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# ***AN OUTLINE OF THE FAULT LINE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION***

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**Abstract:** In this research we have made all effort to avoid the natural, geological and physical aspect of the term *fault*. We have agreed that a fault refers to the absence of unity and agreement in a particular system. Thus, we have fundamentalized our views.

The first emphasis is placed on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the EU. We trace chronologically the period from the adoption of the UK in the EU to the month of December 2020. We have established one of the reasons for Brexit, which refers to the mental differences between the UK and the Continent.

Further on, we stress the fact that the faults in the EU, being diverse in nature, are also caused by a first-degree indirect relation to the wakening empires of the world, the Mitteleuropa philosophy, the separation of Old and New Europe, etc.

We propose a two-factor matrix, which we use to find the relationship between the stages of the EU expansion and the degree of unity and agreement in it.

In the conclusion, we argue that we shall set free from the integration romanticism and work towards a post-Lisbon treaty.

**Keywords:** fault, morphogenetic structure, mentality, fish dinner.

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## **Introduction**

**I**t seems hard to find and analyze all elements that build up the morphogenetic structure of the European Union. Yet, we cannot allow a somehow semi-holistic and at the same time semi-fragmented experience.

All organizations, which have been established over the last 70 plus years, are marked by **history-specific conditions**. Today, some of them are unsuitable, others are obsolete, whereas a third group are irreversibly exhausted. Nevertheless, the inertia continues, though more slowly, thus hampering the world, regional, economic and political development.

Being equipped with research tools and with the aid of a microscope, telescope and periscope, we can detect fault movements, fault lines. Despite the high degree of condition, we can also predict the consequences of those faults. This is our intention.

## I.

We aim at avoiding the natural, geological and physical aspect of the term fault. Rather, we search for the essence or semantic shade which shall satisfy and fundamentalize our views. Having browsed various dictionaries, we found exactly what was necessary, namely: **“A fault means a lack of unity, of agreement”** (Dictionary of the Russian Language, 1999).

Hence, the logical question: What lies in the basis of the fault phenomenon? Is this a regularity, a law or something else?

In the first place, in our opinion, this is the economic, political, etc., interest. In this respect, we shall quote the thesis of one of the fathers of political economy – Adam Smith (Smith, 1776) developed in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that it is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest.

We cannot but agree that world and regional economic and political relationships are governed by company, state and union interests.

The other fundament of the fault might be said to be the state of the gravitational forces of the individual, the companies, the countries and the international formations (Damyanov, 2013). When the gravitational forces of the country, of the economic and political unions weaken, then the faults start to form. Business trajectories start to bend. The formation of disagreement might lead to a real fault and separation from the whole. We will discuss this later.

The wider understanding of the term fault can be achieved by detecting its diversity.

*First*, interrelated faults: \*political; \*economic; \*historical; \*ethnic; \*religious; \*mental, etc..

*Second*, faults resulting from the reflections of world processes: \*globalization; \*deglobalization; \*colonial; \*neocolonial.

*Third*, regional faults: \*integrational; \*soft; \*hard.

*Fourth*, depending on the movement in time: \*inertial; \*latent; \*in progress, etc.

*Fifth*, faults in international agreements: \*in the field of climate; \*in the field of international partnerships on trade and investments;\* in cooperation with UNESCO; \* in the field of WTO, UN, etc.

The proposed classification is not perfect and complete; furthermore, we do not claim to be in the process of “In Search of Excellence”. As with every classification, the one that we propose is marked by condition. Each specific type is characterized by uniqueness of the criterion and is not complex. Thus, the interweaving of the elements of the diversity becomes logical and useful.

For instance, in the EU we observe processes that reflect the world processes; they are interrelated, integrational and inertial, etc. We will discuss them in the next part of the research.

## II.

**European fault: the EU – UK saga.** We refer to the European Union because it is **the most significant achievement of the European civilization.**

Being potential, the fault between the Island/UK and the continent is now a reality. But why the United Kingdom? Why is it namely the second largest donor in the EU that has left it?

