

The World Economy Does Not Exist Without the Crime

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Abstract

This article offers the author’s analytical perspective on the lacuna within economic science, particularly concerning the essence and diversity of approaches to understanding the genesis of the economy. Primarily, the article provides a practical exploration of the prerequisites for the emergence of the New Age economy, examining the history of civilization, criminology, wars, piracy, and the development of global criminal traditions. The main objective is to comprehend the role of crime and its influence on shaping the economy during this period. The article holds practical relevance for researchers working at the intersection of anthropology, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and criminology. Additionally, it is beneficial for entrepreneurs and individuals in the early stages of business design.

Keywords

economics, political economy, costs, profits, banks, offshore, crime, criminology.

Introduction

Economics encompasses a multifaceted examination of the economy, taking into account historical contexts, its various dimensions, methodologies, models, and tools (Christophers, 2014; Gerber & Scheidel, 2018; Pirgmaier, 2017; Rehman, 2016; Su et al., 2018). However, one of the less explored and often overlooked interdisciplinary inquiries pertains to unraveling the enigma surrounding the essence and origins of the economy.

According to E.G. Efimova (2005), contemporary economics can be defined as the study of the most efficient methods for satisfying humanity's boundless needs while working within the constraints of limited resources. It is crucial to recognize that this understanding of economics has evolved over an extensive period of its development as a scientific discipline. Economics serves a dual role, with the second function being practical and advisory. Drawing on empirical knowledge, economics provides recommendations and proposes strategies for economic practices and policies implemented by governments (Colby, 2020; Li & Liao, 2018; Lindsey & Santos, 2020; Reeves et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020). These economic policies, aimed at achieving primary economic objectives, should be grounded in theoretical insights and principles established by the field of economics. Notably, the term «economics» has its origins in Greek, meaning «the art of household management.»

Economics spans various scales, from the micro-level to the macro-level. Correspondingly, the global economy can be envisioned as a vast «household» operating on a worldwide scale. This metaphorical «household management» ideally seeks efficiency, enhancing the well-being of all its inhabitants through everyone's contributions to the collective enterprise (Nanni, 2016). This endeavor involves prudent resource allocation, strategic planning, and a calculated approach to minimize losses while maximizing short-term gains and long-term prosperity (Coulibaly & Yogo, 2020; Fritz & Koch, 2014; Galvin, 2020; Gould et al., 2016; Tomich et al., 2019).

Methods

The economic trajectory of the Modern Age, beginning in the 15th and 16th centuries, is intricately linked with various factors, including shifts in societal organization, technological advancements, geopolitical changes, conflicts, criminological occurrences, and the evolution of global criminal practices. Noteworthy elements in this trajectory include technological advancements in trade and colonial expansion, which facilitated intercontinental trade and contributed to the development of the global economy.

The Industrial Revolution, spanning the 18th and 19th centuries, brought about significant changes in production methods, resulting in increased industrial activity and production levels. Social transformation accompanied the development of capitalism, marking a transition from a feudal system to a capitalist economy characterized by a preference for market relations, thus stimulating economic growth.

The Age of Great Geographical Discoveries involved the identification of new sea routes and territories, playing a crucial role in establishing fresh economic connections and markets. Military conflicts, including wars and criminal activities, played a role in driving technological and economic shifts, influencing societal lifestyle and culture.

Piracy exerted substantial influence on trade and international relations from the 16th to the 18th centuries. The emergence of criminal traditions and the establishment of global criminal networks were propelled by the evolution of trade and associated activities, leading to the formation of international criminal structures. Economic expansion spurred the emergence of shadow economic sectors, encompassing activities such as smuggling, illicit trade, and other forms of criminality. To comprehensively understand the New Age economy, an examination through the lenses of civilization history, criminology, wars, piracy, and global criminal traditions requires a holistic methodological approach.

