

World Sustainability and Peace – The New Nomads

Manuel da Costa Lobo

1. Sustainable Regions

Let us start by looking to a region with a small town and some villages around, with some farms along the river, a forest and a protected area for wild life.

Let us think that $\Delta P = 0$ (number of deaths equal to number of births).

A sustainable society could then develop there on the sense of culture, participation, moral behaviour, knowledge, etc., but always able to recycle their waste and to spend resources under the region material limitations. Not depending from outside.

Humans would then be able to go on living there for ever and ever in condition of respecting nature and developing solidarity among them. They would just have to call for their wisdom and to combine technology with the way of life.

If there is a positive ΔP but there is an emigration of $P_e = \Delta P$ then it would also be possible to go on without any visible limitation in time.

If $\Delta P \geq P_e$, or $\Delta P + P_i \geq P_e$, where P_i is the number of emigrants, then it could happen, after some years, that the total capacity of the region would be progressively exhausted until a threshold when the existent population would need to change their behaviour:

- Reducing nativity
- Reducing immigration or increasing emigration
- Reducing spending (less food eaten , less objects acquired)

It would be a moment, a threshold, where things could become very bad, obliging people to emigrate or becoming poorer, or would start fighting and killing each other!

If we don't find a way to survive with our own resources we have to emigrate or to go elsewhere to bring what we need... Our sustainable space would have to be increased – new larger organic units!

Today there are very few places being able to live only on their own resources... “forever”!

One of the ways is interchanging goods and services, if each one has some resources to sell.

Another way is based on very important movements between countries and between continents.

At the end we would have a global market, a global economy, a global World.

If all the regions would hope to survive by emigration then this would be a great problem to solve.

Possibilities:

1. Changing the way of our life and reduce the amount of expectations.
2. Emigrate to other planet where one could find resources.
3. Going outside our planet to get resources and bring them.

4. Starting a war for survival (economic, military, legal...) where some people would gain the status of sustainability and the others have to live a poorer life or to die.

Accepting to look for the global development sustainability we would have to start to evaluate our resources and to compare them with the expenditures forecast.

Globally speaking one can say that:

- Energy seems almost unlimited for the time being. Consider carbon sources, atomic energy, wind energy, solar energy, bio energy, wave's energy, tide energy. And we always could be wiser, spending less and less...
- Food could be a problem but not for the time being. Main issue would be the transport of food and energy, from one side to another and to find economic resources to pay the transport... The alternative would be transporting people where to find enough a supply.

And to get a high standard of life this would be very costly and may not everyone would be able to pay the bill.

These are always three options:

- 1st – Free system, liberal economy, wild competition.
- 2nd – Centralized system, compulsory work and economy, dictatorship.
- 3rd – A 3rd solution, to be invented and coordinated at different scales:
 - a) World
 - b) Blocks of $\approx 1.000.000.000$ inhab (average)
 - c) Federations ($\approx 250.000.000$)
 - d) Associations ($\approx 64.000.000$)
 - e) States ($\approx 16.000.000$)
 - f) Regions ($\approx 4.000.000$)

in order to obtain a system of civilized competition all over the world.

Main items that one have to get, in order to follow a sustainable development, are:

- 1st Safety (against natural catastrophes, social crime, accidents)
- 2nd Survival resources (healthy ecosystems, water and nutrients, energy)
- 3^d Socio-economic balance, jobs, organization
- 4th Accessibility to services and work
- 5th Housing for all, with corresponding social and technical infrastructure

For a settled and stable population it could be relatively easy to maintain sustainability. If the population is always increasing on a given region it can happen that some threshold will not be respected and that place would not be sustainable.

Main practical results could be:

- 1) Strong emigration to other places**
- 2) Deceases and growth of mortality**
- 3) Less natality**
- 4) Vandalism, crime... and war (or terrorism)**

When 2 and 3 are not enough and one wants to avoid 4, then the way is emigration. This is why human beings of today are the **new nomads**.

