

INTRODUCTION

Since the aim of this study is to present the changing position of the Mediterranean countries in the contemporary world, this introductory chapter will set out the broad outlines of the picture whose details will emerge throughout the book. In order to do so, we shall proceed systematically by constructing a conceptual and methodological framework by which any world region may be studied by the social sciences.

This framework is a general systems model capable of generating a **regional** (i.e. Mediterranean) **social** (i.e. economic, political, cultural) **study** (i.e. knowledge). On this basis, we shall paint a profile of Mediterranean region as a social system within its global environment. This general profile will set the stage and give the overall perspective for the specific expositions which will follow in the subsequent chapters.

To qualify as a system, a region must have a certain internal cohesion which distinguishes it from its environment and gives it a particular identity. For that reason, there are three significant criteria to determine the existence of a real system:

-Territorial

(distinct spatial context);

-Substantial

(structural-functional content);

-Historical

(continuous temporal duration).

A system must satisfy to some degree these parameters

depending on its extent and complexity.

The Mediterranean qualifies as a system because it is an interrelated group of human societies which have covered a certain geographical region over a long period of time. The Mediterranean World has been considered as an international system for three millennia, so a good question is whether it will continue to maintain its distinct identity in the face of the revolutionary changes which the world is undergoing presently.

Of course, to study the details of such system would be almost impossible and certainly beyond the scope of this work. Our interest here is therefore focused on the general social features of the Mediterranean states in the last half of the twentieth century. This focus will be kept within its overall context which is the global society in its natural environment. Only by keeping the larger picture in mind will we be able to answer the question: What is the future of the Mediterranean countries in a changing world?

This question has three operative concepts which correspond to the three criteria of our system and so we shall use them to form a three-dimensional model as shown in Diagram 1. This field diagram, is based on the cube matrix of the previous chapter and depicts the universe of discourse covered here. That is to say, the three sections of the chapter will discuss the topic in question from the following points of view:

1. SPATIAL:

The people and countries of the region.

2. SOCIAL:

The structures and functions of their institutions.

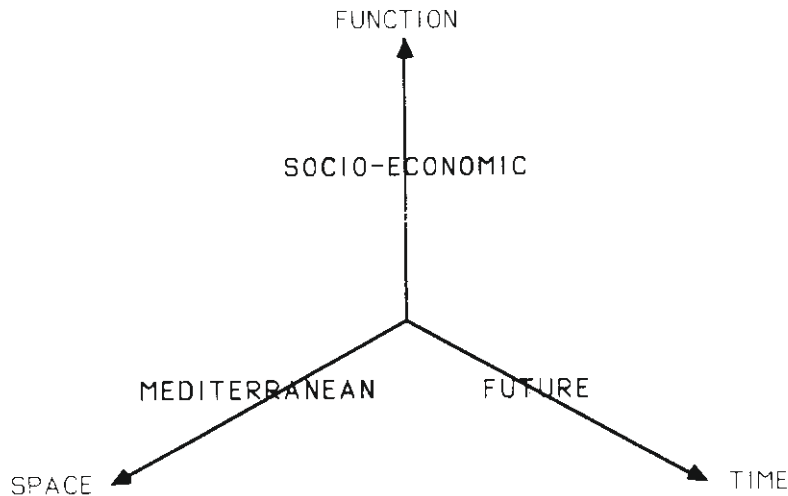
3. TEMPORAL:

The history and method of studying social processes.

By using this systematic procedure, this chapter will present a broad picture of the subject-matter, giving a general idea of what is involved in this study. On the basis of

this background, later chapters will fill in depth the details of specific issues of particular importance.

DIAGRAM 0.1
3-D COORDINATE FIELD



1. THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: Geopolitical Actors & Arenas

This first part of the study investigates the Mediterranean, as an inhabited region of the world. It looks at the Mediterranean littoral as an area where different people live in various lands. In this sense, the region becomes first and foremost a geographical system.

As a system, the Mediterranean is a limited region which includes certain areas and excludes others. For our purposes,

es, the internal components of this system are populated subregions of human communities. The external world is composed of other social system and the natural environment.

The importance of a system is proportional to the degree it can affect its environment. on the contrary, the sensitivity of a system depends on how much it is affected by its environment. If the sensitivity is high, the system is dependent on the environment; if low, independent. Mutual sensitivity implies interdependence. An isolated system is neither important nor sensitive to the environment.

By undertaking to study the Mediterranean, we have assumed that it is sufficiently important to merit such attention. The substance of this chapter will attempt to demonstrate this assumption. But first one has to know the composition of the system in respect to its environment, as well as the interrelations and interactions of its constituent units among themselves and with the rest of the universe. Everything must be seen in internal consistency and external perspective.

To begin with, Table 1, lists some geographical variables which indicate the relative position of the twenty geopolitical units around the Mediterranean Sea. With the exception of Portugal, which is included for traditional reasons, and former Yugoslavia which is now a territory of five independent republics; all these countries border the sea in various ways, therefore they are bona fide members of the regional system. All of them, however, do not have an equal stake in the region. Some are more dependent in the sea than others.

For most of them, the Mediterranean is their exclusive salt water outlet, while for others it is only a small portion of their coastline. Italy and Greece are the most maritime countries, since they claim almost half of the total Mediterranean coast and seabed. Some of the larger countries, such as France are only partly Mediterranean and others, like Alge-

ria extend mostly inland. As for the former Yugoslavia, only two (Montenegro and Croatia) of its five republics are not land-locked. Accordingly, membership in the region is of various degrees.

Of course, geography is not the only factor that makes for a system. A more sophisticated taxonomy will have to take into account other important parameters. The model presented here will do that by considering all the relevant factors at several levels of generality or specificity. Although the components of a system may be classified in many ways, we will divide them into three kinds: geographic; ethnographic; demographic. These three classes of factors are considered as the most significant in the spatial context which we are discussing here; therefore each one will be considered separately below.

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1.1. GEOGRAPHY.

Space, like time, is the primordial context of "reality". For that reason, this study begins by considering the spatial aspect of the Mediterranean system, leaving the temporal aspect for later.

Since this study is concerned with world affairs, space here means geography. It is the geography of the Mediterranean that should be looked at as the basic parameter of any area study. The Mediterranean, of course, is only one of many regions into which the world may be divided. The division could be made on the basis of several criteria.

One such criterion is territorial extent. On that basis, one may distinguish various levels of geographical aggregation, from the smallest to the largest. A useful classification could be made taking the nation-state as the smallest geopolitical unit and the world as the largest. In between these two lev-

TABLE 1.0

LITTORAL CHARACTERISTICS

COUNTRY	COAST (km ²)	LAND/COAST (km ² /km)	MED COAST (% of total)	SEABED (000 km ²)
Malta	95	3	100	60
Cyprus	540	17	100	90
Lebanon	195	53	100	16
Greece	3,050	44	100	460
Italy	4,540	66	100	533
Israel	225	93	100	20
Albania	285	101	100	20
Tunisia	1,030	160	100	100
Yugoslavia	790	324	100	70
Turkey	1,800	425	50	60
Spain	1,145	440	55	253
France	915	606	35	90
Egypt	1,000	1,000	40	177
Libya	1,685	1,045	100	320
Morocco	350	1,160	20	22
Syria	150	1,230	100	10
Algeria	1,100	1,230	100	110
Portugal	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	19,000	-	-	2,400

els lies the region.

As a region, the Mediterranean is made up of twenty countries, which along with other similar groups make up the world. Compared to the Earth's surface (approximately 500 million square kilometers: 30% of it land and 70% water), the Mediterranean region of about ten million square kilometers (25% of water and 75% of land) represents only two percent of the total. Thus, the Mediterranean is a relatively small geographical region.

