In the cherished memory of His Majesty King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej

SUFFICIENCY ECONOMY AS AN ALTER-GLOBALIST DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT: TOPICALITY FACTORS AND CONDITIONS NEEDED FOR INTRODUCTION

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The article analyzes the key bottlenecks and problems of globalization as a social progress concept along with the accompanying social and economic problems provoked by liberalization. The potential of sufficiency economy is analyzed as an alternative to the globalist approach. Potential prospects of sufficient economy principles' implementation are assessed. These principles have been suggested by His Majesty King of Thailand Bhumipol Adulyadej as the key values and strategic guidelines for nation's development. The related conditions and requirements for their implementation in the economic policies of todays' governments worldwide are discussed.

Key Words: globalization; sufficiency economy; transnationalization; capitalism; world economy; public regulation; Thailand.

Globalizing economy: through "flat world" to world segregation

Contemporary dynamics of capitalistic relations' development has made world economy a complicated and intricate system of national economies, transnational production & distribution constructs, international economic organizations etc. Within its framework competencies of governments and of corporate top managers, directors of supranational unions and of local consumers, business owners and employees are intercrossing and overlapping, resonating and counteracting.

Formation of the global capitalist system, on one hand, has lead to repositioning of countries in the global structure of labour distribution: some of them got the latest and most advanced production factors (including innovations, high technologies and most qualified labour resources), thus, the traditional factors of national competitiveness (geographical location, tourist resources, consumer market volumes) got a completely new value and role.

On the other hand, global economic system made an attempt to combine what is potentially not incompatible into the global pyramid of competitiveness, in which the role of the state within the structure of international production is rather fixed, while the system of vertical lifts between the levels of this pyramid does not seem to be possible as such (Delyagin, 2003). Same applies to widely promoted liberal business values which is partially related to limiting the state regulation of economy and eliminating legal and administrative barriers on the way of globalization's advent (including free trade, freedom in production factors' relocation, unification of public regulation etc.).

Consequently, globalism today as the concept of capital development is actually an attempt to recreate the zones of “limited freedom”, that is those economic and business territories the socioeconomic development of which is rather strictly planned, very much regulated and controlled, however, inside them, standards of free entrepreneurship and competitiveness are nourished in a rather artificial way. High level of this so-called “internal freedom” is often generously sponsored from the inside by means of country’s investment attractiveness growth, its growing international ranks (which is today the most widely spread form of international acknowledgement of country’s success, at least in a short-term period) and also, by significantly cheaper credit rates. At the same time this “internal freedom” serves to limit national governments in realization of their national strategic interests, since “freed” market forces are actively building the required institutes according to external economic requirements.

Our previous research (Ushakov, 2016, in print) on the dynamics of economic liberalization in a range of countries around the globe has already confirmed our assumption that market instruments of free internal market force the national market system to be oriented not locally, but rather globally – on the world market environment. And these mechanisms of the global market which essentially are transnational production & distribution constructs, highly efficient systems for logistics and communication, today have already created all conditions for national economic systems to strive for their own universalization and standardization, own adaptation to global trends of the world economy’s development. And these trends are somehow seen as the only possible way for national competitiveness development. National economic system, being closely connected to global financial, information, labour and other markets, become too sensitive to any global factor, and thus, becomes more oriented to global (that is external) rather than internal, own, local necessities (Ushakov, 2016, in print).

Obviously, such features of globalization raises the overall level of proneness to conflicts within the world economy (Albert, 1993). Despite the fact that conflict indeed may be a powerful factor of progress, in relation to globalization specifically it becomes the factor limiting the development, a tool for throwing the progress back. This is because a constructive conflict in this situation would be hardly possible due to too different levels of development, the parties are on the very different levels of the competitiveness pyramid. Thus, it would not be possible to win in a fair competition, in the absence of fair competition as such, one side would inevitable serve as a referee. Therefore, within the frameworks of globalization "waves of conflicts" are easily going down, likewise do the "waves of crises". And in most of the cases the origin of both (waves of conflicts and waves of crises) is predetermined by the necessity to regulate the lower levels of the global competitiveness pyramid.