2. Planned Societies – The World Diaphragm

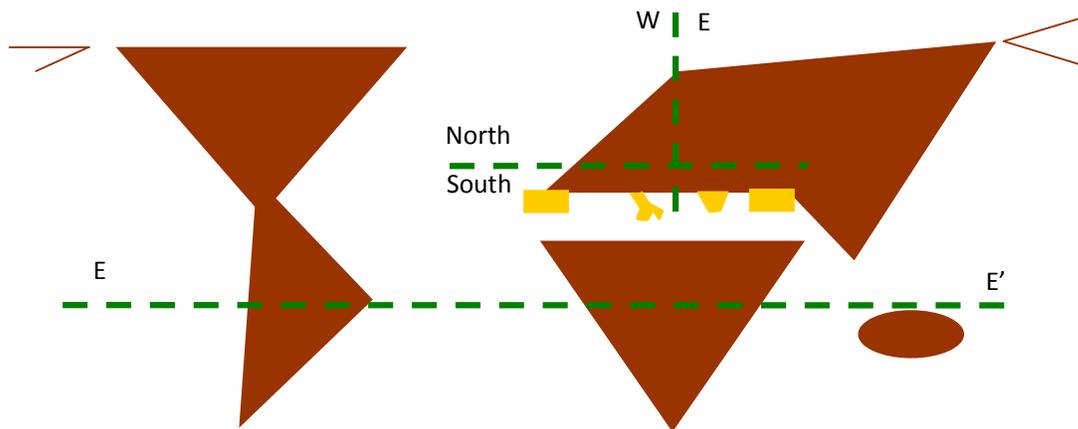
Wise developing strategy have to respect some policies:

- 1) Stop large amounts of unnecessary spending
- 2) Recycle all the waste
- 3) Accept planning as the way of getting civilized maximum freedom

- 4) Invest on general education
- 5) Develop a sense of responsibility
- 6) Organize a monitoring system inside each **organic unit** and try to balance the unbalance units within a greater organic space – **greater organic units** or “ad hoc” aggregated organic units
- 7) Have transparent information and organize a task force to develop agreements in order to get World Peace through the **action** of a World Diaphragm.
- 8) Diaphragm of the World has to be settled starting from a group of people, then a group of regions and countries. Starting by those having more extended experience on dialoguing and on living together with extreme societies (“north” and “south”), getting a deep knowledge of each other. Not only academic information but a lived and rooted experience for generations. Well assimilated.

This group of people and countries would be a first stage to create the World Diaphragm. Countries like those of the Mediterranean Sea could be suitable for this objective. Portugal was the champion of globalization on the XVth, XVIth century, going everywhere and finding ways of getting strong links with local population. All the other people on the Mediterranean Sea seem to have good conditions for the purpose. From a first group it would be necessary to grow and reach a level of power to “impose” peace on the World. It’s a long way to go but there is no alternative. Let us work for that target. The World Diaphragm must be strong muscle, always present.

Getting the help of visual thinking we can start by having a schematic model of the World.



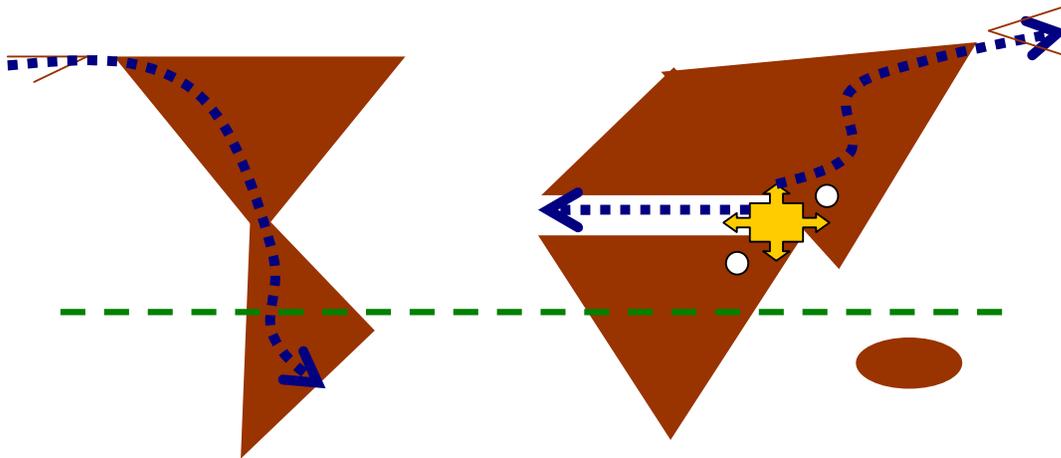
Let us look to Europe:

- i) The south Mediterranean peninsular Europe, including:
 - Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain)
 - Italian Peninsula (Italy)
 - Balkan Peninsula (Greece, Albany...)
 - Anatolia Peninsula (Turkey)

