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RESPONSE PAPER

ON

“HOW CAN POLYCENTRICITY OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPROVE FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION”

A GLOBAL THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

As parallel to the globalization process, changes in the economic geography and local administrative structures have raised an issue related with the concepts of globalization and localization. This issue is also connected with the debate on the new roles of nation-states. It bases on the debate related with the superiority of the globalization or localization processes. In this context, there are three approaches which are localist, systemic, and the reciprocal influence of global-local. These approaches more or less related with the direction of the development in the new spatial order in the globe. Moreover, the debate on polycentrism should not be keep separate from the debate on the direction of development (top to bottom or bottom to top) and associated theories as far as the global theoretical perspective is concerned.

The localist approach emphasizes on the significance of the “local” as a spatial unit or/and local administrative units. According to this approach, “local” has dominancy in the globalization process as being an actor of economy. The shrinking activities of the nation-states form an opportunity for the localities to substitute the functions of central governments. According to Cox and Mair, local units shift from being an object and “an idea on locality within itself” to be a subject and “an idea of locality for its own”. In this connection, local units have a power to determine global processes. This approach assumes the locality and space as a new regulation unit or a site of economic activity in the global economy. The transformation represents the process of being an active actor in the local economy instead of having a passive role as occurred before. They are more optimistic than the systemic approach defenders about the restructuring process and its spatial reflection. The dynamics of the globalization present important opportunities for local units. In this scope, the local regulation forms are extremely vital to influence global dynamics. In other words, the economic, political and social functions of localities have sharply increased due to their being as administrative regulation units. Localist approach defends the originality of the localities and space. Each local unit has different historical process, social structure and the development process. Moreover, local characteristics provide significant advantages in the local development process. According to localist approach, local politics has a favored noteworthy. Although the global dynamics are assumed as general and universal, in the restructuring process, local entrepreneurships, politics and institutionalization have a remarkable role for the internalization of the global process in local level. Therefore, local politics have a role of regulation in the restructuring process and spatial development.

The systemic approach emphasizes on the significance of supranational and international organizations. Their strategies and global structures determine the behaviors of localities. According to this approach, the globalization process generates an opportunity of unequal development among localities. In addition, this process increases the power of

international and supranational firms while decreasing the power of nation-states. The decrease in the interventionist function and the shrinking capacity of nation-states results in socio-spatial polarizations. According to Amin, at the end of the twentieth century, the rising trend towards internationalization will make local economies transform into a node in the global network due to the integration of the national and local economies at the global level. In accordance with this, local economies will not be able to get any importance. In the same way, they define the modern world with the totality of the fragmented local economies and cultures with the developing and regressing regions. Most of the local units will lose in this process. Developing regions will be few cities and regions which could provide informational, innovational and institutional wealth. Local institutions and organizations adjust themselves to the widening range of the restructuring strategies of capital. According to them, this exhibits the weakness of local units against global powers. As a result, this process threatens the local autonomy by creating an unequal development opportunity for regions.

Third approach claims that the localization and globalization processes are the complement processes. According to the defenders of this approach, there is a reciprocal influence between these processes creating a balance. This approach has a key role to reconcile the conceptualizations of the local and global level. According to Dunford and Kafkalas, restructuring process has a sophisticated and different nature. This process represents a complex relationship between the local and the global which are the parts of the same global economic transformation process. In brief, the basic assumption of this approach is that there is a new environment for the integrated relationship between international markets and the local economies. Transformation observed in the global level is internalized according to the local characteristics. This results in a new institutional division of labor, negotiation and articulation between local and global.

The common point of these three approaches is related with the observation on the shrinking activities of the nation-states and the changing characteristics in the relationships among the global dynamics and the local units. Also, the risen debate on the institutionalization of local governments and the new roles of central governments and global powers provides a significant study area within the assessment of the problem of governance.

THE REFLECTION ON LOCALITIES WITH THE CONCEPT OF ENDEGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

"In recent years, there is an economic and productive dynamics taking place under conditions of increasing competition and globalization. Endogenous development continues to be a useful strategy in a milieu of rapid globalization. Moreover, a new generation of regional policies has been emerging. The new policy instruments focus on the mechanisms that strengthen the organization of the territorial actors.

The competing cities and regions to preserve and attract investments against other cities and regions are the new scenario in the milieu of globalization. The territories in this scenario, who wish increase its citizens' well-being and improve its positioning with respect to its rivals, must give an efficient strategic answer. Otherwise, its competitive position in the long term would be lost, and this would lead to a situation where their standard of living, at least in relative terms, would diminish.

The new generation of policies approaches this challenge with a view of development that considers development as a diffused development process, depending on the growth trajectory of cities and regions. This new approach is based on an interpretation that

understands that economic development does not necessarily have to be polarized and focused in large cities. Even though this approach is far from positions inspired in a core-periphery model, it points out that regional development requires the location of the productive activity in a small number of cities and urban centers to which resources and investments flow. These places should be large enough to compete (large cities, city networks, whole regions) and its optimal size would depend on the type of actions necessary for stimulating territorial development¹."

