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## **THE GROUPS THAT MODEL THE PLANET**

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### **Abstract:**

Terra was inhabited by several successive civilizations, a theory developed by us in a self-contained work.[2] All decisions made on Earth for the evolution of these successive civilizations belonged to groups of initiates (generic name) who modeled the development of these civilizations and of the present Humanity or Humanity, alone or in contact with other alien civilizations. This paper briefly presents several groups of countries that, along with the human groups of initiates (Bilderberg, the US External Relations Council, the Frankfurt Group etc.), shape the current human evolution on our planet.

*Key words: G8, G20, G30, international relations, international political economy, macroeconomic impacts*  
*JEL Classification: F50, F53, F55, F62*

### **1. Brief History of the G8**

The Group of Eight (G8) is an international forum of governments of economically, technologically and militarily developed countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America and Russia. Together, they, although accounting for about 14% of the world's population, account for 60% of global gross domestic product. They also account for about 72% of the world's military spending, and four of the eight, i.e. France, Britain, Russia and the USA, hold over 95% of the world's nuclear weapons. The main area of activity of the G8 is the world economy.

The G8 had as a precursor the Seventh Group (G7), consisting of G8 countries without Russia. On March 2, 2014, after Russia's involvement in the conflict in Ukraine, participants from the seven industrialized countries (without Russia) and the EU representatives suspended their participation at the Sochi Summit and instead met at Brussels in the G7 format, effectively excluding Russia from this group. According to the official press release: "In these circumstances, we will not participate in the Summit planned to take place in Sochi. We will suspend our participation in the G-8 until Russia changes course". After 2014, the G8 effectively comprises seven states and the EU as the eighth participant.

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## 2. Brief History of the G20

The Group of Twenty (G20) is a leading forum of major economies in the world who are trying to develop global policies to address the most pressing challenges today. The G20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The 19 countries are in alphabetical order: Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, South Korea, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, Turkey, and the United States. It is a Global Forum for Financial and Economic Cooperation, whose members account for 85% of world economic output, two thirds of its population, 80% of global investment and 75% of international trade.

Spain is a permanent guest at the G20 meetings. Each year, the country holding the G20 Presidency also invites other countries to participate: in 2018, for example, Argentina invited Chile and the Netherlands. The GDP of the G20 member states, plus that of Spain, is about 64,000 billion dollars. Populist governments now control 41% of this GDP [3]

In 2007, before the crisis that marked Mankind, 2008-2014, the percentage stood at only 4%. Democratic parties have managed to manage as much as 32% of G20 GDP in 2017, down sharply from 83% in 2007. Authoritarian regimes control 24% of G20 GDP. China accounts for almost 19% of G20 GDP, up from 8% a decade ago.

Countries that preside over regional groups - such as the African Union (AU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) are generally invited to the summit. In 2018, these regional groups are represented by Rwanda, Singapore, and Senegal, respectively. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was also invited by Argentina to participate in the G20, with CARICOM being represented by Jamaica.

## 3. The origins of the G20

The G20 was born at a 1999 meeting of the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors of the main states of the world, who felt that a wider, broader body would be needed to have a stronger impact on addressing the financial challenges of the world. The G7 invited the main markets - both developed and emerging - to form a new ministerial forum, called the G20 - the rich countries' group and emerging economies of the planet.

In 2008, the first year of the global financial crisis, the world needed a new consensus to build new paths of evolution at the highest political level. Since then, the G20 summits have been assisted by heads of state or government, and the G20 has helped stabilize the world economy. Since then, its agenda has expanded to include additional issues affecting financial markets, trade and development.

**The G20 Presidency** is occupied one year by one of the 19 member countries of the group. Because the G20 has no headquarters or permanent staff, the G20 Presidency hosts the meetings and plays a leading role in agenda setting and in strengthening consensus among members.

In order to broaden the scope and impact of the G20 and to ensure the focus of global discussions, leaders such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) are invited to take part. The G20 aims to enrich its agenda and decision-making annually, relying on prospects and expertise outside the governments of member countries. Therefore, the G20 uses the expertise of groups of civil society organizations from G20 countries representing different sectors of society. Each helper group is independent, being chaired by a national representative who promotes a set of recommendations before the G20 annual summit.