The application of methodological principles and techniques to analyze these factors provides insights into the interconnectedness of various facets of social life and their impact on the formation of the New Age economic system. Methods for addressing this issue:

1. Historical approach: emphasizing significant events and eras associated with the evolution of the New Age economy.
2. Comparative analysis: examining various regions and countries to discern shared patterns and distinctive characteristics.
3. Economic methodology: investigating institutional transformations, including the establishment of stock exchanges, banks, companies, and other pivotal economic entities.
4. Statistical examination: employing statistical data to gauge economic growth, trade, inflation, and other relevant indicators.
5. Sociological approach: scrutinizing shifts in social classes, population migrations, and social mobility.
6. Sociocultural investigation: comprehending the impact of cultural and societal factors on economic activity.
7. Criminological approach, scrutinizing crime and illicit activities: Investigating the influence of crime and the clandestine economy on the growth and operation of the economy. Examination of Criminal Organizations: Analyzing the configurations of criminal groups, including pirate gangs and trade networks.
8. Geopolitical strategy: assessing the influence of geopolitical elements by examining the effects of geographical location, territorial shifts, and wars on economic development.
9. Strategic assessment: evaluating state strategies concerning trade, colonialism, and geopolitical influence.
10. Interdisciplinary methodology: amalgamating insights from various disciplines, including history, economics, sociology, criminology, and geopolitics, to construct a holistic understanding.
11. Modeling and Forecasting: employing mathematical models for analyzing trends and predicting economic developments.

This comprehensive methodological approach offers a thorough comprehension of the genesis of the New Age economy and its connections to historical, sociocultural, criminological, and geopolitical phenomena. Employing a blend of these methods for a focused investigation into the New Age economy through the lenses of civilization history, criminology, wars, piracy, and global criminal traditions ensures a profound and holistic understanding of its development and intricate interplays with diverse facets of social life.

Applying this methodology allowed us to explore crime as a factor that, despite being undesirable within the framework of laws and ethical standards, can influence economic processes in certain instances. For instance, many countries exhibit a «shadow economy» or informal sector where activities operate without regulation or taxation. While some of these practices may involve illegalities, they can also offer stability in situations where formal avenues for service delivery and trade are either unavailable or inefficient.

International trade across borders, conducted outside official channels, can, in certain instances, contribute positively to the economy. This may encompass activities such as smuggling, illegal import-export practices, and other forms of illicit trade. Moreover, during economic crises, criminal organizations may serve as alternative sources of finance for businesses and individuals facing challenges in securing credit from banks or other official sources.

Innovation and entrepreneurial activities also come into play in certain instances, as criminal organizations may function as innovators, introducing novel business methods and technologies into their operations. This dynamic can exert competitive pressure, fostering entrepreneurship.

Nevertheless, it is crucial to underscore that while crime might have a transient impact on the economy, its enduring repercussions—such as harm to social stability, diminished trust in government and institutions, and potential adverse social effects—render it an undesirable phenomenon. In the majority of cases, legislative and law enforcement measures are directed at combating crime to uphold the well-being and stability of both the economy and society at large. Certain illicit activities, such as fraud, corruption, and financial crimes, are associated with white-collar crime and can significantly influence the economic system. These actions have the potential to impact financial markets, companies, and confidence in financial institutions. Criminal endeavors, like drug and arms trafficking, can generate substantial shadow markets and draw significant financial flows, influencing the economies of specific regions and shaping the geopolitical environment.

As information technology advances, the risk of technological crime, including cyberattacks, hacking, and cyber fraud, is on the rise. These criminal activities can inflict severe harm on businesses and nations by compromising economic infrastructure and data security. Criminal activities can sway the decisions of investors and business professionals concerning the growth of specific regions, with elevated crime levels dissuading investment and impeding business development.

Certain types of criminal behavior may arise from disparities in social and economic conditions, representing a response to limited opportunities and restricted access to resources, subsequently impacting the economic stability of a society. In the competition for scarce resources, like water and land, criminal entities can disrupt the allocation and control of these vital resources. Widespread criminal activity can undermine confidence in government, the rule of law, and economic institutions, creating unfavorable conditions for business development and investment.

In broad terms, although crime may transiently shape certain structures and impact economic processes, in the long run, it is predominantly viewed as a hindrance to the sustainable development of economies and societies. Combatting crime and establishing conditions for fair and transparent business stand as priorities for numerous countries and international organizations.

Results

The realization of such an economy necessitates the presence of resources, primarily encompassing human resources, natural resources, and various material assets, including capital formed from these resources (Ducoing, 2019; Kalimeris et al., 2020; Kaufman, 2014; Fryer, 2017). Economics, often referred to as economy, comprises a complex network of social relationships and societal practices that manifest within the framework of human economic activities. These activities encompass the production, distribution, exchange, consumption, and preservation of material goods, along with the management of these intricate processes.