It was 47 ago, before becoming a member of a certain Club based on the policy “Peace – Market – Solidarity”, that the English press, in particular **The Morning Star**, would appeal daily “No to the Common market”!

In fact, even then the British society was divided on the matter of the EU membership. This was the reason why the EU would regularly make compromises with the UK, unlike the rest of the member states.

However, we shall seek a more in-depth and well-grounded answer to the posed questions.

In 2011, we developed the thesis of the core and the dynamics of the economic and financial gravitation (Damyanov, 2011). This thesis was developed in reference to the credit crunch (August, 2007), the financial (2008), and then the economic crisis. Although already having a different aspect, by making an analogy, we ascertain that the forces of **integration gravitation** weaken simultaneously with the decrease in the mass of the main object which **concerns the disappearance of agreement and unity.**

What happens to economic gravitation?

It is possible that the core thesis be included in the economic aspect. The business core of the society in the World has been, was and will still be attacked in various ways.

The behaviorists would claim that this is human greed. According to others, this is a clash of production (the creation of goods), of creativity, on the one hand, and distribution and redistribution, on the other. There is a third and fourth group that bring forward other claims.

For these and other reasons, an enormous money share is separated from the business core, and starts to orbit around it.

We assume that today this share is in the “apogee” phase. Therefore, the force of economic gravitation weakens simultaneously as it is moving further away from the reality. By taking various shapes – functional and institutional, this share has its own life. In the medium and the long run, it might face two scenarios:

It will eventually either set free from the economic gravitation and having become highly toxic, it will commit suicide.

It will fall to the perigee phase and will gradually return to the core and begin to have a normal economic life.

In the first scenario, however, it is highly likely that it “clashes” with one of the resources of the limited object.

Thus, one share (one country) separates and starts to live its own life (the UK).

It now seems absurd and without any illusions:

\*when the British establish the prototype of contemporary globalization;

\*when the sun does not set in the British Empire;

\*when they lay the foundations of political economy;

\*when Isaac Newton discovers the laws of gravitation and makes the first monetary reform in the world;

\*when they discover the steam engine and lay the foundations of the industrial revolution, and so on, and so forth.

that they should be together with the countries from Eastern Europe, with which they **have mental differences**.

Possibly, when the EU member states were twelve, the difference were inconspicuous. With the attraction of another three countries – bearable. With the adoption of another ten countries, plus another 2, plus 1, the situation became unbearable for the UK.

Seen through the Cappuccino index<sup>1</sup> introduced by the former president of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, a real inequality can be seen.

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<sup>1</sup> NB! This is the money that every citizen from each EU member state deposits in the EU treasury every day.

Thus Luxemburg – EUR 1.57/this is half the price of a cappuccino, Germany – EUR 0.84, the UK – EUR 0.56, etc., whereas in Bulgaria – EUR 0.18! In fact, the word “inequality”, which we introduced above, today leads us to the conclusion that with the exception of Greece all the rest of the eleven countries are similar in cultural, mental and economic terms, i.e., in degree of economic development.

We use the word “Club” because it is characteristic of England where not everyone can become a member of a certain club. This is the reason why the UK has withdrawn from the big “**EU – Club**”. In fact, in the English situation we can notice a combination of political, historical, economic, mental and other faults.

To finalize this part of the research, we need to observe the final month of the year 2020. After the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020, there remained one more significant moment – the adoption or not of an agreement on post-Brexit, which should regulate the relationships between the two subjects.

