

## Essay

# Crisis of Knowledge at the Beginning of the 21st Century

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### ABSTRACT

The contemporary crisis of thinking and knowledge is a consequence of positivism and its various branches leading to the extinction of philosophy and refusing to deal with the basic philosophical questions. Positivism became the basis for scientific knowledge replacing Hegelian dialectical rationalism, in which the classical philosophy had achieved its apex. Positivism tried to create the principles for scientific research based on the rules of formal logic and experiment, where the axiomatic approach became a starting point for finding the useful scientific results. Positivism refused to deal with the basic philosophical questions and categories regarding the nature of Being, God and the physical Universe. The way to the truth became “scientific” with many successful and useful discoveries and inventions. The dialectic logic was rejected as speculative, sophistic, metaphysical and useless and replaced by formal logic which together with mathematics and experimental verifications became the basic methods of scientific research mainly in the sphere of theoretical physics.

**Key Words:** crisis, knowlege, positivism, Hegelian, dialetic logic, Being, GOD.

## Positivism

Positivism founded by philosopher August Comte in the 19<sup>th</sup> century passed from its classical form through the empirical criticism (Ernest Mach) into the neo-positivism (analytical philosophy, logical positivism of Bertrand Russell and others) and post-positivism (critical rationalism of K.R. Popper) in the 20-th century. Positivism changed philosophy into a pure methodology of scientific thinking, thanks to which the science became positive with its ability to receive more and more practical useful results giving the great power above nature and society. All positive and negative results of this were manifested in such a way that could destroy all human existence because the progress of scientific knowledge was not accompanied by spiritual progress of mankind. As positivism refused to deal with the essence of existence (metaphysics) and to guide people to God, it brought them to the horrible darkness of emptiness (nihilism, existentialism). The range of knowledge was limited by a phenomenological level of reality. Mathematics and physics are considered to be the most suitable instruments for describing of Nature. Positivism removed the language of dialectics and accepted only the language of formal logic. Looking for true knowledge was inserted into the simple schemes of statement logic.

Positivistic scientific knowledge is finding according to the following scheme: If statement **A** is valid, then the statement **B** is valid also ( $A \Rightarrow B$ ). This means if starting assumptions (axioms) **A** are valid, then all results **B** are valid too, if we obtain them by the rules of formal logic and correct mathematical procedures. Then we test whether some results **B** can be confirmed by experiment. If yes, then we suppose that the starting axioms **A** are valid and the theory, based on them, is correct. If results **B** have not been experimentally tested, the starting

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system of axioms is considered to be a scientific hypothesis. But we can never be sure whether axiomatic theory is the only one, as the results **B** can also be derived from other theories with different initial axioms **A**.

The ontological essence of existence is not reachable from the viewpoint of positivism, so we do not need philosophy dealing with essential aspects of being. It is enough to study the logical structures and truthfulness of language statements which can be empirically verified (confirmed). Dialectical logic was replaced by the formal logical analyses of linguistic structure of thinking, mainly scientific (logical and scientific positivism). The form became the goal at the expense of contents. This victory of formal logic and mathematics is brought ad absurdum in contemporary string theories, where abstract and complicated mathematical forms totally erase the real physical and thought contents and reality is replaced by pure fiction. It is remarkable how precise evaluation of contemporary fundamental theoretical physics represents Nietzsche's declaration that all scientific notions used for explanation of the world are pure fictions and everything we consider to be a scientific true is only a useful kind of mistake and lie. But this lie is necessary in order that people can live in a world having no sense. Friedrich Nietzsche proclaims absolute scepticism and nihilism as basic principles of existence. Scientific positivism is in analogical situation. The science is a pure illusion of truth which can be only relative.

## **The Way to the Truth Leads to God**

We entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a new millennium with the hope to be better and more humane than the past century which was the most gloomy and tragic period of the whole of human history. In spite of great discoveries and inventions it brought too much evil and hate, slaving people by inhuman ideologies and uncontrollable forces leading to the most brutal and bloody wars in order to gain the power over the word and people. Mankind with its technological power and world dominance effort of its power structures has reached the border of self-destruction. So, the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in order not to lead to the extinction of civilisation, must represent the victory of spirit above despair, love above hate and wisdom and truth above stupidity and brainless subordination to the consumer lifestyle.

People need to revive their relation to the true values instead of admiration of false contemporary idols presented and forced by mass media. This ideological pressure is oriented to human subordination by systematic brainwashing and supplying with ballast in order to shackle the creative human spirit and replace the true light of soul with the false glitter of consumer idols. I am sure that such a poor contemporary situation of our civilisation will be overreached as the creative human spirit looks for its true nature. Only the way to the truth represents the real hope for people and their future bloom and prosperity.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was marked by ideologies oriented against God and leading to unbelievable tragic dishonouring and degradation of human beings and trampling of their human dignity. These ideologies grew up from the ground of such agnostic and materialistic philosophies like positivism, nihilism and Marxism-Leninism. The original intention of Marxism was to build more righteous society, but without God. Quite different results were achieved and the monstrous inhuman system with murderous Stalinism was built. The fascist ideology aroused from positivism and its nihilistic versions like philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche or social

Darwinism. Although mankind avoided the global world wars in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, local conflicts and wars continue with the increase of terrorism.

Using the most progressive informational technologies, financial flows, secret services, military, policy and secure apparatus, the world power players try to build a world control network in order to guarantee their own interests in increasing their political and economical power. But their effort will gradually change the worldwide informational network to the instrument of spreading of the most beautiful messages of wisdom, knowledge and love as well as brilliant spiritual jewels leading to the triumph of the truth and human rights.

If the intention to build the communist society without God on the base of Marxism-Leninism was turned into its contradiction, so the intention to build the world hegemony above the free human spirit will be also turned into its contradiction and the new society will start its way to the victory of Spirit, Truth and Love. The world will change its face and Mankind will fulfil its basic mission to build the Kingdom of Spirit just here on our Earth. If this vision looks like utopia now, it will gradually change to reality in accordance with the dialectic law of social evolution.

## **Conclusion**

If the 20<sup>th</sup> century represented the negation of God with all tragic consequences, the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be negation of negation bringing the victory of spirit and truth with all beautiful and joyful consequences for individuals and human civilisation as a whole.