

## The Value of History in the Society 5.0:

### Is History a Relevant and Important Subject for the Society 5.0?

#### Abstract

The process of information and communications technology (ICT) is bringing changes to society drastically. Now we are living in the 4<sup>th</sup> IR environment and innovative technologies and trends are intensely developing. These trends are likely to impact every aspect of the life from business to society, government, to our own identity, values and culture. The focus of this paper is on the role of history for a society that society 5.0 dominated by the natural sciences and technology. In the future society will achieve a forward-looking society that breaks down the existing sense of stagnation, a society whose members have mutual respect for each other, transcending the generations, and a society in which each and every person can lead an active and enjoyable life. History only allows one to make more sense of the current world; enable us to understand different cultures. One can study history because it allows one to exercise their critical thinking skills that may need for the community in the society 5.0.

#### **Introduction**

Not only contemporary society but also future society is dominated by the demand for science and technology, World cannot be denied on it. On the other hand, the role and place of social sciences such as history must not be underplayed for the reasons of having important role in shaping and moulding people and the societies which they live. The process of information and communications technology (ICT) is bringing changes to society drastically. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies like robotics, self-driving vehicles and the internet things will be given to the new society, Society 5.0. In that future society will achieve a forward-looking society that breaks down the existing sense of stagnation, a society whose members have mutual respect for each other, transcending the generations, and a society in which each and every person can lead an active and enjoyable life. History only allows one to make more sense of the current world; enable us to understand different cultures. One can study history because it allows one to exercise their critical thinking skills that may need for the community in the society 5.0.

## **History of the transformation of the society**

When we look back on the history of the industrial revolution, the phrase came out from the World Economic Forum, which is held in 2015. The first industrial revolution was started between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe and America. At that time, human power could be replaced by machine power, made mass production. The Second Industrial Revolution occurred between the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and brought major breakthroughs in the form of electricity distribution, both wireless and wired communication, the synthesis of ammonia and new forms of power generation. The Third Industrial Revolution began in the 1950s with the development of digital systems, communication and rapid advances in computing power, which have enabled new ways of generating, processing and sharing information. The Fourth Industrial Revolution can be described as the advent of “cyber-physical systems” involving entirely new capabilities for people and machines.

Over the past 200 years, the process of evolution has defined. Defining the human society, we can categorized five different societies. Society 1.0 can be defined as groups of people living with nature: hunting society; Society 2.0 can be described as groups of people based on cultivation, so we can name it as an agricultural society; Society 3.0, industrial society, is a society that promotes industrialization and Society 4.0, information society, is an information technology society. The next society: Society 5.0 will be built upon Industrial Revolution 4.0. One of its definition is “A human-centered society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space”. Society 5.0 achieve a forward-looking society whose members have mutual respect for each other, transcending the generations, and a society in which each and every person can lead an active and enjoyable life.

## **Emerging Trends Beyond Modern Society**

Many scholars have highlighted the main features of the shift from modern to post-modern society. Some of them are summarized below.

## Weakening of social structure

The notion of social structure refers to dominant patterns of action and social relationships, legitimated by cognitive structures such as socially supported views, representations and stereotypes. The weakening key feature of contemporary society precisely is the weakening of such social structures. This allows social actors (individuals and groups) to be more autonomous, to enjoy a broader range of socially accepted options and to escape as far as possible from the control of social structures and under certain conditions, to modify them more easily than it was in the past.

## Increasing subjectivity of social actors

Connected to the weakening of social structures there is the parallel increase in the people's agency, i.e. in their capacity to more freely think and act as well as to "build up" their own life, projects, and identity. These tendencies can be observed in any social sphere. They manifest themselves when individuals and groups, tend, for example:

- To pass intermediated entities (associations, trade unions, political parties, etc.)
- To question the power, legitimacy and authoritativeness of social institutions (including science)
- To disclose themselves (in terms of opinions, ideas, personal attitudes, private feelings, intimate aspects of life, body, etc.) in public or semi-public environments (both physical and virtual)
- To challenge the usual mechanisms of social control (for example, to ignore the others' opinion or to reject established values and beliefs).

## Transformations and crisis of the "Institutions of modernity"

The weakening of social structures also entails a crisis of the "institutions of modernity" related to politics, religion, economy, trade unions, public administrations and science. All these institutions have lost authority, power and autonomy; they are asked to be more transparent and accountable; in order to be functioning, they are more in need of the support of users and citizens; to manage themselves, they can less and less rely upon hierarchical relationships. Some institutions prove not to be able to stand the impact of the growing and growingly fragmented demands of the public.

### Higher exposure to bigger risks

In contemporary society, the profile of risk has changed. People are increasingly exposed to risk of different kind, such as environmental risks, unemployment, lack of access to social protection and pension schemes, or health risks. This is due to many factors, including the advancement of science and technology and the failure of the “promise of modernity” to develop governments increasingly capable to protect everyone from any risk. Also the so-called “European social mode”, combining economic growth and high living and working standards, is revealing to be not economically sustainable.

