

---

---

# COMPETITIVE COOPERATION

The Valdai International Discussion Club: from Charlemagne to Putin

By Pierre Beaudry, 10/30/17

---

---

**CORRECTION:** Please be advised that Dehors Debonneheure recommended a new axiomatic inversion in the middle of last night and that the title of the report I posted yesterday has been changed to **COMPETITIVE COOPERATION**.

---

---

## INTRODUCTION

*“Oligarchism is a view of the world which attempts to keep its feet firmly established on a ground that is constantly slipping under it.”*

Dehors Debonneheure

Vladimir Putin's remarks at the recent Valdai International Discussion, held in Sochi, on October 19, 2017, reveal that the President of Russia fully grasps the fact that the political world had recently entered into a crucial phase of axiomatically transforming itself thereby demonstrating its ability to solve paradoxes and usher in a new historical way of transforming our planet. The title of the Conference alone made that plain: *“Creative Destruction: Will a New World Order Emerge from the Current Conflicts?”*<sup>1</sup>

The idea of **“Creative Destruction”** was first coined by the Austrian economist, Joseph Schumpeter (1883-1950), who used this paradoxical expression

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55882>.

75 years ago to describe the Liberal Free Market's way of dealing with conflicting progress. Schumpeter wrote:

“The opening up of new markets, foreign or domestic, and the organizational development from the craft shop to such concerns as U.S. Steel illustrate the same process of industrial mutation—if I may use that biological term—that incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one. This process of Creative Destruction is the essential fact about capitalism. It is what capitalism consists in and what every capitalist concern has got to live in.”<sup>2</sup>

What Schumpeter was touching on in this paradoxical expression was the fact that nothing in the universe progresses without having to go through continuous axiomatic transformations, especially a human process like an economic system. However, what he did not mention was that such an economic idea of “**Creative Destruction**” is not the foundation of making money for the purpose of enriching a happy few; it is the universal axiomatic foundation for the development of the Universe and most emphatically, the creative development of the individual human mind. In other words, the idea behind “**Creative Destruction**” relates to the creative process of God's universal natural law.

For that reason, the very nature of today's Western geopolitical industry is doomed to failure and the nature of the Eastern “*Win-Win*” policy is expected to succeed. Schumpeter had the right idea, but simply made a wrong application.

Why is this “**Creative Destruction**” necessary to discuss and to understand today? This is what Putin challenged the participants of the Valdai Conference to think about from outside the proverbial box in order to better identify the way to approach the future. As Putin pointed out: “*All disputes must be resolved in a civilized manner. We are firmly convinced that even the most complex*

---

<sup>2</sup> Joseph A. Schumpeter, [Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy](#), Routledge, London and New York, first published in 1943, p. 83.

*knots – be it the crisis in Syria or Libya, the Korean Peninsula or, say, Ukraine – must be disentangled rather than cut.”<sup>3</sup>*

## COMPETITIVE COOPERATION OR HOW TO DISENTANGLE THE GORDIAN KNOT



Vladimir Putin at the meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club.

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/55882>

In his presentation, Putin put his finger on the difficult problem to be solved in much the same way that Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa had identified in attempting to solve the conflicts that opposed the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church during the 1438-45 Council of Florence. The question was and is still to this day: *“How do you conceive of the coincidence of opposites?”* Putin posed the problem in the following manner:

“Naturally, the interests of states do not always coincide, far from it. This is normal and natural. It has always been the case. The leading powers

---

<sup>3</sup> Vladimir Putin, *Op. Cit.*

have different geopolitical strategies and perceptions of the world. This is the immutable essence of international relations, which are built on the *balance between cooperation and competition*.”<sup>4</sup> (Emphasis added)

That is the heart of the matter: *cooperation and competition*. How do you find the unity of such an opposition? Putin first answered in a negative manner by saying: “It cannot be done by managing chaos.” However, Putin showed there was a way to unite these two opposites and it is only when both *cooperation and competition* come into agreement on a common purpose and objective, which is for the improvement of mankind as a whole. Putin saw the necessity to apply such a precondition for the present state of the world, because:

*“In the modern world, it is impossible to make a strategic gain at the expense of others.* Such a policy based on self-assurance, egotism and claims to exceptionalism will not bring any respect or true greatness. It will evoke natural and justified rejection and resistance. As a result, we will see the continued growth of tensions and discord instead of trying to establish together a steady and stable international order and address the technological, environmental, climate and humanitarian challenges confronting the entire human race today.”<sup>5</sup> (Emphasis added)

Thus, “*cooperation and competition*” must become transformed into the *all-inclusive benefit of the other*, as in the case of the Peace of Westphalia of 1648. In other words, what Putin is implying is that you have to accept the fact that your fellow-man has to become better than you by way of *competitive cooperation*.