Globalization delusions: the basis for alternatives' conceptualization

Here we would like to describe the major delusions related to globalization as the concept of global economy's progress.

1. Globalization is NOT the only possible development alternative for the global economy's dynamics. Globalization is often and widely treated as the only possible way out in our further common economic development (Bhagwati, 2004), however, despite the rapid development of global infrastructure and unification of numerous institutes and standards, our world already knows the states which were able to nationalize the advantages of globalization (for example, by means of free trade, foreign investment inflows or external labour migration). Some of the states also managed to reach high levels of competitiveness and economic development not by means of the so-called internal freedom and external competitiveness, but rather by means of harsh regulation and control (South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore). Moreover, there are states which have been able to provide themselves comparatively high (as compared with close, significantly more globalized neighbours) level of socioeconomic development, even being aside all global trends as such for a long period of time (Iran, for example).
2. Globalization does NOT guarantee global inequality elimination, it does NOT create some sort of "flat world" with more or less same conditions for production, trade and/or population life being. As a result of global trends, welfare level, on the contrary, grew only for a very limited number of countries, while gap between the rich and the poor is becoming so big, almost unbridgeable. Today's global construction of our world with its "internal freedom" of countries and rather managed external environment promotes redistribution of the production factors (including qualifications, innovations and technologies), and thus, the latter lose their national belonging because today they can be commercialized, monetized, cashed to the maximum only at global markets. Mobilization of the most valuable production factors has been accompanied by stabilization and standardization of consumer markets (through the mechanisms of global pricing, e.g., for oil, gold, foodstuffs, and also through megamarketing strategies and new consumption patterns, including westernization etc.). This has increased the profitability of production factors exploitation at global markets which are naturally regulated by the most advanced countries

of the world. As the world most recent experience shows, globalization turns out to be especially favourable for the most developed states and also for microcountries which due to their micronumbers of population and microsize of territories have became able (in the absence of large budget expenditures) to create the most liberal conditions for doing business and also the most attractive conditions for foreign investors. In this peculiar way microcountries were able to accumulate the economic potential which is now manifold over their actual necessities and thus can be freely applied at external markets.

3. Globalization does NOT provide extra opportunities for solving the socioeconomic problems within countries, NEITHER it promotes social homogenization. It does NOT ease social tension, and it does NOT promote the development of the middle class. Even in the most advanced countries, located at the very top of the global competitiveness pyramid, it does not seem to demonstrate social equality or stability. Indeed, their official statistics shows rather high per capita income, and their Gini index can be satisfactory (implying that economic distribution inside the country is more or less equal), however, if we take a closer look at how the country's assets are distributed (the land, real estate, leading enterprises), the situation would looks completely different, since all of the above is owned by a few rich citizens.

Let us present this situation on a simple example. There is a house with four apartments in it, owned by a family which lives nearby. All four apartments are rented by the family, so that the family of these owners does not have to work. Let the families of these tenants spend a quarter of their monthly income on the apartment rent. In this case, all five families (4 renting families + the family owning the house) have exactly the same, equal monthly income! This means that their Gini ration would be very close to ideal one. Setting the statistics aside, the family owning the house does not work and has only the so-called passive income, while none of the tenants' families can afford buying an apartment of their own.

According the data of the charity organization Oxfam (www.oxfam.org), the overall income of the top-5 richest families in England is about USD 47 bln, and this is more than the bottom 20% of the UK population have today. According to Swiss newspaper "Bilanz", top-300 richest Swiss residents back in 2015 earned 589 bln Swiss francs, and this is nearly equal to Switzerland annual income as a state!

The research Landais & Fack (2010) revealed that during 1998-2005 nearly 90% of all French families increased their incomes by only 5%, while the top-10% of the richest French families increased their incomes by 9%, and at the same time top-1% of the richest families in France increased their incomes by already 32%, while the so-called "superrich" group increased their incomes by 43%!