Yet, the importance of the Mediterranean seems to be much bigger than its size. This is because, a qualitative aspect must be added to the quantitative.

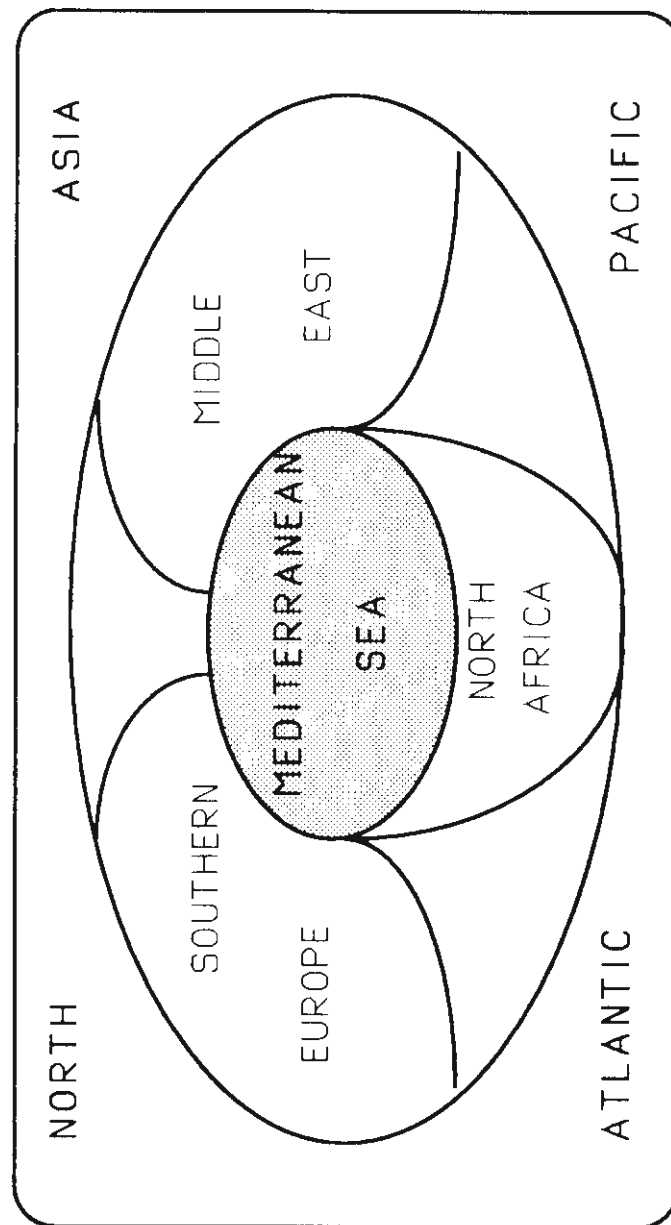
In addition to size, another significant dimension is site. The importance of an area depends not only on its size, but also on its position relative to other areas. A well-placed region, even if small, may be of great value to the world system. As Diagram 1.1 below shows, the Mediterranean is situated in a central position among three great land and water masses.

To the north lies Southern Europe with its Iberian and Balkan peninsulas; to the east lies Asia Minor and the Middle East; finally to the south is North Africa from the Magreb to the Sinai. In addition, to the west lies the Atlantic Ocean, while the other two corners of the triangle lead to the Black and Red seas. As a body of water, the Mediterranean divides as well as unites its various localities into a regional system, not only geographically; but as we shall see later on, in many other respects.

The strategic position of the Mediterranean is evident from its centrality and proximity to the greatest land and water masses of the world. From this perspective, the region is an important component of the global super-system. The Mediterranean has been called the cross-roads of the world and as such has played an important role in its history.

Although geographical configurations remain constant,

DIAGRAM 1.1
GLOBAL CONFIGURATION



the importance of their geopolitical position does change with time. Geography is as important as people make it, so the significance of the Mediterranean has been created and maintained by the activities of its inhabitants. Let us now turn to this human factor.

1.2. ETHNOGRAPHY.

As social scientists, our interest in geography is only derivative. Geography is the context for human habitation and sets the arena for human activity. The critical content for geography, then, is biology in general and anthropology in particular. On this basis human group may be studied at various levels. If we choose the same criterion as we did for geography, i.e. size: human groups could fall under three categories, from the smallest to the largest: family; nation; race.

Each of these groups, from the nuclear family to the human species share some particular characteristic -inherited or acquired- which differentiates it from other groups. Since they occupy space, the larger the group, the larger the territory it inhabits. Families, clans and tribes only need from a few square meters to a few square kilometers in which to live, whereas races may fill out entire continents. In between these two levels, are the intermediate ethnic groups which correspond to countries.

This study is focused at the middle level of the nation, so we shall concentrate here on the ethnography of the Mediterranean. The region contains what is perhaps the most heterogeneous collection of people in the world. When a biological group becomes sufficiently large, it develops its own distinct culture. Its culture may include a particular means of communication (language), particular values and beliefs (religion or ideology) and particular behavior and expression (tradition or technology).

Since it straddles three continents, separated by a body of water, the Mediterranean is inhabited by various biologi-

TABLE 1.2

ETHNIC HOMOGENEITY

NATION	<10%	10% - 50%	50% - 90%	>90%	Homogeneity
Albania	Greek			Albanian	91
Algeria		Berber	Arab		57
Cyprus	Turk		Greek		65
Egypt				Egyptian	96
France	Basque			French	74
Greece	Minorities	Arab.		Greek	90
Israel			Jewish		80
Italy	Minorities			Italian	95
Lebanon	Minorities			Lebanese	87
Libya	Italian			Arab-Berber	77
Morocco	French	Catalan		Arab-Berber	50
Portugal				Portuguese	99
Spain	Basque		Spanish		56
Syria	Minorities			Arab	78
Tunisia	Berber			Arab	85
Turkey	Kurds			Turks	75
Yugoslavia	Minorities		Serb, Croat		-

cal and cultural groups. These groups may be classified within three broad categories as:

-European:

(Portuguese: Spaniards; Franks; Italians; Serbs; Croats; Slovans; Albanians; Greeks);

-Asian:

(Turks; Syrians; Lebanese; Jews; Palestinians; Armenians; Arabs);

-African:

(Egyptians; Libyans; Tunisians; Algerians; Moroccans; Berbers. These are only what may be considered as the major ethnic groups. Table 1.2 shows a more complete list of the cultural communities inhabiting the Mediterranean region. It is evident from the different composition of each country, that the homogeneity varies significantly. An index has been devised to measure this homogeneity as shown in the last column.

The significant thing to remember is that all these groups are or claim to be territorially based. Each one, either occupies a particular geographic area or claims exclusive domain on it. Thus, the entire surface of the Mediterranean littoral is completely covered by these groups with their often overlapping claims. In this respect it should be noted that the former Yugoslavia, which had the lowest homogeneity index has already broken up in its constituent components.

This last point, brings us to the third factor of this model concerning the geopolitical relations among ethnic groups. The next section will look in to this factor, thus combining the two previous ones, geography and ethnography.

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1.3. DEMOGRAPHY.

We now come to the most important criterion of human group classification in the modern world. This criterion is

based on the exclusive possession of a certain territory by a particular ethnic group. Combining territoriality and ethnicity produced a powerful principle which now dominates the world. This principle is reflected in the nationalist ideology which claims a sovereign state for every ethnic group.

The coincidence of nation and state has created two opposite effects. On the micro-geographical level, it tended to unite small tribal groups into nations, establishing national states. On the macrogeographical level, it has a divisive effect, by breaking down the world into independent nations.