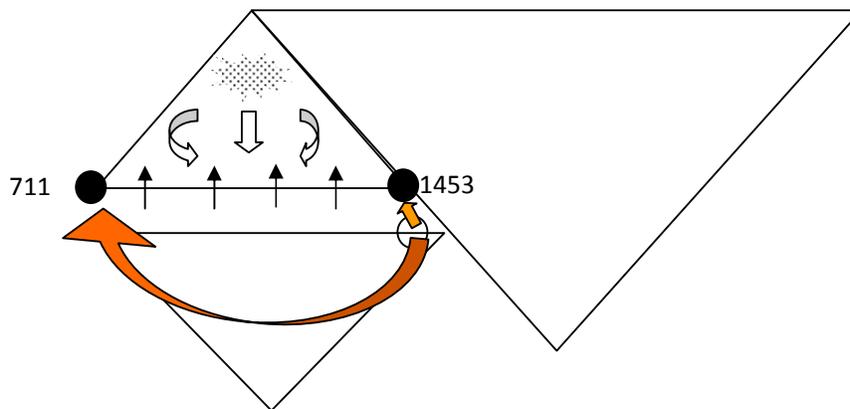
The highway of antiquity – The Mediterranean Sea – brought all these peninsulas together, by the efforts of Egyptians, of Phoenicians, of Greeks, of Arabs. Through alliances and wars they learn how to get together.

Urban Culture and Civilization started by the two great civilizations of the Indo and Nile, afterwards new cultures developed at the middle space, through the fight of those cultures like Persians, Hebrews, Arabs, Babylon's, Phoenicians, Caldeus, Aramaic, Armenians, Balkans, Caucasians, Mongols, Turks, Indo-Europeans and, of course, contributing to the progress of writing, the Assyrians, the Hittites. From them to west one can find the culture of

Greeks, of Romans and of western Europeans that mixed Celtic tribes with Romans, Arabs, Visigoths and Jews.



The culture settled in the north of Europe is a result of the contacts with east (Mongols and other tribes from central Europe) and Mediterranean people.



While Romans spread all over the countries around the Mediterranean Sea, Arabs and Islam went from east to west and settled mainly in Africa, in the Near East and in the Iberian Peninsula, from the 7th century onwards (on 711 invading Lisbon and on 1453 Constantinople). From the XIIth to the XVth century Islam was pushed back from Iberian Peninsula (Christian Reconquest).

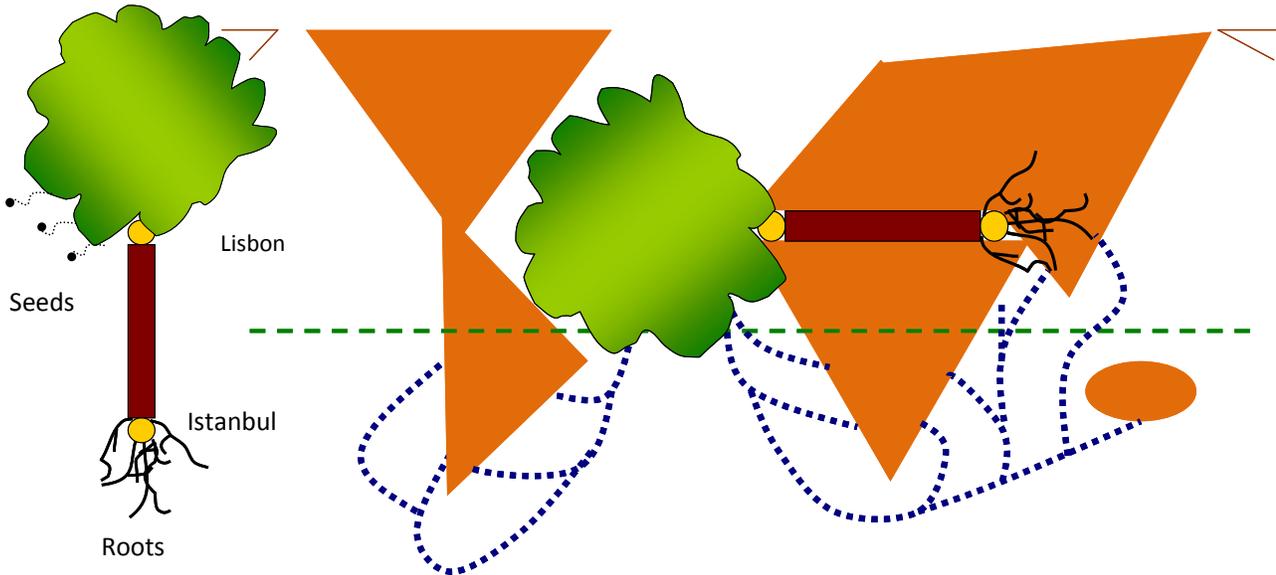
At this point the Ottoman Empire was the political leader in the Mediterranean Sea and closing to Western Europe all direct contacts with Asia, where the wealth was – spices, jewels, rich timber, silk, porcelains, science, technology, philosophy ...

