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World crisis and its solution

Currently, the World is facing difficult times. Nowadays there are several problems that affects daily life: sometimes we are too blind to see them but a more focused view over our planet reveals us the real situation. Only 100 years ago, in this time, the World was facing the very first Global Wars: the reasons of the conflicts were different and significant, but it all ended up in a disaster that hit every person of every culture. This period was called “Age of Anxiety”

Only 100 years later, it seems that we learned the lesson, but actually we are fighting different kinds of wars; the following list is all about the most important wars of current times: economic war, war against nature, politic war, religious war. And many others.

I think that the point is not about the kind of war, but about humans being: maybe conflicts are into us; we can try to control ourselves, but our nature will always be more powerful than our personality. But still, it’s our duty to try our best.

There was an important critic called “Hippolyte Taine” who said that people’s behaviour is affected by three main factors: “race”, “milieu” and “moment”. The “Moment” factor stated that every one of us, and everyone before us as well as everyone after us, is conditioned by the exact historic moment he is living in. Anyway, the most significant thing now is to think about practicable solutions, in order to reach, as soon as possible, a more stable tranquillity.

My personal aim is to help as many people as possible by my own, so it means spread a good word about nature every time I can, concentrate on garbage sorting and follow a proper natural education. To my mind, the way we are dealing with our planet is terrible: it is important to start a proper strategy in order to prevent additional damages.

We should be grateful for all the species that we have the luck to live with daily and never forget that, potentially, we can destroy every animal species quite quickly. Unfortunately, economic resources often coincide with natural resources, so it would be a significant help try to use, as less as possible, single-use things. We should invest on durable instruments. Moreover, we have to preserve every society from discrimination.

One more point is about the Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” written by Pope Francis: we are going to analyse paragraphs 137 and 142. The letter is about education: The Pope invites us to keep an eye over our planet. Paragraph 137 is about cooperation and a plan of integral ecology, paragraph 142 is about the respect of environmental rules.

During the “Age of Anxiety” there were less problems but, at the same time, they were much harder to solve: obviously, the main one was World War I and the period right after that. The First World War had an impact on the whole population of our planet: the previous wars were different under lots of points of view: guns were different, strategies were different, battle fields were different, and so for the civil population (who technically should be out of the war). This means that it was tough for every nation. The common feeling was anxiety: both for the army and the families. The literature, as well as art and music, responded to the situation with tragic poems, a difficult background and of course depressed characters. The first author who comes to my mind is Owen who really loved and admired all the young soldiers; very common in Owen’s poems was the elegy (serious reflection with encomiastic tones): his poems were “painful”, he wanted to spread a bad vision of the horrific war soldiers were fighting. Another author who I really liked is Sassoon: he used to add to his poems realistic details, his approach to the theme of war was, maybe, less personal; his opinion was that soldiers are sacrificed for political reason.

Of course, the last of the three poets is Brooke: he used to see death as a reward, war is in some way clean and cleansing and the loss is justified. The theme of war was daily in the everyday life during that period, there were many opinions about the same topic.

During the first part of 20th century, the Church and the Pope were not paying attention to environmental problems as the priority was the War and its consequences. The Church gave a huge help to the global population which could hope on a final reward. It was all about the holistic vision: it is common knowledge that we have a limited time on Earth but even the most awful of the mistakes are committed to reach a final purpose. This is an intelligent way to explain diseases and pain; we should have the power to believe that our life is not useless. I already had the opportunity to read closely the Encyclical Letter “Laudato Sii”: during my academic year in England we analysed lots of extracts from this letter. It was a part of a subject called “Theory of Knowledge”, the aim was to understand the behaviour of humans being.

In paragraph 137 the Pope used these words: “I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions”; the respect of people is the fundamental piece of every act of the Church. It is at the basis of human relationships. Cooperation is the fundamental, but it is important to keep working straightforward to reach the purpose. Lots of nations started in the past few years planning new policies. Unfortunately, many less developed countries like the African countries will not do anything to help us.

