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Battle Report for battle 5

Realpolitik vs Ideology

[Realpolitik:]

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[Ideology:]

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1 Introduction

The basic idea behind the battles, in general, is to help students to develop critical thinking by changing the educational process from convergent to divergent by removing factuality, adding equivocal ambiguity and creating challenges in the classroom; where two opposite points of view interact through a debate in the style of British Parliament.

Moreover, every battle has a theme which is linked to a subject, that has been previously discussed during past lectures. In our case, the main topic of the battle was ambiguity, which permeates the landscape of almost every political “battle”.

We could be bold enough to say that we have reached the peak of ambiguity during the last United States presidential election, giving truth a secondary priority while seeing rhetoric and charisma as the building blocks of a post-truth decision procedure.

In order to simulate these controversial circumstances, the proposed background of the battle was a political election, which had the main goal of comparing two opposite views within the proposed scenario: Realpolitik and Ideology.

Briefly, the idea of the scenario was to replicate the voting process in the classroom in order for students to accept by poll one of the two proposed political programs. In opposition to the previous battles, the final decision on the winning team was to be made by the students through a voting system.

According to the scenario, the election process is taking place in the European Union in the not-distant future, in the year 2051. Due to the high level of robotisation manpower is replaced by machines mostly in every sector of the economy. As a result, the society is facing the great problem of unemployment. In order to solve this problem, two political factions come up with two different political solutions. The European government decides to let European citizens choose which program they would like to endorse.

“Realpolitik” political system.

In 1853, Ludwig von Rochau wrote *“Grundsätze der Realpolitik angewendet auf die staatlichen Zustände Deutschlands”* in which he portrayed Realpolitik as *“the study of the forces that shape, maintain and alter the state is the basis of all political insight and leads to the understanding that the law of power governs the world of states just as the law of gravity governs the physical world”* [1].

Realpolitik is a double-edged sword, from where it is possible to derive its dichotomy: a usage for progressive realism, and one focused on gaining or maintaining power.

Often the former is considered positive: Realpolitik is opposed to the utopian vision, in contrast with magniloquence of power, absolutization of values and falsification of politics. It tries to carry out politic intents without the distortions of doctrines and ideologies.

Realpolitik also assumes a negative meaning when the law of power, opportunism and contributing to the status quo become the main goals.

Thousands of years before the Realpolitik term was defined, we can find an ex-

ample of positive Realpolitik analyzing the writings of Thucydides, an Athenian historian who lived in the 5th-century BC. He did a deep analysis of historical events according to the human nature, with the exclusion of the intervention of divinity and doctrines, therefore he gains the epithet of “*father of scientific history by those who accept his claims to have applied strict standards of impartiality and evidence-gathering*” [2].

At the same time, Thucydides was in favour to “*Athenian coup of 411 BC*” a form of government that, although not an oligarchy, excluded the non-tenants from public offices [3].

Hence he is a precedent of the Realpolitik dichotomy coexistence: Thucydides is not only rational and scientific, but also juggles politics and power to gain and keep control of his faction.

“Ideology” political system.

Ideology is an abstraction without objective basis dealing with ideas per se leaving aside facts and humans. “*Typically, ideology expresses the leading ideas on what is considered the best form of government (e.g. democracy or totalitarianism) and the right economic structure (e.g. liberalism or socialism) in a specific historical period*” [4].

The original term was proposed by Count Antoine Destutt de Tracy, characterizing it as the “society of ideas”, later it got a different meaning, better reflected by the definition given by Karl Marx. He depicted ideology as a “false consciousness” of people who claim that their ideas represent a universal truth. Many political parties apply political programs and actions based on their aims; Ideological parties, by definition, are interested in higher purposes other than winning the elections, but these noble goals often end up as a set of approaches simply used as a political tool to achieve hidden goals and interests by distorting social and political realities.

Communism might be one the first examples of ideologies to come to mind, starting from surely elevated aims; historically it always ended up just as a tool serving whoever was currently in charge or was aiming to get in charge.

Defining the problem A problem like extreme unemployment caused by robotization will surely light the fire of discussion in many areas. How to disentangle the problem? What defines it? Is it a purely socio-economical question or should we also consider technological aspects?

As has often been the case, compromise is the key.

We need to consider, for example, that basing our whole society on machinery would make us extremely appetible as a target for cyber-warfare. At the same time should we not exploit technology as best as we can to gain productivity? Has technology reached a point where we would rather it to not be?

