



Aristotelian Difference between Ekonomikē and Hrematistikē

Tonči A. Kuzmanić

University of Primorska, Faculty of Management, Slovenia

tonci.kuzmanic@fm-kp.si

There is no doubt that in “our” times of the today so-called »global finances« and »money« (»monetary politics« included) we are in deep, very serious troubles. In the paper these »deep« and »very serious troubles« are not going to be grasped only as “crisis” or a »deep depression«, but mainly as deep depression of our own disability to grasp the very problem, its nature, and extremely dangerous magnitude. In other words, the problem is – according to my understanding – mainly located on “our side”: at least in the sense of our very capabilities of grasping the dangerous nature of “our” times.

Trying to answer probably the highest and most dangerous question of our times, I will try to address the question »depression-of-what«? Consequently, the task is to develop somehow radically different perspective (“different horizons”) in thinking and understanding the problem. That “different perspective” is going to be opened from the Aristotelian, mainly »political perspective«. »Political perspective« is not going to be understood in terms of modern (mainly Machiavellian) perspective, not to mention the perspective of »political economy« and »critic of political economy«. The very terrain of argumentation will be Aristotelian kind of understanding the two main elements and categories in the field: ekonomikē and hrematistikē.

The general context and aim – only shortly to pose – is going to be fundamental conceptual, categorical, nowadays mainly forgotten, distinction between »ekonomikē« and »hrematistikē«. The aim of this theoretical operation is to put into the question entire machinery of usual, modern (Ricardo, Smith, Marx, Keynes...) conceptualisations and understanding of “economy”.

The main emphasis and simultaneously the hypothesis of the paper: the problem of our “crisis” is our very inability to grasp the difference between the ekonomikē and hrematistikē.

Keywords: Aristoteles, “ekonomikē”, “hrematistikē”, “crisis”