From this viewpoint, we can recognize three levels of geopolitical classification:

Local:

(Municipality; County; Province);

National:

(Country; State; Federation);

Global:

(Alliance; Block; Confederation).

As a region, the Mediterranean could best be studied at the middle level of nation-states. At that level, the region presents an interesting picture of twenty disparate sovereign states. Classified on the basis of their location, these states may be grouped into the usual three continental categories:

EUROPEAN: South-western: Portugal; Spain; France; Italy, Balkan; Yugoslavia; Croatia; Slovenia; Albania; Greece.

ASIAN: Mainland: Turkey; Israel; Syria; Lebanon. Island: Cyprus.

AFRICAN: North-coast: Egypt; Libya; Tunisia; Algeria; Morocco.

Island: Malta.

It is apparent that these states correspond somewhat to the ethnic groups of the previous section. The coincidence.

TABLE 1.3

CRITICAL MASS ASSESSMENTS

COUNTRY	TERRITORY (Thousand km ²)	INDEX (Out of 50)	POPULATION (Millions in 1985)	INDEX (Out of 50)	DENSITY (People/km ²)	C.M.A (World rank)
Albania	29		3		105	
Algeria	2,390	12	22	5	9	30
Cyprus	9		1		72	
Egypt	100	15	48	10	50	20
France	550	15	55	13	100	14
Greece	132	3	10	2	75	55
Israel	22		4		212	
Italy	302	15	57	14	190	13
Lebanon	10		2		256	
Libya	1,766	10	4		2	39
Morocco	448	5	22	5	50	40
Portugal	92	2	10	2	112	60
Spain	507	15	40	10	77	21
Syria	185	4	10	2	50	50
Tunisia	164	3	7	1	45	70
Turkey	780	15	51	11	64	19
Yugoslavia	257	5	23	5	91	38
TOTALS	7750	120	370	80		

COUNTRY	TERRITORY km ²	POPULATION	DENSITY per cap/km ²
Albania	28,860	2,935,000	686.4
Algeria	2,390,947	21,695,000	62.4
Austria	84,180.2	7,580,000	608.4
Cyprus	9,287.2	675,000	491.4
DRG	108,596.8	16,600,000	1032.2
Egypt	100,527.18	47,755,000	322.4
FRG	249,649.4	61,390,000	1661.4
France	549,140.8	55,020,000	678.6
Greece	132,454.4	10,030,000	512.2
Israel	21,585.2	4,189,000	1303
Italy	302,429.4	56,940,000	1274
Jordan	91,351	2,475,000	182
Lebanon	10,439	2,620,000	1690
Libya	1,766,341.2	3,785,000	14.56
Morocco	448,276.4	21,750,000	327.6
Portugal	92,341.6	10,065,000	735.8
Spain	506,693.2	38,515,000	514.8
Syria	185,894.8	10,485,000	382.2
Tunisia	164,242	7,295,000	299
Turkey	78,246.48	50,730,000	439
UAE	83,922.8	50,730,000	130
Yugoslavia	25,6791.6	23,075,000	608.4

however, is not exact. Some states contain many nations (i.e. Yugoslavia): whereas some nations are divided among many states (i.e. Palestinians). These discrepancies cause the main international conflicts of modern history. The Mediterranean is a prime example of that tendency. This and other examples show the strength of nationalism in the contemporary world, thus confirming the importance of the nation-state as the fundamental unit of geopolitics.

The size of these geopolitical unit differs markedly from each other. Although the size of territory and population are generally correlated, some states have more of one attribute and little of another. As Table 1.3 shows, the population density of the Mediterranean countries varies from the sparsely inhabited (i.e. Libya) to the overpopulated (i.e. Lebanon).

In order to determine the geopolitical importance of the Mediterranean Countries, a Critical Mass Assessment (CMA) was made by assigning power weights to the territory and population of the principal countries of the region. The maximum sum assigned to these two indices is 100 points, which is the figure for each of the USA and the former USSR. According to this calculation, the whole world adds up to about 1,500 points.

Comparatively, the Mediterranean critical mass totals about 200 points, which is equivalent to 15% of the world. Italy and France head the list with a total of just under 30 points each, placing them among the top fifteen countries in the world. Turkey, Egypt and Spain came next, among the top twenty, with Algeria in thirtieth place. Former Yugoslavia, Libya and Morocco make it to the top forty. Finally, Syria, Greece, Portugal and Tunisia range between 50th and 75th place. The rest were too small to rank, thus they fall in the bottom half of the world's critical mass.

Granted that such indices are rather crude, they do give an approximate idea of the comparative geopolitical position

of the region in a global perspective. They show that the critical mass of the region is much bigger than its mere geographical size. Together with various other indices, which will be presented as we go along, these figures will set the stage for a complete study called forth in the model.

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A synopsis of the salient points arising from the discussion in this section reveals that the Mediterranean region is both an interesting and important focus of activity in the world. A combination of geographic, ethnographic, and demographic factors makes the Mediterranean a central arena of social interaction among the three most significant agglomerations of the contemporary world based on the criterion of socioeconomic evolution:

-First.

North-Western (Post-Industrial):

-Second.

North-Eastern (Mid-Industrial):

-Third.

Southern-Hemisphere (Pre-industrial).

The Mediterranean cross-cuts all three worlds and contains representative portions of each one. In the first world belongs the European Community, almost half of which lies within the Region. The Second World is represented by the three Adriatic-Balkan states. Finally, the Afro-Asian sector of the Region is an important part of the Third World.

With the recent demise of the Socialist Bloc and the evaporation of East-West military-ideological bipolarity, the world's geopolitical picture has changed dramatically. Yet, the global structure may still be seen to rest upon two similar intersecting axes. Culturally, the Mediterranean lies along the east-West axis of the global system which reflects the modernist-fundamentalist dichotomy of the world. Economi-

cally, it straddles the North-South axis of the rich-poor confrontation of the world.

2. THE MEDITERRANEAN SOCIETY: Economics, Politics, Ethics.

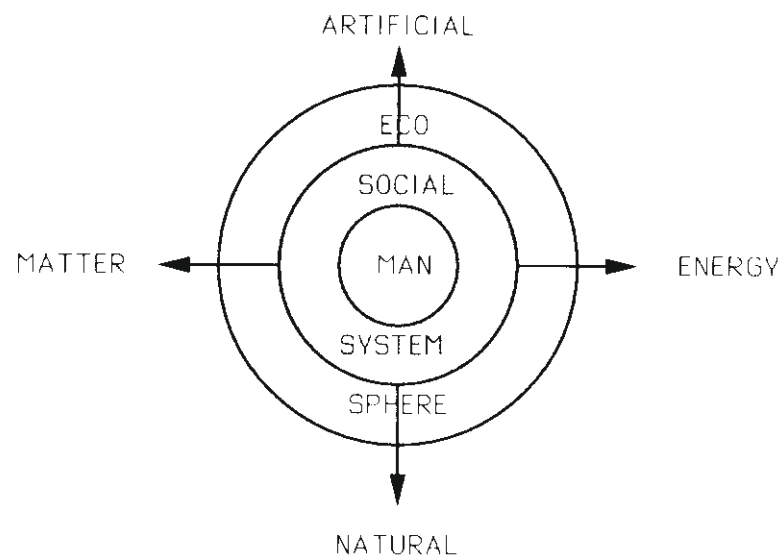
Following the geopolitical model outlined above, the focus will now be put in its proper perspective. This means that the economy will be placed within its social context. Moreover, the social system itself will be situated within the larger natural environment from which it draws its sustenance.