The reaction of Western Europe against this monopolistic policy was lead by Portugal that develop its skills and science for sea navigation, ships design and buildings, astronomy, mathematics, human language and public relations, military weapons, fortification and town planning, Christian message spreading ...

The result was Vasco da Gama arrival to India and making agreements with local powers in order to start the commerce with India going around Africa. Western Europe was saved from the economic leadership of Ottoman and became the strongest power of the World for nearly half a thousand years.

It is important to see now the difference of world-wide contacts developed by Constantinople (Istanbul) and Lisbon.

While Ottomans developed relations around Istanbul, mainly with Turkish countries (Asia), Balkans regions and Arabic people, Portuguese develop their skills for ocean navigation until they were able to go everywhere, not conquering large territories, like the Ottoman Empire, but just transporting seeds of culture and of commerce opportunities all over the World, starting the economy World Globalization.



These shows how important are Lisbon and other regions of Western Europe on the understanding of how to get global relations.

It also shows the highest importance of Istanbul on the crossing-point of cultures of Europe, Asia and Africa, may be the hottest political conflict of the World: Israel-Palestine; Jews-Arabs; Turkish- Russian; Balkans-Mesopotamia-Persians...; Petrol-Military Strategy-Istanbul/Bosporus crossing.

This is why it would be important to settle on the Mediterranean Sea a **seed of peace** and to develop a program of mutual understanding between North and South and:

- The 4 Mediterranean European Peninsulas → Southern Europe
- Southern Europe within European Union
- Southern Europe with Northern Africa (Mediterranean Block)
- Mediterranean Block and European Union with Africa – The Peace Diaphragms Seed
- Peace Diaphragms Seed with East and West Expansions – The WORLD DIAPHRAGM Development
- Development of Peace Spirit and Territorial Growing of the W.D. until it would be a respected and useful organism to carry the North-South dialogue and to “force” understanding agreements for peace (maybe on a long or very long term base).

3. New Nomads

Modern World Globalization tries to avoid extensive wars and to intervene strategically on different spots where conditions are likely to develop seeds for war.

This strategy would need a North-South dialogue and a strong organization to force conditions for peace (including the W.D.).

We see that this attempt to balance the North-South conflicts was tried by USA, one of the most interested communities to get a stable system among countries and Unions through a shape that could serve USA economic interests. But, being one extreme, USA could not settled.

This is why a W.D. is needed and it cannot be too dependent from just one country on the W.D. policy. It is also needed a leadership able to understand the people of both North and South extremes what doesn't easily happens with USA.

Until we can get a solid and enough strong W.D. we have to fight a lot and it would take a lot of time.

This is why it is very urgent to start its conception and building ... Now!

Meanwhile we can expect that peace would need a lot of migrations.

These mean thousands (or millions) of people coming from a spot to another, very often other continent, or another country, or another region, looking for survival conditions, like nomads did many thousand years ago.

Many cities and city-regions, metropolitan areas or megalopolis constellations offer a comfortable standard of living for many people but there is a risk of loosing its social cohesion and balanced structure because of migrations and segregation.

Economic development cannot afford a situation of loosing people (- ΔP). Vacant houses and apartment buildings are also an economic and social unacceptable burden. For economic growth, enterprises need a surplus of workers on the market and if there is not enough they have to import people or to change their industries to another country. This means the need of a lot and urgent town planning work, investment on infrastructure, and housing.

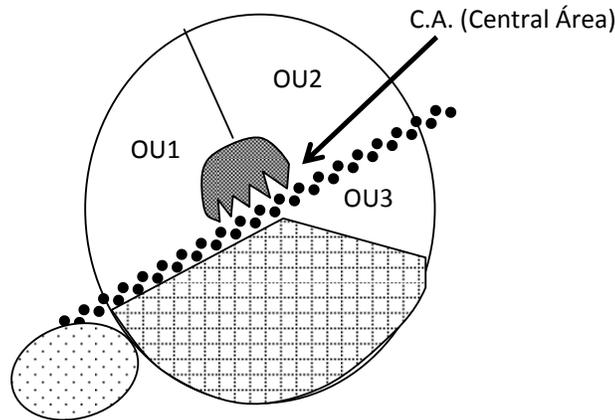
If immigrants came to a town or region where there are many vacant houses, it seems that it would be easy to get a balance between them and avoid new investments.