According to the survey data of the sociological institute Ifop (www.ifop.fr) of the French think that the system of welfare distribution in their country is "extremely unfair". However, the official statistics of France is in serious contradiction to the feelings of these citizens. France officially belongs to those few developed countries, in which the gap between the rich and the poor was decreasing throughout the period of 1985-2015. Moreover, France was officially among the leaders of this process development.

Needless to add here, that in the rest of the countries worldwide the situation is much worse. Globalization not only failed to introduce the “fair society” but it actually widens the gap between the rich and the poor in many countries worldwide.

Table 1 - Growth changes by regions and decades

Region	# of countries	overall	Average value of change (a)	1950s- 1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s- 2000s
Rises, overall	140	78	6,9	17	13	21	27
Developed countries (b)	37	11	5	5	0	3	3
Developing countries of Asia	22	19	5,6	4	6	4	5
Latin America countries	18	11	4	3	2	4	2
Sub-Saharan countries in Africa	43	22	10,3	4	1	5	12
Other developing countries (c)	20	15	7,4	1	4	5	5
Falls, overall	140	96	-6,3	7	48	30	11
Developed countries	37	21	-5,3	0	15	1	5
Developing countries in Asia	22	15	-6	0	7	5	3
Latin America countries	18	13	-4,6	0	8	5	0
Sub-Saharan countries in Africa	43	26	-8	3	12	9	2
Other developing countries	20	21	-6,9	4	6	10	1

a)Changes in % of GDP per capita real growth before and after the growth rate change;
b) Include: Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan;
c) Caribbean countries, Cyprus, Middle East, North of Africa and Turkey.

4. Globalization does NOT create the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the world.

According to the study by the IMF experts (Berg et al., 2008), see Table 1, throughout the second half of the XXth century the world evidenced 78 cases of growth and 96 cases of macroeconomic systems’ falls (overall, 140 countries have been analyzed).

On average, the most frequent economic rises have been observed in the developing countries of Asia, and falls – in Latin America. According to the presented statistics and taking into account the average duration of both rises and falls, a statistically average country, during the time period of 1950-2000, had the probability of stable development of no more than 3%, and this is definitely very far from common understanding of global stability as such. Obviously, in early 2000s instability has been only escalating.

5. Globalization does NOT assume some sort of strategic approach to implementation of state development programs. Market itself may have a range of such "falls" which cannot be overcome even provided the state has available the most perfect market mechanisms. Market as a field of society's economic interests' realization is supposed to guarantee satisfaction of material needs of humans and thus form the basis for societal development, but not changing it radically. Aside economic activity and economic interests, any society also has at least 3 more fields of activity – social, political and cultural ones. All of them are strongly dependent upon economy and are very much predetermined by the market status, but at the same time they keep the originality of their own functioning. In the opposite case society would turn into some sort of "consumers' herd" with rather strong competition between its members and without any values and/or features of humanity. Therefore, the market alone, being only a part of society's activity, is not able to form an environment for fully sufficient development of the society. Society cannot be regulated by market mechanisms only, since market idealizes competition and efficiency as the only values. Finally, ideal market as such is a highly unstable and rather short-life phenomenon. Without external regulation, it tends to turn to the state of monopoly, and rather quickly. And essentially, any monopoly, by its functions and its behavioral features, is identical to corrupted and inefficient bureaucracy. Moreover, market monopoly in relation to social development can be much more dangerous than any corrupted state, since it has no obligations to take care of society members and treats the latter only as consumers (and often, as defeatists). Thus, the globalist concept of societal development is essentially a marxist one, that is, it has the features of economic determinism, it idealizes market mechanisms, high efficiency and performance, and also competitiveness as the only aims of social progress. It is also:

- first of all, expansionistic, demanding constant supply of new resources (land, natural materials, human capital) and new markets, formation of new branches and sectors (including virtual ones, in our times);

- secondly, differentiating, that is, keeping somewhat backwards as a potential reserve the least developed countries and regions, social groups and strata, sectors and even separate enterprises, if they did not manage to achieve certain level of indicators of social competitiveness and efficiency;