The aspects of economic reality serve as the focal point for what is known as economic science, as well as a myriad of deliberated economic concepts and theories (Brown et al., 2018; Hafner et al., 2020; Spash, 2020). However, it is worth noting that these theories and concepts do not constitute a unified or all-encompassing framework. Consequently, the endeavor to establish a comprehensive and unified economic theory remains an ongoing challenge. However, no other discipline has been so lucky to isolate itself from everything as economics. Having no special knowledge, people are ready to argue on many topics: about climate changes, same-sex marriages, the war in Iraq or nuclear power plants. But

when it comes to economics, many people immediately lose the desire to say or prove things (Chang, 2014).

Without understanding the nature of the economics, as well as any other phenomenon, it is impossible to study it in a systemic way, to penetrate comprehensively into its structure and patterns, and to make objective forecasts. In this case, what are the scientific realities of the contemporary economic science and in what dimensions or directions are scientific and research efforts being made?

According to the generally accepted paradigm of economic history, in primitive society, the level of economic development was low, allowing consumption on the edge of physical survival. Primitive people first obtained their livelihood by hunting and gathering, but as a result of the neo-lithic revolution, agriculture and animal breeding appeared. The development of the society led to the labour division - farming and herding tribes emerged, as well as craftsmen, the first of whom were blacksmiths. Social inequality, social classes and the state appeared. Slavery emerged (Sichkar, 2021).

Under low economic development, i.e. the absence of considerable monetary resources, the Egyptian pyramids were built, in particular (modern architects cannot repeat such structures today for various reasons). It should be agreed that this kind of construction is very capital-consuming. For some reason the actual situation (erected pyramids) does not coincide with the official paradigm (low level of the development in the conditions of the primitive and communal system).

Or the pyramids were built later? The banking business also existed in ancient times. In Babylon in the 8th century BC banks were actively carrying out activities. Interesting details about the fairly advanced state of banking in ancient Babylon can be found in E. Revilu (Revülout) in his «Les obligations du droit Egyptien comparé aux autres droits de l'antiquité» (1886), in Peiser's «Keilinschnftliche Aktenstücke» (1889, p. 101), and especially in the collections of the British Museum, where the family archive of the famous Babylonian banking house of Neboagiddin Edisibi is kept. It is interesting that Babylonian merchants even knew a kind of banknote called hudu, which had the same circulation as gold (Dzhivelegov et al., 2017). Banks are the infrastructure of the economy. There was probably an economy in ancient times that is not told in modern textbooks.

Gradually developed the exchange of goods, which at first was carried out in the form of natural exchange (barter), but with the emergence of money turned into trade. Nevertheless, in the societies of the Ancient World and the Middle Ages, subsistence economy prevailed. With the Crusades, Europeans rediscovered spices, silk and other goods that had become rare in Europe during the Middle Ages. This discovery led to the expansion of trade and intensified trade competition with the countries of the East (Sichkar, 2021).

The proposed question for reflection is the following: was the subsistence economy able to provide the army with metal weapons on a mass scale? The era of the Ancient World and the Middle Ages is known to be a history of continuous conquests, land and sea battles. Building ships is not like planting vegetables (in terms of the level of task complexity and required skill). Industrial means of production, serious scientific knowledge, marine and astronomical instruments are necessary.

After the time of Crusades, the knightly orders become the richest. The war for the Holy Sepulchre was very profitable. This period is referred to as a historical chronology falsification by Uwe Topper (1998). He argued that figures such as Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Pindar, and Aristotle, who were previously thought to be separated by centuries, actually existed closer in time to each other and to us. According to Topper, they all belong to the same century, and their homeland is not ancient Greece but rather Italy during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

It turns out that our understanding of Romans and Greeks needs to be revised, as they were, in fact, Italian humanists. Additionally, a significant portion of Greek and Roman texts written on papyrus or parchment, carved on stone or in bronze, are ingenious falsifications of Italian humanists. Italian humanism produced the written world of antiquity, the Bible and, together with humanists from other countries, the history of the early Middle Ages. The age of humanism was not only a time of scholars, 'collectors and interpreters of antiquities' - it was a time of enormously intense, tireless and fruitful spiritual activity: for more than five hundred years we have been following the path indicated by the humanists (Topper, 1998).

