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**THE CONTROVERSY OVER GLOBALIZATION**  
**A CONSPIRACY THEORY APPROACH**  
-SUMMARY-

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# SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

In its current form, Economics is giving an insignificant space to philosophical inferences, ethics and morality. The excessive abstracting and the preference to quantify and standardize facts lead to sterile results, to simple findings or diagnosis, while the norms and the values needed in the social relationships are fading.

This thesis is aiming to bring a modest contribution to the effort of reconsidering the social-humanistic side of the economy, by promoting a kind of reasoning that sustains the primacy of the individual interest in the economic process: *the conspiratorial reasoning*. Starting with an unqualified and unorthodox source – the conspiracy theory – we intend to explain the way these interests are served in the context of globalization.

Although the conspiracy theories are often associated to the paranoid thinking, they follow an alternative path to knowledge, by seeking those patterns that confirm us the fact that the lust for power could manifest even in the economic relations, undermining rationality, ethics and morality.

Conspiracy theories are not real theories but assumptions or informal hypothesis, strongly labeled as illegitimate, unscientific or inauthentic. The scientific argument that anathematizes conspiracy theory focuses exclusively on the epistemic dimension and the psycho-sociological causes of the conspiracism. A conspiracy hypothesis rarely reaches verification or testing; it is *ex-ante* disqualified due to the dogmatic biases. The fear to be ridiculous is a strong reason for the hesitance of the academic environment in trying to validate the conspiracy theories. However, a negative and premature labeling of the conspiracy theories is unscientific itself, since science has the mission to bring the light into the darkness, to remove all uncertainty, suspicions and speculations through the power of reason.

The fundamental objective of our research is to highlight the cognitive value of the conspiracy theories on globalization. The aim is followed by three specific objectives:

- analyzing the background of the conspiracy theories on globalization
- analyzing the main conspiracy theories on globalization
- extracting the useful elements of the conspiracy theories (the conspiratorial reasoning).

## CONTENT

Based on the relevant facts and the main findings that expose the controversial side of globalization we highlighted the essential features of the conspiracy theories reflecting the negative perception over the phenomenon; after consulting various landmarks in the literature, it seemed logical to structure the thesis in four chapters:

## **Chapter I: THEORETICAL CONTROVERSIES AND CONTROVERSIAL PRACTICES**

The first chapter of this work focuses on the theoretical and doctrinal differences that offer a controversial character to the subject of economic globalization. Primarily, we highlighted different and antagonistic ways of perceiving the phenomenon: hiperglobalism, transformationalism, skepticism, the negative criticism and conspiracism. Secondly, we considered the critical aspects of literature targeting neoliberalism (the market fundamentalism the shock doctrine, neo-colonialism, etc.) and the problems of capitalism (democracy, morality, welfare, inequality, the crisis, etc.). Developing the ideas of the main critical studies on globalization and its components (mostly Marxist) is required to further justify the conspiracy rhetoric.

## **Chapter II: THE ROLE OF IMPERIALISM IN THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBALIZATION**

History is an indispensable tool for understanding the present; therefore, we initiated a journey within the history of globalization, focusing on the main forms of imperialism that have established the global power relations: the European commercial imperialism, the American imperialism, capitalist imperialism and the neoliberal imperialism. We argued that economic imperialism, in its formal or informal form, constitutes a driving force of the globalization, and also an expression of real private interests for material or financial accumulation.

Also, in this chapter we extracted some ideas from the main imperialism theories (Hobson, Luxemburg, Lenin, Schumpeter, Hardt and Negri), focusing on the operators and the various ways of manifestation of the economic imperialism.

## **Chapter III: GLOBALIZATION AND THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

The first part of this chapter contains an overview of the most popular conspiracy hypothesis on globalization: New World Order and the conspiracy for the Empire, the Jewish conspiracy, the Masonic conspiracy, the institutional conspiracy and the elitist group conspiracy.

The second part of the chapter contains a case study of the Jewish conspiracy theory, given its topicality and recurrence in the various stages of globalization. Exposing the data on global anti-Semitism, relating to the history of economic anti-Semitism and highlighting the main assumptions developed in the conspiratorial anti-Semitic literature, would reflect the universal character of this theory and the particular impact that is recorded on the collective mind.

## **Chapter IV: EPISTEMOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES**

The final chapter of the doctoral thesis extracts the peculiarities of conspiracy theories on globalization and positions them within the general the conspiracy theory domain and also within the social sciences domain. In order to emphasize the cognitive value of the conspiracy theories we

identified several epistemological landmarks concerning the elite theory, the interest group theory, institutional manipulation, the causal attribution and the conspiratorial reasoning. We also found different causes for the emergence and proliferation of the conspiracy theories, which can be external or specific to the conspiracy theory domain.

## CONCLUSIONS

At the first sight, the origins and consequences of globalization can be superficially attributed to some impersonal factors – as we have been accustomed by the established scientific methods. The profundity of the research subject cannot be reached without defying the norms and the abstractions that prevent us to tie the research object from its subject. Even if there are no scientific proofs of a major plot to "globalize" the world it cannot be denied that globalization was driven by private motivations and ambitions, sequentially and systematically racing since the time of the first explorers. The colonial expansion and the imperialism - in various forms, the elitist structures and the geopolitical strategies come to confirm that globalization always had a direction; globalization is not a process driven by random business decisions or by the activities of some unorganized individuals seeking for profit business success. The market was never truly free...

By using the inductive method, starting from the facts and the agents of globalization, we prepared the ground for emphasizing the circumstances and the features of the conspiracy theories, focusing on the conspiratorial reasoning. We showed that the negative perceptions of globalization constitute the background of the conspiracy theory. The ideological distortion of reality, the innocence of the imperialist practices covered by the "free economy" discourse and the crisis of the global capitalist system are the main aspects that generate critical theories on globalization and the anti-globalization movement. By updating old myths and by accusing new – formal or informal – economic and political global actors, conspiracy theories aim to offer an answer to nowadays controversial situations or practices that have uncertain or „unscientific” origins.

The cognitive value of the conspiracy theories is enhanced by skepticism and by the power of the antecedent. The initiative to search for the intention, the motivation or the private interests behind the economic facts cannot be prosecuted in a free society - unless it brings an affront to the power; this is why the conspiratorial assumptions are preferentially labeled.

Conspiracy theories on globalization also have a moralizing or spiritual role; they remind us that freedom is not unrestricted when it affects others; that desiring for profits must rely on ethics and morality. The economic activity goes beyond the national space in order to increase the material gains – an aspect that is not necessarily convergent with the ideal of global peace and welfare. By pointing the power abuses, the wealth concentration and the cost socialization, the conspiratorial charges represent a barometer for the discontent of those that are disadvantaged by the globalization.

The potential of our research consists in future directions of analysis of the conspiracy theories on globalization that can be qualitatively or quantitatively defined. Also, the paper promotes two useful tools for the interpretation of the fundamental economic processes: 1) the reference to the antecedent that prefigures and describes the decay of the present ( the crave for power entrenched in the human nature, the economic and cultural imperialism, etc.); 2) the conspiratorial reasoning, which focuses on the private interests that are sovereign in the economic activity and underlies the methodological individualism. Due to the failure of the mainstream economic doctrine to provide the solutions needed in a decaying society and in a system in crisis, it would be useful to realize an update of the economic theory from the perspective of the elitist informal system of domination.