Our hard earned progress is now pushing us into unemployment, the potential loss of general and everyday skills, and maybe suggesting that most jobs are now to be considered out of date or expired.

Social stability can be preserved by keeping in mind that while we need to be efficient we also need to cater to individuals of all sorts, for this reason we can-

not consider this issue by framing it into too limited boundaries.

We can be sure that by seeing this problem as something with technological roots which later reached every corner of our society we would not be too far from the truth.

2 Scenario

In the year 2051, when our scenario takes place, the European coal and steel community (ECSC) is going to celebrate its 100th anniversary. This date in European history is considered important, because the ECSC was the foundation of the current European Union. In the 1950s, because of the Cold War, maintaining peace was the crucial goal for Europe. That is why European countries started sharing a common agenda of regulating the industrial production among them, which later on lead to cutting down the customs charges in the field of trading, and eventually to the creation of the European Union of today. As we can imagine, in the future, automation technologies, such as machine learning and robotics, will play an increasingly great role in everyday life; their potential effect on the workplace will have, unsurprisingly, become a major focus of research and public concern. At the same time, we must take into consideration that machines will not be able to ultimately replace humans, especially, in the fields which require creativity, that is arguably the most difficult human quality to replicate by using artificial intelligence.

Due to the factors mentioned above, the European society of 2051 would face one vital problem - global unemployment -, which will impact all of the society's life spheres. At that time European authorities would mainly be influenced by two different political collaborations, Realpolitik and Ideology, both having their specific view on the solution and political programs to implement in Europe.

In order to help students to better perceive the scenario of the battle, both political groups are assigned with political leaders: descendants of two famous historical figures: Maria Theresa of Austria (Realpolitik group) and Maximilien Robespierre (Ideology group).

Maria Theresa was the ruler of the Habsburg dominions, which included: Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bohemia, Transylvania. She was known to be one of the most enlightened persons of her time. The famous quote by her: *"While other nations do battle, you lucky Austria, you wed"* perfectly shows the Realpolitik approach she was implementing - aiming for power and, at the same time, maintaining it by avoiding the global political conflicts and eventually wars. Generally, she has successfully enforced a lot of political reforms with the goal to concentrate the power in the monarchy and in Vienna particularly.

Maximilien Robespierre was one of the best-known figures in French Revolution, trying to move French society towards a completely new organizational horizon. Robespierre is mainly considered as a radical ideologist, his main agenda was to protect France as a nation, free it from the *"tyranny"* of absolute monarchy and establish the French Republic.

The ideology proposal

The fundamental part of the political program proposed by the Ideology group is the implementation of the Basic income concept. The main idea behind the Basic income is to unconditionally provide all citizens with a fixed amount of money to cover their basic needs.

Within the proposed scenario, Basic Income follows two main goals:

1. Flattening the population guaranteeing a minimum quality of life for everyone;
2. Promoting the creativity by providing people with the opportunity to do what they want and not what they have to.

As was mentioned earlier, machines will always lack creativity, so the Ideology group aims to increase the value of creativity by encouraging people to generate more ideas with having fewer risks of financial losses.

The money for the program implementation might be collected by different means. Commonly used definition of the Basic income implies elimination of mostly all other Social Security Programs and using the money for the providing of Basic income. In order to collect this amount of money, there might be implemented also different types of taxation.

One of the mentioned examples was the Finnish experiment, where 2000 unemployed individuals were randomly chosen to receive €560 every month.

The Realpolitik proposal The main idea of the Realpolitik program is to maintain the current situation in a dampening stage.

Two basic concepts proposed by the group are:

- Limitation of the amount of the machines;
- Brining more research into the field of employment.

Since originally the problem of unemployment was brought forward by the increasing levels of automation, there is an obvious solution to it: make fewer machines. While slowing the spread of automation and robotization, the suggestion is to focus more resources on research, in order to understand where people could be reallocated.

The outlined position is not the first significant shift in the industry in general; previous industrial revolutions were also accelerating unemployability, by that pushing people into finding the new ways to sustain themselves. New job opportunities were generated by moving people from farms to factories, from factories to offices. Humanity was always able to adjust to new surroundings.

To counterbalance the problem of unemployment, the European Union comes up with the idea to let the European citizens decide through elections which program should be enforced for the next 90 years.

As was stated in the scenario, each group was to prepare a “Manifesto” (political pamphlet), containing main ideas, slogan and motivations, as in classical election process.