Has the modern paradigm of economics taken these data into account? It is an open question facing us in science. From the end of the XV century the Age of great geographical discoveries began, leading to the fact that the world economy was formed and the era of initial accumulation began. Since the last quarter of the XVIII century the Industrial Revolution began, leading to the fact that in the most developed countries the majority of the population by the end of the XIX century was no longer employed in agriculture, but in industry. Capitalism became the predominant economic system, and the process of traditional society transforming into modern society, agrarian society into industrial society took place (Sichkar, 2021).

Much earlier, the era of the next accumulation of funds, goods and material wealth was marked by the Crusades, in the course of which the Orient was subsequently plundered, not without religious attitudes and leverage over the masses. Genoa organized a bank, introduced bills of exchange, became the creditor of Charles V, and monopolized the import of silver from America precisely due to the capital «accumulated» in the Crusades. In the large-scale arena of the Mediterranean, two competitors - Genoa and Venice - came face to face, and for centuries they struck at each other, plundered the coast, captured convoys, destroyed galleys, and acted against each other with the help of sovereigns - Anjou or Hungarian, Palaeologos or Aragonese.

Genoa changed its economic course a dozen times, each time assuming the necessary metamorphosis. To organise the outside world to keep it for itself, then to abandon it when it became uninhabitable or unusable; to conceive another, to build it - for example, at the end of the fifteenth century to abandon the East for the West, the Black Sea for the Atlantic Ocean, and in the nineteenth century to unite Italy to its own advantage - this was the fate of Genoa, an unstable organism, a super-sensitive seismograph that came to a head wherever the vast world moved. A monster of intelligence and on occasion of hardness, was not Genoa condemned to usurpe the whole world or not to live? (Braudel, 1982).

Great Britain «accumulated» its capital through licensed piracy and the plundering of the colonies. The colonies were «plundered» jointly by the British East India Company established in 1600, which operated until 1858. The founders of the British East India Company included not only English merchants, but also Dutch tradesmen and German bankers.

Portugal and Spain «accumulated» their capital by plundering colonies. The «Age of Discovery» was nothing more than a veil for the planned conquest of territories. With the beginning of the 15th century, the countries of Western Europe began to expand rapidly. This period is called the Age of Discovery in order to hide its real essence. At that time lands, resources and local population were seized, which became the labour force of colonizers. From the end of the 15th century, Portugal began to dominate Asia and Spain in the Americas. By the middle of the 18th century, North America was shared among Great Britain, France and Spain. Most of the Latin American countries were under Spanish and Portuguese rule until 1810-1820. Parts of India were under the protectorate of Great Britain, France and Portugal. The settlement of Australia began around that time (the first

convict settlement was established there in 1788). Africa was only partially colonized by Portugal and Holland (Chang, 2014).

In a detailed analysis of the logic of the change of historical epochs, we could by analogy consider the formation of civilisation in the key of the history of incessant wars (what are the 100-year and 30-year wars only worth). War is always connected with plunder and accumulation of captured resources. The ancient military custom of plundering a captured city within a set time period set by the commander has survived through the centuries to the present day. Another form of «appropriation» at the end of a war is the contribution.

In the 21st century, battlefields have moved to the Internet, and everyone is familiar with «hybrid warfare». But in the last year we have a new kind of war - a pandemic. And this war is primarily economic - from eliminating competitors to capturing markets, it is a global war.

Thus any war has economic reasons and economic justification.

This is what we find in Engels' *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*:

A military leader who had made himself a name gathered around him a band of young men eager for booty, whom he pledged to personal loyalty, giving the same pledge to them. The leader provided their keep, gave them gifts, and organized them on a hierarchic basis; a bodyguard and a standing troop for smaller expeditions and a regular corps of officers for operations on a larger scale. Weak as these retinues must have been, and as we in fact find them to be later – for example, under Odoacer in Italy – they were nevertheless the beginnings of the decay of the old freedom of the people and showed themselves to be such during and after the migrations. For in the first place they favored the rise of monarchic power. In the second place, as Tacitus already notes, they could only be kept together by continual wars and plundering expeditions. Plunder became an end in itself. If the leader of the retinue found nothing to do in the neighborhood, he set out with his men to other peoples where there was war and the prospect of booty. (Engels, 1902, Chapter 7)

The following thought of F.Engels is extremely interesting:

With slavery, which attained its fullest development under civilization, came the first great cleavage of society into an exploiting and an exploited class. This cleavage persisted during the whole civilized period. Slavery is the first form of exploitation, the form peculiar to the ancient world; it is succeeded by serfdom in the middle ages, and wage-labor in the more recent period. These are the three great forms of servitude, characteristic of the three great epochs of civilization; open, and in recent times disguised, slavery always accompanies them. (Engels, 1902, Chapter 9)

According to Ha-Yun Chang (2014), capitalism as a form of modern economy emerged around the 16th-17th centuries in Western Europe and not in Asia or the Americas, which is a topic of constant passionate debate. The fact remains that capitalism first emerged in Western Europe.

