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PRO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE INFLUENCE OF THE LAW OF ENTROPY ON ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

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Abstract

The discovery of entropy in thermodynamics has set fundamental premises for the study and analysis of the relationship between the entropy law and economic processes, as one of the main objectives of such endeavours was to separate the qualitative aspects from the realm of economics. The law we have chosen to focus on in the present paper states that, in the universe or in isolated structures, entropy increases constantly and irreversibly, thus causing a continuous and unidirectional degradation of free energy into unavailable energy. Undoubtedly, this degradation follows its natural course in economic processes or is the result of human interference. A comprehensive analysis of professional literature has allowed us to conclude that, towards the end of the 20th century, the law of entropy was believed to be the most economic of all natural laws and the basis of the economy of life on all levels, revealing the fact that everything is constantly changing, both in nature and in society as a whole.

Key words: free/unavailable energy, natural resources, preservation of matter, quasi-equilibrium, social entropy

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