PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT:
WORLDWIDE GLOBALIZATION CORRIDORS - VUKOVAR AS A CENTRAL CROSSING OF EUROPE AND THE WORLD

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Abstract

In the fundamental scientific research called "Development strategy for the Vukovar-Srijem County" I come across a 2000 years old problem of a search for an optimal connection between the North and the South of the Old World. It is an issue which only appears to be primarily geographic one, as it is multifaceted and unsolved for centuries, since the traffic in the Old World was limited by cold seas and oceans in the North, and blocked in the Continent all the way to the Gibraltar, which was known back then as the end of the world (Columns of Hercules). It was known, and it wasn't concealed in history that the optimal route from the "end of the world" goes through Mediterranean and Adriatic seas to the port of Rijeka and its basin, and then via Croatian route and Croatian threshold, along with the Sava River all the way to the Croatian Danube region with Vukovar (named Croatian Suez in Croatian scientific circles) as its key point. On that route various interests of the world powers collided, with the final proof of the conflict intensity being the fact that Vukovar was razed in the last Fatherland War, despite the presence of the international high representatives. They expected that Vukovar, so horribly shattered, won't be able to play its natural historic role of connecting the port of Rijeka, via Danube - Vukovar - Sava Canal, with the elevation of Danube in its northern region, thus providing an optimal connection for both the countries situated on its left and those on its right bank. By this, the author made an original historic discovery about Vukovar as a center of the World that main world traffic roads go through, both in the East - West and North - South directions, without any serious geo-strategic and geopolitical competition.

INTRODUCTION

In the fundamental scientific research called "Development strategy for the Vukovar-Srijem County", 2000 years old problem of searching for an optimal traffic connection between the North and the South was actualized, which necessarily had to fit into an old problem of connecting the world in the East - West direction.

It is an issue which only appears to be primarily geographic, as it is multifaceted, interdisciplinary, multicultural, multi-ethnic, multi -race, and especially multi-religious one, and for the past centuries it was always coming up over and over again, especially after the discovery of the "New World". It was especially important in the central parts of the Old World, where optimal traffic routes were supposed to be found and discovered. This would allow traffic movements in the area limited by cold seas and oceans in the North, blocked in the Continent all the way to the Gibraltar, which was known back then as the end of the world (Columns of Hercules), and closed African continent. It was a constant search for new solutions.

With the construction of a Suez Canal, a problem of connecting Europe with the Far East was solved, and the need to go around the whole African continent to travel east vanished. At the same time, a sea route to China, India, Japan and the Far East, as well as to already discovered Australia and Micronesia, was found.
In that way, a problem of connecting the world in an East-West direction was solved, with the opening of an optimal route for that direction through the Panama Canal in 1914. Holland, Portugal, Spain and England at first, and then Belgium and France (in the end, Italy and Germany became greedy for the remains of the colonial empires), for the centuries based their lordship and economy on the world seas thanks to their position in the Western Europe.

Thus, a problem of connecting of the Old World in the central part of Europe hasn't found its optimal traffic solution for the centuries, which had the worst impact on Croatia, being in constant conflicts and collisions between the various interests of the greatest world powers.

The importance of the Passage (a natural corridor), of which Croatia is a natural center, was confirmed once again recently, when the last savage and merciless war of the 20th century was fought in Croatia and for Croatia. The war whose bloody continuation in the 21st century was announced arrogantly and openly on this day exactly, June 24, 2004, when a true "četnik", as was broadcasted on Croatian Television, warns and threatens that "no Serb will ever go to Den Haag, and that Serbs did not renounced their desired border: Virovitica, Karlovac, Karlobag". All this brings to Croatian territory the only existing major power (after it defeated a military, economical, religious and political major world power, the USSR), the United States, in the center of the clashes between alliances of the world powers Germany and Vatican, France and England; Of course, Russia is always involved, nowadays not as a communist power, but as an orthodox country, which involves Serbia, and in the end, Croatia and Serbia remain at the, not only European, but the World arena. Croatia and Serbia, around which, in which, and against which all the major modern world powers collide, and China and Japan seem to second that, so Croatia becomes more and more, at least symbolically, a country of China men and Kurds. Here, in this area, in this Croatia, in which center is Vukovar, and again Vukovar, and Vukovar-Srijem County, multi-secular world interests collide. And to complicate it even more, a disturbing Muslim factor is infiltrated, with an incredible, but obvious fact that Turkey is once again held aside as a "Patient on Bosporus", pushed aside in order to eventually give it a place (it consumes money already - it spent $ 74 billions till 1998) within European integration in which Europe gradually assimilate countries which are originally multi-secular parts of the Russian and orthodox interest spheres.

**DANUBE - SAVA RIVER - VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY**

Croats had to get their independent country to escape from the firm embraces of the major Central European powers, with special continental and sea directions. Before that it wasn't possible to conduct a research, as was done within the project called "Development strategy for the Vukovar-Srijem County", or to make a discovery. Earlier, such discoveries could have been, and have been, put on the desk, but there were no possibilities to present them as results of a search for optimal solutions, which turned out to be optimal solutions in a worldwide scale in the end.

Liberated spirit and mind in Croatia had to get spiritual and physical space to develop a vision for the optimal solution, which had been hidden, disguised and finally blocked, and in that way disabled for centuries.

This preliminary scientific announcement is necessary in order to protect the results of the research project which has a multi-millennium significance, and which requires enormous further researches whose concepts cannot be brought out within the frames of such spatially limited symposium paper as this one is.

This preliminary scientific announcement is based on "Development strategy for the Vukovar-Srijem County", with hard and solid evidence about the justification of the discovery, but this discovery demands spatially extensive explications and explanations in order to be clarified.