- thirdly, of credit nature. It demands initial investment, the volumes and the high market value of which serve as some sort of entry barrier in any economic sector. By the same means it also significantly regulates intra-sectoral competition and sets the direction for further economic development of countries, branches and large enterprises;

- fourthly, highly unstable, with a propensity to crises due to rapid internal social dynamics, conflicts and social polarization, but primarily, due to a range of contradictions between social justice requirements on one side and economic demands of performance and competitiveness on the other;

- fifthly, self-destructing, not having self-preservation functions (as, for example, the society has as a social group); it is neither able to develop the mechanisms for self-preservation and self-protection in dynamically changing conditions (which is manifested mostly through constant monopolization and inability to solve numerous social problems). This requires the constant presence of the state at the market since only the state has the regulating competences and (at least ideally) is independent from the will of market agents.

The way to self-sufficiency: two directions from the society of consumption

In today's world measures of public socioeconomic regulation become more and more topical, being aimed at maintenance of social stability and social justice. These regulation measures also are supposed to be aimed at the destruction of already formed and efficiently functioning mechanisms of internal market adaptation to the demands of the external environment. The contemporary vision of public socioeconomic regulation is focused on transformation of internal social stability into the growing external, global competitiveness. Thus, there is a necessity for reconsideration of the widely spread globalization-related belief that competition growth at internal markets promotes the growth of external national efficiency. This statement is fair for ideal conditions only, provided the society is intolerant to corruption as such, competition is always fair, and legislation as well as information support are provided to the fullest. However, in real world perfect conditions do not exist, just as perfect competition.

In real life, however, social stability, law & order, and social justice have become today the key factors, the markers of country's attractiveness for everyday life, for international investments, for headquarters and branches of international companies, as these factors are partially also the reasons for the availability of high-quality labour resource. At this, external aims of national socioeconomic policy must somehow follow the globalized aims – formation of competitive national industries and enterprises which would become national champions/pioneers to provide and support further external economic expansion of the country.

Another requirement to implementation of the two-vector socioeconomic policy by today's governments concerns the growing autonomy and lessened dependence between external and internal environments of the same state. For example, the volumes of social security payments must not be determined by the world market prices or by the income from country's exports; the volumes of country's internal consumption should not be limited by import opportunities or by national currency rate; credit availability within national economy should not be limited by interest rates in other countries etc. Thus, the vector of foreign economic policy of a state must not be predetermined only by global surroundings, and it must also have only the minimal impact on the dynamics of socioeconomic reforms inside the countries which must be oriented not so much not on national consumption growth but on stability and self-sufficient economic growth.

Obviously, the society of consumption is primarily about the qualitative growth of consumption and about consumers as such, it determines the fate of dozens highly profitable branches and sectors, and it is also a significant factor of labour resources' motivation. On the other hand, consumer society is essentially global, it makes the very phenomenon of consumption international, thus enlarging the gap between international corporations and less successful local producers. It also stimulates consumer imports instead of promoting the growth of national production. Moreover, it contributes greatly to society polarization since for the large share of country's population it closes the way to the "consumer dream".

Consumer society can become the key factor of long-term economic growth of a country – but, provided only national industrial and service infrastructure have been already formed, and there is enough space for innovations and global competitive advantages' development. Today, global competitiveness is based not as much on expensive and well developed infrastructure for doing business and attracting new investors, on legal protection of private property and liberal business regimes, but mostly on the availability of high-tech potential for further innovations' development (and this concerns both business companies and also local communities themselves), marketing advantages (trademarks, brands which allow introduce new products to markets in only several hours), their formation requires not only huge investments but also significant time resources.

Consequently, reaching this target within consumer society development by the majority of contemporary states which do not possess impressive natural resources, neither financial or human potential, seems to be nearly impossible. To confirm this we can analyze the experience of the United Arab Emirates, for example. This country has invested heavily in national infrastructure development in an attempt to create the most favourable conditions for doing business, it also has spent great deal of investments on logistics development, on medical, education and tourism services' promotion. However, after the 30 years of such activities, UAE is still not the place where innovations and/or technologies are born, and definitely not the trend-setter in science, or education, or creative industries. In other words, this country indeed sells the largest in the world quantity of luxury cars or cell phones, however, its local business is not producing even details for them, despite the actual availability of resource potential, strong political will, social homogeneity and comparative (to other countries in the region) stability for many decades by now.