And the flowering of capitalism occurred in the late nineteenth century, which gave rise to the current of political economy of Marxism and the development of trends in political economy.

Why and How did the Modern Economy Emerge?

Not the division of labour and classes, not the growth of commodity production caused the emergence of the economy. It is its consequence. The nature of the economy is completely different, according to the author's complex analytical view.

Economy (like any other phenomenon) arises in a certain environment and in the presence of certain social conditions. These conditions are, for example, the absence of weapons and the emergence of the bourgeois class. At the same time, these conditions require an implementer, because nothing arises in society by itself, people need an initiator.

The formation of the crime and economic environment can be analysed by identical interdisciplinary methods. The initial accumulation of capital always takes place through criminal means (Crusades, piracy, robbery of conquered territories, plundering of treasury, the dashing 90s). In addition, there are geographical and climatic factors: the south is more favourable for living, so fugitive criminals go to the southern regions, bringing with them the capital of pirates who once came ashore.

Socially acceptable statuses are required to live in society and use capital for profit. Dynasties with fake pedigrees and new names, such as the Rothschilds, emerge. Money is put into circulation: estates and industries are bought up, money is invested in projects and kept in the bank. This is how the big bourgeois are created. It was the presence of large amounts of criminal money that caused the establishment of banks both in the ancient era and in Modern times. Other criminals travelled from Europe to America to the British, Spanish, Portuguese, French colonies to get rich, and in fact, to rob the local population. Everyone knows the story of the purchase of the half-island of Manhattan for a literal bundle of glass beads. Then the daredevils return to Europe with their «earned» fortune.

People in their masses are always drawn to satiety and security, which can be provided by those who have power and might. People are drawn to power. The age of consumer society has not yet arrived. This is how houses and belonging to a house arise. In cities, shops and guilds emerge to settle disputes and maintain order. A parallel horizontal system of power emerges, which created the preconditions for the emergence of constitutional monarchy. Monarchs have always been dependent on private money; even the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V borrowed money for the maintenance of his army from the financial genius of Genoa.

Having actual power, capitalists organise bourgeois revolutions in order to increase and spread their power and increase their dividends. This can be seen in Europe, where the first bourgeois revolution took place quietly and peacefully enough in the Netherlands in the 15th century. In France, on the other hand, during the 17th and 19th centuries, blood was shed and heads flew from guillotines. Power is nominally transferred to people with money.

The next stage forbids the use of weapons by all but the nobility. Nobles kill each other in duels: in Western Europe on swords, in the Russian Empire - on pistols. For criminals, however, the law is unwritten. All are skilled in weapons, having fought in wars and sea battles.

After the bourgeois revolution, laws were passed to establish general order, for example, the Napoleonic Code was adopted in France with the slogan «liberty, equality, property». The basis of the economy in Western Europe was the enterprise, in the Russian Empire - the artel and merchants. The enterprise requires technologisation. The way it emerged is a riddle of riddles. Eventually, a hierarchy of subjects and a consumer emerges.

In a state with new laws and social relations, it is impossible to steal money and rob, but to earn it: to produce your own products or to become an employee.

There is another way to organise your own business. It is possible to act within the law, and it is possible to act outside the law. It all depends on the amount of profit a person wants to make and his determination. I am not talking now about a recommendation for action, I am just pointing out what options a person chooses for himself.

Thus, we could consider the phenomenon of economy as a set of factors and parameters of the environment, social conditions, complex social agreement, institutions and mechanisms, participants with different statuses and the state with monetary policy.