The negotiation saga continued almost throughout the year 2020, but it escalated in the last month. In the period 9 – 13 December, the acute English sense of sovereignty shoot up once gain. It was stated that the United Kingdom could not be “**confined in the EU orbit**” and in particular in the EU regulatory orbit. It went even further as the UK announced that as of 1 January 2021 military ships would guard the British fishing zones. Nevertheless, an opportunity was provided to Go the Extra Mile in order to find a solution. Prime minister Boris Johnson and EC president Ursula von der Leyen shared a meaningful dinner – fish dinner. After going that extra mile, on 24 December, the two parties agreed on a contract which was a 2,000-page agreement for trade and security between the EU and the United Kingdom.

During this dramatic period from 9 to 24 December 2020, the fault between the two subjects was particularly evident even through the eyes of the London historian Robert Tombs. In the Daily Telegraph he brought forward the thesis that Britain not only is not part of Europe, it never was in Europe. In his opinion, Europe is the dream of countries which had border problems and wars: France, Germany, Poland, Hungary, etc. For the British, the borders are clear and they never had problems with them. The same historian makes an analogy with Japan claiming that Japan never was part of Asia. The Queen signed the document and the saga ended, at least for the time being.

We take the liberty to claim that whereas the USA have a Deep State, the UK has a Deep History.

### III.

Even though we may not admit it, **the EU is already established as a club of the unequal**, which respectively suggests new “cracks” in its integration body.

This leads us to other threatening varieties of European faults.

Potential and newly-developed faults in the EU. By using a periscope, we ascertain that Brussels (EU) will be pressed by the UK on the west and by the Russian Federation on the east. In other words, a specific “**Sandwich**” is formed.

In another aspect, we witness the awakening and the revival of the old empires – the British, the Russian, the Ottoman. The inclusion of the latter, plus the refugee flows from Central and North Africa, shapes up a new environment in the EU which resembles a “**Horseshoe**”. Configuration of the EU with only one peaceful exit to the north. We take the liberty to assume that in this case the horseshoe plays the role of that Chinese character which means both a crisis and an opportunity. Under these circumstances, it is only up to the EU how it will play its cards.

The external surrounding of the EU becomes even more complicated owing to the “creeping” China as they revitalize the Great Silk Road through the project “**One Belt – One Road**”. This comes from the Far East which is already in Europe.

Across the Atlantic, we already have a partner who does not seem to be as friendly to Europe as it used to be. The sandwich thus becomes layered. In this respect, the USA impose sanctions, change their customs policy, which reflects goods from Scotland, France, Italy. They attack the automotive sector in Germany.

Having outlined the parameters of the external environment in the year 2020, we barely need a kaleidoscope. This poses another question: Is the EU homogeneous? We will make an attempt, at least partially, to answer this question.

A little bit of over ten years ago, the American politician and statesman Donald Rumsfeld<sup>2</sup> introduced the notions “Old Europe” and “New Europe”. Whether that was purposeful or it was the result of serious analytical work we will never know. In the first group he includes Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, etc., whereas in the second – “New Europe” he enters Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, etc., dominated by “Old Europe”.

Thus, not only due to Rumsfeld’s thesis, but also because of the historical sensitivity and incompatibility, a clear fault along the line **Warsaw** –

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<sup>2</sup> NB! This dignified politician died in 2021.

**Budapest – Prague** started to be visible. So far Brussels does not have control over it. In addition to these countries, the rest of the EU member states from this part of the continent did not have colonies and cannot comprehend the international feeling of guilt of the western countries.

**An “awakened” fault.** It is hard to accept it, but this process is already “in operation”. It has its origin in the thesis of “Mitteleuropa” as a gift from God. Germany claims that its geographical location is the reason for its political and economic prosperity.

The term *Mitteleuropa* was introduced by Karl Ludwig von Bruck and Lorenz von Stein (Wikipedia, 2019). The idea was first conceptualized in 1848 and started its positioning in Germany.

After the revolutions of 1848, in Europe the liberal economist Friedrich List and Henrich von Gagern adjust it to the real life of the German society. In order to be just, we shall point out that Friedrich List also develops the idea **that every large country in the world shall have its national political economy**. This is contrary to Adam Smith, David Ricardo and William Petty, **who establish the British political economy and then impose it as a world one**.

