E. Got

EVOLUTION INDIVIDUELLE ET EVOLUTION COLLECTIVE

(Individual Evolution and Collective Evolution)

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The work of Etienne Got, professor of psychology tackles an interesting theme based as regards treatment on a possible analogy between the evolution of each individual and the evolution of the collectivity. Just as the individual passes in his evolution from childhood to adolescence and then to the adult age, similarly, humanity, E. Got maintains; covers an evolution in three stages. Hence the effort of the states to reach the adult age.

The author starts by noting that at present, we live in a world in which economic independence with its various aspects: energy, technological independence, etc. is pursued. At the same time, we no longer are in the period in which certain regions of the world could ignore what happens in other regions. It is the role of economics to study the phases of the process through which economic independence is obtained and the stages of this process.

We can note in connection with these affirmations that the situation is, in fact, more complex because beside the pure economic factors, political realities as well should be taken into account in international relations. The author presents a suggestive diagram which links the gross national product per head of the population and year to the evolution of the primary sector, liquidation of illiteracy and industrialization. A logarithmic scale is adopted for the gross national product just as for the other sectors; we are in the presence of a graph on a bilogarithmic scale. In these coordinates, the evolution of the primary sector represents a descending curve while the liquidation of illiteracy and industrialization are slightly ascending, convex curves, the curve of the liquidation of illiteracy being placed above the curve representing industrialization. The author establishes two vertical lines which divide the picture into three regions: the area with an income below 200 dollars annually, the area placed at an income between 200 and 1300 and the third area with an income above 1300 dollars per head of the population and per year. The author considers that this curve reflects the condition of various countries at different periods of time. The area of the very small incomes corresponds to the "economic childhood", to the economic start. Around 150 dollars per year can fix the beginning of the area of the "road to maturity", industrial maturity being considered by the author at an income of about 500 dollars per year. At 1000 dollars per year starts the area of mass consumption and at 3000 dollars per year, the search of quality. We specify that all prices are expressed in dollars USA, 1960. This curve inspired by W. W. Rostow (politics and the Stages of Growth)

and completed by the author must be understood as an example of economic growth, from a primary stage metaphorically called childhood-to that of industrial maturity — and even further, to a maturity of the quality of life.

We recognize in this process the unfolding of several stages in a given order just as in the case of biological maturation.

It must be underlined that the work we are presenting is based on a vast reference material and on the author's considerable effort to assimilate and present in an original conception, facts which are much analysed in the world, at present. This work might interest a large public, especially specialists in the problems of social sciences under their various aspects.

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