In order to see this larger picture, we will set the stage with the basic elements which constitute our reality. We view reality from the vantage point of humanity. Based on the dictum that "Man is the measure of all things", the model has an anthropocentric bias.

Diagram 2 depicts this point of view by putting the individual as the innermost of three concentric circles. Since humans are social animal, the middle circle represents the social system, within which all human beings live. The outer circle symbolizes the natural environment surrounding all existence. Whether there is anything else within or beyond that, is of course a moot point which will not be touched upon here.

This conception of reality is situated within a two-dimensional framework, consisting of a matter-energy axis cross-cutting a natural-artificial one. As will be explained below, these two axes are fundamental in understanding both the context and content of reality. The discussion, which follows, will therefore be organized around three ontological perspectives: contents realms; and sectors. Each of these topics will be explained in the following three sections.

DIAGRAM 2
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



2.1. SUBSTANCE.

In order to understand the reality of our subject, we must first elaborate its philosophical foundations. According to the model used here, the fundamental reality underlying everything may be arranged along a **matter-energy** continuum. This means that "being" is only admitted to exist within the limits of material and energetic characteristics. Existence is thus predicated on the basis of dual manifestation of reality:

matter and energy.

As such, the model's reality continuum extends between two poles. At one end are to be found material bodies or substances, organic or inorganic; at the other end are potential forces or activities, like electricity and movement. The convertibility of matter-energy means that they are both two aspects of the same reality and that they coexist in all things to different degrees or proportions.

That combination of matter-energy brings us to a third aspect of reality: i.e. **form**. This intermediate characteristic formulates order out of chaos; thus shaping matter and channeling energy. Form in this case corresponds to the classical "logos" or reason which gives reality meaning in the human mind. It must therefore be added to the matter-energy continuum, thus completing the classification of elementary concepts. This exhaustive taxonomy includes all elementary types of reality as they are triangularly related to each other and to the rest of the model.

These three groups of concepts include all the substantive variables of real systems, such as society. In the study of any system, one has to determine its substance and contents in these terms. In the case of the Mediterranean, we have a concept which should correspond to some external reality, made up of an agglomeration of physical bodies and their activities, coexisting within a particular space and time. A complete description of the region would have to include an inventory of all its material assets, including energy potentials, as well as its mental or formal resources.

Unfortunately, no such inventory exists and perhaps could never be compiled. Our studies therefore can only be carried out on the basis of incomplete information. Among the fragments of information we do have is some of the potential energy stocks known at present for some countries and estimated for the world as a whole. Table 2.1, contains some of these statistics, as an example of comparative posi-

TABLE 2.1

ESTIMATED ENERGY RESERVES (1980)

COUNTRY	CRUDE OIL tones (million)	NATURAL GAS cublo metres (billion)
Albania	20	10
Algeria	30	80
Cyprus	-	-
Egypt	440	85
France	10	180
Greece	20	110
Israel	-	-
Italy	50	190
Lebanon	-	-
Libya	3.300	690
Morocco	-	-
Portugal	-	-
Spain	20	-
Syria	280	40
Tunisia	180	135
Turkey	60	10
Yugoslavia	40	40
TOTAL	4450	1500

tion. According to it, Libya seems to be the energy storehouse of the Mediterranean, since it contains most of its reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

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2.2. REALMS.

The various forms of matter and energy presented in the previous section may be better understood if they were distinguished according to their function. This type of distinction separates things on the basis of the ostensible purpose they serve. For some things that purpose is well known, while for others it is more obscure.

Perhaps the easiest criterion of functional differentiation is between **natural** and **artificial**. The former precede and exist independently of mankind; the latter follow and are made by people. Human purpose, therefore, is at the core of this dichotomy and makes the transition from the creatures of nature to the creations of humanity. The significance of this distinction will become evident as it forms the basis for the definition of the economic process itself.

Although, it is easy to identify the clearly artificial or purely natural (e.g. a machine or a tree), there are cases where a strict classification is difficult. The most relevant case is mankind itself. Of course, as part of the animal kingdom, the human race belongs to nature. But, in so far as people are partly whatever they make of themselves, they are also artificial constructs.

The contribution of nature and nurture in the making of human beings has long been debated without any clear answer. We will simply accept this duality and consider man a combination of nature and culture. As such, the human realm exists between the natural and artificial ones. These three categories suffice to include the entire range of existence as

TABLE 2.2
GDP STATISTICS

COUNTRY	GDP (in billions US\$)	GDP per cap (in US\$)
Albania	2	-
Algeria	55	2,525
Cyprus	3	4,000
Egypt	32	670
France	724	13,075
Greece	40	3,900
Israel	27	6,300
Italy	504	8,800
Lebanon	-	-
Libya	27	7,500
Morocco	13	565
Portugal	29	2,800
Spain	227	5,840
Syria	17	1,660
Tunisia	9	1,200
Turkey	59	1,175
Yugoslavia	42	1,800
TOTAL	1810	

we understand it at present.

One of the main activities of human beings consists of transforming natural resources into artificial products. This conversion process is one of the unique traits of man qualifying him as *Homo Faber*. This aspect of humanity makes for the "economic man" whose behavior is particularly interesting to us here.

An imperfect index of measuring economic activity is the annual GNP or GDP of each country, whose aggregate total adds up to the annual Gross World Product. Measured in US dollars, the latest (1990) GWP is estimated to be over twenty trillion. Compared to that, the Mediterranean portion is about three trillion dollars, or 15% of the world's total (cf. Table 2.2). From that, it may be said that the economic importance of the region is the same as its critical mass.

Furthermore, the per capita distribution of this economic production places the Mediterranean average income above that of the world. Although the spread between the rich and poor countries of the region is considerable, it is not as stark as the global North-South gap, thus placing most of the Mediterranean countries in a rather good position, compared to the world as a whole.

In order to explain this position, we must know how people behave in different societies. For that, we shall have to look more closely into the human element and how it relates to its various environments. These may be said to be either internal or external. The former concerns the inner world of human personality and the intra-personal relations of each with oneself. The latter concerns the outer world of human relations with each other and nature at large.

As social scientists, we are particularly concerned with the sociological content of inter-personal relations, relegating the physiological and psychological aspects to a peripheral position. Although social behavior involves all aspects of man, it is nevertheless centered on the social system to

which we shall now focus.

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2.3. SECTORS.

As a social phenomenon, **economics** belongs in the same context as politics. Just as economics deals with rational ways of transforming natural potential into social commodities, **politics** tries to resolve interpersonal conflicts and arrive at collective decisions by dialectical means. This means that economics focuses on the production and exchange of goods and services, while politics governs their distribution rules. The combination of both in political economy determines the manner in which a society creates and controls its values. For this reason, it will be at the center of our attention here.

While focusing on political economy, we must not forget the cultural aspects of society, which may be called **ethnics**. This area includes all other social matters which do not belong to either politics or economics, so it will be touched upon in so far as it concerns the consumption of social values. As a result of this discussion, the social system will be divided into three subsystems: economic; political; and cultural.

This classification highlights the relationships among the production, distribution and consumption of social goods and services, thus putting economics in a social perspective. This perspective will be kept in mind throughout the study. We consider this particular classification of such significance that it was adopted as the primary framework of the substantive part of this chapter.

The Mediterranean social system contains a treasure trove of political, economic and cultural institutions and activities. A complete study of the region would be a difficult task indeed. By focusing on economics, this task becomes easier and more feasible. For this reason, this book looks at the

overall social system of the Mediterranean countries from an economic perspective.

