



MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

The Future of Regions in the Perspective of Global Change

Part One



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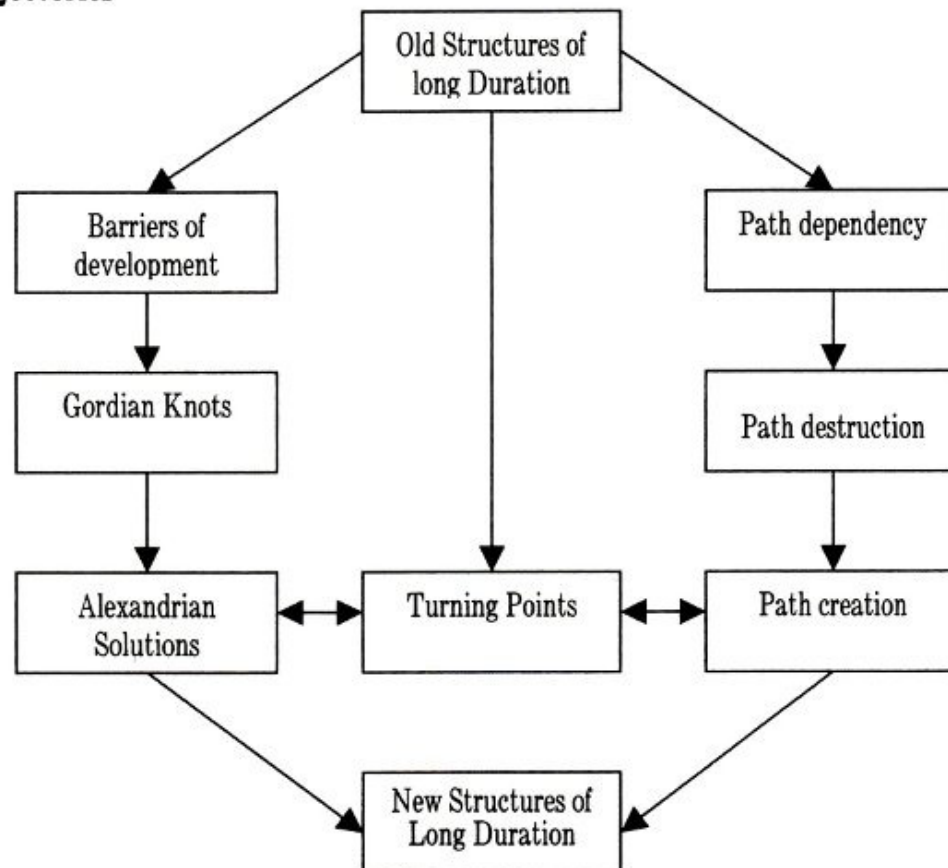
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destruction, path creation new structures of long duration" is very well established in the methodological experiences of the Regio Futures Programme³¹

We have published an excellent set of papers analyzing the theory and methodology of path dependency, path destruction and path creation³². We have a good perspective how to develop this line of thinking in the framework of empirical monographic studies and in a still more advanced theoretical reflexion. In the New Methodology of the Regio Futures Programme we should try to create a general model integrating the theoretical, methodological and empirical assumptions of the Three Trajectories. In this context we are presenting a map of three trajectories as an incentive for the next cycle of our thinking. We can for example outline new sequences of the following type turning points – alexandrian solutions – new path of development.

The map

Three Trajectories



³¹ Compare P. Jakubowska, A. Kukliński, P. Żuber (eds) op.cit

³² P. Jakubowska, A. Kukliński, P. Żuber (eds) op.cit

analytically convincing way. If we reject this point of view, we can say that we need to design three separate monographic studies of the experiences of Southern Italy, Eastern Germany and Eastern Poland. If each study not the genus proximum, but the differentia specifica of each region is most important. In both cases a comparative European reflexion is a challenging task for social sciences trying to use the metaphor of Gordian Knots in the exploration of the changing scene of European Regions.

This paper is not a conventional academic contribution. It is rather a set of notes, observations and suggestions trying to convince the interested readers to join the intellectual and pragmatic effort trying to answer the question to what extend the concepts of Gordian Knots is an effective metaphor in our Regio Futures Programme.

A review of the volume “Gordian knots of the 21st century”²⁴

The Mission of the volume.

The rich and innovative content of this concise volume, can be seen as a triple contribution.

Primo – a contribution to develop our knowledge and imagination related to the great drama of the XXI century. The metaphor of Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions is a very efficient intellectual and pragmatic instrument supporting our perception of realities and ideologies shaping the XXI century. The volume is respecting all criteria of an academic contribution. But this is not a hermetic professional volume. It is written in a spirit of open minded presentation, which can be seen as a useful contribution for the very broad circles of educated public opinion which is sometimes interested in concise volumes analyzing the experiences and prospects of the XXI century

Secundo – a contribution to the Regio Futures Programme designed and implemented under the auspices of the Polish Ministry of Regional Development. The III Warsaw Conference will demonstrate that the Regio Future Programme is a global Programme. The Gordian Knots volume is an integral part of the III Warsaw Conference (June 9 – 10 2008) via two channels of analysis one – supplying a general global background to all considerations related to the Future of Regions

Two – supplying specific arguments opening the way to introduce the Gordian Knots as a concept which could and should be applied in regional analysis (see chapter four)

²⁴ by Krzysztof Rybiński, Paweł Opala, Marcin Holda

Tertio – in ambitious interpretation the volume may be seen as a modest, but valuable contribution supporting the process of the design and implementation of the grand new Programme of the Club of Rome – New Path for World Development. In this context the volume will be presented at the International Conference – The Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions, The Perspectives of the XXI century. This conference will be organized by the Polish Economic Society under the auspices of the Club of Rome, of the Polish Ministry for Regional Development and of the Ernst and Young Corporation (Poland). The Conference will take place in Warsaw October 23-26 2008.