Another alternative in consumer society development means total and drastic degradation of national economy (since it is unable to compete with global brands in the most profitable sectors) and of social order (due to inevitable income differentiation, a huge gap between public authorities and local population caused by blooming corruption and high public expenditures). Such a gloomy perspective is inevitable in case there is a misbalance between consumption patterns on one hand and opportunities for national businesses on the other. In time this will turn into somehow disguised exchange of national resources for the right to use temporary the latest achievements of the global technological advance. And as soon as the demanded natural resources are exhausted (or the world prices for them fall), the opportunities of consuming global benefits would be also exhausted, diminishing the country from luxury consumption and easy prosperous life to the level of basic human needs satisfaction.

Economy sufficiency: moral grounds for economic achievements

The socioeconomic alternative we are trying to describe here is represented by the systems oriented on self-sufficient growth, demonstrating their own, unique advantages and long-term competitiveness (often after being a victim in a range of world crises). This model nearly always faces some sort of social opposition, simply because the majority is always naturally more interested in globalized consumption (which is often considered to be the sure sign of development and prosperity). Thus, there arises the need for a strong-willed leader with a wide range of powers which would be capable to be persuasive enough for the general public in explaining the priority of long-term goals over the advantages of short-term consumption boom.

The model of self-sufficient growth has a number of obvious advantages and strong sides, among which: its relative low cost (since there is no necessity to concentrate on global competitiveness achievement and to invest in global infrastructure development); clear control and regulation over the spent means and resources; higher efficiency of reforms' administration etc.

Global capitalism as an economic notion and consumer society as a social progress target today serve as the instruments for neocolonization, both of them promote national resources and national production potential reorientation on global consumption. While the principles of liberalism and free trade are levelling economic and business conditions inside countries and at global markets, fragmenting these markets at the same time, localizing the most profitable ones for further activities of multinational corporations from economically leading countries. This proves the actual necessity to formulate the alternative concepts of national socioeconomic development, in the implementation of which the country and the society must be oriented on their own resources and own potential in order to stabilize internal socioeconomic processes by making them more autonomous, more detached from the highly competitive foreign economic environment.

Thailand has its own original example of self-sufficient economy which has already found its implementation and manifestations at corporations, in various provinces of country and in Thai national economy as a whole. Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy stems from the remarks made by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej throughout his 58 years of reign (NESDB, 2004). It stresses the "middle" path as the overriding principle for Thai people's conduct and way of life at the individual, family, and community levels. Within the philosophical framework, the choice of balanced development strategies for the nation in line with the forces of globalization is allowed, with the need for adequate protection from internal and external shocks (Kantabutra, 2005). In particular, after the Asian economic crisis of 1997 during and after which numerous business organizations in Thailand went bankrupt, His Majesty reiterated this philosophy as the way to recovery that would lead to a more resilient and sustainable economy (NESDB, 2004).

Regarding its forms and functions "Sufficiency Economy" can be considered as:

philosophy serving as "guide for the way of living/behaving for people of all levels toward the middle path";

an agenda, delivering the middle path as the "economic life guiding principle", i.e. a secularized normative prescription, but not a religious statement;

it is also scalable, with "universal domain applicability": individual, household, community, project, business, management, institution, polity, society, nation state, region, humanity, and finally biosphere levels can be differentiated;

as the foundation for any economic framework, Sufficiency Economy is complete, governing everything form of motivation in setting the criteria (goals, objectives etc.), shaping the behavior (production, consumption, investment etc.), covering also the system level (collectivity, connectivity etc.), and therefore addressing all issues within dynamic settings.