Furthermore, **Friedrich List lays the foundations of economic history**. If we transfer to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which is fair and understandable, it is owing to List’s ideas that Germany manages to deal with the financial crisis of 2008, because the Germans develop industrial capitalism, whereas the British and the Americans – financial one.

Therefore, *Mitteleuropa* means Central Europe under the control of Germany and becomes part of its policy of hegemony.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Bonapartism starts to shape up – it is the strive for a super country. With the slogan **“Peace to the Huts! War on the Palaces!”** Napoleon conquers Europe and brings false hopes to many nations. The other slogan **“Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”** is also put to the test as it turns out to be something unattainable.

For many years, France and Germany were the driving forces of the European community and union. When Emmanuel Macron became president, the poor “aristocrats” of Europe – the French – wanted to play “first fiddle”.

Without discussing them in details, we will point out that in addition to our thoughts in this part of the research, there are many other problematic situations in the EU (Damyantov, 2018).

The most powerful economy in this chain – the Polish one – is the least secure EU member state. We can predict, though with a high degree of condition, that it will separate from the EU.

#### IV.

At the end of September 1997, the English magazine The Economist presented a map named “Geography of Discontent” (The Economist, 1997). For that time, 24 years ago, this map seemed semi-strange, semi-real. However, the outlined zones of discontent today have become fault lines – some of them potential, others in progress, a third group of them are real. Some of them are “hard”, whereas others are “soft”.

This map can be interpreted as a table (see Table 1).

Table 1

Region	“Mother” country	Phase/state of the fault
1. Basque Country	Spain France	<i>latent</i>
2. Catalunya	Spain	<u>in progress</u>
3. Corsica	France	<i>latent</i>
4. Northern Ireland	United Kingdom	<u>in progress</u>
5. Scotland	United Kingdom	<u>in progress</u>
6. Wales	United Kingdom	<i>latent</i>
7. Bavaria	Germany	<i>latent</i>
8. Padania (Milan)	Italy	<i>latent</i>
9. Kosovo	Serbia	<b>completed,</b> <i>new country</i>
10. Crimea	Ukraine	<b>completed,</b> part of the Russian Federation
11. Transnistria	Moldova	<i>latent / suspended</i>
12. Nagorno-Karabakh	Armenia	<i>latent /grown into</i> armed conflict in the autumn of the year 2020.

Regardless of the phase/state of the fault – latent, in progress or completed, all of them have national or international shades. They appear when there is a lack of understanding of the differences within a certain country. This is what the lack of agreement leads to.



## V.

We can propose a matrix in which we can trace the influence of the process of expansion of the EU on the researched matter. In this matrix, we have outlined two vectors:

**V e c t o r # 1:** degree of lack of unity, agreement in four levels: low, medium, medium-high and high.

**V e c t o r # 2:** stages of expansion of the EU which include the number of member states in each stage.

### *Matrix 1*

Stages of expansion of the EU	Degree of lack of unity, of agreement			
	Low	Medium	Medium-high	High
1. EU of 12 countries	*			
2. EU of 12+3 countries	*			
3. EU of 15+10 countries		*		
4. EU of 25+2+1 countries			*	

Matrix #1 can lead to making the following conclusions:

\*the increase of the number of EU member states leads to a change in the degree of lack of unity, of agreement;

\*increase of the geopolitical factors;

\*the upcoming expansion indicates a retreat from the criteria for full membership.

In support of the content of the matrix, we will promote an additional diversity and expansion caused by faults in the EU.

*Fault one.* Within the EU, there are countries that are “frugal” and such that have high expenses – “non-frugal”. The first group comprises Germany, Austria and the Nordic countries. The second – Greece, Italy, Portugal – they spend more than they can afford.