Focusing on the economy, we discern its three traditional sectors:

-Primary

(extraction; cultivation; husbandry of natural resources):

-Secondary

(production; manufacture; construction of commodities):

-Tertiary

(exchange; communication; finance of goods & services).

The economy of a society may be evaluated by the particular proportion of these three sectors. The economies of Agricultural societies rely mostly on the primary sector; those of Industrial societies depend heavily upon the secondary; while Technological societies emphasize the tertiary.

According to this criterion, the various Mediterranean countries show a different mix of economic activity Table 2.3 presents these differences and thereby brings out the economic heterogeneity of the region. One point to be noted here is that the relatively high level of the tertiary sector in some economically underdeveloped societies is due to traditional services and not to highly intermediated ones.

These three economic sectors will be considered separately and collectively in the discussion of the Mediterranean region, in order to show how the social system fulfills the needs of its various groups. After all, it is the capacity of the economy to fulfill human needs which is the main criterion of evaluating its performance. The ultimate question of is to what extent the Mediterranean economy will continue fulfilling its population's needs.

In summarizing this section we can point out its two-dimensional framework made up of structural and functional components. A structural-functional analysis of any social system would require the juxtaposition of these two dimensions in a consistent manner.

TABLE 2.3

ECONOMIC SECTORS

Nation	Primary (AGRICULTURE)	Secondary (INDUSTRY)	Tertiary (SERVICES)
Albania	-	-	-
Algeria	10	45	45
Cyprus	-	-	-
Egypt	16	36	48
France	4	38	58
Greece	17	30	53
Israel	5	30	65
Italy	5	40	55
Lebanon	10	20	70
Libya	5	60	35
Morocco	18	32	50
Portugal	9	40	51
Spain	7	37	56
Syria	20	23	57
Tunisia	15	35	50
Turkey	17	38	45
Yugoslavia	12	50	38

DIAGRAM 2.3
STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL DIMENSIONS
MATRIX 2

		NATURAL 2 2 1	HUMAN 2 2 2	ARTIFICIAL 2 2 3
MATTER	2 1 1	MINERALS	PEOPLE	GOODS
FORM	2 1 2	PHENOMENA	IDEAS	SYMBOLS
ENERGY	2 1 3	SUNLIGHT	WORK	ELECTRICITY

Although we cannot go into such analysis here, we constructed the schema within which the analysis may be done. As Diagram 2.3 shows, the two dimensions form a 3.3 matrix of nine cells. The matter-form-energy structures cross-cut the natural-human-artificial functions to form nine combined categories.

The economic aspects of the Mediterranean social system may be easily discerned in this matrix. In effect, these aspects emanate from column 222 as part of human activities and more specifically from its social sub-division. The discussion of section 2.3 above, was an elaboration of this focus in the context its peripheral relationships. Any further discussion will be carried out with the same context in mind.

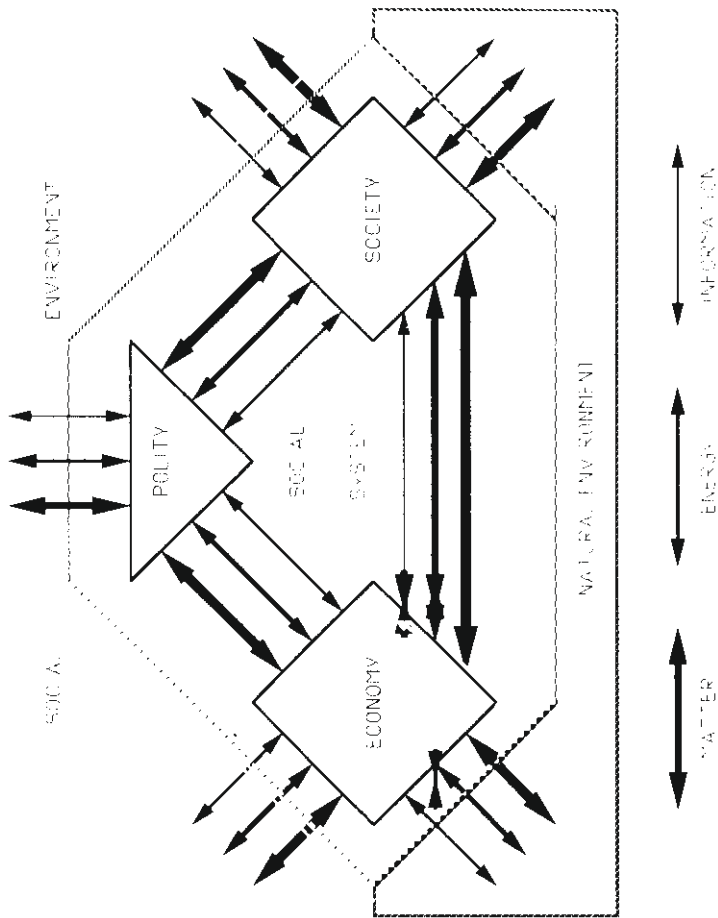
3. THE MEDITERRANEAN PROSPECT: Historical Dynamics & Methodology.

This chapter introduces **time** into the study of human affairs thus transforming the static picture shown so far into a dynamic sequence. The temporal dimension adds the flow of events and follows the evolution in the history of a system. This new dimension complements **space** and thus completes the parameters of our model.

Time enters this model in two ways. The first as the conventional arrow of history, from the **past** through the **present** to the **future**. This aspect is a selected record of salient events and their interpretation. In this case, however, it is also the probable course of events which have not yet happened.

The extrapolation of the historical record into the future is much more difficult than the description of the past. It requires a more sophisticated methodology as well as a fertile imagination to discern significant trends. Since the future perspective is the focus of this study, we must take great care to explain how that perspective will be attained.

DIAGRAM 3.0
SOCIAL SYSTEM
STRUCTURES & FLOWS



This brings us to the second aspect of the temporal dimension, i.e. method. Systems theory, by its very nature is associated with the scientific method. As social scientists, we can adopt this method to the study of the future and make valid scenarios of impending developments.

In this chapter, we shall proceed by taking the social system and focusing on its dynamic aspects. Diagram 3, recapitulates what has been said so far and adds the main input-throughput-output flows of the social system reflected in the Mediterranean world.

Considered as a system, the region exists within the social (i.e. international) and natural (i.e. physical) environment of the world at large. Internally, the system has three main components: political, economic, and cultural; which are divided into twenty geographical units. These units and their sectors are interconnected by various channels of transportation and communication carrying people, goods and symbols.

The state of a system at any time is a product of its previous state of historical accumulation and the changes which transformed it since then. The combination of matter-energy-information flows between nature and society, as well as their conversions among the three social sectors and twenty territorial areas, determine the behavior of the system.

In order to deal with this complex changing picture, this chapter will discuss the following relevant topics in sequence: historical dynamics; scientific methodology; and alternative scenarios.

3.1. HISTORICAL DYNAMICS: Time's Arrow.

The study of any system would be incomplete without its history. Since history is the record of successive changes of state, a dynamic system cannot be understood without some knowledge of its temporal journey. This is especially true for social systems, because their historical uniqueness makes

this record part of their definition.

The Mediterranean littoral is an excellent example of this thesis. The region's rich history forms an integral part of its existence and the baggage its people carry about with them every day. The stored collective memory of over five millennia of history is a burden that weighs heavily on all the Mediterranean countries.

In macro-historical terms, this record may be divided into three great periods:

-Primitive:

Hunting & Gathering; (Prehistoric: > 10000 BC).

-Traditional:

Settled; Agricultural; (Historic: 10000BC-1800AD).