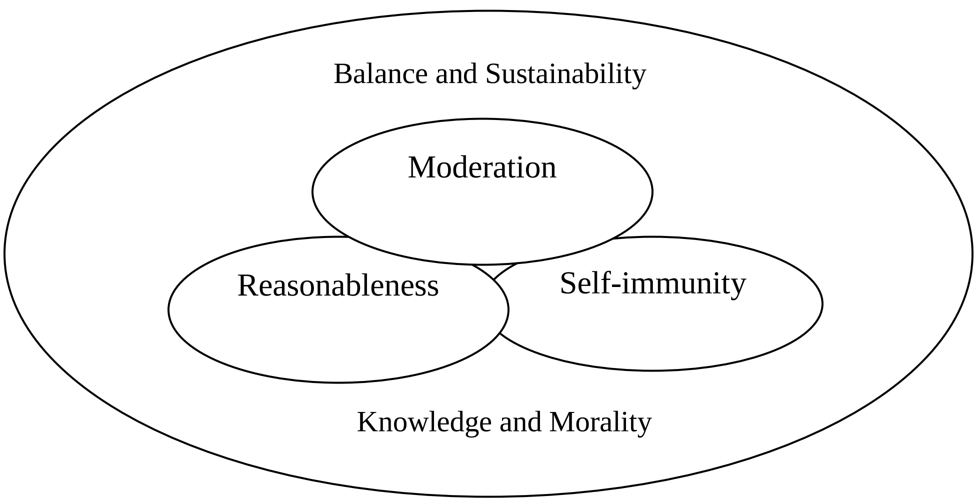

Figure 1 - Sufficiency Economy Philosophy Framework (Kantabutra, 2005)

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy framework (see Fig. 1) comprises three components and two underlying conditions (Piboolsravut, 2004). First, Sufficiency entails three components: Moderation, Reasonableness, and the requirement for Self-immunity, i.e. the ability to cope with shocks coming from internal and external changes. Second, two underlying conditions necessary to achieve Sufficiency are Knowledge and Morality. Sufficiency Economy requires breadth and thoroughness in planning, carefulness in applying knowledge during the implementation of these plans. As for the Moral/Ethical condition, Sufficiency Economy emphasizes the features that people are to possess – honesty and integrity – while conducting their lives with perseverance, harmlessness and generosity.

According to the concept of Sufficiency Economy, state regulation of economy must be based on three central principles (see Tab. 2).

Table 2. Key values of state regulation according to the concept of sufficiency economy (compiled by the author)

Internal vector	External vector
Self-sufficiency, self-reliance	Expediency
Trust	Legal support, contract law
Fair distribution	Market freedoms
Modesty	Profit maximization
Continuity	Stable growth
Stability	Adequacy to market trends
Balance of needs and opportunities	Expansion, long-term growth
High potential for autonomy	High potential for global leadership
Welfare growth	Growth of production and trade
Debts' minimization	Efficient financial policy
Transparency of distribution	Business processes' optimization
Stability in each village – stability in the country	Competitive company – competitive nation

Principle #1. Presence of several vectors in state external and internal economic regulation. The key targets in foreign economic policy must be economic efficiency, expansion, determination of national pioneers which have the potential for global leadership and global-level competitiveness. At the same time internal, national economic policy must be based on social justice and social stability in the long term.

Principle #2. Implementation of both internal and external national economic policies must be independent from each other to the maximum possible level. State successes at external markets must not lead to resources' outflow (both technologies and human resource), thus reducing the efficiency of internal economic policy etc.

Principle #3. Implementation of internal economic policy requires exact and clear determination of strategic and tactical/operational levels which are different by their role and meaning in setting the priorities of internal socioeconomic development and autonomy of external vector from internal one in state regulation. If a sector, field of public relations or a specific resource group is attributed to the strategic level, its aim is to provide and maintain self-reliance of socioeconomic system, fairness of economic policy, autonomy of internal and external policies. If it is attributed to tactical/operational level – it becomes responsible for linking the international/national socioeconomic system to world economy, including the world market of capital, to import-export operations, technology transfer mechanisms etc. Division between these two levels determines to a large extent all further prospects related to planning, investment, control and accounting as well as integration in global economic interaction.

Economy sufficiency under global competition of nations

Summarizing all of the above, we can put forward, debate and explain a range of most popular misleading perceptions of the philosophical concept "self-sufficient economy" (or Economy Sufficiency Philosophy).