Pamphlets were provided to students of the class for voting, additionally, each participant was given an opportunity to comment on their decision. Afterwards, all the results were given to the teams for consideration.

The idea behind that was to have the so-called “observer effect”: in the case of the given scenario, it is the impact on the behaviour (voting) of an individual caused by the act of observing the process of voting (preview of the voting results).

After analyzing the results, the goal of the teams was to either push the situation in their favour (in the losing case) or to maintain the position (in the winning case).

As ambiguity is characterized by the opportunity to influence the environment, the objective for both teams was to manipulate the environment in order to gain votes.

Within the scenario scope, during the battle preparation, we have fixed the following assumptions:

- The Basic Income sum is fixed and given unconditionally (regardless the employment status of an individual);
- The amount of money given within the Basic Income concept is still lower than the poverty line;
- The chosen program will be implemented for 90 years (the average lifespan of a person);
- Not all the jobs will be replaced by robots, the uniquely skilled jobs and those that require the creativity will still be done by humans;
- In order to prove their ideas groups must use approximations of real statistics about the European economy and society (OECD, WORLD BANK, EUROSTAT etc).

3 View 1

Introduction

As the group representing “Realpolitik” view, our goal was to come up with the alternative to the Basic Income concept.

Following the battle scenario, the first step was to make a pamphlet. Reasonably, the main idea of making a pamphlet was to persuade people to vote for our group. But eventually, we have come out with another idea. Our decision on the pamphlet was as followed: in the pamphlet we decided not to disclose our strong ideas in order to avoid the situation when the opposite team would have the opportunity to prepare the “attack points”.

Instead we focused on the weak points of Basic Income concept and mentioned the general ideas that had already been discussed during the battle preparation. It worked as planned, even though we didn’t win the first vote, after getting the results we were able to interact with the environment and change the position

in our favour due to the people's comments and win the final vote.

Problem

The problem we were focusing on was the high level of unemployment due to the rising spread of robotization in most of the sectors of the European economy. We called the upcoming situation – the 4th industrial revolution. As the spokespersons of the Realpolitik view, we needed to solve the problem by opposing the idea of implementing the Basic Income system in Europe and find a less radical and more stable solution for a long-term future.

Our solution

The main idea we were promoting was a well-thought and structured reform in the form of new policy innovations and experimentation on how to ensure the stability of social security systems and the distribution of income.

Our propositions were divided into 3 main groups:

1. Exploring the new opportunities;
 - Implementing new forms of income taxation;
 - Reducing the working hours;
2. Taking stable approach:
 - Regulating the robotisation levels;
 - Focusing on the research;
3. Focusing on human ambitions:
 - Promoting the meritocracy system;
 - Training people.

All our proposed ideas were following the same goal - to show people that they could have the same benefits proposed by Basic Income in the other group pamphlet (including more free time for family and self-development, lower poverty levels, replacing dangerous jobs with robots, meritocracy system) but by alternative means.

Exploring the new opportunities

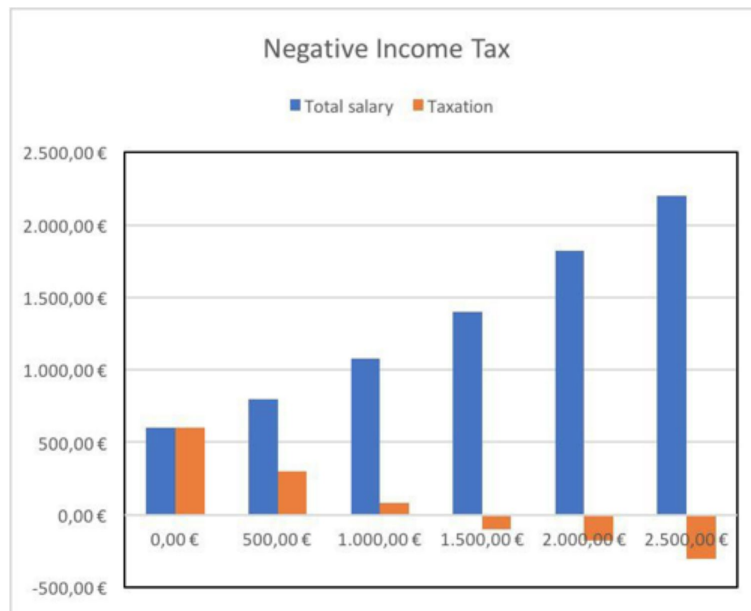
We focused on this idea as the most crucial one. We proposed to invest more resources (human, financial) into the developing new and supporting already existing Social Security Programs, Education, Medicine, Art.