The K. Rybiński volume will be introduced by the Author to the Aurelio Peccei Conference of the Club of Rome: Strategies for a Sustainable Planet Rome 16-17 June 2008.

The volume Gordian Knots will have different interpretations and different applications. It is just the beginning of a long way to develop a holistic Programme – The Gordian Knots of the XXI century.

The scope of the volume

The scope of the volume is very broad and comprehensive. It is not however a holistic volume. The whole domain of culture is beyond the scope of the attention of the volume. The scope of the volume is dominated by six global fields important as scenes of the emergence of the Gordian Knots:

The global finances

The global economy

The global governance and geopolitical transformations

The global demography

The global environment

The global science and technology

This is a very broad panorama of realities structures and processes of long duration which create the Gordian Knots. The volume is accepting the silent assumption, that the Gordian Knot is preponderantly a global phenomenon. The volume is however – not excluding interpretation that the Gordian Knots, can be seen in a full set of spatial scales including the global scale, the continental scale, the subcontinental scale, the national scale, the regional scale and the local scale. The spatial scale is especially important in the interpretation of the dramatic interaction of Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions seen as a feasible reality or as an utopian dream. In this spirit let us present the Panorama of six substantial fields and six spatial scales.

Table 1 Gordian knots – The Panorama of six substantial fields and six spatial scales

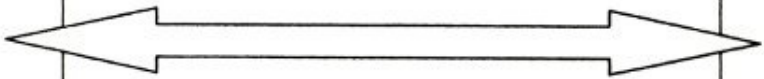

Global fields	The spatial scales					
	Global	Continental	subcontinent	national	Regional	local
Finances	X				X	
Economy	X				X	
Governance	X				X	
Demography	X				X	
Environment	X				X	
Science and technology	X				X	

In the context of the Regio Futures Programme two columns of Table 1 are most important, the column of the glob and the column of the Region. The Regional Interpretation of the Gordian Knots will be outlined in the parallel studies of A. Kukliński and A. Gąsior-Niemiec

The intellectual and the pragmatic axis of the volume.

The axis Gordian Knots – Alexandrian Solutions is the critical strategic element of the volume and of the International Research Programme in toto.

Table 2 The axis of the volume

The Gordian Knots	The fields of transformation of Knots into Solutions	The Alexandrian Solutions
A		A
B	The discovery and analyze of the Gordian Knots	B
C		C
D	The recognition of the existence of the Gordian Knots by the grand decision making elites	D
E		E
F	The decisions to apply the Alexandrian solutions and the implementation of these decisions	F
Ect.		Ect.

The discovery and analysis of the Gordian Knots is a comprehensive intellectual and cultural challenge. But it is a challenge inside our mental and moral capacities. Our Conferences, Publications and Research Programmes, have the full capacities to respond to this demand of the global scene. The volume *Gordian Knots of the XXI century* is an excellent starting point for this cognitive and pragmatic process.

The second field or stage in much more difficult may be even impossible to achieve. The greatest tragedy of the XXI century is the total strategic blindness of the grand global elites. The authors of the volume *Gordian Knots* are less pessimistic in their judgment. In the volume we find indications that the global financial elites are starting to recognize that there are Gordian Knots in the global financial system. But even in this optimistic interpretation we have a long way to go to get the decision to apply the Alexandrian Solutions which can be seen as a feasible reality and non only an utopian dream.

Conclusion

The volume *Gordian Knots of the 21st century* is published just in time to have a set multidimensional applications

Primo – as a contribution interesting for the relative broad public opinion

Secundo – as a contribution to the Regio Future Programme and especially to the III Warsaw Conference June 9-10

Tertio – as a potential contribution to the New Programme of the Club Rome – New path for World Development In these spirit the volume will be introduced to the Club of Rome Conference – Rome June 16-17 2008

Quarto – as a contribution to the October Warsaw Conference, The Gordian Knots and Alexandrian Solutions. The Perspectives of the XXI century.

Triple Mezzogiorno Programme T.M.P.

The main mission of the T.M.P is to create a field of encounter and controversial discussion testing the approaches of conventional and non conventional wisdom in the European regional studies. We accept the following thematic outline of this paper.

- I. Conventional versus non conventional wisdom.
- II. Regional studies in Europe some diagnostic observations.
- III. Regional studies in Germany, Italy and Poland – the power of conventional wisdom.
- IV. The weakness of conventional wisdom facing the Triple Mezzogiorno of Southern Italy, Eastern Germany and Eastern Poland.
- V. The Triple Mezzogiorno as a chance for the approaches of non conventional wisdom.
- VI. The new methodological architecture of non conventional wisdom
 - Long duration
 - barriers for development
 - Gordian Knots
 - Alexandrian Solutions
- VII. The baron von Münchhausen metaphor .
- VIII. The initial stage of the T.M.P.
- IX. The T.M.P. as a big push for the Regio Futures Programme.