



Argentina Faces the 21st Century

Thoughts, Policies and Actions

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Comments to the document

“The Impact of Globalization: Opportunities and Challenges for Glocal Development in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean”

by Giovanni Bressi

1. The new international scenarios and Generation 2000

There are some historic circumstances in which a generation must assume the responsibility of defining lines of action upon which a country or region should respond to the challenges inflicted by the transformations of its time.

Currently, Argentina faces four challenges: to recover economic growth after the lost decade of the 80's and the recession of these years; to materialize and consolidate the process of integration to the Mercosur; to define its insertion in a world that is experiencing a deep transformation process as a consequence of a technological and productive revolution; and simultaneously, to achieve the reconstruction of social justice principles that allow its people to share the wealth they help to create.

The substantial modification of the scientific and technological contents upon which the organization of production is based constitutes a true revolution and also promotes, stipulates and it is a part of deep repercussions of economic, social, cultural, educational and political dimensions in every area and country, and their interrelations.

Education, labor, technology and production are the factors that interact to determine the social and economic performance of countries, in a time in which the basic paradigms are in full transformation.

These factors are not conceived in a causal sequence but active interrelations in which each factor constitutes input and output, conditioner and stimulus, cause and consequence of the others, on a temporal horizon that does not end at present time but should be extended towards the determination of its effects over time.

These concepts that are applicable to the whole country impose specific requirements to respond to the heterogeneous situation of each province, and even to the different regions inside them, particularly if the goal is to construct an economically, socially and politically balanced country.

At the same time, they determine the new scenarios and the framework for decision making and define some premises to be considered, which will be stress out subsequently. Generation 2000 has similar historic responsibilities to those tackled at the end of the 19th century by Generation 1880. Its involves the political, business, university and social leaders.

If, to survive these challenges, the businesses must resort to their strategic programming, it is inconceivable that countries limit themselves to a thoughtless activism in the current situation. This is supposedly justifiable because the urgencies of the immediate problems do not allow for project evaluation, while, quite the contrary, it is the lack of a Project what enslaves us to the urgencies.

This lack of strategic and prospective vision includes the abandonment of our thinking about the territory, infrastructure, education, science, technology, health and the determination of the productive and occupational profile that we can build based on what we are and what we have.

Nothing is clearer to show the cost of such lack of foresight, nothing more categorical, than the high current unemployment rates and the financial and economic difficulties in a country whose natural, technical, human and productive resources should allow it to aspire to other horizons of growth and welfare.

From a political perspective, it is necessary to recover the capacity of orientation for the elaboration and design of a Project of federal country, able to motivate hopes and promote commitments. As a country, and as a society, we must promote the debate about the main subjects of our current configuration, of our future perspective and of the country's project we aim at. To build a COUNTRY'S PROJECT involves to debate its orientations and priorities; to determine the way of its continental integration; and, to incorporate the current changes, update the permanent values that not only have not lost its validity, but rather have become more current than ever at this stage of transformation the human society is experiencing.

There are words and concepts that have lost their significance and social value, having been worn down by corruption, arrogance, submission and impunity. Social responsibility, the vocation to serve, commitment, Homeland and People seem like expressions of the past when, in reality, constitute the instruments for the ethical transformation of the society, for the recovery of a country that have forgotten its past, and, as a result, for the rebirth of a Nation that is today disoriented.

Currently, an intense and generalized transformation process is developing so it is possible to recognize an inflection point at which every aspect of reality could be modified, as has occurred in other moments in

history, and it forces the current generation to pose itself some of the more important definitions for the future of Argentine.

The proposal is not utopian, if utopia is perceived as a dream. The proposal is to recover the epic, which is a utopia that is built upon everyday work.

2. THEMATIC CORE OF A PROJECT FOR THE XXI CENTURY

ARGENTINA IN THE WORLD

- Globalization, integration and local development
- MERCOSUR and ALCA: Political project of economic and social development
“Free Trade Agreement” of goods
- Strengths and weaknesses of Argentina to its insertion into the global scene
- Generation 1880 and generation 2000

NATIONAL OUTLINES

- The State as leader and promoter of development with social justice
- Regulation as guarantee of the market and real competition
- Economic and social cost of short-term without a Project
- Domestic Market or Export: a false disjunctive
- The educational, scientific and technological systems as a strategic factor in the society of knowledge
- Domestic as space for development
- The new role of the Municipality: from traditional services to leading and promoting development

THINKING AGAIN OUR TERRITORY

- The oceanic bridge between Eastern and Western
- The South American Union: a requirement of survival
- Infrastructure, transport, energy y communications for a balanced country
- Riachuelo–Matanza Basin, backbone of Buenos Aires of the future

SOCIAL AND INSTITUCIONAL PROTAGONISTS

- Aiming at a new business culture
- Micro, small and medium businesses, part of development history and of the new configuration of productive networks
- Businesses facing the challenge of systemic competition
- Labor, income distribution and social needs
- The financial system as a productive development tool

- Emergency programs and social control

PRODUCTIVE PROJECT IN ARGENTINA:

- Barn and shelf
- Organic Products for a growing demand
- Argentina with mining, the Andes´s wake up
- Patagonia, the energy of the future
- Regional Economies, exploitation of diversity
- Tourism, the landscape and the culture as an opportunity
- From timber-woods to an integrated ecosystem
- Intelligence and creativity as product
 - Biogenetics
 - Software
 - Medical Services
 - Atomic Energy

ARGENTINA: past, present or future: nostalgia, resignation or hope

CHART OF TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS

	AREAS	1750	1880	1973
1	Innovations	Steam Coal	Steel Electricity Internal explosion engine Oil Cold	Microelectronics Robotics Genetics New Materials
2	Hegemony	England	USA Germany USSR	European Union NAFTA Southeastern Asia MERCAOSUR
3	Argentina´s Role	Political emancipation Free exchange War with Paraguay	Barn of the world	
4	Organization of Production	Mechanization Work division	Assembly line Technological indivisibility	Flexible automatization "Just in time" production Total quality
5	Productive Units	Factory	Vertical Integration of business	Externalization Virtual Businesses Productive Nets
6	Economical Logic	Standardization	Big scale production	Small series High product rotation
7	Type of Industrialization	Light industry	Heavy industry	Industry of variety
8	Consumption	Standardized	Massive	Personalized
9	Labor Relations	Hireling Individual contract	Syndicalism Collective negotiation	Unemployment De- Syndicalism

				Flexibilisation Multipurpose
10	Employment	Predominance of agriculture	Industrial employment	Services, the last resource
11	Role of the State	Guardian State	Welfare State	State as leader and promoter of development
12	Political Structure	Leadership of enlightened elite	Big political parties	Social commitment
13	Economic Market Structure	Free trade	Imperfect competition as a consequence of technological indivisibility	Continue renovation due to monopolist advantages of high rotation products
14	Income Distribution	Salaries	Salaries and social security	Direct distribution Social exclusion
15	Education	Scholarship Standardization	General coverage Specialization	Static and elementary Adaptation capacity to dynamic technology
16	Population Distribution	Rural Migrations: from the country to the city	Big intercontinental immigrations	Population redistribution Telematics and territory
17	Geoeconomic and political configuration	Colonial territories	State-Nation	Regional Communities Globalization Local space