We came up with 2 new programs as essential examples of our vision. The first one was Guaranteed Leave for Personal Development (GLPD), which means that every person would be granted an opportunity to have a partly paid leave from their job to explore new opportunities: specialised experiences, justified personal needs, formal studies. The main goal of the program is to provide all the people with an opportunity for achieving personal development goals.

The second one was Supporting The Arts (STA). We proposed that it was time to start considering the art as a real asset for catalysing the community and economy development. The main goal of that program is to encourage and assist artists and enable them to achieve wider distribution of their works by investing money into supporting the artists, new art educational programs, by making the entrance to museums free etc.

Implementing new forms of income taxation

As the next step of our program, we proposed the implementation of a new form of income taxation – the negative income tax (NIT). The NIT is a progressive income tax system that *“taxes individuals at a rate which increases as income increases. Under the most basic form of the NIT, people still see increased tax rates as their income levels grow. But when incomes decline past a certain threshold, the government credits taxpayers a percentage of their income that decreases as their income approaches the threshold such that for whatever income a taxpayer earns below the threshold, he is credited with the difference between his income and the threshold”*. [5]



The main goal of the program is to encourage work and to reduce the poverty levels. It would also fulfil the social goal of making sure that there was a minimum level of income for all.

Reducing working hours

Another introduced part of our program was reducing the working hours to 30-hours work week. It would fulfil 2 goals. To individuals: they would have more free time to spend with their families, friends, more opportunities to have

hobbies or personal projects. To society: in order to have the same productive results in the industry we would need to involve more employees and by that improving the employment rates.

Taking the stable approach

As the concept for this part we used a quote by Sun Tzu from the book *“The art of war”*: *“Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to the victory”*. Sun Tzu is seen as one of the first of the representers of Realpolitik view [6].

Regulating the robotization levels

Our idea was to enforce the law to replace only specific types of jobs, particularly those that are health-risky for people, by that limiting the usage of robots in general.

Then we also planned to tax the companies’ usage of robots as a way to at least temporarily slow the spread of automation and meanwhile find other types of employment. At the same time, we suggested reducing taxation on employing humans by encouraging companies to rely more on human’s abilities.

Focusing on the research

As we planned to slow down the spread of robots, we wanted to put maximum efforts into research. We planned to organise an expert panel to find new approaches that could be used to fight poverty and unemployment more efficiently and to promote social inclusion. This proposition would also create more job opportunities for people.

We proposed to promote 2 main areas of research:

- Analyzing the long-term impact of Basic income on the global economy;
- Examination of new possible alternative forms of Basic Income (e.g. Participation Income). [7]

Focusing on people’s ambitions

The first idea we wanted to encourage is that of a meritocracy system in the form of rewarding those who work hard is an incentive for the development of the economy.

The second idea was to encourage people’s training, not people’s replacement. We wished for a Europe of skilled individuals, not skilled machines. It was also connected to an idea of creating new and supporting already existing educational systems that we had already mentioned before.

Discussions and debates

During the debates, we disclosed some weak points of the opposite team pamphlet, presentation and Basic income idea in general.

In pamphlet:

- Problems with the definition of Basic Income;

In presentation:

- There were no numbers on the proposed amount of Basic Income;
- First mentioned examples were not on the idea of Basic Income in the modern form.

Basic income idea:

- Still lower than the poverty line;
- Might be a threat to a democracy;
- Brings risks of losing essential risks;
- Might cause social instability and inflation.

On the other hand, during the debates, our group faced some issues with the students' understanding of our proposed concepts, like with the idea of Negative Income Tax, so we had to explain it further in more details.

Final statement

In our final statement, we focused on pointing out once again the main ideas we were promoting. Besides, we stressed out that our group was not against the concept of Basic income in general, but our intention was to postpone the implementation of Basic income concept until the further research was made, especially regarding the long-term impact. But at the same time, we tried to draw the attention of the students to the main problems of Basic income, mentioned before. Finally, we reminded people the importance of their decision, since they were supposed to decide their future for the next 90 years.

