

## Editors' Introduction

### Changing Word-Changing Lifestyle-Values to save

In the early morning of September 15 2008 Lehman Brothers filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection. Most people did not pay attention at all. Many people gloated upon that and gloating hid the imminent danger from many eyes. Maybe some people still believed that this is an American problem. Those who know history shivered as the events resembled to the 1928 case of the US dollar but this was only the first symptom of the problem. It was like the fever in the early stage of the illness. Even the best doctors can't tell chronic illness from a winter cold and flu from the early fever. Today we know that these were the first signs of a severe crisis which might seem to be a financial crisis occurring in every century but resemble to major changes that only come once or twice in millenia for America and for the rest of the World.

We can feel the advantages and the disadvantages of globalization in the same time. The crisis of the leading powers of the world surfaced weaknesses of globalization. However the local values could not grow strong either. It is like we prepare for the clash of Titans and we can't see whether we are witnesses of the birth of a new world or one of the Titans will govern our lives. Strengthening and weakening of the globalization determines the life of local groups and can be assessed through the cultural memories of each group. But what proves this theory.

Among the most important signs are the transnational and global companies that try to introduce new production and consumption mechanisms. We have to think about national culture, local and global values, relations of central and peripheral through these mechanisms as we are part of this process and so is economy, international relations, international organizations. There are theoretical questions: what is the difference between global politics, large-state politics and imperial politics? Which one of these is currently governs Europe? What are

the impact and national culture in global politics and what is national identity and what role does it play? What role has society and languages in the constantly changes of globalization, sciences and culture.

Historical memory, however is not a matter of politics or power it is built by consecutive generations as our customs, values and even plans prove it. The present makes history from the past and it builds in the thinking and culture of the new generations. This is why the schools and within them the teachers and researchers who form the new generations and who pass on culture in this context. I think that a possible way out of the crisis is to encourage and support the self-organizing culture of micro-communities.

We Europeans have seen major cultural changes and we shall not underestimate the importance of our role in the current changes. We have to think about how the Greco-Roman culture have first clashed with those values set forth by the Holy Bible and then how this was settled and how judeo-christian culture formed the life of a whole continent.

The cultural and historical community of the Central and Eastern European countries reveals itself again. Our responses to the crisis are built on our traditions of our close and distant past and these are not always understood by the EU. I have recently read the news about the still strong commonages that are not eligible for EU subsidies according to the Romanian authorities so the commoners had to turn the case to the EU. Commonages come from the age of feudalism but the Szeklers have it from even older times. On the other hand nowadays the commonages could have turned a most modern kind of organization on common ownership and the internal community control of the operations. There are other examples too where the leaders of the micro-community could not only be characterized as president or chief secretary but also judge or vajda, as these roles are accepted by centuries of historical memory and with constant reform they enable the community to connect the past with the future and always rebuild communities.

The title of our book refers to the fact that we can only know ourselves, articulate our problems and find our options through complex assessment methods of the social sciences. We would like to work and think together on finding common values with those who share common heritage, in this case the Polish - Hungarian friendship and brotherhood. This study is part of the series: *Poland, Hungary, the World. Selected Aspects of Contemporary Economy, Culture, and Science* emerged as a result of the fruitful scientific cooperation between Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University and University of Debrecen. In this book you will find works of talented young colleagues from Hungary taking their first steps as scholars and they are those who keep historical memory alive and will have impact on the future.

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