In my opinion, it is not by chance that in the 15th century philosophical justification of the existence of capital, production relations, and economic relations between people began. It was necessary to somehow explain the consequences of the capital accumulated by criminal means, to create a new philosophy and plant a new ideology. In 1776 Adam Smith's book 'An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations' was published, writing about an invisible hand. He wrote that, in directing their industry to maximize the value of its products, each individual pursues their own advantage. In this case, as in many others, they are guided by an invisible hand to an end that was not their intention. In pursuing their own interests, they often serve the interests of society more effectively than when they consciously endeavor to do so (Smith, 1776). A. Smith is the founder of classical economic theory, some people call him the father of political economy, the subject of which is still undefined and has been constantly debated for several centuries. In the scientific disciplines of economics and political economy, the debate between schools has been going on since the very beginning. That is, we are dealing with philosophy, which is inherent in the constant discussion of problems by representatives of different schools, but not with the scientific category of economics.

The new direction of political economy is represented by international political economy research devoted to the global distribution of income (Landesman, 2008). That is, the mechanism of origin of the huge capital of individuals and structures underlying the economy, the nature of the economy, its genesis, system and structure are no longer of interest to anyone.

Political economy contains one of the constructs or elements in its composition - politics, which represents power. According to Braudel (1982), «power and wealth went hand in hand.»

In Europe, wealth determines power (the formula «money - status - power»). This way of coming to power is legitimate. The formula «power - money - status» is unacceptable and illegal. Those who came to power in Europe in the previous times, who got huge capital and high statuses in society, forbade other people to get the same by the same way. Only by the way of «money - status - power». First earn money, prove your status in society, only then you will be allowed to go to power. The only way to earn a lot of money is through illegal means. Therefore, crime is an integral part of the state, moreover, it is the state that generates crime (Maltsev, 2021a).

In our country in particular and in the post-Soviet space in general, the formula «power - money - status» operates. That is, the level of power gives an opportunity to get a big score and acquire a socially acceptable status. That is why there is no economy in our state, because if we take away power, it will not be possible to earn money and get favourable statuses.

So out of the depths of reasoning, a key question appears on the surface: *What is the Source Of Money?*

«I can account for every million except the first,» is a famous quote often attributed to John Rockefeller.

At a roundtable on criminology held in Odessa in 2019, Professor Antonio Nicaso (bestselling author, internationally recognised expert on organized crime; author of more than 30 books on criminal organizations; regular consultant to government and law enforcement agencies around the world; lecturer at Queens University, Middlebury College Italian School in the US and St Jerome's University in Ontario) highlighted the following theses (APSI Academy, 2021).

The principle of «power - money - status» utilizes crime, particularly of southern Italy. It is not a question of street crime, but of criminal (from the point of view of the state) organizations, among them the most powerful and wealthy - the 'Ndrangheta. The interest of criminals is money and power. Crime has a hierarchy of power, unlike street crime. Membership in a criminal organization is exclusive, optional. You can't just get in from the street. Each criminal organization has its own subculture.

Fear guards territories better than guns. Knowing that they can kill, use violence, subdues people. The power of fear is unchallenged. Criminal activity is the very economy in essence with a system of social relations, a system of experts, minimal cost and high profitability. Criminal connects the underground and society through the so-called gray zone, which is called a dual status in criminalistics.

There is corruption without Mafia, but there is no Mafia without corruption. Crime has moved from murder to bribes and putting its people in all echelons of political power, including church authorities.

There is No Country in the World Without Corruption. Crime is eternal. And it is not about its structure, it is about connections. The 'Ndrangheta is everywhere - in the police, in the courts, in the government. Corruption as an instrument has replaced weapons. The 'Ndrangheta's goal is power at the global international level, and loyalty is the currency. The 'Ndrangheta therefore sponsored the German Christian Democratic Party in the 1990s.

The 'Ndrangheta's knowledge of the laws of the market helped it become competitive to Colombian heroin cartels. The 'Ndrangheta found a free zone in the form of cocaine. Now cocaine is shipped around the world by submarine in 5 to 10 tonnes. The submarines are sunk after delivery. Apparently it is absolutely cost-effective and not unprofitable to buy a submarine and sink it after a single use. Drugs make super-profits.

The current reality is black exchanges on the Internet with millions of dollars in turnover. In the Congo, the 'Ndrangheta has become interested in the birth of lithium. In its sphere of interest is diamond mining. One small diamond replaces a lot of money. A very convenient way of payment. The 'Ndrangheta prefers the euro, and instead of bitcoins advises investing in the cryptocurrency MONERO, which is untraceable. It was the first to turn to the euro, because this currency is more expensive than the dollar, respectively the total amount (weight) is less.

