Mind, Thinking and Creativity:

Real-World Applications for

the “Faith Depression” and the “Mindustrial Revolution”

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As a formal *practitioner* in international security, I am biased towards the demand side: mainly interested in *how we apply what we explore to what we face*. Thus, I am absorbed by applications, more precisely ***“real-world” applications*** for international security mitigation and optimization.

A precursor to “real-world” applications is to visualize the “real worlds” themselves. For me potentially two new “real worlds” might emerge in the years to come that are relevant for our subject matter.

With fast backwarding, the first one is not that new at all. It is a world reminiscent of both the 1930s and 1900s: the cluster of mutually reinforcing bubbles (banking, currency, default, employment, etc.) bursting one after the other and ultimately culminating in a fundamental existential threat for too many in too many parts of the world. That existential threat is inflating a global „frustration, fear and anger” super bubble*.*  Once that super bubble bursts, it unleashes what I would call a **”*Faith Depression”***with severe, long-lasting and far-reaching consequences*,* as it had happened in the 1930s or earlier in the 1900s.

With fast forwarding, the second one is a genuinely new world. It is not just a new world, but a new age: all the advances in computer and related sciences and technologies, machine learning, data mining, networking, robotics, cybernetics, enhanced human intelligence and artificial general intelligence are reaching a critical mass, which I arbitrarily call the ***”Mindustrial Revolution”***. That age will only later culminate in singularity, as originally referred to by Johann von Neumann and elaborated by Kurzweil and other AI experts.

The Dubrovnik curriculum, as it was unfolding from the webinar, is totally correct and academically sound. Still, it is focusing on none of these two new realities and not providing demand-side options for the practitioner. It is stuck in-between, staying with the existing world, though that world might be soon eclipsed. Eclipsed not by just one of the two new “real worlds”, but by both of them, simultaneously.

Without the visualization of the new environment(s) and scenarios emerging in front of us, it is impossible to operationalize thought (mind, thinking and creativity) processes, both individual and collective, for mitigation and/or optimization postures.

The simultaneous emergence of those two new “real worlds” represents an added layer of complexity for mitigation and/or optimization postures: they are mutually reinforcing each other’s negative potential and the other way around, mutually weakening each other’s opportunity potential.

The **“Faith Depression” scenario** is raising disturbing questions for an international security practitioner in the context of thought (mind, thinking and creativity) processes:

* Since individuals are potentially faced with existential threats, do raw emotions, among them frustration, fear and anger, predominantly underlie their thought processes, as a consequence of how the brain operates?
* How the predominance of the emotional (frustration, fear & anger) mindset would influence the rational thought processes of individuals? Is it a zero sum game with a squeezing out effect, or the rational part of the thought processes will remain unaffected notwithstanding the intensity of those emotions?
* Would these raw emotions remain isolated at the individual level for each and every person, or would they accumulate at the collective level (adding up to hundreds of millions of people driven by them)?
* Is the accumulated entirety of raw emotions at the collective level represent more than the mere sum of its constituent parts?
* Would these collective frustration, fear and anger type of emotions reside merely at the unconscious level?
* Even if they reside initially at the collective unconscious level, would they sequentially produce thought leaders that would “act them out” for the collective and transplant, embed, or burn them in the collective conscious? Could these “leaders” further enhance the collective raw emotions creating a negative feedback loop?
* The importance of emotional intelligence (EQ) versus general intelligence (IQ) is a hotly contested issue. Still, if we assume that EQ defines more the outcome than any other factor, how will a major EQ-disfunctionality both at the individual and collective level impact the performance of societies?
* What is the empirical evidence for societal impact when emotion-defined thought processes and memes massively invade both individual and collective spheres, as well as conscious and unconscious levels?
* Social sciences were left behind by progress in natural sciences encountered during the last two centuries. Against this background how to foresee newly-born creativity so direly needed for mitigation and/or optimization of the ”Faith Depression” scenario in a situation where societies will opt for more collectivism at the expense of individuality and innovation, trying to retreat to well-tested and conservative values of religion, beliefs, norms and memes? Would such neo-conservatism lead a dangerous vacuum for society-wide extreme ideological experimantion as it happened in the 1900s and 1930s?
* Is there any mitigation strategy which historically worked in similar situations without elites or societies experimenting with extreme ideologies or descending into major societal upheavals (uprising, revolution, civil war, war or a combination of them)? Where is the exit (strategy)?

As for the **“Mindustrial Revolution” scenario** there are equally complex questions arising for an international security practitioner, especially if we start with aspects where the two scenarios are synergistic, but in a negative way:

* What is the transmission and acquisition pattern of emotion-defined memes when the number of communication means already now exceeds the total of the world population, while their density and speed beat any contagion dynamics known? How to prevent a pandemic-type of frustration, fear and anger contagion when networking is becoming even more ubiquitous in the new age?
* What is the implication of Microsoft Tay’s fiasco for non-human replicators as a platform to massively proliferate raw emotion memes? (In March 2016 Tay, an artificial intelligence chatterbot developed by Microsoft for Twitter had to be taken off-line just after 16 hours into its existence because it was replicating among one hundred thousand tweets neo-Nazi and hate speech themes.)
* How to prevent societies torn apart, where one part is moving back to and regrouping around historically tested, conservative value systems while the other is galloping forward on the uncharted territory of the “Mindustrial Revolution”?
* Will the “Mindustrial Revolution” create enough new workplaces to compensate for the loss resulting from a new productivity paradigm, where robots and artificial intelligence will massively eliminate the need for human power, both physical and intellectual?
* Will be there inevitable tension between the economically active and the economically inactive in the Mindustrial Age? Will be there a creator class and an idle class?
* Who will be the beneficiaries and who will be the losers of the “Mindustrial Revolution”? What will be their proportion within societies? Will be there a middle class? Will it be sufficiently strong to support both economically and politically the new mindustrialist elite?
* How the supply and demand side of the market remains balanced once the numerically shrinking creator class will not generate enough demand compared to the exponentially increasing supply and the idle class will have a steeply declining purchasing power?
* There is a newly found interest by the robotics and artificial intelligence communities in the concept of Unconditional Basic Income, that is a guaranteed income to citizen. Is it an early reflection of demand side challenges to be mitigated? Are there other fixes for the supply vs. demand challenge?
* All the promises of the Mindustrial Revolution can only be realized with timely mitigation of the risks such an age will bring about. AI experts are all in agreement on the inevitability of singularity (the infliction point when artificial intelligence will exceed human intelligence). Experts only differ on the timeframe, but their averaged range is in between 2030 and the next couple of decades. Will it leave enough time for putting in place the necessary human safeguards against the Mindustrial Revolution and its culmination, singularity spinning out of human control and thus posing the most important existential questions for mankind since the emergence of humans?

These insights are naturally very much demand-side oriented and application-focused, or to be more precise focused on “real-world” applications. I admit that is the limitation of an international security practitioner.