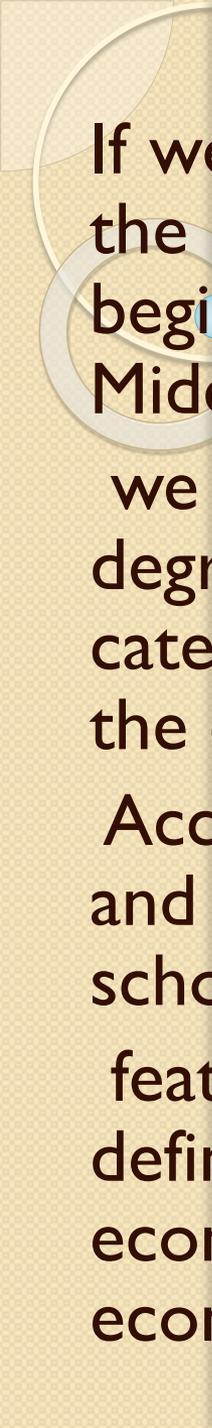


Rojava experience of the social economy: reality and prospects

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Rojava- Syria



If we are exerting some effort and diving into the study of the history of social and economic relations since the beginnings of human societies in Mesopotamia in the Middle East or in any other area on the globe

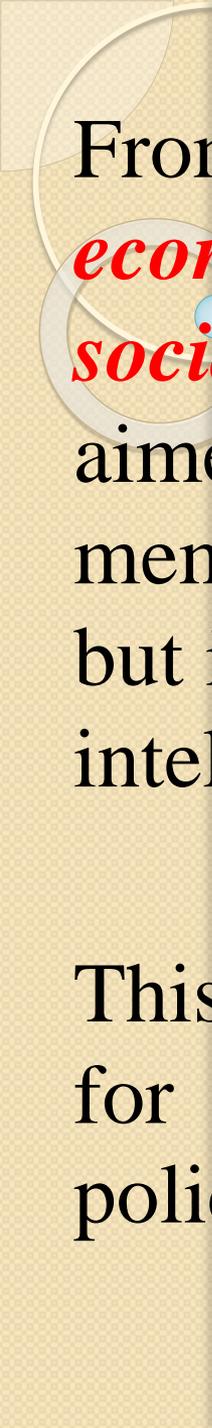
we will notice that the nature of social relations and the degree of influence of a class of society on the other categories are determining the path economic relations in the communities.

Accordingly, there are many definitions of the economic and those definitions differ depending on economic schools.

featured a lot of expressions related to the multiplicity of definitions such as political economy and the capitalist economy and a socialist economy and the international economy.

These expressions, are indicating a certain economic, social, and political situations and is determining the nature of the relations between groups in one community or between the diverse communities, but they do not reflect the reality of economic science.

Historical facts assure us that the economy is science to meet the needs of the communities, and it isn't science to maximize wealth for specific groups.



From this definition we must know that *the economy would not be economical if it not sociality*, in other words, every economy is not aimed at achieving the social welfare of all members of society can not be defined as economy, but it is a sophisticated mechanism for financial and intellectual and cultural looting.

This definition of economics is the theoretical basis for the development of economic and social policies in rojava.

Rojava: geography, population and wealth

- ❖ Rojava Geographic stretch in northern Syria from the far east to the far west, which are a natural extension of the Kurdish regions of Iraq and Turkey, and was named Rojava because it is located in the western part of Kurdistan which divided between four Middle Eastern countries: Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. Since the first world war.
- ❖ The area of Rojava is about 18300 km² distributed between the three cantons: al-Jazeera, Kobani, Afrin. Al-Jazeera canton is the largest Kurdish provinces in Rojava, and it is rich in esoteric wealth, especially oil and natural gas, while Kobani canton is rich by the production of grain, cotton, while Afrin canton is famous by the production of olive oil at the level of all Syria at all.
- ❖ GNP ratio in Rojava ranges between (50-55%) of the gross national product (GNP) in Syria, while the proportion of the population in rojava between 18-20% of the total population in Syria which its population is up to 20 million people.

The concept and the characteristics of the social economy

❖ Social economy is similar in a lot of external merits with the social market economy, so the both concept seem one.

It will fall into the fatal error if we assume that this similarity means match in tow concepts, because, in this situation, we will have looking at social economy as natural reaction appeared as a result of the rule of a particular economic conditions in the capitalist system

The social economy is quite different, for understand it Mr. Abdullah Öcalan come back with us to the beginning of the emergence of economics as a science, and explain that its job limited in meeting the humanitarian needs of the resources available and relatively rare.