Discussion

The separate stage is money laundering. The 'Ndrangheta does not launder money, it buys specialists who do it. The largest channel of money laundering is the banking system. Money from the illegal world, after laundering, flows into the banking system. The most

interesting question: *Where Does the Money Come From to Set Up a Bank and Carry Out Banking Operations Such as Loans and Cash Withdrawals?*

For the whole world, money laundering is a criminal offense. However, in Delaware (USA), in London, the law allows money laundering and the countries are interested in it.

Today, the center of money laundering is the City of London, which is completely autonomous in terms of management and control. On the island of Sark, located in Gibraltar, the Queen of Great Britain launders money. It is her fiefdom, her personal property. There are 6,000 banks and 5,200 insurance companies registered in one small town. But you won't find banks and insurance companies there. There are 73 banks in the Cayman Islands. Their total annual turnover is over \$500 billion. Offshore zones are not only a place to save money, but also to launder it.

For money laundering a fee of 25 percent is charged—the so-called price of risk. In the zone of 3 borders (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay) 8% is charged. A minimum of \$20 million per transaction is laundered there.

- Criminal money is very good for the economy.
- The criminal structures have merged with the government and have infiltrated politics.
- The Mafia has been laundering money in the Vatican for the last 25 years.

And our «businessmen» build temples and launder money in the form of donations. The scheme is standard. One of the types of money laundering is the purchase of Eurobonds. It is not possible to withdraw them from circulation, because they are issued for an amount for which there is not enough money. A 500 euro Eurobond costs 550 euros on the black market. And they are sold by weight. In 2020 they stopped issuing them. But they still haven't been taken out of circulation. Without money laundering, business development and security are impossible. There's no reason to suffer from your wealth. Money must work. They buy jewellery, art, cars, yachts, houses.

In Quebec Canada, only lawyers may not confirm suspicious transactions. A lawyer can buy a client's property and make any transactions involving large sums of money. All criminal organizations have their branches in Canada, which is the best «washing machine». Canada has the most banks in the Caribbean. You can deposit \$20 million in an offshore bank account. There will be no questions asked. The transfer is made in Canada and the money is legally invested in the business.

A branch of an offshore company can buy property in Canada. No one is interested in the source of income. This is how property prices in Toronto have been driven up. In Vancouver, Asian crime has driven up property prices. Now you can simply analyse property prices in major world cities and regions, and it will become clear why it is so expensive there.

«Three Border Zone» - Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay - is not even visited by police officers. It is where the money of all criminal organizations is laundered and where drug deals are made. In 2012, the UK planned to introduce its own version of the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (Fatca) in the crown dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, as well as in its overseas territories such as the Cayman Islands. But not a word about Sark.

«We were shocked by how little information is freely available about most companies' subsidiaries,» said Katharine Teague, co-author of the report, which reveals previously unpublished data about FTSE100 companies (Aid, 2014).

FTSE100 Index (Financial Times Stock Exchange Index) is a stock index calculated by the Financial Times. It is considered one of the most influential stock exchange indicators in Europe. It began to be calculated on 3 January 1984 from the level of 1000 points.

The index is based on the share prices of 100 companies with the largest capitalisation listed on the London Stock Exchange. Companies whose shares are included in the calculation of the FTSE100 index must fulfill the conditions set by the FTSE Group:

- To be listed on the London Stock Exchange;
- The value of FTSE 100 shares must be in pounds or euros;
- To pass a test of state ownership;
- FTSE100 shares must be publicly traded and readily liquid.

«*Secrecy is not the exception but the norm...*» is the major finding of a report published by Christian Aid (2014) analyzing the disclosure of economic and financial information of almost 30,000 subsidiaries of the 100 largest companies whose shares are traded on the London Stock Exchange (the FTSE100). These are well-known companies in which millions of people invest through their pension funds and savings. But the secrecy is so deep and widespread that it is like blindfolding everyone who has financial dealings with these companies.