The current G20 help groups are: Business (B20), Civil Society (C20), Work (L20), Science (S20), Think Tanks (T20), Women (W20) and Youth (Y20).

## 4. Meeting agenda G20

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Annually, the G20 members have more than 50 Ministerial Meetings meetings (those of Foreign Ministers are known as Sherpas), central bank governors and member countries' leaders. The cycle of each year's agenda culminates with a summit of leaders attended by Heads of State or Government, where a joint statement on the policy of the G20 throughout the year is given to the public. The G20 activity is generally divided into two directions: a) the financial one, which includes all meetings with the G20 finance ministers and with the governors of the respective central banks. Multi-annual meetings all over the year focus on financial and economic issues such as monetary, fiscal and foreign exchange policies, infrastructure investments, financial regulation, financial inclusion and international taxation; b) Meetings called "Sherpa", focusing on wider issues such as political involvement, anti-corruption, development, trade, energy and climate change, gender equality, etc. Each G20 country is represented at these meetings by its relevant minister, as well as by a specially designated emissary named Sherpa, who is committed to planning, negotiating and applying the country's respective duties on behalf of the country's leader. Each Sherpa directs his minister and head of state or government to dialogue and relevant issues.

For example:

### **Hangzhou Summit (2016)**

Leaders agreed to extend the role of the G20 to establish global co-operation on tax evasion and to promote international collaboration as well as to facilitate cross-border green-house investment.

### **Summit in Hamburg (7 July 2017)**

At this summit, world leaders agreed to limit protectionism, engage in a rule-based international trading system, and promote policies that share the benefits of globalization.

US President Donald Trump had two meetings with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin confirmed a White House official [4] The former was widely reported at the time, but the second one remained secret. The second conversation between the two took place during a dinner for the Heads of State participating in the Hamburg event, said Ian Bremmer, chairman of the Eurasia Group political risk consulting firm, the first to reveal the existence of that dialogue in a note to customers. Shortly after the press agencies mentioned the second meeting between the two heads of state, the White House minimized its importance: an official said it was "just a brief discussion." He said that Trump and Putin used the services of the Russian translator, as the translator who accompanied the American president did not know the Russian language. Television shows at the dinner show that beside Vladimir Putin was Melania Trump, wife of the President of the United States. Bremmer said Trump stood up at the dinner table and talked for half an hour with the Russian President, "privately and animated," assisted only by Putin's translator. Bremmer also maintains that the absence of an American translator wondered the participants at the dinner and constituted a violation of the national security protocol.

### **The Summit of Argentina (2018)**

Among the priorities of the dialogue were the following: sustainable food for the future, infrastructure for development, the future of human work, etc. The technological changes taking place on the planet are extraordinary in their magnitude and speed. The emergence of new technologies has led to the development of new forms of work, which are rapidly changing production processes around the world. This offers huge opportunities to achieve equitable and sustainable development; however, it also presents challenges that put pressure on employment, welfare and education agendas. Political responses must ensure that accepting technological change will not lead to exclusion, social disintegration or reaction. Providing these responses in a coordinated way will also help prevent excessive gaps in the adoption of modern technologies by all countries, leading to increased inequalities between these countries.

Conditions are needed for more and better jobs. We need to provide tools and skills for those people who are looking for a job and those whose jobs are at risk of being replaced by automation. We should explore global initiatives to ensure that everyone has the chance to develop their full potential,

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Every year, when a new country takes over the presidency (Argentina in this case), it works closely with the previous Presidency (in this case Germany) and the next presidency (Japan) in what is collectively known as the Troika. This is necessary to ensure the consistency and continuity of the group agenda.

The G20's trade-related tensions can only be resolved by the countries directly involved, Argentine finance minister Nicolas Dujovne, chairman of the G20 finance ministers meeting in Bali, Indonesia, said on 13 October 2018 in the margins of the annual meeting the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank: "We recognize that we are facing trade tensions among G20 members, but the institution can only provide a platform for discussion. The persisting differences must be resolved by the Member States that are directly involved in tensions," said Nicolas Dujovne, not to mention the US or China directly. In the first week of July 2018, the US and China, the first two major economies of the world, introduced mutual customs tariffs for \$ 34 billion in imports, Beijing accusing Washington of triggering the worst trade war in history. Subsequently, other products imported from China were also targeted.