Given the dimensions and significance of the problem, this symposium paper is utilized, with much aggregation, to lead to the crystal clear picture which will open up all necessary visions significant to the problem.

Therefore, in order to argument the afore-mentioned discovery, the author uses a picture which is exclusively her own vision and a picture that discovers the essence of the problem and shows all its significance.
VUKOVAR - CENTER OF THE WORLD

In her first public presentation of results of the research named "Development strategy for the Vukovar-Srijem County", the author has shown the picture called "Vukovar as the Center of the World", for which she especially emphasizes copyrights, as it is a remarkable creation.

Picture 1)

Description of all the elements that prove the discovery of Vukovar as the center of the World is based on geopolitical and geo-strategic position of Vukovar, Vukovar-Srijem County, Croatia and Europe. Vukovar is connected with the Adriatic Sea on one side, via Croatian route, through Croatian gate and Croatian threshold along with the Sava River, with the key connecting point being Sava - Danube Canal. Going up along Danube River one goes through Middle Europe, with tendencies to go to the North and West all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, and to the East through Asia to Alaska and the Pacific. Another direction goes vertically from Budapest to Županja and the port of Ploče and from there to the Middle East, Israel, and the Suez Canal, infiltrating the Islamic African world, along the line Atlantic Ocean - Pakistan. Continuing line goes through the Red Sea to the Far East and Micronesia, with its still undiscovered secrets of Rapa Nui (Easter Island), and the final ending on the west coast of North and South America.

Croatia had to get its independency in order to put on the European and worldwide nations’ desk the problem of a great worldwide project of connecting the East, Middle and North Europe by opening an optimal traffic direction Adriatic Sea - Rijeka - Zagreb - Vukovar - Danube Basin, continued in a Danube route through Middle Europe to the North of Europe.

It goes beyond this paper, and it isn't its purpose to explain, even in the shortest form, all the significance of opening this question and this issue. It all depends on opening the point (in the broadest sense
- geo-strategic, traffic, economical, political and religious) of Vukovar, which is evident to be positioned as a crossing between East and West, and North and South.

DUNAV - VUKOVAR - SAVA CANAL

It is a worldwide significant route because the Vukovar - Danube route with starting point at Adriatic Sea, in Rijeka, is an optimal direction. On the one hand for Middle Europe, from Austria and Germany, to Finland and Norway with their cold seas, and to the other side with Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

With the construction of a 60 km long canal "Danube - Vukovar - Sava River Canal", Vukovar would be closer to the Adriatic Sea by 412 km. Distance from Vukovar to Adriatic Sea at its natural crossing on Danube, would be reduced by construction of a 60 km long "Vukovar - Sava River" canal. Then, distance from Zagreb to Vukovar would be around 340 km, and now it is around 810 km, going through Danube and Sava rivers, via Belgrade. Vukovar will then be closer to the Adriatic by 412 km.

"Croatian Suez", as it was called by several known authors, is supposed to become the most important project not only for the County's and economic development, but also for the overall development of Croatia.

Danube - Vukovar - Sava River Canal, 60 km long, shortens the existing water way by 412 km. Until now, its construction was obstructed by international competition. They developed the ports of Trieste and Koper (although their possibilities were limited because they cannot take large ships), to violently and unnecessarily push away the Croatian port of Rijeka and its basin. However, the port of Rijeka is an optimal solution for entire European South, since it is the only one capable of taking the ships weighing 300,000 tons or more. In comparison, the port of Bar has a potential of 30,000 tons, which also applies even for Genoa, which means that the cargo would have to be transferred through the whole Italy.

Until now, connections with Trieste and Koper were forced, although they are only small ports comparing to the potential capacity of Rijeka and its basin.

The Danube - Vukovar - Sava River canal, except for its worldwide traffic significance, is also important for its role in irrigation of the agricultural land, in the Bić, Bosut and Vuka basins. Its construction will stimulate the development of fish-farming in the area, and at the same time a new water way by canal would reroute some of the water from Sava River to Danube. The result of this would also be that, in one of the most fertile parts of the world, the danger of flooding would be significantly decreased, especially concerning occasional and catastrophic floods. The phenomenon of swamps and Spačva forests as a final point in connecting the North and South of Europe was recorded and its legacy is in a 2,000 years old legend of a "golden fleece".

Therefore, there is no greater, more impressive, more valuable or more significant strategic project than the Danube - Vukovar - Sava River Canal incorporated into a broader concept of Croatian Suez - a connection between Croatian Adriatic Sea and Croatian Danube region. This applies not only for Vukovar-Srijem County and Vukovar, but also for an overall development of Croatia.

With the construction of Danube - Sava River canal, positive influences would be achieved on the parts of Middle Europe on one side, and Israel on the other side of Mediterranean Sea. This would allow Israel, as a potential rich partner, to enter the worldwide East - West and North - South courses, via Vukovar.

As for connection of the port of Rijeka and its sea basin, it has to be connected and developed as a Croatian Suez to Vukovar and Danube River. There is no need for Rijeka to connect to Trieste and Koper, as it should be connected to the rest of Croatia, Kupa and Sava rivers, Croatian Danube region, and Vukovar, as well as to Bosnia and Herzegovina which connects Danube - Vukovar - Sava River Canal and the port of Ploče.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the discovery of Vukovar as the center of the world shows all its deep and visionary significance, all its broadness, not only for Vukovar and Croatia, but also for Europe and the World. This discovery should be put to use by construction of the "Danube - Vukovar - Sava River Canal" which would
open all aspects of the greatest, most valuable, most significant and most needed Croatian economic, traffic, political and overall development direction and strategic project.

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