

Main foundations of contemporary Europe for today and the future.

The fact of globalization calls for self-determination on the European continent, since we are only 7% of the world's population, and yet just over 20% of economic power, but need to know exactly what contribution we can make in the rapid pace of global development. The misconception that we are still determinative is now a thing of the past, because the development of Asia and Africa, together with their increasing strength, but also internal conflicts, are very important to us. Of course, the main foundation can be the historic achievements of the continent, but also the ability to communicate and dialogue. We have to deal with the others to know who we are and who the others are.

Europe needs to better define its content, with human rights and democracy as essential foundations. Especially in the light of the history of the 20th century. The present temptations of populism or authoritarianism must be mastered, whereby the fascination of primitive exercise of power (Putin, Orbán, etc.) must be mastered by appropriate intellectual debate. Democracy must be different today, with our information society necessitating new forms of communication. It has to be considered, if in the world of the internet the possibility of the conversation does not have to be used again. The origins of democracy lie in parliament (parlare), which today probably no longer applies, because we find it difficult to listen.

Europe still has great opportunities today, with its internal tensions to be overcome. The arrogance of Western Europe towards the center, even more so towards the East, ignorance of the Southeast, and the inability to cross those borders, must be resolutely opposed. However, this is only possible if we do not lecture and work with a wagging finger, but enter into an inner debate, whereby the representation of the so often cited values also plays a role. It should not be underestimated that in different dimensions religions are again more important today. Europe has a rich history and experience, many mistakes, but also opportunities that need to be exploited.

Here, in particular, the Middle East needs to re-establish a relationship and to recall that Europe has received the essential impulses for its own development from there. The Eastern Mediterranean plays a crucial role, not only in terms of migration issues, but also in contentual disputes. To give just one example: How significant is the world of sunken Byzantium today? Orthodoxy is a message that is hardly used, but on the contrary. It suffers from being exploited by politics for its own purposes.

In this context, the future role of America plays a major role. To be appalled about Donald Trump alone does not help, because after all, the North of America is not just a person who articulates very skillfully in the media, but from many powers with great spiritual power.