



## Levels of Determinacy: A Case Study on Slovenian Destiny

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In this article we present the concept 'levels of determinacy' as a prediction tool and look at the case study of Slovenia. With this perspective we are able to draw conclusions regarding the future direction of this fledgling nation.

Reflecting on the difficulty of making predictions, we note that predictions are necessarily probabilistic in nature and often deal with multiple scenarios. It is a difficult occupation not made easy when you realize that human action is not a linear process. Praxeology, the study of human action recognizes that human behaviour is subject to constant change as people's tastes, preferences or values change. Making predictions based on linear observations will in 90% of cases result in wrong conclusions. Using multiple tools in making predictions is one way to improve on a prediction track record. One complementary method in making predictions is to examine the levels of determinacy that drive an event or situation. This method should be taken in context with other tools in drawing predictions. What are 'Levels of Determinacy?'

For both individuals and nations there are levels of determinacy that shape their destiny and ability to manifest their highest potential and direction. Examining levels of determinacy at the level of the individual we see the following drivers of attitude and behaviour:

- Psychology - the psychological imprints impacting individuals and their ability to achieve or maximize their potential.
- Family Traits - family values shaping individual family members attitudes, opinions and potential.
- Culture & Ethnicity - societal values and identities shaping and driving populations within the state.
- National Identity - individual's identity with the state and the cohesiveness that develops over time.

The following drivers influence at the nation state level:

- Culture & Ethnicity - societal values and identities shaping and driving populations within the state.
- National Identity - individual's identity with the state and its cohesiveness as well as the competing interests of other states creating an 'us and them' identity. National and cultural identities are shaped by the geography, language, common history, political, economic and social life of the people.

Reflecting the drivers of national behaviour and hence, levels of determinacy is the national discourse - a dialogue running consciously or sub-consciously through the lives of the people (Wikipedia: discourse). In large countries there may be several discourses running reflecting the diversity of peoples that make up the nation. It is a set of beliefs and attitudes shaping and colouring individuals and the nations view on everything. Spending time with the lovely Slovenian people reveals a common refrain: "work is hard, life is hard - but we are free!" Having experienced almost two thousand years of slavery

or indentured servitude to others shows in the refrain "work is hard, but we are free" and is heard underpinning the beliefs, hopes, aspirations and interactions of the Slovenian people. This is typical of determinacy's that help shape the present and future of both individuals and of a people.

When we look at Slovenia we see history shaping the psyche of the people and hence their destiny. Becoming a province of the Roman Empire in 1st Century BC many people were enslaved. After the fall of Rome it became the time of the Hapsburg Empire where Slovenians remained serfs in a feudal system. This ensued for 1000 years and the fall of the Hapsburg Empire at the end of WWI led, after WWII, to being absorbed into the communist state of Yugoslavia for 45 years. The fall of the Soviet block in December 1991 (Internet accessed: 1/7/2013: cold war) also brought the fall and disintegration of Yugoslavia and the emergence of the Republic of Slovenia in 1991.

Between times of slavery, serfdom and communism there have been small windows of freedom for the Slovenians and at present they are enjoying such a phase. Talking and interacting with Slovenian people reveals attitudes and belief structures that guide levels of determinacy shaping their nation.

Examining the facts we see Slovenia is a small nation bounded by Austria and the Alps to the north, opening to the Mediterranean and Italy to the west and Croatia and Serbia to the south. Historically, Slovenia has been part of a corridor on the trade route linking western Europe to the middle east and a gateway across the Alps to northern Europe. Mainly an agricultural economy; most large industrial businesses built up under the communist era have since been scrapped or asset stripped in the phase following the collapse of the former Yugoslavia. Slovenia joined the EU in 2004 and has benefitted from being able to tap into large capital markets to borrow. Accordingly asset prices and the economy have prospered on cheap money loans. The 2007-09 financial crisis was a reality check and since then Slovenia has struggled and flirted with the prospect of national default along with Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain.

Joining the EU when it did, was at the time a provident move, however the political leadership of Slovenia has no tradition of running a modern democratic state or a market economy. Indeed Slovenian politicians are seen to be a corrupt lot. The prospect of operating autonomously within the EU trade block as it was established provided access to large markets and safety within the framework of the Union. The EU however has strayed from it's earlier conception that was meant to offer opportunities for mutual improvement and reduced conflicts that might lead to war by establishing a system of freedom of trade among the member countries. Instead, the "common market" ideal has been transformed into the goal of a European Union "Super-State" to which the individual countries and their citizens are becoming subservient and obedient. The tentacles of regulations, restrictions and politically-correct social controls have spread out in every direction from Brussels and its European-wide manipulated and mismanaged bureaucracy (Internet accessed: 20/06/2013: Search: EU superstate).

#### Predictions based on determinacy

When we examine the future of the Slovenian people based on determinacy's it seems apparent this lovely people will be absorbed once again into other political and economic structures. The posturing of the EU leadership suggests greater assimilation into the EU structure meaning at some stage Slovenia will cease to exist as a nation, and ultimately all of Slovenian national identity will disappear into the greater whole of the EU. Slovenia has already tied its fate to that of the EU. Should the EU experiment collapse however, once again Slovenia will, according to Levels of Determinacy theory, settle for a new patron (master) until its population have stepped beyond the scope of their present individual and national identity.



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