This is an interesting solution that Charlemagne and Alcuin had come to resolve in their famous dialogue on how to become a better human being. I recently wrote a report dedicated to Lyndon LaRouche for his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on **CHARLEMAGNE'S ECONOMICS OF 'AGAPE'**. I stressed the importance of Saint Paul's “*Agapic Principle*” which is to be found in Alcuin's dialogue with Charlemagne on rhetoric where he shows how one can convince an opponent to

---

<sup>4</sup> Vladimir Putin, *Op. Cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Vladimir Putin, *Op. Cit.*

accept one's way of thinking *for the benefit of the other*. Alcuin's argument went as follows:

“You shall hear a concrete example and then perhaps you will believe it possible. There was once a philosopher who conducted a disputation with a certain Xenophon and his wife, and began by questioning the latter: ‘Tell me, I beg of you, O wife of Xenophon, if your neighbor had finer gold than you have, would you prefer her gold or your own?’ ‘Hers,’ she replied. ‘What if she had clothing and other ornaments of greater worth than yours, would you prefer yours or hers?’ She responded, ‘Hers, indeed.’ ‘Come, then,’ said the questioner, ‘What if she had a better husband than you have? Would you then prefer your husband or hers?’ At this Xenophon's wife blushed. The philosopher then began to question Xenophon. ‘I ask you, O Xenophon,’ he said, ‘If your neighbor had a better horse than you have, would you prefer your horse or his?’ ‘His,’ Xenophon answered. ‘What if he had more productive land than you have, which would you prefer to possess?’ ‘Undoubtedly the more productive,’ he said. ‘What if he had a better wife than you have? Would you prefer her? To this question Xenophon also made no answer. Then the philosopher said: ‘Since you both fail to give me the one answer that I wish to hear above all, I myself shall tell what each of you has in mind. *You, O woman, wish to have the best husband, and you, O Xenophon, desire beyond all else the choicest wife. Therefore, if you Xenophon, do not succeed in making yourself the most excellent man in the world, and if this woman fails to make herself the most perfect wife, then each one of you will continue to prefer a more nearly perfect mate; you Xenophon, will wish yourself the husband of a woman perfect beyond the perfection of your present wife, and she will wish herself the wife of a man perfect beyond your present perfection.*’<sup>6</sup> (Emphasis added)

---

<sup>6</sup> Wilbur Samuel Howell, *The Rhetoric of Alcuin and Charlemagne*, Russell & Russell, Inc., New York, 1965, p.117. See also my report on [ALCUIN AND CHARLEMAGNE](#), 1/18/2007, p. 17.

Such a *principle of perfectibility* is not only coherent with the Christian principle of “*Agape*” as formulated by Saint Paul in *Corinthians I, 13*, but also coherent with the Confucian principle of “*benevolence*” (*ren*).

Putin made it clear that the necessary globalization of the world can no longer follow the British geopolitical model which can only lead to war, because it is premised on the assumption that only the fittest (or richest) will survive at the expense of others. His presentation makes it clear that world development can only function if the entire human race benefits and if technology becomes all-inclusive for all human beings to share and improve their lives with. As he said:

“About globalization, I think globalization has nothing wrong. But globalization today is not perfect. It is only a baby. One thousand years ago, global trade was determined by a few kings and queens. The last thirty or forty years, globalization benefited only 60,000 big companies. What if we can support 60 million small and medium-sized companies that can grow global trade? What if we can help young people so that they can buy, sell, pay, deliver and travel globally?”<sup>7</sup>

Putin is following the same “*Win-Win*” policy principle that Chinese President Xi Jinping has proposed for all nations of the world including the United States. As Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai put it earlier during a visit to the United States:

***“The win-win mentality also means that we should always try to see benefits from the success of the other and never attempt to take advantage of the other's problems.*** A stronger US economy would be something very much wanted in China, and stability and prosperity in China should also be good news for the United States. Likewise in the area of security, if we could work together for common security and cooperative security, we will have better security situation for both. If we try to play a zero-sum game or

---

<sup>7</sup> Vladimir Putin, *Op. Cit.*

if we try to seek absolute security at the expense of security concerns of the other side, we will both end up in less security.”<sup>8</sup> (Emphasis added)

FIN

---

<sup>8</sup> [Remarks by Ambassador Cui Tiankai](#) at the Carter Center Forum on China-US Relations, November 10, 2013, Atlanta Georgia.