

Future Of Human Civilization

Before describing the future of human civilization, I felt the necessity to clarify a few key moments. First, since the development in various parts of the world can vary, this essay focuses on western countries, like the USA, UK, and Germany. Second, the future is described here based on the current trends of society. Third, due to the immense scope of the topic, it focuses on standardization and its effects. The essay starts with the economic impact of standards unification and then only moves to social ones.

In the middle ages, explorers from different countries began discovering new lands, and many Europeans started moving to the New World. Since then, the migration of people has strengthened, and new means of transportation like trains and planes have boosted the process to an unthinkable level. Due to the movement of people, the world felt a strong need for standardization, especially in spheres of transport and technology. Later, at the end of the 20th century, the rise of gadgets and the internet gave another revolution, making information available for everyone in all parts of the world, furthering unification.

These two things, the wide availability of information and standardization, caused social mobility. People stopped living and working in the same place for all their lives, and it has become commonplace when a person changes his place of residence every one or two years. Yet, although standardization has become common within a particular country(Germany) and a region(the EU), it has not reached its full scale on the global level. For example, a surgeon from the Netherlands wishing to practice medicine in the USA needs to prove his qualifications and take several exams. In the future, standardization will reach such a level that a graduate of one country may go to any other to work, an Uzbek school graduate may apply to a US university without taking any additional exam.

Because of standardization, national borders will face a paradoxical situation: countries will have stronger regulations and customs services but allow a greater number of people and goods to pass the boundary. Migration services and customs officers will check whether people and goods meet the standards or not, and with the rise of unification, merely every will fit the standards. This will lead to the diminishing of borders.

Let's look at its economic implications. A great flow of products from all parts of the world will fill out our markets. If we take the department store's chocolate department, it will be full of all types of chocolate from Switzerland, Germany, France, Uzbekistan, Russia, Korea, and so far. As a result, people in the future may suffer not from an absence of choice but a paralyzing surfeit of it: over-choice.

When it comes to the social effect of standardization, we may again see a paradoxical situation: society will become homogeneous in quality but heterogeneous in content, quantity. When the base of society, economy is standardized and the common goods--dishwashing machine, TV, kettle-- are similar in every

part of the place, this naturally leads to standardization of society and a loss of customs. Although an individual might have stopped practicing a particular tradition, they are still Uzbek, Korean, Russian, or whatever nationality they belong to, so society will consist of different nationalities and interest groups. In other words, in a country, you will be able to find representatives of all nations and traditions.

When this happens, it will become impossible to regulate the country based on the principle of one group or the majority. The government will find the overlap of morals and, according to this, will set universal rules, called law, which everyone must obey; within this framework of rights, everyone will be able to pursue their concept of a good life. One may argue that this principle is already in practice. Although it is theoretically defined, it is highly ineffective (homosexuality is banned in many countries, and the gender gap is high) and needs a long time to find its full realization.

Lastly, when social mobility caused by standardization is prolific, the concept of constant vanishes. Lifelong friendship, relationships, and work contracts will become rare and even impossible phenomena. Within these circumstances, society will face the complex question of morality, which will have to be solved: When social mobility is omnipresent, how people's morals will be formed and affected? What about moral obligations that arise from society, a country, and a family?

Although this essay made a humble attempt to contemplate the future of human civilization, due to the scope of the topic, it could not include many facets of the future like the effects of technology and urbanization. Yet it made maximum effort to explore one facet of the future.