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Revolution, evolution or involution?

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EDITORIAL

*"I'm surprised of the use and abuse
that made the word evolution
I do not evolve, I am".*

Pablo Picasso

Prof. Edgard Nehmé
Editor-in Chief

EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION OR INVOLUTION?

In those critical times of our contemporary history, we are witnessing a major disruption all over the planet, cutting across geographic, climatic, demographic and political imperatives. The Near East and the Middle East, our region, is once again facing a tug of war between international powers, and as what has become the norm, extrapolated to regional powers. History has taught us that popular revolts invariably prelude territorial and border disorders, fostering the establishment of new alliances.

Evolution implies a process of permanent, gradual, and continuous development in time and in space. It is unique to the species in its natural, biological, genetic, behavioral and social dimensions. No community, no nation can escape from the risk of excluding itself from the real world to join the concert of the world's most disadvantaged populations. Some have defined evolution as "the infinite movement of all that exists, the ceaseless transformation of the Universe and all its parts from the eternal origins and through the infinity of ages."

Both the sidereal space and the immense oceans and landforms that surround us are the result of these evolutions - large or small revolutions, that have shaped the Universe and species; while some have been eradicated, others have been subjected to the natural laws of evolution.

Often recognized as being a natural and slowly progressive phenomenon, Evolution is also seen as antithetical to Revolution "which implies more or less abrupt changes in the facts". It is at the heart of these infinite changes which follow one another in universal evolution; however as small as they can be, revolutions are part of this endless movement.

Darwin's evolution theory is the most widely recognized theory on human evolution. Latter outlines the fact that "the characteristics of a species appear randomly, and it is the environment which determines whether this characteristic will persist in the species or simply disappear". He takes the Ursidae as an example to say that at no time any bears suddenly changed their color. The change of color has been achieved throughout generations, all conditioned by the bear environment.

So, what about the Revolution? Is there a direct or indirect correlation between Revolution and Evolution?

Speaking of the Revolution, it often alludes to violent and bloody periods of the History during which mass protests and to some extent, popular civil or armed uprisings, contest a particular social order, inequalities, systems or regimes, modes of governance.

The French Revolution is considered by historians to be the one of the most significant over the last three centuries. It was marked by periods of great violence, especially during the Terror episode. The socio-political upheavals which ensued in France, in its colonies and in Europe at the end of the 18th century bequeathed in the short and long term all new forms of political governance, moving from a Monarchy to a Republic, “in particular through the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 which proclaims the equality of citizens before the law, fundamental freedoms, and the sovereignty of the Nation, and being constituted around a State.”

Historical facts show that the great slogans and cultural symbols of this revolution became the symbols of other major upheavals in modern history, including the Russian Revolution more than a century later. Today, the French political life is imbued with the same values and led by the same institutions.

Our planet is at the cornerstone of all the permanent revolutions that our humanity has been witnessing. Those revolutions have been triggered by complex cosmic and planetary phenomena:

The rotation of the planet earth on itself around the axis of the North / South geographic poles

Its approximate periodicity of 24 hours, or the equivalent of a sidereal day. This rotational movement alternates between day and night

The revolution of the earth which occurs synchronously by an elliptical translational movement around the sun; the period of this revolution is approximately 365.2563 days while the period of revolution of the Moon around the Earth is of the order of 27.32 days. This movement determines the varying durations in the year of day and night as well as the seasons over most of the earth's surface.

Speaking of the Cultural Revolution, two historical models are worth mentioning:

The cultural revolution (was it really one in the ameliorative sense of the term?) Maoist version (1966-1976) supported by the youth (the Red Guards) which quickly revealed its true face, deviating from the declared fight against revisionist elements of the Chinese Communist Party towards a ruthless intellectual purge, of the present hierarchy, of the elites and of traditional Chinese values

It is nonetheless interesting to note a historical fact reported by certain authors about this Chinese model Revolution - which in one way or another had inspired certain uprisings and other protest movements in the world, in particular the events of May 1968 in France where first the Parisian students' revolt had won over the working class and then the entire population in all corners of the territory, to constitute the most important protest movement in the history of the country during the previous century .

Where is the world going today? Where is the whole of humanity headed?

It is difficult to provide logical and precise answers in the current configuration of a disoriented and ever-changing world. Not a single corner of the globe is immune to socio-demographic, political, ethnic or religious upheavals which often end up shaking, or by always switched in the neoliberal militarism horrors.

Jordi Calvo Rufanges Spanish researcher at the Center Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau and professor of economics of armed conflicts, peace, security and defense at various universities published in 2016 the following analysis:

“On one hand, warlike mercantilism can be understood together with the military economic cycle which is based - like most economic sectors - on a neoliberal logic, a logic of the free market, privatization and deregulation. This logic contributes to self-enrichment and to economic benefits in the defense industry sector, leading to what is called neoliberal militarism. On the other hand, warlike mercantilism goes

beyond defense and armaments alone. War indeed requires a host of resources that go beyond arms and armies such as logistics, transport, food, cleaning, translation services and private security. Some wars, waged out of greed, aim not only at increasing control over power but also over resources: oil, coltan, diamonds, and anything that can be bought and sold. Economic profits are indeed an integral part of war, and wars are, vice versa, waged for profit. The security doctrines developed by governments - which are directly influenced by defense, security, conflict and peace research centers, commonly identified as think tanks - therefore influence the level of armament and militarization of "a society."

Other issues of "modern" times on which the whole planet is invited to reflect and urgently provide answers:

Will the many spectacular developments in scientific fields, the extreme pushing of the limits of knowledge a through research at all levels be able to coexist and endure in a context of planetary destabilization fueled by the parallel development of the warlike mercantilism system? and the military economic cycle, also called by some "the arms cycle"?

The billions of dollars allocated each year to scientific research and particularly to the medical and pharmaceutical fields on the one hand, and the enormous budgets allocated to military-industrial complexes, do they not in themselves constitute two projects, two concepts and two principles of contradictory lives: improve public health and the physical well-being of communities and invest disproportionately and synchronously in an industry, equipment capable of decimating entire populations, countries... a planet? Considering that this material is generally ceded to dictatorial regimes for which the word democracy rhymes with autocracy, or worse still, with theocracy.

Is humanity currently engaged in an evolutionary or a dangerously involutivity process in its history?

Yes, mankind will survive... at least until the Apocalypse promised to believers; the question is how and under what conditions.

Obviously, mankind will prevail... or at least until the Apocalypse as promised to believers; the question is how and under what conditions?

Indeed, the world's is in crisis, suffering from worsening sanitary, ecological, political, and economic conditions. Could this be a reason to despair? The answer is in the reading of historical facts. Humanity has no other choice but to fight for a better life. Thus, was instituted since the dawn of time the law of natural evolution which beats to the rhythm of episodic revolutions.

Furthermore, evolution is intrinsically linked to known and established mechanical physical laws, those of dynamics and kinetics. It is therefore in constant movement, generating energy and subjected, why not, to episodic revolutions.

I intentionally wanted through this presentation to introduce the next editorial which should develop the impact of evolution and that of revolutions in all fields of modern dentistry during what I would like to call the "Trente Glorieuses" of Dentistry, from 1990 to 2020. An evolution which affected all disciplines, ranging from fundamental (field of biomaterials to nanotechnology) to all specialties: endodontics, cosmetic and prosthetic dentistry, implantology and tissue regeneration techniques, medical and pharmacological fields, surgery and periodontology, pedodontics, dentofacial orthopedics, without forgetting that of modern imaging.

Hoping to come back to you soon, Dear Readers, in much better sanitary conditions!

Good reading.

Good health to All.