### Growth of uncertainty and instability

Instability increases in all sectors of social life (labour, emotional ties, social protection, etc.), because of the increase in the exposure to risks as well as the weakening of social structures, which, while producing a control over the individuals, also provides them with social, psychological and physical reference social patterns and protection. Therefore, the sense of uncertainty appears to be a dominant character both in the social life and in the biographical dimension.

### Increasing weight of financial markers

Uncertainty and instability are also determined by the increasing weight of financial markets, which tend now to dominate over the industrial economy. Profit-making process more and more occurs through financial channels rather than through commodity production and trade. This process is producing a progressive enhancement and autonomy of global financial institutions and a weakening in the capacity of governments to keep a control over national economies. This further gets the level of uncertainty and instability higher than in the recent past, both at individual and collective level.

### Social and cultural diversification

The modified balance between actors and structures produced a strong social and cultural diversification within society. It is more and more difficult to identify homogenous social groups or dominant behavioural patterns. Even individuals’ identity is more unstable, fragmented and

inconsistent. At the same time, diversification feeds a multiplication of ideas, initiatives, behaviours and forms of knowledge, accelerating social changes.

#### Weakening of social boundaries

All the boundaries with society are weakening: between social spheres, institutions, social groups, cultures, disciplines and types of knowledge, different components of personal life, public and private dimensions. New forms of social and cultural hybridization constantly arise from within society.

#### Globalization and localization

Globalization process are speeding up and enlarging their scope, affecting all societal sectors. At the same time, also localization process (i.e. a strengthening of the local dimension in economic, social and cultural domains) are also rapidly emerging. Some years ago, some authors introduced the term “globalization” precisely for stressing the co-presence of these two apparently opposite trends, allowing people to smoothly shift from the global to the local dimensions and vice versa. In this sense, geographical distance does not matter.

### **Conclusion**

#### History in Society 5.0

According to the reports from ministry of education, culture, sports, science and technology, student acquire basic skills in identifying and resolving problems, and devising and designing social systems through the study of a broad range of subjects like humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

Does History still need for Society 5.0? Yes, the Society 5.0 need to be learnt History, because skills commonly need in the future society are ability to accurately interpret and respond to writing and information; ability to engage in and apply scientific thinking and inquiry; sensitivity and ability to discover and create value; curiosity and the inquisitiveness. For getting some of those skills, History can should not be left behind for Society 5.0. Preparing to produce skilled learners that are able to cope in the world of work, History subject which tries to shape and mould learners should not be negated. Learning history is always important. It is as important as studying science or economy or any other subject. By history you not only knows your past but

also how past has shaped the present, and what all mistakes which have been done in the past that are still bothering us in present.

The following facts are reflected that History is how much important for the future society.

1. Introduction and statement of the problem

If the problems occur which were related to political, economical, educational, history could introduce and can produce the concerned statements.

2. Lessons from the past

History could provide lessons from the past, people can reduce the mistakes of the past and the same mistake may happen again.

3. Explaining and understanding the present

By making links between past and present, people can gain a broader and more holistic perspectives and understanding of the past.

4. Predicting or the future

History can assist people to get a better grasp on the present, as an understanding of History helps one to make better judgements and predict the future. The opinion insight into the past can mostly provide guidelines for future decision-making.

5. Self-understanding of existence

People must be able to comprehend where they come from and develop an understanding of their existence. History is more than just the study of cause and effect; a greater understanding of the present and where one comes from may lead to a more critical and clearer understanding of social responsibilities.

6. Source of values

People have to make value judgments in society today because certain norms and values apply. The learners of History have been assisted by History in making the required value judgments, based on analytical and objective process.

7. Perspectives

History can guide people to see trends and processes in a broader, holistic perspective and to understand them. By learning History people come into contact with other cultures and societies and in this way they gain a more holistic understanding of the contemporary world and their place in this broader context.

8. Obtaining knowledge and self-knowledge

Studying History does not only lead to acquire more general knowledge but also self-knowledge.

9. Critical awareness and thinking skills

History can contribute towards the development of critical awareness for people, as there can be no quest for truth unless it is sought in a critical way. People need to be guided to be intellectually curious, to question trends and occurrences in a positive manner, to weight up both positives and the negative aspects and to distinguish between facts and generalization. History can make a contribution to develop such a critical awareness.

History has the value that it can mould and shape people, despite the context and time. There should be continuous reflection on what the possible values are and how they can contribute to society. The development of values and goals like making informed decisions, based on a study of the past; helping learners to study the past so that they have better understanding of the present and where they come from; having a clear self-understanding.

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Society 5.0 [http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society\\_5\\_0/index.html](http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/society_5_0/index.html)