*Fault two.* This fault is related to the first one and is encoded in the financial and budget funds for the new program period – Budget 2021–2027, The Green Deal, the Digital Strategy and the funds for overcoming the consequences of the pandemic. All this is linked to conforming to the supremacy of the law by each EU member state. The most sever critics of this criterion are the countries of the Visegrád Group – Poland, Hungary and some of the “non-frugal” countries. The compromise made by the EU so far does not solve the

problem, but postpones it for the future. In addition, there will be other countries which will not agree to conform to that criterion.

*Fault three* – Switzerland and Norway.

A) After 20 years of negotiations between the EU and Switzerland the latter decided to put an end to the negotiations. In this contemporary world with its turbulence, characteristics of the Victorian era are inadequate.

B) In 1972, after a referendum, Norway refused an EU membership. It was as late as 1994 when it signed a contract and became a member of the Common European Market. In 2021, various political forces posed the question of leaving the Third Energy Package and insisted on the exclusion of this regulation. We need to remind that Norway is a large exporter of gas and electrical energy for the EU.

*Fault four – multi-aspect:* domination of the political factors over the economic ones; compromises with the degree of economic level of already adopted members and applicants for membership; attitude towards the emigration problem which arises as a result of the Afghanistan crisis. The EU is late to announce its policy, whereas Hungary has already refused to accept refugees from this country. **We shall not forget that neither Alexander of Macedon nor the British Empire nor the USSR nor the USA** managed to conquer Afghanistan; heterogeneity in a cultural dimension; revived and developing “Illnesses of the Capitalism” against which Baroness Margaret Thatcher fought and was successful; inequality in the incomes among the countries and regions in the EU, etc.

Thus, the EU works towards the formation of a “New Society”. In its essence, **it will be post-Christian, post-national construct.** What is outlined is a new and to a certain extent incomplete system. One of the theses is for merging Christianity and Islam. It seems that Angela Merkel’s assertion that multiculturalism in the EU has failed is quickly forgotten. The architects of the new ideology shall remember the reports of the Roman Club – “Catastrophe or a New Society” of the 1970s. If these processes develop, then the faults in the EU will increase, the relationships between Old and New Europe will need a mediator. The question is: Which individuals, which forces will start dealing with this problem?

The EC might not probably strive to build a new Babylon Tower. This is for the reason that the European countries are loaded with a lot of history.

## Conclusion

The thoughts we expressed might not sound so positive. We did not think about that. The facts, the true reality are the things which guided us in the analysis of the political and economic space of the EU. **In fact, in 2020 and the first half of 2021, we can clearly see the structural discrepancies in the EU. The morphogenic field of this union is disturbed – economic, demographic, domestic, political, emigration, cultural, etc., dimensions.**

It seems to be about time we set free from the **integration romanticism** and build new architecture – post-Lisbon treaty.

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**An Outline of the Fault Line in the European Union**

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**Organizational and Economic Characteristics  
of Compensations for Temporary Loss  
of Capacity to Work**

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**Effects of the Global Economic Crisis  
and the Covid-19 Pandemic on Sovereign Debt  
Management in Heavily Indebted Countries**

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**The Impact of Global Trends and Covid-19  
on International New Ventures**

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# ***ECONOMIC ARCHIVE***

**YEAR LXXIV, BOOK 3 – 2021**

---

## ***CONTENTS***

**Atanas Damyanov**

An Outline of the Fault Line in the European Union /3

**Plamen P. Yordanov, Margarita I. Nikolova, Zhaneta E. Angelova**

Organizational and Economic Characteristics of Compensations for  
Temporary Loss of Capacity to Work /14

**Velichka Nikolova**

Effects of the Global Economic Crisis and the Covid-19 Pandemic on  
Sovereign Debt Management in Heavily Indebted Countries /31

**Margarita Mihaylova**

The Impact of Global Trends and Covid-19 on International  
New Ventures /46

**Milena M. Kovachevich**

Economic Growth in the Eurozone and on the Balkans: A Cointegration  
Analysis /58