

SOCIETIES AND POLITICS: Supranational cooperation or the *Populārēs*?

What's with these days?

The era of the "Great Stabilisation" (the "Big Story"), created after WW II fades. In certain areas Europe weakened due to insufficient compliance with agreed arrangements and unfinished constructions. That brought insecurity, discontent and greater scope for populism.

But the EU is also the largest economy in the world, the largest single market in the world, the biggest investor in the world, the largest donor of humanitarian aid in the world, the largest donor of development cooperation and has the most extensive diplomatic network in the world .

And there is the successful Erasmus Plus program, the trade agenda, the development of common energy policy, reform of the financial sector, a growth strategy and efforts are carried out in order to connect with one another on the EU national perspectives.

The idea of supranational cooperation originated after WW II, to eliminate the destructive tradition of nationalism in the future. The populares, simplicity, clarity, non essential solutions and counterpart of the optimates, divides and thinks to make the boundary between individual desires and complex outside world undone.

What are other possible choices, except the continuation of supranational cooperation? Federalism? Or according to Niall Ferguson: "dismantling of Europe to regain the flexibility of the smallness, or God back on the throne, or weapon." But how to deal with cross-border issues, peace and the Age of Reason? And the common prosperity increases or decreases? Is there complacency? Discipline? What will be then the condition of our societies?

Discontent and impatience – identity and capacity

The optimates will have to work together and must demonstrate that they offer more to society than the populares. Bridging 'too big' differences and encouraging interaction and dialogue between the various groups in order to reinforce the sense of belonging contribute to this. And when social media platforms are adapted in innovative ways, they can have a positive impact on the citizens of different backgrounds.

How Populares relates to the polity is another question. A liberal democracy / democratic state is the strongest form of rule of law. It limits the scope for excessive populism, as long as democratic leaders upholds the constitutions, strengthens the protection of civil liberties, upholds the law and ensures the independence of the judges.

“When possibly to power, populists meet the limitations of the political game. Their radical program does not appear feasible and compromises will have to be closed. Lack of management experience and not wanting to conform to established practices in politics harms further. When a populist group adjusts to the rules of the political game, the group often loses part of its identity and alienates itself from backing. The movement looses in course of time their supporters and other parties then take in weakened form, the program points of the movement about. Many populist movements have disappeared into thin air” (parlement.com).

The idea of unity has existed for 2000 years. It will not disappear. What is missing is (solidarity with) common identity, adequate capacity and destiny. Can we better work on something like that to get ahead or work on exchange of transnational cooperation against unrealizable solutions and strong preference for everything for the own country?

There are big institutional, (geo) political and financial issues and ethical philosophical questions. There is need for a congress for ideas about development of European societies and political cooperation.