THE EMERGENCE OF URBAN-REGIONS

Actually, these changes are caused by the two dimensions of globalization which are the globalization of capital and the globalization of labor. Through these two dimensions, the regional differentiation of the world is re-organized and this re-organization results in the formation of urban-regions.

The industrial urbanism, the dominant debate of the previous periods is reformulated by the industrial regionalism in the new spatial order. The concept of region is not the result of political and economic processes, anymore; it should be handled as the basic unit of the social life. Storper explain the development of the economic activities within region by their interaction and advantages created by the positive externalities in market mechanism. In fact, the debate on polycentrism is carried on via two significant process; first, the disappearance of differentiation between city and region. In other words, this new approach focuses on the regional urbanism. Regions that are the basic unit in social life do not only form around the great metropolitan city centers.

Second dimension is the re-conceptualization of the power and capacity of urban-regions for development. With this latter one, the closeness, interrelations, localness, interdependency and agglomeration of economic activities should be considered as creative for development dynamics, technological renovations and reciprocal learning. These economic advantageous provides the development of economic activities and settlements within urban-regions so this causes the transformation of regions to the basic unit of the economic and social life.

Up to this point, the global changes and their relation with theories on the concept of urban regions and within the concept of urban regions, the concept of polycentrism have been mentioned, actually, this subject more or less related with the space representation. The network representation of space and the representation of settlements with knotting points should be emphasized more in the urban planning discipline than before.

NEW SPATIAL ORDER AND THE ENDEGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

The endogenous development theories are so different from the local development concept of 1960s. The local development concept assumes spatial units as an isolated part from the outer world. For such a conceptualization, spatial units are not accepted as a part of a spatial system and it is just based on the development of transportation, communication and production networks with a hierarchical space concept.

Given that the firms don't compete in an isolated manner, but rather jointly with the milieu (characterized by a specific form of organization of production and institutional fabric) in which they are located, and that the firm, cities and regions dynamic depends on the use

¹ Barquero, Antonio V. , 2000, "40th European Congress of the Regional Science Association, Barcelona

of the development potential of each territory, the new generation of policies require strategies with an important territorial and polycentric dimension².

This new geographical understanding creates significant debates among urban planners and it leads to a crucial change in the basic approaches, theories and practices of the urban planning discipline. However, developed frame around these debates is in trouble while explaining different changes in different regions of the world. This is because of the restrictive new theories explaining the whole changes with the top to bottom changes in the globe mentioned before.

With a theoretical perspective, explanations caused by the top to bottom changes in the globe are a product of reductionist approach. On the other hand, the contingency approach is used to explain the post-period of Great Depression which could not be explained by the rationalist paradigm. The flexible accumulation regimes developed by the Regulation School tries to define contingencies and creates new dimensions to the neo-liberal policies and its impacts on new spatial order.

In addition, globalization attracts the interaction in a fragmented structure of agents and firms and it creates an opportunity for the different variation of interactions with limitless models depending on the local conditions of urban-regions.

The pressure of the outer world and the transformation of urban-regions, settlements are forced to develop their own mechanism. This new approach, under the pressure of the outer world, as suitable for the conditions of local structures, necessitates a new governance model and the determination of a new relation order with the contribution of local facilitators. However, this new spatial order can not overcome many problems. The potential problems and the main changes having negative impacts on spatial structure can be accepted as the main headings.

In the new spatial paradigm, the concept of spatial network is different from the previous approaches. With this new perspective, network should be considered as an instrument for transition to sharing from competition. By means of this viewpoint, network relations can be defined with these three features;

- The reciprocal relations of spatial units existing in a spatial network are based on sharing,
- Individuals or agents can have more than one identity in a spatial network,
- Spatial network makes meaningless the concept of boundary and the assumption on the exactness and stableness of boundary become invalid.

Therefore, these three features make one question important for polycentrism;

What will be the principles to form required policies in order to develop an urban-region?

A TRANSNATIONAL VIEW TO THE SUBJECT OF POLYCENTRISM; TURKEY

² Barquero, Antonio V. , 2000, "40th European Congress of the Regional Science Association, Barcelona

If the Turkish case is focused with the debate on the processes to be a member country of European Union, a quartet transnational development structure should be focused;

1- European Union as a Regulator State (making laws but leaving the implementation to Turkey), 2- The National Level, 3-Regional Level, 4-Local Level.

This transnational sample reflects the subsidiarity and proportionality principles of Maastricht Treaty. The subsidiarity principle should be considered with the close execution of whole activities to the people who benefits from. This is limited by the economical scales to execute any activity. The proportionality principle is related with the taking measures by means of appropriate instruments. By the membership to the European Union, Turkey will be a component of this transnational polycentric system. This will provide an important opportunity to create effective models for an integrated participative and communicative action for any attempt to develop. Actually, the effects of these changes caused by the candidate identity of Turkey and the National Plan of the year 2003 and the new National Plan of 2006 creates a synergy among a wide range of public, private and non-governmental organizations.

Finally, in Turkey, it is important to admit the tendency of interest on the subject of poly-centric development is much more related with the transnational dimension rather than the local, urban-regional problems.