mediterranean habitats are shaped by the climate, and are equally characteristic, while the biota, both terrestrial and marine, includes many forms endemic to the region. The shores of the Mediterranean have been settled since the earliest of times and the region is often described as the cradle of civilisation. Currently the Mediterranean littoral includes some of the most densely populated areas of the world. Human impact on the environment is intense and key problems include: deforestation, erosion, urbanisation, pollution of the terrestrial and marine pollution, eutrophication and destruction of wildlife and habitats.

This course is designed to give an overview of the Mediterranean environment, both natural and human, and discusses the geophysical and biological characteristics of the region as well as its special problems.

An interdisciplinary approach is adopted which should be particularly attractive to university undergraduates, especially those following courses in geography, Mediterranean studies, the natural sciences, planning and management. The course sessions are:

- Session 1 The physical setting (geography, geology, geomorphology, soils and water resources of the Mediterranean littoral)
- Session 2 Mediterranean geopolitics
- Session 3 Mediterranean climate and weather
- Session 4 Mediterranean habitats and biota
- Session 5 Marine ecology
- Session 6 Human impact on the Mediterranean environment
- Session 7 The human population
- Session 8 Social economic aspects.

In addition a number of sites of special interest will be visited.



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