But:

- Builders are eager to get fresh housing investments to do
- Ancient residents don't want new comers on their buildings
- New comers prefer to lodge on parts of houses, derelict buildings or even illegal buildings, to economize (no alternative to them,...)
- Landlords ask too much money to sell their vacant houses
- Landlords try to force an approval for building renewal but cultural services want to protect cultural heritage
- Municipalities have the power for planning and to lead these problems but very often are not rich enough to assume the initiative.

This becomes a very important issue for urban and regional planning.

Let us see the scheme of a city



	Inhab.	Jobs
OU1	150.000	
OU2	150.000	
OU3	150.000	
CA	50.000	100.000
Ind	-	200.000

At a moment there is an economic crises and a loss of many thousands jobs on industry. At OU1 there are 50% of vacant houses: However, immigrants lodge on illegal houses on OU1 and OU2, because of prices.

This show's a lack of planning (Plan and Management), for lacking of anticipation trends, lacking of power to intervene and lacking of a strategy).

If the Government build a housing estate for immigrants it does not solve the problem of vacant houses on OU1. If economic conditions of immigrants become better on their country may be they would leave the new estate and go back home. Then we would have too much houses without demand. There is a difference between these modern nomads and ancient ones, carrying great their tents with them... or being able to build their own shelters.

4. Sustainable Development – New look

May be one can start by a different objective, where planners could intervene with their own way of work and of understanding.

A first idea is that one cannot get sustainability development without a starting point, a moral principle, a way of living.

The starting point will be **wisdom**.

Then, as planners having a humanistic education, we know that good planning needs to be supported by two principles:

- 1st – **Respecting Nature**
- 2nd – **Human Solidarity**

Respecting nature has to do with knowing its nature laws and finding ways of development that would respect world evolution, to get healthy conditions and to get a sound balance within the ecosystems.

Human Solidarity would be understood not only related to people around us on the space but also to the humans that lived before us – **the past generations** – and those that will live after us – **the future generations**.

Solidarity with past generations means to try to understand them, to get a memory from them, respecting them and learning from them through History.

Solidarity with the future means organizing our life in order to leave resources for those to come, not only natural resources but specially spiritual resources, past experience, civic behaviour.

A Second idea is that sustainable development asks for a balanced society and this is not possible outside PEACE.

Organization of World Peace needs a great effort among people, regions and nations able to dialogue among them and having good experience of social relations within different social environments.

As a conclusion we would say that random urban growth without any planned development is just a utopia and dangerous mistake, as:

Wise human settlements planning is the way of getting more freedom for all, avoiding unbalanced disaster.

Growth coordination must exist at different levels and dialogue among them, doesn't matter the country or the language have to go on permanently.

Let us consider, as reference, for planning coordination:

- A. 16.000 inhabitants – community, decentralized on 4.000 inhabit for management
- B. 250.000 inhabitants – municipality, decentralized on 64.000 inhabit for management
- C. 4.000.000 inhabitants – region, decentralized on 1.000.000 inhabit for management
- D. 64.000.000 inhabitants – state, decentralized on 16.000.000 inhabit for management
- E. 1.000.000.000 inhabitants – continent, decentralized on 250.000.000 inhabit for management
- F. 16.000.000.000 inhabitants – world, decentralized on 4.000.000.000 inhabit for management

This means that at level A (low densities) or at least B (high densities) it would be necessary to get a land reservation for rented controlled costs housing and another reservation of land to cope with catastrophes or emergency immigration. At level C there is a need of a strong strategy and also monitoring and emergency measures (land stocks) to cope with new unexpected changes.

These land stocks must be the priority of municipalities on the regional responsibility and this would bring the need of acquiring extra land.

The need of public land for city planning management is essential. Not having the normal amount of land is like a bank having no capital. A regional or central intervention could be urgently needed and municipality would only have competence on these matters until a balance would be obtained.

Each country, each region has to establish a specific strategy to get the objectives through the shortest ways taking in account the conditions of each one.

All this brings us to the need of defining organic units, respecting the natural ecosystems and social communities where cohesion must be obtained and city balance well planned to get social integration and social infrastructures capacity.

I would like to finish this text with a definition of **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**:

IT IS A STRATEGY WITHIN

***VERY LONG TERM PLANNING, A PEACE POLICY AND A CIVILIZED COMPETITION
BEHAVIOUR***

So: **HUMAN COMMUNITIES HAVE TO PLAN THEIR BEHAVIOUR IN ORDER TO GET A
LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE, THEREFORE**

- HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**
 - NUTRIENTS (FOOD AND WATER)**
 - ENERGY**
 - PEACE (NO WARS, NO TERRORISM, NO VANDALISM)**
- AND TO AVOID ACCIDENTS AND URBAN DISASTERS**

Manuel da Costa Lobo, I.S.T., Portugal