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The development of Civilian Astronautics promises to create massive new employment, and enable definitive and permanent exit from global crisis

CIVILIAN ASTRONAUTICS, THE EPIC NEW ERA OF WORLD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

We at **SPACE RENAISSANCE** have a few clear and simple concepts, of which one is: **THERE IS NO GROWTH WITHOUT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT** - and without growth our civilization will die. The only way to really re-start economic growth, beyond merely short-term remedies, is to bootstrap the new era of human expansion beyond the Earth's atmosphere, by accelerating the development of low-cost space travel. We therefore propose a strongly positive strategy, aiming upwards towards this clear goal.

In the present recession, many investors are keeping their money uninvested, while "*waiting for better times*". But this is worse than useless: the withdrawal of such funds from circulation reduces economic activity, making the possibility of economic revival weaker and weaker. To avoid this awful scenario, the only way is to create **new fields for economic growth**. The most promising new industrial opportunity is to finally trigger the new industrial revolution of **civilian astronautics**, which can quickly reverse the crisis, re-starting an era of double-digit growth in the developed countries as well as in the recently emerging countries, thereby creating millions of new high-level and middle-class jobs, both in space and on Earth. How is this to be done? The key step, which can open a true cornucopia of virtually unlimited future development, is investing in "space tourism", that is, passenger space travel services, starting with sub-orbital flights. This is a very low-cost new approach to space development, which will supply popular services to the general public, and open new fields for investment with **unlimited potential for further growth** - through large-scale orbital industries leading on to lunar economic development and beyond. The first phase of these new industries should be supported by governments with friendly fiscal policies, as governments do for other selected industries. A pool of investment funds should also be created, specifically targeted to stimulate development of civilian astronautics in its many aspects.

WHAT CREATES WEALTH IS NOT MONEY, BUT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE

In times of crisis people come to think of "money" as the most important thing. But is it really so? Western "economics" has come to always focus on money and finance. But according to the **SPACE RENAISSANCE**'s analysis since its birth, now six years ago, this narrow "economistic" thinking has become obsolete as a way to understand reality, and is entirely inadequate to solve the crisis today. In fact, "money" is not in itself wealth, but just a means of accounting for the value of work and wealth. Real wealth is "well-being" of a society, the ability to hope and work confidently for the future, to be happy, to enjoy the pleasures of life without fear of being impoverished in future. **REAL WEALTH COMPRISES RAW MATERIALS AND CULTURE**, where "culture" means the sum of all our knowledge and artifacts, ranging from growing vegetables to astronautic technologies, art, music and spirituality.



Consequently, **THE MORE PEOPLE WE ARE IN THE WORLD, THE GREATER IS OUR WEALTH.** In fact, apart from raw materials, all of the considered variables - that is culture - depends only upon us, and upon our ability to resume the path of industrial development - on a larger scale than ever before. In summary, crisis or development, poverty or wealth, depression or creative happiness, decline or growth, all depend not on the availability of "money", but on our attitudes and ideas, our trust or distrust in the ability to cope, to overcome difficulties, overcome challenges, and to throw, as they say, our heart beyond the obstacle. Finding ways to generate new real wealth depends only upon these, and upon sound ideas for our future direction of economic growth, as the necessary foundation for our culture to continue to thrive. We therefore have a moral obligation to nurture this process, and never to accept any policies that lead to decline of our culture, or decrease in the number of individuals, such as the current meaningless debt-based "austerity" being imposed on the richly culture-bearing European countries.

DIFFERENT MODELS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT, AND DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF MONEY

So how is the crisis to be handled? Even limiting ourselves to analyze just the Western world, we see at least two different and antithetical models. The European policy of so-called "austerity" institutionalizes the bonfire of credit available for investment, as hundreds of billions are swallowed by the black hole of stock-exchanges, through days and months of falling values based on their failing confidence in the future. In this way the real economy is progressively "downsized" in proportion to the reduction of liquidity, punishing the people who suffer from the crisis although they didn't cause it. The European Union, endowed with an economic government but not a political one, is endlessly benevolent to those who strongly fueled the crisis: banks and financial organizations. The European leadership has shown itself to be politically and culturally subject to the unelected leaders of the financial system, by whom it agrees to be governed, and seems to have given up trying to govern them.

The U.S. administration - without being free from major strategic faults - acted differently: since the beginning of the crisis in 2008, the Federal Reserve injected new money into the economy, creating currency at the rate of \$80 billion per month. The result is a substantial recovery of the economy, at the cost of modest inflation. Among other things, given the persistent overvaluation of the Euro, a moderate inflation would do no harm, even on the East side of the Atlantic Ocean. In the presence of strong industrial infrastructure, inflation is rapidly absorbed, and development can re-start. The strategy is simple: the crisis of confidence burned a few hundreds of billions, so we need to restore the evaporated liquidity. This is a policy of governance of the crisis that does not kneel before the god of money, but instead considers it properly a means, not an end in itself. Nevertheless, the U.S. economic recovery is very weak - because money has simply been provided to the financial sector, and not invested in new ideas for major new industries capable of creating large-scale new employment.

The analysis by **SPACE RENAISSANCE** tells us that there is currently a lack of opportunities in already mature industries to create the tens of millions of new jobs needed to reduce unemployment in Europe and USA. Consequently, in the absence of a program of **exo-development**, clearly oriented to finally begin the exploitation of resources and energy outside of our planet, **any policy, if confined within the narrow limits of our beloved Earth, can only fail.** In addition, we should anyway be starting to relieve the Earth from the burdens imposed by humans' industrial development, by moving our activities into space. The adoption of this strategy is in sharp contrast to the "austerity" crisis, and if combined with a new industrial policy aimed upwards, can stem the economic depression, preventing the crisis becoming irreversible, and greatly decreasing the destruction of industrial and cultural resources. Above all, it will keep open



for longer the time-window for humans' to develop economically self-sustaining uses of the limitless resources of space. And this can make the most critical difference - by providing grounds for optimism that will itself revive economic growth.

HE WHO FAILS TO FIGHT HAS ALREADY LOST BY DEFAULT

A well-known proverb says that he who engages in battle may lose, but he who fails to fight has already lost. We at **SPACE RENAISSANCE** are committed 100% in this battle, which we consider essential, not only for the rebirth of our Countries, but for the whole of present-day Civilization - the greatest human achievement to date, which has relieved billions of people from poverty, and can relieve everyone on Earth, if only the policies preventing this next new phase of progress are corrected. We will discuss these issues at the **CONGRESS OF SPACE RENAISSANCE ITALIA, during MAY 8th and 9th, at POLITECNICO of MILANO BOVISA, and we will bring these ideas to the ISDC 2014 Conference of National Space Society, in Los Angeles, MAY 15th to 18th.**

This battle needs the support of everyone: we call on you to bet on **OUR VISION**, and join our project to help us engage in our community all those who understand how critical the present situation is, and who can use their heads to support the true solution to our present economic stagnation - not retreat to poverty, but forward to the stars!

Currently **SPACE RENAISSANCE INTERNATIONAL** comprises two local chapters: Italy and USA.

If you live in a Country where Space Renaissance International does not yet have a chapter, please consider incorporating one!

Please send your expression of interest to us at: info@spacerenaissance.org

Ad Astra!

This article originates from a newsletter firstly delivered by Space Renaissance Italia, written by **Adriano Autino**, SRI, president and co-founder, and **Rino Russo**, SR Italia, President. **Patrick Collins**, SRI, vice-president and co-founder, contributed to this final version.

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