Tensions have affected the global financial markets and raised fears that protectionism will affect the growth of the global economy. The Argentine Finance Minister warned that the advance of the global economy is slowing down because of the factors that jeopardize expansion: "In terms of tensions, we agree that international trade is a major driver of economic growth. That is why we have to resolve commercial disputes that can negatively affect confidence and increase volatility in financial markets," Nicolas Dujovne said.

### **5. Brief History of the G30**

Twenty-four hundred years ago, the Thirty-Three Group led Athens for 13 months in an oligarchic and abusive way, killing and exiling those who did not support them. In spite of the democratic principles established in Athens four years before his trial, Socrates was sentenced to death and forced to drink a cup of poison, accused of three serious things: not recognizing the gods of the city, introducing new gods and corrupting the youth.

Set up in 1978, the Group of Thirty (G30) is self-writing as "a non-profit international private organization". According to the presentation on the institution's website, its mission is "to develop solutions for improving economic and financial stability".

The G30 is an advisory group of important bankers, legislators and economists. Among the members of the G30 are the current ECB President, Italian Mario Draghi, his counterparts from the Central Bank of Canada, Central Bank of Canada and Central Bank of China, Zhou Xiaochuan, as well as reputable economists such as Nobel Prize laureate for Economics, Paul Krugman and former IMF chief economist Kenneth Rogoff.

Among the members of the G30 are the presidents of several commercial banks, such as Jacob A. Frenkel of JP Morgan, and his Swiss counterpart, UBS, Axel Weber. Both banks have Eurozone divisions that are directly supervised by the ECB.

Mario Draghi has been a member of the G30 since 2006, when he was Governor of the Central Bank of Italy. ECB vice-presidents Vitor Constancio and Sabine Lautenschlaeger also spoke at the G30 meetings and their discs were published on the ECB's website.

Between 2003 and 2011, the Chief Executive Officer of the G30 was Jacob Frenkel, former governor of the Central Bank of Israel. On November 22, 2011, the former president of the European Central Bank, Frenchman Jean-Claude Trichet, was named president of the G30, saying: "It is a moment with extraordinary challenges for the global economic and financial system, and the G30 will continue to make important contributions to policy debates and to improving understanding of the paths for stability and growth". When President G30 was Jean-Claude Trichet, former president of the European Central Bank, G30 president of honor was Paul Volcker, former president of the Federal Reserve in the 1980s.

### **6. G30 Study on Banking Policy of QE**

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Quantitative Easing (QE) means pumping large sums of money into the banking market to facilitate money liquidity in that market and thus financial stability. In September 2015, the G30 specialists devised the "Fundamentals of Central Banking: Lessons from the Crisis" study that "the policies pursued by central banks since the start of the crisis (2008-2014 - ) have essentially contributed to restoring an apparent financial stability "[7] The study states that "the highly vigorous reactions of major central banks" aimed to "restore financial stability", but also to "stimulate aggregate demand". As regards the first objective, it is estimated that "it has been largely achieved", but "the economic recovery has been hampered by the high level of debts and imbalances in the pre-crisis period."

QE stimulation programs did not work at promised parameters due to "unusual uncertainty about the future of fiscal and monetary policies," as shown in the G30 study. Moreover, uncertainty can be "accentuated by unprecedented policies that could be considered desperate."

The study conducted under the auspices of the G30 also shows that while "the long period of ultra-weak monetary conditions did not generate the inflationary expectations expected by many", it "could have contributed to the misallocation of real resources in the economy, thus reducing potential output and causing unsustainable growth of the prices of financial assets ".

Most opinions seem to indicate the need to abandon current monetary policies," but "assessing possible exit scenarios shows major concerns about further economic stability," the analysis said. One of the major issues is the very large debts, "which can not be paid in certain cases." Under these circumstances, "the implicit natural position is to maintain the status quo." This phenomenon was certainly not a surprise to the G30 members, whose report also shows that "the policies followed by central banks since the beginning of the crisis have helped to restore the appearance of financial stability."

