

The question asked this morning by Max and Christian is: what have we learned? When one sees what happened recently in Bangladesh, the answer could be: Nothing. We have learned nothing. And Bangladesh is not only an accident. It is the normal conclusion of a conception of the economic competition. Like Subprime crisis. Or like the acceleration of the climate crisis.

With such assessment, it is easy to be pessimistic. However in my foundation, Forum d'Action Modernités (Modernity Action Forum) we think it is necessary to promote in Europe a more positive thinking in the global representation of our society and our future. We are a think and action network. What are the major trends on which we can develop this positive attitude? We see three strengths,

1- First: Alliance between Youth and Social business.

We were discussing on this matter yesterday. It is an important issue for three reasons:

- Youth Unemployment: There is no future for Europe with an Youth unemployment rate of 50 % (even more in some countries).
- A transformation in the vision of what is involvement and generosity. I was explaining yesterday that in my generation we had a vertical and layered conception of the social organization: technology at the bottom, then economy, then culture. And at the top of the tower: generosity, sense, politics. Now things appear in a completely different perspective and many young people think that it is possible for a Company to have economic goals but also goals of ethics, of justice, of positive action on environment.
- And third, in this context, we see a lack of attraction of traditional companies on the better, on the smarter talents of Youth. Many big companies are interested by new paradigms of the shared value for a major reason: attract the talents.

2- Second strength: Internet and the power of collective brain.

There are many different issues around Internet. But one of them is of a particular importance: the architecture of the network. As you know it is a Peer-to-Peer architecture build on two principles: equality between all the connected people; large availability of tools to facilitate interaction.

This architecture was essential to develop an ecosystem with different characteristics:

- Strong innovations
- Free: freedom and gratuity
- Volunteer contribution
- Change in Property rights as revealed by the Creative Commons movement.

This ecosystem opens new ways for value creation and has huge effects in the transformation of economy:

- Efficiency of the pure actors of collective intelligence: Free software, Open source, Wikipedia, Open street map...
- Obligation for the mega Companies of the new economy like Google, Apple, Facebook... to capture this energy of the collaborative, collective intelligence. They speak of Open innovation, Open data, Pollen-economy.
- In many sectors a struggle for capturing added value is growing between these new actors and the traditional Companies. This can be observed in the Travel sector, in Retail, in Finance and Insurance, in Utilities.

So, there is a growing interest for collaboration and for collective intelligence. You can hear in different circles questions like: Is it true that man is a wolf to man? Is it a description of his very nature or was it the project of the Industrial society? Can we build a different world based on different forces like empathy?

- 3- It is a good transition to address the third strength on which we can develop more positive way of thinking: it is a big change, a big move, in the representations of human being.

I cannot explain here all the transformations I have described in my book: “La Nouvelle Origine”. Major issues are the following:

- With computer and Artificial Intelligence, Man with a big “M” can no longer be seen as the Master of a world of rationality;
- But in the same time, man, with a little “m” is more and more powerful, and more and more conscious of the strengths of exchange and collaboration.

As a consequence, at the scale of the world, there is a strong movement in direction of diversity and in direction of new citizenship. The Honoured Chairman of our Foundation, Edgar Morin, speaks about the “Terre-Patrie”, Earth as a homeland. In this context, there are many reasons to find interest in far-eastern philosophies like Buddhism. What is extraordinary modern in this philosophy is it says: there is no one God. There are many Gods. Each of us can be Buddha. And there is a strong capacity of transformation with interactions between 7 billions of Buddhas.

At Forum d’Action Modernités, we are convinced that these types of thinking are the roots for a new conception of modernity. For us, the project of modernity today is not progress, is not happiness. It is: to transform mutually, one another.