

Sofia Podda

Every event has a reason, is connected to the actions humans do and can affect our daily lives. Nowadays, like in the period of the “age of anxiety”, everything happens for a reason, history repeats itself and each one of us believes and reacts in different ways, but we all want to reach the same purpose. Also in the encyclical letter “Laudato si’”, Pope Francis wrote that “when we speak of the environment, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it”. Today we are living a crucial event called “corona virus”, that is provoking changes and is stopping the world. Each one of us is living with anxiety and the pressure that the virus could put us and the people we love.

Anxiety is a common word to describe history especially talking about the First and the Second World War. Each country has its own responsibility: there are those who think more about the economy of the state than to the welfare of the citizens, and those who believe in Health Care and human life. Not every decision made is right, but sometime we have to trust the rulers of our country.

Comparing these two epochs, the Age of Anxiety and the period we are living today, we can find many things in common. For example the dystopian society described by Huxley, Orwell and Golding, is an extreme version of our reality. Everything is under the control thanks to technology surrounding us. Sometimes total control is a good way to keep your country safe from revolutions and problems. That is why I used the word “extreme” because today we have to follow the rules and what our government says, but we have also the liberty to believe and think without restrictions. Though not every country is so lucky, for example in Korea, people are under a dictatorship, and no one can get in or out of the state.

Every historical event can influence social conditions. In the “Laudato si’”, Pope Francis says “If everything is related, then the health of a society’s institutions has consequences for the environment and the quality of human life. “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment”.[116] In this sense, social ecology is necessarily institutional, and gradually extends to the whole of society, from the primary social group, the family, to the wider local, national and international communities. Within each social stratum, and between them, institutions develop to regulate human relationships. Anything which weakens those institutions has negative consequences, such as injustice, violence and loss of freedom.”.

Pope Francis’ words are perfect to explain the situation people lived during the First and Second World War, and the situation we are living today. Corona virus is causing economical and sanitarian problems everywhere in the world, people are getting sick and irritated by this situation. I think that this condition is causing economic problems, as well as taking away human freedom and social dimension. Italy, differently from the other countries, has put human danger before the economic values, but this is putting at risk those people who need to work to take care of their family. Today Italy has 35 thousand people affected by the virus, and the government has asked the citizens to not move from their houses, and to get out only for emergencies. Hospitals are unmanageable, in fact famous and important people are donating, to build and contribute to save the country from this appalling situation. Berlusconi donated 10 thousand euros, like the football player Insigne to the association created by two influencers Chiara Ferragni and Fedez, to build a new Hospital, to host and treat other sick citizens. Also China, that is the country in which the virus originated, sent a group of doctors to help Italian hospitals. The whole world is moving. Italy at the beginning was put under a spotlight because it was the only country that had the courage to denounce the situation. I am very proud of the action Italy has taken, although this means to be closed in my house, to stop communicating

with my friends and stop going to school. I believe in what my country is doing, even if this means to be isolated from the rest of the world.

In Europe the first country that had the highest peak was Italy. The rest of the EU observed the situation to understand the evolution of the virus. Italy was criticized for the extreme measures and rules the government imposed to run to the crisis. Everyone believed it was just a normal influence, and that soon the situation would change. But the virus spread all over Europe reaching especially Spain. Germany and France thought that they would never get the coronavirus. Now also France and Germany have reached a high peak and from criticizing Italian extreme rules, they are now using them as a model to follow. Now all Europe is facing this huge crisis, that is causing problems to the economic status. At the beginning of this virus, it seemed to the whole world that Europe was disconnected, that each country was thinking about itself and not about the Community. Today the situation is different because each state has allocated a fund to economically support the crisis. On the other hand, Boris Johnson, in the UK is facing everything in a different way. He is applying a strategy that is more focused on economic aspects. Schools, universities, shop, restaurants, the *city*: everything is still moving, he believes that who has to survive will survive the rest can die. In fact today England is facing the problem ignoring it in a way, and putting at risk citizens' life. Also in America, Trump said that the news spread were all "fake news". Like Europe at the beginning of the crisis, America thought that it was just a normal influence, but he still closed the border line cancelling all the flights to reach our continent. He only kept open the gates for England: an injustice. Also Europe, then, has closed the border line to the world, but European citizens are allowed to come back if they need to. Trump has established a budget to face the crisis and he claimed to most of the 51 states a status of emergency. In America people are buying weapons because they think that soon an apocalypse will spread and they want to be ready to attack and protect themselves. Thinking about this weird event, I realise that the world is not able to face such a challenge. For example, many states had the example of Italy and China, decided not to act. Instead, they want to wait until the virus reaches their country. The problem of the world, is that no one has faith and trust the others. People have to start collaborating, as if they only act when the situation has approached your country, it is too late to find a solution. The world has to be more open minded especially on occasions in which there is no control. Countries should act like a team and not one against the other, especially during a huge crisis that is spreading in all the world, because we all live on the same Earth and if *she* dies we all die with *her*.

So why the virus has reached the world? Many researchers think that one of the main problems is the climate change. In the Encyclical letter "Laudato si'", the Holy Father Francis has written: "Ecology studies the relationship between living organisms and the environment in which they develop. This necessarily entails reflection and debate about the conditions required for the life and survival of society, and the honesty needed to question certain models of development, production and consumption. It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected. Time and space are not independent of one another, and not even atoms or subatomic particles can be considered in isolation." Climate change has always been a problem because humans do not have respect for the nature that surrounds the world. The problem is that these continuous climate changes are generating or revealing many viruses. Each year they move around, causing harm to the world. On the other hand, this virus, that has blocked almost the whole planet, is letting Earth go back to *her* nature. Carbon dioxide emissions are decreasing and the air is getting clean from the pollution that humans produce every day.

For example in China, one of the most polluted country in the world, many industries have closed, this is giving Earth time to breathe and reach a stability. In Venice, the water in the canals has never been so clean and purified in years. The world is starting to breathe again.

Is this the event that will change the way humans should think? Are humans ready to change their life and stop? History has shown that humans never learn from their past because they are too selfish. People always think first of the themselves and the of benefit for their future, then on the consequences it will have on the others. I believe that we should all move a step at a time and start to think about our future.

If we continue to damage Earth, the problem will be losing the control of the situation and the crisis we are living today will come back stronger, killing and destroying what we have built for us and our future children. It is time to change the way we think, it is time to take care of what we have, it is time to focus on a better future, it is time that we stop and think “is this doing any better to our country's future?”.

I think everything happens for a reason: focusing on what is right and not only on the economy of the state, is important. Today we have the opportunity to survive, but this does not mean that we are safe. Earth is sending the world a message and so we should start to take care of the things that we ignored and that are causing the current crisis.

When the whole world is silent even a single voice can be powerful and change it. Therefore, the situation that we are facing today can have a huge impact if it comes back stronger. Food, water, air: our body needs them for his living, and humans should protect rather than destroying them.

History has taught me that whatever we do, has an impact on everyone's life. The “Age of Anxiety”, the 21<sup>th</sup> century have thought me that it is not nature's fault, when an earthquake comes, or the climate gradually modifies itself every day, or new disease and viruses appear and kill people. We should all ask each other, if we are taking care of our Common Home. I believe is all human's fault, we are responsible for the consequences, the damages and the harm that exist today and existed also in our ancestors' life. We should all face the reality without criticizing nature, but putting the blame on us and studying to find a way out.

Like Malala says “ One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world”.