-Modern:

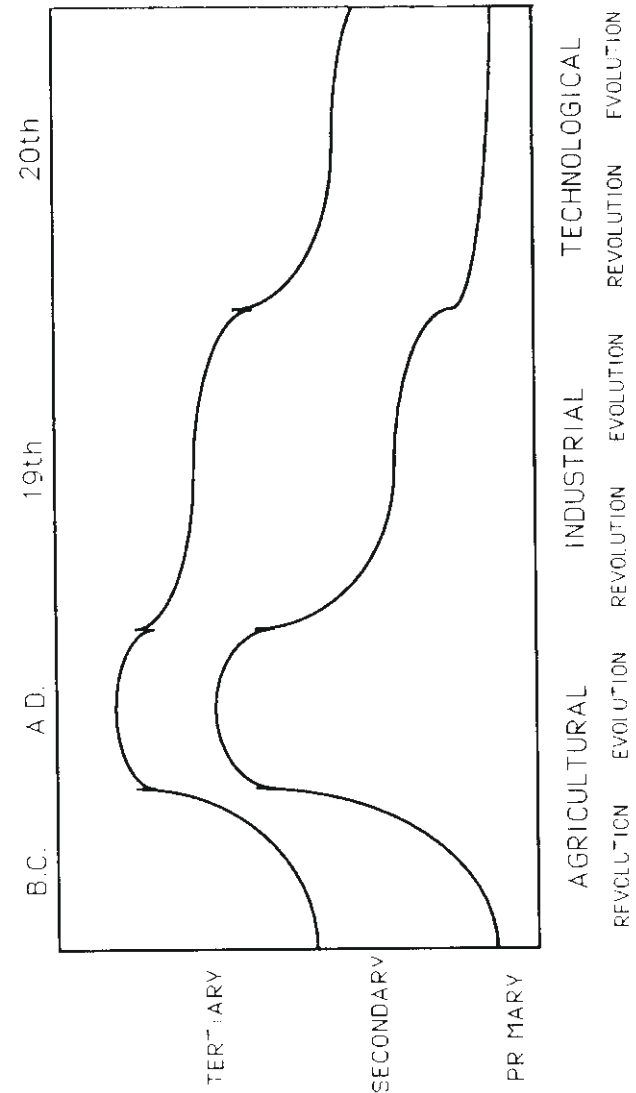
Mass; Industrial; (Contemporary: 1800-2000).

Of course, the dates given here are rounded to approximate figures; the transitions from one period to another are not so clear cut. Nevertheless, one can discern three critical turning points in this historical record which may be truly called "Revolutions". Two of them (the-Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions) have already happened; the third (Post-Industrial or Technological) is going on right now.

Since time does not flow at the same pace in every society, we find different regions at different levels of development. The heterogeneity of the Mediterranean system is manifest not only in social, but also in historical terms. Some societies, especially in the southern (Afro-Asian) hemisphere, are only entering their Industrial stage now, whereas others, in the northwestern (European) side, have already entered their post-industrial era.

Diagram 3.1 traces the typical development of societies through the three great macrohistorical revolutions. Agricultural; Industrial; Technological. A central characteristic of each period is the ratio of manpower employed in the three economic sectors, mentioned in section 2.3. As the Diagram

**DIAGRAM 3.1
LABOUR FORCE TRENDS IN ECONOMIC
SECTORS & HISTORICAL PERIODS**



shows. the agricultural revolution shifted manpower from primitive occupations (i.e. hunting and gathering) to land cultivation (i.e. sowing and reaping). With the industrial revolution, labor was shifted away from agricultural into manufacturing. By now, the technological revolution is taking labor away from both agriculture and shifts it to the service sector. This time, however it is not only the traditional services but the new information-laden occupations which dominate the advanced societies of the western world.

As is well-known, this development has not been taking place evenly throughout the world. Only a few countries have reached the post industrial phase of their development, while most of them are still in their pre-industrial state. This discrepancy creates many conflicts and contradictions, the most important of which is the notorious North-South Gap. Since industrialization creates and concentrates excess wealth, the northern countries have accumulated most of the surplus values of the world, on the basis of which they have built their political power and cultural modernization. The maldistribution of wealth, power and other values can therefore be traced to this uneven rate of historical evolution.

The Mediterranean is a good example of this imbalance. The countries of its north-west littoral have reached the most advanced position; while those of the southern coast are far behind in the least developed. In between are to be found the countries of the north-eastern region. Thus, the territorial divisions of the Mediterranean also correspond to historical divisions among its social units.

The question is how important are these divisions and how long can they last. In order to answer this question, one must decide if the record of the past is an indicator of the future. Does history flow in the same direction for all social system? In the face of it, not necessarily; but as the world becomes more interdependent and integrated into a

global super-system, the answer is increasingly positive.

Since this study seeks to look ahead where the Mediterranean is going, we will have to assume that the past contains the seeds of the future. These seeds, however, are shaped by the conditions of the present and the actions of its people. In this way, by the intervention of the present, the past is transformed into the future.

In this natural one-way process, the ever-fleeting present forms the transition between the accumulated past and the potential future. In reality, these formalistic divisions flow into an uninterrupted stream which we arbitrarily mark with strings of events. History is strewn with these events which have been chosen for the record of collective human memory.

The study of the future, however, has no such record to rely on. Since the events have not happened yet, they have no independent existence and can only be imagined as a continuation of the past. On the basis of this experience and with the help of human reason or intuition, this study shall try to foresee what lies ahead for the Mediterranean region in the related spheres of competence of its authors.

* * * * *

3.2. METHODOLOGY.

In order to systematize the study of the future, we must place it within the scope of scientific methodology. This section will therefore present an outline of the procedural aspects of our model and along with it the conversion process from theory to practice.

Combining general systems theory and social science method promotes a better understanding of the structures and functions of society, as a result of which one can improve policy-making and ultimately take more effective action. This transition from thinking to doing can be rationalized by fol-

lowing a certain logical process. This process begins with a particular **theory** or paradigm on the basis of which some **policy** or plan of action is conceived and ends with a **praxis** or purposive action.

Since this work is an attempt to understand a social system, rather than a policy-planning exercise or a practical strategy manual; we will only deal with the theoretical phase of this process and describe its components. These could best be described as an algorithm summarized in Diagram 3.2. This flow chart contains the main elements of a model procedure according to which any subject could be analyzed in a methodical way. Such **analysis** consists of three successive and inter-related tasks:

-Diagnosis:

observation and description of present conditions.

-Anagnosis:

chronology and etiology of historical developments.

-Prognosis:

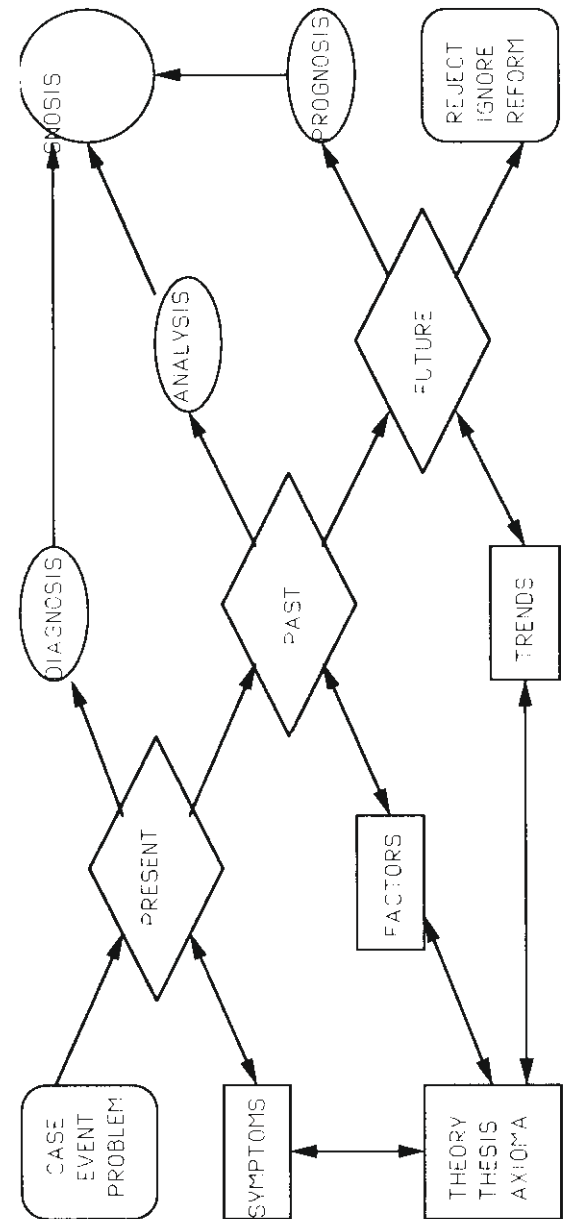
projection and extrapolation of future trends.

