

That common Currency still looking for an Image

by **Ida Magli**

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On April 30th, 2010, an entire page of the Italian newspaper "Il Giornale" was focused on the present monetary problems: Giuseppe De Bellis wrote an article on a very important matter, and it was about time that someone talked about it: the strength of a Currency does not depend on the economy alone, because "*the real strength of the Dollar is the Image of America*".

This is a very obvious statement, which concerns all Currencies; but unfortunately the point of view of economists and bankers (as it happens to all dictators) is limited to their field of action; therefore to them the strength of currencies is linked almost exclusively to the GNP (Gross National Product), to the commerce or to the public debt of a Country. But it is true: the universal idea of America: young, enthusiastic, energetic, victorious and somehow "made of future", is a prototype of a modernity that still remains such; and this same Image was transferred into the Dollar, in a sort of sacramental form.

It is very important to make this same reflection about the Euro. Those who created it did not take into consideration the absence of an Image of Europe behind its currency; and now it is pointless to notice - in front of its crisis - that the *political* Europe should have been built long before the *monetary* Europe. But political Europe was never built because it was and it is still impossible to build it.

Everybody knows that the Institution called European Parliament keeps living an existence of pure fiction: the only *real* thing are its costs. In these last days, this fiction was proven by the silence about the Greek crisis. All European empires used to have a center: first there was Rome, then France, then Austria. This is why different languages, literature, art, customs and characters of the single peoples and nations developed with such a precise individuality.

Obviously it is not possible to sum together all these very rich and different individualities, simply because it is not possible to sum apples together with pears; you can do that only if you generically call them 'fruits'. The lowest common denominator of all European nations is a generic geographic entity called "Europe". For each People and State, this was a severe loss in all fields, from image, to policy, to economy. But this result was knowingly pursued by politicians from the very beginning, even if thousand times they repeated that it was not so, and that - on the contrary - we would surely become very very rich and very very powerful.

Germany and the Germans wanted and needed to cancel their features, they wanted to fade them away merging them with those of the other peoples, in the nebulous sea of 'Europe'. *"If you will not bind us as Gulliver with the ropes of European integration, you will always be afraid of us"* Helmut Kohl said in 1995, during a speech in Kalsruhe. But even after such a long time, Germany is still leading the game, and Europe is still a fiction that is driving the single States towards a progressive cultural and political weakness, which is perfectly mirrored by the weakness of its coinage.

Now the Peoples should force the politicians to stop and think about the absurd situation that was created by the primacy of the Bankers who today are dominating the European Union. Look at the way they are talking today about a nation like Greece, and about the rescue operation that was implemented to save it from bankruptcy. This is a very clear and tragic mirror of the situation caused from Unification for each one of us. Greece was grotesquely "defeated at Salamina" by a Rating Agency. Nothing is left of its Image: its history, civilization, philosophy, art, theater and poetry were all wiped out with one single stroke. The Greeks look like mendicants begging for a loan that none of their European brothers is willing to concede. They had to pay the highest interest rates, and were told that the real problem was saving the Euro, otherwise Greece could have gone to hell.

Ida Magli – May 2nd, 2010, Rome

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