Digitalisation: the salvation of mankind?

(…)

That aspect of a noticeable development euphoria in the industrial and in some threshold countries which particularly refers to information and security technology must definitely viewed at with a degree of scepticism, particularly at a time when, in the context of further technological prospects such as artificial intelligence, robotics, digital cameras for the purpose of the extensive observation and surveillance of man, concrete, in the long run possibly grave dangers for democracy, liberty and the rule of law become apparent in the so called Western World. The manic fixation on rationality and a technocratic way of thinking, on empiricism and measurability, all this results, among others, in a reprehensible negligence and, as a consequence, a reduction of precisely those human capabilities, ways of expression and options to act which by their nature hardly count in a world which is going to be as `mathematised´ as it is going to be `totally economised´.

Digitalisation at the high level of the progress of civilisation is – to have it in terms of anthropology – out for, in the context of all those exhortations and invocations for the purpose of extensively enforcing it and given the long achieved incorporation of human life worlds by way of meanwhile sometimes highly complicated systems and their imperatives, degrading man to a tool of technological processes and mechanisms, out for harnessing and, in way, entangling man as an `underling´ into the power of contemporary, in particular electronic and economic systems, and thus out for making man available for the claims to dominance of indeed these systems, furthermore out for making man subject to expectations as they are usually implicitly supported by social elites. (…)

Excerpt from a more extensive comment (Pleister 2019)

Michael Pleister, June 2019

(Übersetzung Deutsch-Englisch (Juli 2021): Mirko Wittwar, BDÜ)