First of all, the policy of self-sufficient economy has absolutely nothing in common with the notion of autarchy (which is full-scale economic and trade isolation of a country, its refusal from any sort of external economic activity). Moreover, self-sufficient economy means the presence of external economic activity but while regulating it, the state stands up for its own principles and priorities. The state within the framework of sufficient economy is supposed to support national business in its participation in global economic processes, it encourages and welcomes potential foreign investors, wider trade relations and generally sees in all these processes yet another source of national welfare and social stability.

Secondly, sufficiency economy doctrine has nothing in common with the notorious planned economy and/or the so-called command system, since it assumes planning and administration only within the zone of internal strategic interests, it does not reject, neither limits private ownership – on the opposite, it strictly follows the principle of private ownership and take efforts to protect it if needed. Moreover, sufficiency economy is different from planned/command economic system because it promotes competition and welcomes economic expansion according to the set external vector.

Thirdly, sufficiency economy should not be treated as an South-East Asian analogue of widely popular on Middle East "equity financing" (Samuel & Frank, 1998). The latter assumes concentration of state property of the largest strategic monopolies (traditionally related to natural resources' sales at global markets) and simultaneous development of free competition at consumer markets mostly which are open for small and medium businesses (trade, public dining, textiles, crafts etc.). While sufficiency economy does not have this rather artificial process of state enterprises enlargement (aside from natural monopolies). It is oriented solely on state control of strategic resources' distribution (for example, through the system of private enterprises access to them and further export). Moreover, sufficiency economy does not treat state enterprises as the ones which are to be controlled in order to reach maximum efficiency, since it stems from the fact that transparent, debureaucratized and absolutely clear regulation of private business is always more preferential, because it promotes internal development unlike the case with the closed process of state companies' management.

Fourthly, the concept of sufficiency economy is not yet another social utopia as many think. Because it does not promulgate some sort of abstract ideals which are unrealistically far from everyday life. The very name of this concept proves that it has economic fundamentals and economic grounding, that it is based on market principles (optimization, efficiency and rationalism, inter alia). At the same time, the King Bhumibol's version of the self-sufficient economic system originally, from the very beginning had self-regulators of market dynamics which make sure that competitive market does not seize to exist (for example, due to monopolization), same with the state as such (for example, due to limited economic independence). The system also has internal controllers due to which business interests cannot dominate over the interests of a local community, and foreign economic priorities cannot dominate over the strategic interests of national development. Separate components of the self-sufficiency doctrine nowadays are being implemented in the most successful economies of the world. For example, state support instruments for economic expansions abroad are being used by South Korea and Japan; mechanism of economic planning – in a range of the EU countries; state support for strategically important sectors and types of activities (including agriculture and mining of various materials) – in nearly all developed countries globally.

Finally, we need to note that implementation of the sufficiency economy doctrine does not mean rejection of democracy or concentration of powers in the hands of authoritarian leaders, political dictators etc. As already noted above, long-term implementation of the self-sufficient economic strategy requires there is indeed a strong leader of the nation, and King Bhumibol Adulyadej has always been and will be remembered in the future as a good example of such a strong leader needed for self-sufficient economy, motivating and inspiring, showing on his own example the necessity to reject fast profits and consumption-only priorities for the sake of more strategic priorities of economic sovereignty and stability. At the same time sufficiency economy in the course of its internal implementation and development reveals the interests of the majority if population and is not oriented on providing top-quality consumption for the upper class only. The balance of social forces (striving for integration and high personal efficiency for the competitive part of the society and also looking for social protection, stability and at least minimum satisfaction of the basic needs for the least competitive segment of the society) must be provided by the state by means of making available the individual choice of activities – oriented on external, fully and fairly competitive conditions guaranteeing that in case of success there will be a significant profit, or oriented on internal priorities which in turn guarantee a certain level of life and certain stability; and also by means of the system of both horizontal and vertical rotation of personnel engaged in most efficient and "fair" sectors of national economic system.

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Paper submitted on 14 October 2016