4 View 2

Introduction

As the Robespierre Party, we were representing the Ideology faction and our objective was to propose the Basic Income as an answer to the issues which were pointed out in the scenario. Our solution was made to be highly innovative, such that to solve the scenario's questions in a brand-new approach, but still being able to offer a detailed way to implement it and proof its feasibility.

Since the debate was structured as a political battle, firstly we had to create a pamphlet for the party, in which we exposed our idea by showing a list of ten facts about Basic Income. Its purpose was to reshape people's view on the subject and gain their votes. We tried to make our political Manifesto as appealing as possible, taking into consideration also other factors like colours, text fonts and other characteristics which are as important as the actual message delivered. In the end, we were able to successfully win the first poll. We gained also knowledge about the environment by exploiting people comments which helped us to structure the presentation speech and to correct some faults of our proposal.

Problem

Due to the scenario, people's lives were surrounded by robots and robots had replaced humans in strenuous jobs. They were more efficient because they did not have feelings, they did not feel tired, and they did not need to sleep. On the other side, they lacked a feature that only mankind has: the power of creativity and of critical thinking.

To secure a job in this highly automated era you needed to develop these skills, you needed to study, to practice and to increase your knowledge; but how could you study if the unemployment rate is so high and you had no money to afford education?

The Robespierre Party's main point was based on the consideration that in the proposed scenario the amount of work available was not enough to guarantee the employment level of the days we were actually living in, because of the increased robots' capabilities.

People could not gain money without working and thus they could not afford an adequate standard of living. For example, by looking at the food consumption, we know that in 2015 the number of European who could not afford to have breakfast or lunch throughout the day because they faced poverty issues reached 43 million [8].

This is in contrast with the Article 25 of the Declaration of Human Rights, which claims that *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family"* [9]. Our current socio-economic environment was not respecting and fulfilling these basic human needs and it needed to be renovated.

Our Solution

We proposed to implement the Basic Income as the new European economic system for the next 90 years. A more formal definition is the following:

"A Basic Income is a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis, without means-test or work requirement." [10]

There are many reasons why this proposal is effective and why it would have positive consequences on the social structure.

First of all, Basic income does not mean "giving money for nothing": it is given to compensate the evolution of the society. It has not to be forgotten that the amount of work had drastically decreased. The idea is not to pay people that did not want to work, but to give instead to people the opportunity to live. As said, the level of skills required to find a job in the scenario was higher than it used to be and this surely requires more effort during the studies.

Secondly, it would free people from all the alienating and frustrating jobs. It could allow mankind to be finally the owner of his time. This would enable people to pursue their passions and to spend more time with the beloved ones, strengthening social relations and developing a sense of community and empathy, creating a more caring society.

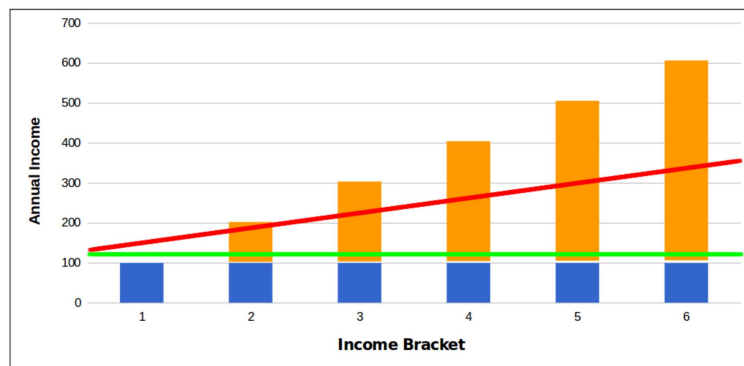
Thirdly, Basic Income would reduce the crime rates. The need to rob or burglar

is dictated by the need for money. This desire is often experienced by population groups in which people live below the poverty level. By having no money, people are not able to redeem themselves and start a new life, maybe getting a job or a house, since they are at the edges of our society. The Basic Income would give people the opportunity to start again, to see a different future, without the need of stealing.

Finally, the Basic Income would drive everybody to a new kind of society. Many new challenges would arise if this approach were to be used, that is incontrovertible. This would cause a culture shift, as it happened in the past with the previous industrial revolutions. However, this would generate new opportunities and it would represent a fundamental change in the way Europeans people are living.

How does it work

We now illustrate how the Basic Income can be implemented in our society and which are the different models European Commission could use to make our vision true. We want to introduce a new taxation system, as shown in the graph below.