Mr. Ocalan say that in a normal economy the use value must be larger than exchange value.

Based on the above we can definition social economy that science, which seeks to secure the needs of the community away from the monopoly of the means of production

The characteristics of the social economy

1-social economic is anti-liberal economics, which is not a centrally planned economy.

2-achieve industrial and ecological integration.

3-economy is open to all ecologic activities (agricultural, industrial and commercial)

5-economy based on ethical values.

The principles of the social economy system in Rojava

Basic principles	Organized principles
Acquisition is sacre	Operation policies
Ecology	Social security through the commons
Use –value is greater than exchange –value	Non- monopoly market
Communal	Income distribution polisies

The foundations of the social economy in Rojava

A- core protection

means adopt the economic values which protect nation democracy, as well as - social economic institutions such as the environmental institutions

B- Mentality of the social economy

the mind of Social Economy depends on identifying the basic points that represent scientifically and historically justified for the adoption of this methodology. The most important of these points are as follows:

i- Communes

It means the common organization of life and in all social and economic spheres. In rojava we began to establish the social and economic communes in three cantons, in all villages and towns. Today we have about (400) communes only in el-jazeera canton and it is developing daily. The number of members in all commune is about (20-35) persons.

ii-The social economy and the importance of choice

- the social economy is the practices in the context of the communes, which means the economy out of the narrow concept (only profit).
- It is worth mentioning that the social economy does not acquire legitimacy from laws, but acquires its legitimacy from the nature of society and ethical privacy.

iii. Social Economy Options in rojava

1) democratization option: social economy loses its meaning if it is not viewed as a democracy itself.

We believe that any economic activity without social goals will inevitably lead to encourage the emergence of individual humans, and thus will result to the reduction of democratic practices.

2) The ecological shift option: This is very important for democratic transformation, because the economic practices are applied ecological practices.

3) The social economy is teamwork: this is being in communes through the following activities:

a) **Distribution:** the distribution of the outputs of the economic activities is for everyone across the communes.

b) **support and assistance:** There are a lot practices under this item in the capitalist system, such as charities, small loans etc. However, in the social economy, we see that all economic activities revolve in a circle of support and assistance that may occur between the communes in the villages or in the cities, because the nature of this economy is based on cooperatives. Nowadays we start to establish the cooperatives in afrin canton (healthy, agriculturally, industrial) cooperatives

c) **demand justice**

d) **freedom:** it means democracy, which is the more important bases of the democratic national theory.

iii. how the social economy Consider to the core of economic activities

- 1. Production:** there are a private sector for production, but the most important form of production is the production through the communes and cooperatives.
- 2. Working:** all workers must work in their projects with their parents.
- 3. Ownership:** ownership is sacred
- 4. Market:** market is a main part of social economy, but the use-value must be larger more than exchange-value, and no stock market
- 5. Technology:** technology is very important when it depends on the ecological activities.
- 6. Industry:** no industry if it not ecological. This is very important in our economic and social system
- 7. economic progress:** we depend on balanced development theory between three cantons.
- 8. Trade:** the main form of trade is the trade between communes. This form helps the depending on use-value
- 9. Finance and funding:** the banking system not like capitalist system, it is only for save money and helping the communes, and the resource of financing is the outputs of the projects, there are non-centralism in the financing system, because this system depends on communes.

Elements of the success of the social economy in Rojava

1. Applying the principle of nation democratic, which calls for equality among all components of Rojava, Kurds, Arabs and others.
2. Rojava, possessing of natural resources and the diversity of those riches.
3. Existence a g great human wealth in Rojava.
4. Weakness control system of exploitation in economic activity.
5. Availability the moral which is necessary for adopting the social economy.

Obstacles of success of the social economy in Rojava

1. The difficulty arising from the experience of being the first in the Middle East.
2. migration of scientific talent as a result of the poor conditions that prevailed in Syria in the past three years
3. The weakness of the fiscal potential to achieve the first breakthrough in more power.

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The institutional structure of the social economy in Ava Rouge

A- Economic Academies: for graduating economists

b- Communes: communes are targeting to:

- 1- social education
- 2- division the works
- 3- best health
- 4- secure the basic needs

c- cooperatives: cooperatives are targeting to:

- 1- secure the basic needs
- 2- teamwork's

d- Small and medium private sector