So far we have looked at some of the vital statistics of the Mediterranean system in order to make a preliminary diagnosis of its current social condition. Depending on its completeness, this diagnostic step would serve the subsequent analysis of the historical evolution of the system, to give us the reasons for the present state of affairs in the region. A valid prognosis could then be undertaken by projecting the heavy trends identified in the analysis.

All these tasks require an underlying conceptual framework which provides the premises and hypotheses for any thoughtful speculation. That we always have to operate under imperfect conditions, however, should not deter us from trying to understand and improve them. Although, we can never arrive at the ideal of complete knowledge, i.e. *gnosis*; at least we can understand where it could be found.

The constraints of this study, prevent us from going into

DIAGRAM 3.2
SYSTEMATIC STUDY PROGRAM



any depth in any of these steps. Given the limited resources at hand, we can only make some tentative hypotheses based on some stated assumptions and then draw the appropriate conclusions.

* * * * *

3.3. ALTERNATIVE SCENARIA.

Melontology, or the study of the future, is only in its infancy. The first generation of melontologists is still trying to work out the proper methodology for studying the future. As a result, various schools of thought and different techniques are being developed for a more systematic research into events that do not yet happened. Without going into details, prognostic methodology may be classified into three techniques:

-Inductive:

quantitative: extrapolative: statistical: probable.

-Indicative:

qualitative: intentional: normative: planned: desirable.

-Imaginative:

authoritative: impressionistic: speculative: possible.

The first technique relies heavily on the mathematical treatment of statistical data to extrapolate past trends into the future. The second concentrates on the policy analysis of government plans and institutional declarations, which indicate the intention of people to do something in the future. The third, surveys expert opinion and creative imagination to construct realistic scenaria of alternative future possibilities.

The choice of technique depends on both the subject-matter and information available. The harder the given data and the more known the field of study, the more probabilistic is the method used. On the contrary, since methodology and quantitative data in the social sciences leaves a lot to be de-

sired, the first approach alone would be of very limited application. When qualitative documentation is readily available, the second approach is the most widely used by social scientists. But when both of the above inputs are inadequate, then we fall upon the court of last appeal which is the authoritative opinion of specialists in the field.

In any case, the optimal strategy would be to choose whatever procedure fits the subject, or better still, employ all of them in different degrees: thus imposing a triple-check for quality control. Obviously, a forecast derived by a combination of complementary techniques is stronger than the result of any single one. Therefore, wherever there is a choice, it is best to utilize as many people and methods as possible.

Unfortunately, the constraints of this particular study forced the methodological focus towards the impressionistic end of the above spectrum.

Although there are good economic statistics for some Mediterranean countries, it was impossible to obtain reliable comparable data for all them. The situation improves if we look for official documents to discern government intentions, but this method was too labour intensive and thus financially prohibitive to use extensively.

Through this process of elimination, we are left primarily with the third method. Although statistical and documentary evidence will be brought in as much as possible, the main thrust will be based on the intellectual speculation of a team of experts. In addition to the authors, this team included a panel of international consultants, whose authoritative opinion has been well taken.

In order to systematize and control the quality of the forecasts, the individual work of the authors will be supplemented by a collective **Delphi** Survey. The details and results of this survey will be incorporated in the third chapter of this book, thus completing the present study.

What we can say at this point is that all forecasts are

based on certain assumptions. Of the great, yet limited number of possibilities logically open in the future, three principal directions or trends come to mind immediately:

-Decreasing:

Negative; regressive; pessimistic; lesser than the past.

-Continuing:

Neutral; constant; static; realistic; similar to the past

-Increasing:

Positive; progressive; optimistic; greater than the past.

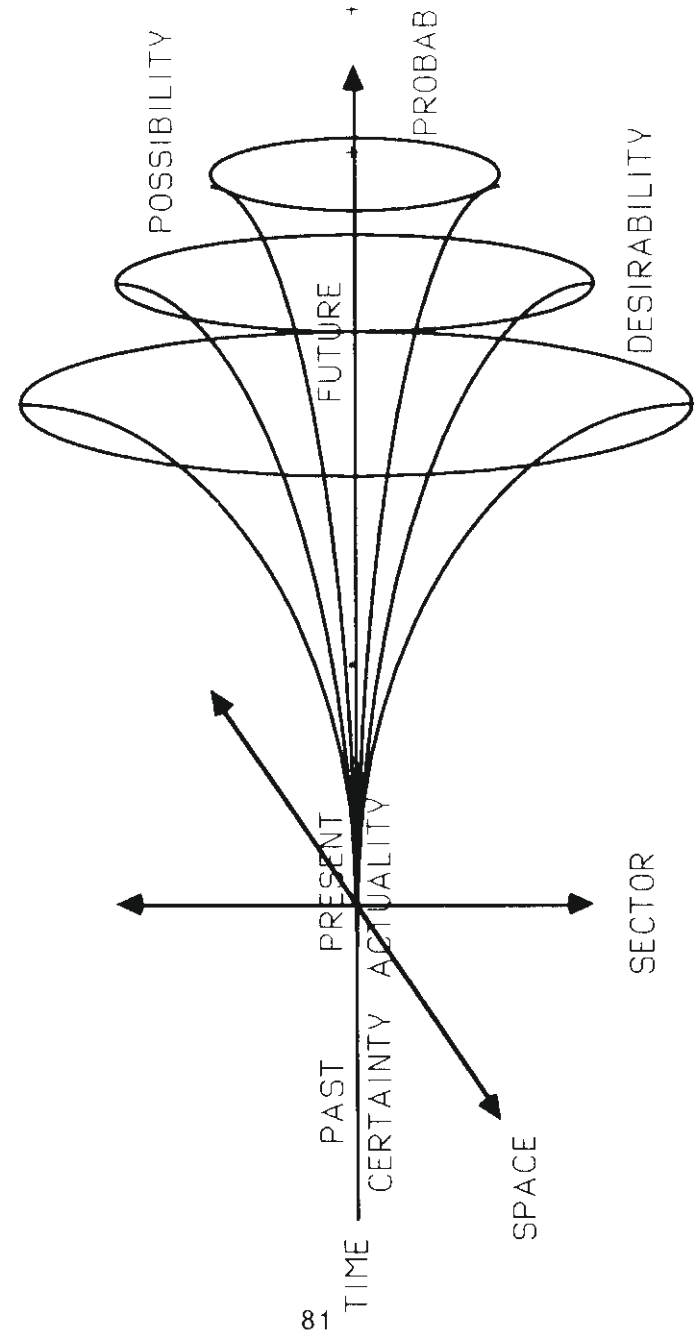
That is to say, things in the future can either be more, less or about the same as they are now or have been in the past. It all depends on one's outlook.