The blue parts represents the amount of money given by the Basic Income. The orange bars represent the money coming from the personal jobs of people. People will be allowed to gain money without paying taxes, but that applies only if you are under a certain threshold. If you gave an income higher than this threshold, you will be asked to pay.

There are two basic way of taxation which the EU commission could decide to use:

1. Equal taxation (over a certain threshold everybody pays equally, it is represented by the green line);
2. Proportional taxation (over a certain threshold everybody pays proportionally by looking at their annual income, it is represented by the red line).

Case Studies

To prove the effectiveness of our proposal, we provided the audience some case

studies, which show how it was applied successfully in many situations.

One of the oldest examples of the Basic Income is represented by the Islamic Golden Age (from 8th to 13th century) [11]. One of the greatest minds that started this reality was Abū Bakr, the first Islamic caliph. He instituted policies to give each man, woman or child an annual sum to contrast the poverty of his country. This proved to be a successful move since it empowered Islamic people and started a period of great advancement (which lasted for many years after Abū Bakr death).

During that season, the basis of the modern algebra was created and many important medical advancements were made. For example, Avicenna, who is considered *"The most famous scientist of Islam and one of the most famous of all races, places, and times; one may say that his thought represents the climax of mediaeval philosophy."* [12] lived in that era.

This proves that the Basic Income can lead to an improvement in the society and it can nurture the development of new sciences.

We then showed more recent examples, with the Iran case study being the first of them. Iran was one of the cheapest fuel sellers and the government decided to replace the subsidies coming from energy with social assistance. This means that fuel started to be sold at a higher price so that the amount of "extra" money gained was used to subsidize the Basic Income. This also led to other benefits, such as the reduction of waste and consumerism, but especially to the decrease of air pollution and traffic [13].

We then considered the Finland example, where the government started a two-year experiment in which they would unconditionally provide 2000 randomly selected unemployed people (25-58 years old) €560 per month.

This case is very interesting because it proves that the Basic Income is very useful for the ones that are willing to start their own business but do not have the means to do it: *"The Basic Income will make a big difference to others who are unemployed, especially those who are entrepreneurially minded. If someone wants to start their own business, you don't get unemployment benefits even if you don't have any income for six months."* [14].

The last example we showed during the presentation was Namibia, which represents a very different case, because the Basic Income was introduced into a country in which there were higher poverty rate and worse living conditions. Indeed, it was mainly funded by a German Protestant church. In this case, the Basic Income led to:

- Reduction of childhood malnutrition;
- Growth of school attendance;
- 42% drop in overall crime. [15]

These examples were meant to show to people, who attended the debate, how effective the Basic Income could be for improving the society. The examples outlined above had also the purpose to make people understand that Basic Income can be efficiently introduced and applied to our economy without a lot of efforts.

Discussion

During the preparation we mainly focused on our view, trying to enforce our dominant position and to find out other favourable points of Basic Income. We also thought of some weak points of the opposite view and we came up with a list of questions which we used to attack the other team during the battle discussion.

Firstly, we noticed that the three industrial revolutions occurred in the past could not be stopped, even if there were opponents who fought fiercely to prevent them to happen (e.g. the Luddites during the First Industrial Revolution). Then, we stated that going back to the past economic system was not a long-term solution, since the same problems would rise again later in the future. A proposal from the opponents was enforcing the reduction of robot usage in companies in order to gain back jobs for humans.

However, we claimed that it is not so easy to restrict a firm: indeed, nowadays the economic-political system is strongly dominated by companies, thus limiting their power and their growth would lead to economic troubles. Would it be possible to prevent a firm like Amazon from shipping goods via drones, if it actually wanted to?

In the final statement, as the Robespierre party, we were more focused on evangelizing the concept of the Basic Income principle to attract people to our side. In addition to promoting, we pointed out how implementing of the Basic Income, as the new economic system for the European community for the coming 90 years, was the right choice since many countries had already made many successful experiments and it represented a concrete way to address the issues underlined by the scenario's society.

As we said before, the poll result showed that a lot of people agreed with our view, so we focused more on being consistent with what we stated in the manifesto. The other group set up the battle in an "offensive" way and they were able to find many weak points in our view and to exploit them during the discussion. In the end, we lost many of the approvals we gained through the manifesto, because they were more persuasive and good at exposing our weaknesses. That is because we mainly prioritized defending our position, but at the same time, we lacked the ability to criticise the opponents during the battle.