The report's conclusion was that central banks can not restore the health of the economic and financial system alone, requiring "government action to resolve the crisis." Unfortunately, the actions of governments and central banks in the run-up to the crisis were the determinants of the problems that followed, and the recommendations in the G30 Study show that no one learned the lessons of the crisis at the level of the authorities.

### **7. Letter from the European Ombudsman**

The European Ombudsman, Emily O'Reilly, requested clarifications to the President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi about his ties and the involvement of the ECB in the G30, an advisory group of bankers, legislators, economists and fund managers. In a letter sent on July 7, 2017 to Mario Draghi, Emily O'Reilly argues that the G30 meetings are "not transparent" and raised a question mark about the ECB's membership of this club.

"When members of the ECB participate in meetings organized by the G30, they must comply with the transparency rules of the G30 Treaty. However, G30 meetings are not transparent," says the European Ombudsman in his letter. Under these circumstances, Emily O'Reilly called on the ECB to consider the possibility of publishing agendas and summaries of the G30 meetings. Mario Draghi had until September 2017 to respond in writing to the European Ombudsman's letter.

The new investigation was triggered by a complaint by the Corporate Europe Observatory group of activists, according to which the proximity between the ECB and the G30 officials is incompatible with the role of the Euro Area Banking Supervision Body assumed by the ECB in 2014.

A similar complaint was rejected in 2012 by the European Ombudsman at that time. But Emily O'Reilly believes the ECB's new powers in the field of banking supervision require a new investigation. In his letter, O'Reilly wondered if Draghi's membership of the G30 was in the public interest or could be considered a matter of personal concern, given that one of the meetings was replaced by his deputy, Vitor Constancio. In reply, a spokesman from the ECB announced that the institution is cooperating with the European Ombudsman, as he did in the previous investigation.

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## 8. Group 16 + 1

The 16 + 1 format is a form of cooperation between China and 16 Balkan and Eastern European countries, including 11 in the EU. On July 6-7, 2018, Sofia met the 16th summit plus 1, the seventh so far. Just one day after the meeting in Sofia, attention will be directed to London for the Western Balkans Summit, the fifth meeting of its kind, which is part of the Berlin Process. Launched in 2014 by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the summit seeks to boost regional co-operation in the Balkans and advance the integration of countries in the region into the EU. At the time it was launched, it could be considered a substitute for the EU's enlargement process.

The 16 + 1 Group aims mainly to improve cooperation between China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Connectivity is a key aspect of the co-operation process. Connectivity within the 16 + 1 Group mainly concerns the Belgrade-Budapest railway line.

In December 2014, China, Serbia and Hungary signed a Memorandum of Understanding to modernize 370 km of rail between the capitals of Serbia and Hungary. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2023, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto recently said. In the Serbian camp, in April 2018, the Ministry of Infrastructure announced that it intends to invest 600m euros in the Belgrade-Nis section and 254.4m euros in the Nis-Presevo section.

The Budapest - Belgard railway line makes sense from the perspective of Beijing. China's largest shipping company, COSCO, owns the Greek port of Piraeus. The Belt and Road initiative aims at linking China's maritime lines to Asia with those around Africa and opening routes to the heart of Europe. COSCO expands aggressively the Piraeus port. China has nothing to lose. Beijing insisted on guarantees that it would get its money back, plus interest, whatever would happen to the project. And finally, the project will be a European exercise experience for Chinese companies.

But few things explain why Hungary would want this railway, as other projects would bring a bigger economic boost to the country, nor why it would want to bring Chinese companies. One explanation is that the Budapest government loves big public projects funded by rich sources. It is an opportunity for family members' businesses of the governors and their relatives. Transparency International has calculated that the phenomenon of corruption in Hungary's public procurement system will increase the cost of Budapest-Belgrade railways by 20%.

## Conclusion

There is no need to confirm the need and importance of group work to model land-based activities. The examples are, we believe, obvious. Every historical epoch, and especially the contemporary period with all its specific problems, had its initiators, who thought and elaborated the theories and models for the development of terrestrial life in various forms and evolutions.

As human life on Terra will experience more and more advanced evolutions towards a spiritual epoch towards which today's Humanity tends, the activity of such groups of lobby and influence will also be spiritualized.

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