Diagram 3.3, is based on the Minkowski Light Cones and illustrates the relationship among the above alternatives. The three dimensions of the diagram are the same as those of Diagram 1, (i.e. space-time-substance). At the point of origin of the three axes is situated the present, which then opens up into the three time cones. The largest one is that of desirability, because our thoughts and ideals are almost boundless. Only part of these ideas fall within the realm of the possible, which is the middle cone. Finally, only part of the possible is probable. It is this last and most restricted area which is of particular interest and importance for scientific forecasts.

The historical certainty of the past becomes the present actuality, which then develops into the various options of the future, both in space and sector. The further away these are, the greater their quantity or quality, whether positive or negative. At all times, however, human desires are usually greater than their capacities, so they lie beyond the possible and, by extension, the probable.

This does not mean that the future cannot sometimes surpass humanity's wildest dreams. That it does so, nevertheless, cannot be foreseen per definition, hence is beyond scientific investigation. All we can do at any particular time is

DIAGRAM 3.3
FUTURE TIME CONES



anticipate various probabilities within the realm of what is considered possible at that time.

* * * * *

Before we complete the subject of social dynamics presented in this section, it is necessary to explicate the central theory of our model in so far as historical change is concerned. According to that theory, natural processes, including human affairs, seem to flow dialectically. Within this scheme of things, social change does not proceed smoothly or linearly, but in waves or quanta. From the microscopic to the macrohistorical, cycles dominate both natural and social processes.

On the basis of this assumption, cyclic movements will continue in the future as they have done in the past. Although the cycles are never identical and history does not repeat itself, the form is the same even if the substance is different. Social development is therefore possible but not consistent. Like an alternating current, historical progress moves onwards, but not always in the same direction. Thus, we witness the rise and fall of civilizations, as we do the birth and death of individuals.

An essential characteristic of waves is their variable frequency and amplitude. An unmistakable phenomenon of recent history is the dramatic increase of both frequency and amplitude of social change in the dominant systems of the world. As social systems develop, there is a positive feedback in the cycle which accelerates their rate of change. Generated by technological innovation, this development increases the transformation of matter and the conversion of energy through the system thus increasing its dynamism for further change.

Since different social systems move at different rates of change, the acceleration of some leaves others further be-

hind. The widening North-South gap is a perfect example of this tendency of uneven development. Only a cyclical reversal of historic proportions could close such gap. Meanwhile, the world is torn apart by the greatest phase discrepancy in its history.

As an attenuated reflector of the global condition, the Mediterranean is divided by the same gaps as the rest of the world. Although the development of the various countries in the region is out of step, the gap is not as great as that of the world as a whole, nor is it increasing as fast. It is possible that regional dynamics will produce a somewhat different result than in the global system. Such a conclusion, however, is not evident yet.

As far as the Mediterranean is concerned, different tendencies may be seen pointing in some degree to the three alternative scenaria discussed above. In the last chapter of this book, these possibilities will be presented and explained, thus offering an educated glimpse into some of the salient futures of the region.

APPENDIX

THE DELPHI SURVEY

The Delphi, as it was used in this case, polled a small number of experts as to their considered opinion about certain future trends. A questionnaire asked for each respondent's tentative ten year forecast on the areas of concern to the study. These areas were based on the conceptual model presented here.

Accordingly, there was one question for each of the 27 functional sectors of the social model shown in Diagram 3.4. Each of these questions was asked for the three geopolitical divisions of the Mediterranean, as well as the world. Thus there were 243 (9*27) questions involved.

Each answer was given as a number along the continuum between -3 and +3. The respondent could choose one of the seven numbers, depending on whether he/she foresaw great or little change in an increasing or decreasing direction. The mid-point zero, meant no appreciable change.

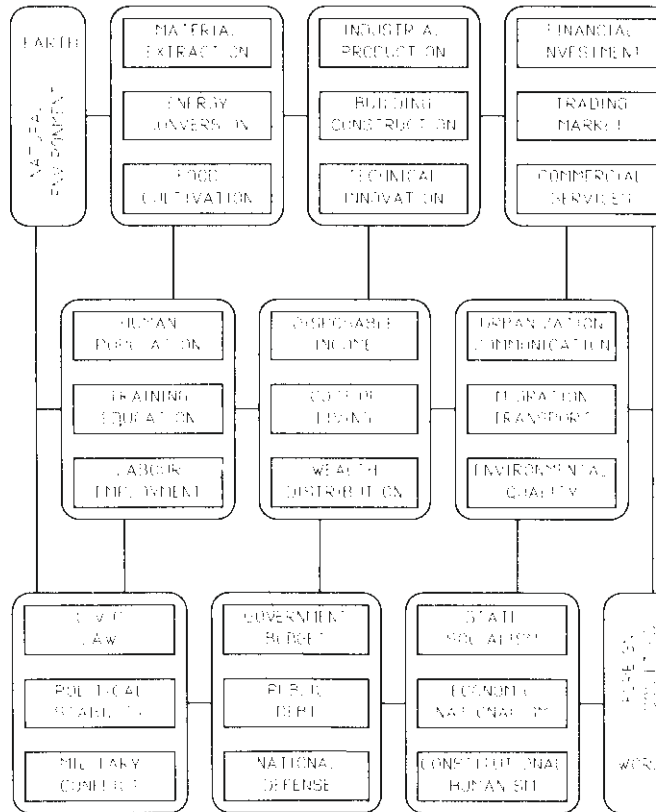
The answers were collated and fed back to the respondents, showing them

where everyone stood on each point. As a result of comparing their positions to the others, each participant was asked to reconsider his-her answers and reply once again to the same questions.

The second round results were treated in the same way as the first round to see if any consensus developed in some forecasts. Where this was the case, the consensus was incorporated in some forecasts. Where this was the case, the consensus was incorporated into the final forecast, together with other sources of evidence. The results were then written up in the report which follows as the third chapter of this book.

It must be admitted that as the Delphi was administered five years ago, some of its results were bypassed by the dramatic events which followed in Eastern Europe. It was therefore necessary to update some of the answers in line with the actual changes in the world. Apart from that, however, most of the anticipations remained valid, in spite of the passage of time until the publication of this book in the early nineties.

DIAGRAM 3.4



SOCIAL SYSTEM SECTORAL MODEL

CONCLUSION

It should be evident by now that the model outline just presented provides a conceptual framework and methodology for the systemic study of any subject. Since it covers the spatial, temporal and substantive aspects of any topic, it has the potential of describing, predicting and explaining the dynamics of complex systems. For that reason, it was developed to serve as a general, flexible tool of the social sciences.

Given the specific task of looking into the future of the Mediterranean social system, the model was chosen as an ideal paradigm to guide our research strategy. To that end, this chapter tried to show how the general model could be applied to a particular case study, such as the one chosen here.

Since the world is an increasingly interrelated, interacting system, the model looks at its regions as interdependent components of a complex entity. The three dimensions of the model fit perfectly with the parameters of the task at hand: to look into the potential for a regional system. By following the steps provided in the model, one could make a complete and rigorous study of this, as any other, subject-matter.

Diagram 3.4 outlines the most important sectors of the social system to be considered in our study. These sectors are interrelated both among themselves and to their social as well as natural environment. Each country of the Mediterranean, has such a structure, whose aggregate forms the regional conglomerate. Each of these twenty-seven sectors

will be discussed in the concluding chapter of this book:
where the model will be applied as much as it is feasible
within the constraints of this study.