5 Reconciliation

Problem

Ideologically the Basic income sounds as a fair deal, but as we saw during the debates and while analyzing the existing cases of implementing the Basic income, the concept doesn't take in account the surrounding uncertain and ambiguity environment that can change the expected outcome in an unpredictable manner.

As an example, we have analyzed the case mentioned during the debates - implementation of the Basic income in Iran. The project was held for 5 years

(2010-2015), the first year seemed to go well, but starting from the second year the situation started to change expeditiously: the inflation rates were increasing rapidly causing the erratic prices' changes. The program pushed inflation very high (to 35% in 2013) and contributed to the collapse of Iran's currency in 2012 [16]. Eventually, the program was closed as planned in 5 years but without further intentions to its development.

Moreover, it strongly depends on the environment in which it is set: it can be successful if it is implemented in a restricted reality, such as a poor village in Namibia or a tribal community in North Carolina, where the Basic Income can be simply funded, respectively, by a Protestant church and a casino that equally divides the income among all the people belonging to the same tribe. In fact, this gave the inspiration to professor Jane Costello to start her experiment. She proved that the psychiatric disorders observed in children that used to live below the poverty line decreased over the 40% after the opening of the casino. Costello also proved that there was no negative impact on work participation once the money was given, but actually, it brought jobs to the interested area. However, what would happen if the Basic Income was provided in a country which is not so poor and the fund to be provided was too high? Indeed, \$2000 a year per person are not enough to guarantee a dignified life in a rich country and it would only represent a waste of money. You also have to mind that people that do not live below the poverty line have a different way to consider money and they often have a propensity for wasting it. This means that the Basic Income is not enough to grant a dignified life if there is no education on the usage of money and the responsibility that comes from it [17].

On the other hand, after analyzing more carefully the Realpolitik suggested program we have discovered some troublesome issues. Firstly, regulating robots' spreading among the companies might bring forward deep economic problems in EU, since other countries would use the full potential that robots could provide and by that get better economic indexes through superior productivity. Secondly, the Realpolitik approach was too spread and was not focusing on the concrete idea, so it would be difficult to implement the suggested programs successfully.

Both solutions have never been fully implemented on a large scale, but by reason of deciding the future of European Union for the next 90 years, we need to take into account the uncertainty and ambiguity of the surrounding environment and think carefully about where our decisions might lead us into.

Another problem we have discovered while analyzing the battle results - both solutions were not really focusing on the actual problem, unemployment, and did not provide the efficient key solution.

Our solution

For the reasons mentioned above we strongly believe in a gradual approach that would try to deal with unemployability problem from a long-term point of view while at the same time exploiting the power of technology. Graduality is the key because it would allow us to adjust our path and help citizens to adapt to this new technological context, slowly transforming our society into a highly

educated or participatory workforce sustained by robots from below; while at the same time not leaving anyone behind.

All things considered, we would like to introduce a new way to solve the upcoming problem of unemployment that would combine both ideology and Realpolitik views.

Part 1. Flexible form of Basic Income.

First and foremost, we propose to keep the Basic income concept but in a new and more practical form - Conditional Basic Income. Conditional Basic Income is a more flexible approach to Basic Income - a form of social security in which all citizens or residents of a country might apply to receive a regular, fixed sum of money from a government by the condition on the fulfillment of specific established conditions. As with the case of Basic Income, the proposed amount of money within the Conditional Basic Income System is still lower than the poverty line. Future research is required in order to determine the demanded sum.

To receive this support from the government, you would have to either be actively studying or training in some field or be part of the society in some way, like helping old people in their daily life or make other voluntary work. Another criteria would be justified temporary unemployment, caused by health issues, family issues or educational purposes.

These requirements, or constraints, have the purpose to incentivize people into either becoming more educated, and thus more employable, or to participate in the daily life of our society.

At the same time we propose to keep basic Social Security programs in order to provide a safety net for the parts of society that cannot sustain themselves in any way, for one motivation or another.

Part 2. Progressive form of taxation.

Another significant part of our proposal is a Demand-based tax system, that amplifies taxing the companies for the robots' usage based on the following criteria:

- The (human) demand to fulfill the position;
- The dangerousness of the job.

The first criterion of the new tax system means that the more people apply for a particular job the higher taxes the company would end up paying for employing the robots.

But at the same time, we propose to have an exception for dangerous jobs. The companies, using robots in health-risky jobs, do not owe any extra taxes to the government. We would like to have a flexible approach depending on the level of the risk; the riskier is the job the fewer taxes the company would pay for the usage of robots.

