

Habitual inefficiency of politicians: a danger to peace

Declaration of the spokespersons of the International Peace Committee and representatives
of the Association Informal Economic Forum, Economic Club,
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In May 2015, we expressed concern over the lack of politically effective cooperation between the superpowers and inefficiency of actions by the international diplomacy.

During the sixty days that went by since our first declaration, nothing relevant has happened in order to change the mind-set of the leaders of superpowers, major powers and other countries, as well as of the global and regional organisations, towards embracing the perennial and never ageing ideals of humanity. Mother Teresa had the courage to say to the world: *"Please choose the way of peace. ... In the short term there may be winners and losers in this war that we all dread. But that never can, or never will justify the suffering, pain and loss of life your weapons will cause."* Supranational military-industrial complexes, financial organisations and banks acquired the power that the politicians can only dream of. And this is an objective fact which should, in the first place, haunt the politicians.

However, the ideals of peace and understanding that we appeal to again and again are overlooked by the politicians. They justify it by reference to their own national interests. But, at the same time, they have no qualms about earnestly claiming how much they strive for peace, alleviation of tensions, respect for international treaties, rules and principles of the coexistence of peoples and their states. How should we call it? Perhaps – "political schizophrenia"? This is why we hear ever more often certain politicians suggesting how democracy should function in other countries without, however, taking a look at how it functions in their own countries.

This early summer offers no guarantee that the political leaders will demonstrate the will to start behaving in a different manner. They are completely dominated by multinational corporations that have no political agenda of peace. We continue witnessing the presentation of armed peace through which, using exports of weapons and all sorts of aid contingents, they feed local wars whose range expands as a proportion of their centralisation and concentration of their capital. The practice of blaming one another for fomenting and perpetuating the conflicts is bolstered by the media which are, *de facto*, in the hands of military-industrial complexes. The nurturing ground for such situations is the lack of authority of global and regional organisations. Another source of wars are the problems connected with the economic and social situation in certain countries, their indebtedness and non-repayable debts.

Even though the authority derived from the military might and from the level of economic power is indeed attractive to many, it is also, looking at the today's world, tragically ineffective. For, it does not guarantee peaceful life, not to speak of getting closer to attaining the age-old ideals of humanity. The lesson to be learned is that the democracy cannot be spread by bayonets. Let us therefore remember the words of Burmese politician Aung San Suu Kyi: *"It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it. The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear."*

The price of peace is then reflected, without any impediment, in a total disruption and human sacrifices. Most of those who have not been touched by any kind of war have reached a point where they continue to be untouchable by war. This is also the reason why all the known conflicts continue to persist, having a potential to rapidly escalate to the rest of the world, simply through the will of the superpowers and of the countries with a strong standing. We, Europeans, are confronted for the first time with the migration from African and Asian countries of the once

unimaginable scale, amounting to the modern Migration of Nations. Here we can understand the wisdom of the Chinese saying: „*There is no road to peace. Peace is the road.*” This is why we see, for instance, how China managed to deal with its economic problems and, at the same time, to be a stabilising factor in Asia and in the Far East.

For a majority of political leaders of superpowers and major powers, it is almost unthinkable to relinquish the ideas of their worldwide hegemony. This is a permanent state, and the occasional signs of moving towards the opposite “pole” are nothing but futile hope. The idea of the early 1970s that the resources used for armament should be gradually channelled towards the economic and social development has turned to dust. The public opinion is shaped by the holders of power, and free media are heading towards extinction. They are indeed the most endangered species in the world, and this fact constitutes the strongest weapon of mass destruction of sanity and, ultimately, of the life itself.

The Saviour has already been born, if we are optimists, and he will find his electors among the remainder of those with common sense who profess humanity. If the mankind wants to live differently. That is how we could read the statements Pope Francis uttered last spring. In his words, we have to do everything in our power not to uphold the existing system. Only educated and moral people are able to do it. This is also why the words of politician Jan Masaryk are so relevant: “*Remember that as long as we pay generals more than teachers, there is little hope for world peace.*”

And this is also why it is true that we must not only desire to have but we have to elect such world leaders who will give precedence to a peaceful and mutually beneficial cooperation between the states and their peoples.

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