The new research also highlights the intensive use of tax havens by FTSE100 companies. More than 90 per cent of their subsidiaries are based in locations identified by the Financial Secrecy Index as 'secret jurisdictions'. Almost a half of these subsidiaries are based in the UK (which is itself considered 'moderately secret'). Of the remaining 14 per cent are in 'very secret' tax havens such as Switzerland, Luxembourg, Hong Kong, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. «The FTSE100 sectors with most subsidiaries in highly secretive tax havens are investment and finance (with 37 per cent of their subsidiaries in such locations), banks (28 per cent), mining companies (19 per cent) and real estate (18 per cent)» (Aid, 2014).

Crime, corruption and tax evasion pulled \$946.7 billion out of developing countries in 2011, up more than 13.7 per cent from 2010. According to the Washington analytical centre Global Financial Integrity, the cumulative outflow of illegal finance from developing countries is US\$5.9 trillion. «As the world economy sputters along in the wake of the global financial crisis, the illicit underworld is thriving - siphoning more and more money from developing countries each year,» said GFI President Raymond Baker (Dawson, 2013).

Global industry has emerged, involving the world's largest banks, legal practices, accountancy firms and specialized providers who design and sell secret offshore structures for their clients who evade tax and the law. «Competition» between «secret jurisdictions» (tax havens) has become a central feature of the world's financial markets, especially as the era of financial globalization began in the 1980s.

The purpose of the 'Ndrangheta-business and power. Developing quietly in the shadows, the 'Ndrangheta stands as the least examined (and consequently, the most perilous), the most influential, and the most globally widespread criminal organization in the world. Within Italy, it reigns supreme, demonstrating unmatched profit growth rates. With a staggering annual turnover exceeding 44 billion euros, excluding funds from money laundering, the 'Ndrangheta stands as a wealthier, more assertive, and more deeply entrenched enterprise. It has adeptly infiltrated both the economy and public institutions, distinguishing itself as the sole truly globalized entity, boasting branches across nearly every Italian region and extending its reach into Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania.

Remarkably, the 'Ndrangheta has remained impervious to the impacts of the pandemic, with its profits not only holding steady but even showing an increase. The organization deftly exploits the rapid transformations of our ever-evolving times to its advantage. The influence of crime on the New Age economy was substantial, manifesting in various aspects. Smuggling and illegal trade proliferated as trade expanded, influencing informal commerce. Maritime piracy in the 16th to 18th centuries impacted global trade, introducing risks and costs for enterprises. Large criminal organizations emerged, engaging in corruption by influencing decision-making in economic and law enforcement matters.

These organizations funded military conflicts, affecting the geopolitical landscape. Maritime pirates obstructed trade routes, influencing economic activities. Criminal groups shaped public opinion, influencing business and consumer decisions. They aimed to control natural resources, impacting economic development, and instilled fear, negatively affecting economic progress. Certain criminal activities, like smuggling, created alternative markets, diversifying the economy. Overall, crime significantly shaped the New Age economy, altering trade processes, relations, and public opinion.

Conclusions

In conclusion, comprehending the intricacies of economic dynamics, including its origins, development patterns, structure, participants, and mechanisms, provides a comprehensive perspective enabling effective planning, forecasting, and the application of viable business models and strategies. This understanding is particularly critical in today's swiftly changing world, which presents unexpected challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regrettably, in the contemporary era, spanning the last two to three decades, many individuals fail to succeed in business or advance professionally due to their lack of understanding of the fundamental nature of their endeavors. To establish a successful business, various elements are indispensable, including market presence, financial resources, and commercial transactions, but the linchpin is adept organization and effective management, with the paramount factor being human resources. Recognizing that the advent of business marked a transformative epoch in Europe and worldwide is essential. Without this comprehension, it becomes challenging to appreciate how these shifts have made profound spiritual, social, psychological, and economic alterations. The commonly held notion that the twentieth-century bourgeois revolutions inaugurated the era of business is, in reality, a retrospective assessment. These historical events essentially marked the culmination of a political upheaval, solidifying the foundations of the modern world in Europe. Subsequently, the process of business formation encompassed the vast majority of nations (Maltsev, 2021b).

It is vital to recognize that expertise does not emerge spontaneously. Individuals aspiring to establish or expand a business venture must study economics from historical, criminological, and psychological perspectives to comprehend its origins and navigate various scenarios effectively.

Given the contemporary challenges, businesspersons must become quasi-scholars. Alternatively, they can collaborate with consultant-scientists engaged in interdisciplinary research. In our rapidly changing world, adaptability is imperative to ensure resilience and leverage prevailing conditions to achieve power and prosperity.

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