Political adjustments

Future is uncertain, we cannot be completely sure about the righteousness of what we do, besides, history shows that pragmatism and dialogue tend to function better than dogmatic approaches. Didn't Robespierre lose his head in the end? Whatever ideology we have, it must face the harsh truth of what we are dealing with.

Many people, if not most of them, have interests way more grounded and immediate than our ideologies, be it because of need or will. A successful compromise is worth 10 times a failed ideology, whatever bright future the ideology was aiming for.

At the same time, we cannot afford to lose ourselves and our institutions in a maze of compromises and political pacts, we necessitate the light of morals to give us some sort of direction.

The result of our tinkering grants ideology a chance at implementation and uplifts Realpolitik to the dimension of directing humanity forward.

6 Conclusions

Uncertainty is an integral part of the world of today, and for sure it will be part of the world of tomorrow. Our objective is to reduce it in order to allow people to reach more consistent decisions in their procedural way of thinking; as highlighted by Herbert A. Simon [18], a person is of course not a perfectly informed actor nor has the computational capacity of a machine.

Less uncertainty, and maybe fewer constraints, would not result in lesser people, but would allow us to reach higher peaks. As history shows, getting rid of a problem does not lead to complete idleness, but instead, it opens up a new range of possibilities, questions and maybe even new problems.

How do we reduce uncertainty? We, as decision makers, are ourselves human beings and subject to the shape-shifting nature of ambiguity, and we must account for it; going all-in on a cookie-cutter manoeuvre would imply huge risks, but what if it was the right choice all along, wouldn't we be blamed for not betting even more?

Both our proposals attempt to put a dent in a problem which is at least as old as innovation goes since the arrival of new technologies is often related to unemployment; only that this time this issue has never been so intractable, due to the extreme level of automation. Such a massive dilemma requires extremely innovative solutions. Our proposals were never fully implemented on a large scale, but they have been tickling the minds of many people for a long time. Be it reducing working hours or introducing a Basic Income, these ideas might even be considered madness by some people. What if those people are right?

As decision makers, we need to minimize risks and, at the same time, respect the rules of politics and economy. It may be that a slow-paced compromise is the most justifiable approach to solve our issues as a community; since both the suggested programs are blindsided by subtle and severe difficulties.

Be the first view the winner, wouldn't other countries surpass our production

simply through a greater exploitation of robots? Moreover, can we really guarantee the return of employment to normal levels? For how long?

Let Basic Income win the elections, inflation could run rampant, capital flight could arise, and we are not even sure about the effect it would have on citizens, or on the environment which European institutions and people rely on.

Madeleine Akrich, Michel Callon and Bruno Latour [19] define adaptation and coupling as two of the major tasks of an entrepreneur in their paper; of course, this is also true for decision makers, and that is why a synthesis which is more a child than a compromise between the views of the opposing parties is the natural epilogue of a procedure of filtering and development of characteristics a structured reform needs.

The synthesis of our plans can be expressed as the following: robots, as a technology, are such a gain in productivity that strictly regulating them would affect our ability to compete in the international economic scenario; at the same time our society is shaped in such a way that an important segment of our population does not have the means to make its way around in the current a job market.

Our objective is to slowly shift away from this context by promoting a progressively higher formation in order to finally obtain a population where the majority will not have to compete with robots thanks to its education; moreover, we consider the pure form of universal Basic Income not completely viable as of now. That is why an alternative path to support Europeans that are advancing in the social ladder must be found.

This transition will have on one side a conditional Basic Income to support the personal improvement of people; while sustaining the economy through a dynamic taxation system for robots, that allows human employability without falling into the trap of regulating robots in a totally exclusive or inclusive way. This closure was partially derived from the battle, which helped to shape our final idea through almost two hours of counter-checking and discussion. However, if given more time, more topics would have been analyzed and the battle might even have had a different conclusion.

Among the areas in which we could have focused more, we can find: the short and long-term effects on people's behaviour of Basic Income, the redesign of the welfare and education/research system, the implications that regulating robots would have on the ability of the European economy to compete and sustain itself in the international market, and how other governments would react to the chosen approach.

Given the potential breadth of the aforementioned subjects, a follow-up would surely be useful. Moreover, we believe an appealing theme for a future battle would be the long-term feasibility of Realpolitik and ideology on world-scale concerns.

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