In paragraph 142 it is written that “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment”. The prerequisite of this statement is that everything is, in some way, linked. So, if someone does not do the right action, the consequences affect even people who have not a direct relationship with him. Actions are not isolated. This paragraph gives also an example “A number of countries have a relatively low level of institutional effectiveness, which results in greater problems for their people while benefiting those who profit from this situation.” It is an effective, even if a little general, example of how the current environmental situation is not dangerous for everyone. This makes the problem even more difficult to solve.

The environmental problem is different from many other problems: it is common to every citizen of the World and it requires lots of effort. It is asked to every nation to prevent bad habits of its citizens in order to maintain the World clean. World resources, as I already said, are limited: a lack of these resources could lead to a World crisis and the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis was written to avoid this possibility. This problem is above internal crisis and economic issues. Ignoring this problem would mean a catastrophe. Lots of people are expecting, I am one of them, that some countries will not respond to this situation efficiently, and some others will not respond at all. This will put all of us in trouble: as the World is suffering and we all share the same world, we should be quick and react positively to the problem. As I already said, the less developed countries will not do anything to make the World a better place, they have other problems which are more important, for example wars or instability; but it is expected a bigger help from nations such as United States or England which are richer and able to do something relevant.

Unfortunately, we have several problems to solve at the moment; the most actual and popular nowadays is the pandemic of Coronavirus. It is a global issue that obliges the most important nations to make drastic decisions. Italy, as well as many other nations, decided for lockdown. The impact on the population was incalculable. It is not the first pandemic that strikes the World. During the “Age of Anxiety” occurred another disease called “Spanish Influence” which hit between 20% and 50% of the global population. In the first 6 months almost 25 million people died because of the Spanish Influence. The situation during those years was terrible: sanitary conditions were not controlled as good as they are now, doctors had not the right instruments to eradicate quickly the disease and the population had other priorities. So, it is not the first time that the modern societies have to fight against a pandemic. On the other hand, it is the first time that our planet is having problems with its environment. The global population grew a lot during the past century, the same cannot be said about natural resources. As our needs grow, resources get smaller and rarer.

The historical period, in a way, controls us. At the moment the two most important problems are the environmental one and Coronavirus. It will take several years to figure out how to solve the first one: the policies taken are sometimes drastic and sometimes not. The European Union, as well as the United Nations, decided to make as many countries as possible face the problem through rules and deadlines. It is asked to pay attention to the garbage, educate the population, make newspapers talk about it so to keep the topic as common as possible; even some industries were paid to invest on the development of products like electric cars or green fuel (rather than dig and destroy natural lands). More recently, the focus was moved to the virus: Italy was helped by subsidies provided from European countries in order to build new hospitals up and make a research on the virus. Obviously, not all the countries had the same mentality: England, at first, seemed not to care about the virus; the initial idea was to let the virus pass without taking drastic economic measures. This made the population weaker and, of course, the economic measures worse than before. Italy is the most infected European country, and, to be honest, Italian politicians made the right decisions even if a little late.

The hope is given by religion and science. They are opposite from many points of view, but both of them can change the next months. Religion is not supposed to make people sad or hopeless, but the holistic vision comes support us: In the final book of the Bible it is written that the apocalypse will show up in 5 steps; the first two steps are a pandemic and the invasion of grasshoppers. Now, grasshoppers are occupying a big part of Africa, but this is an event that occur once every 5/6 years. On the other hand, the pandemic was not expected: it is not the first pandemic ever, but it is still one of the steps. If we rely on our faith, we have to trust that all of this will end as it started. If we, on the contrary, rely on science, we have to believe in doctors and researches. Two are the most reliable medicines found so far: one attacks directly the virus, the other makes our immunity system stronger. The one which attacks the virus is really similar to the one against malaria: it has given us a good rate of recovery.

To conclude, I think that to every problem there is a solution. Coronavirus, wars and the environmental problem are huge problems, so we need to put huge effort. Times have changed a lot: during the "Age of Anxiety" the most relevant problem was the war, there was no place for nature and instability. Through the effort of everyone the war ended exactly as it was supposed to end. That is what I am talking about: Coronavirus and pollution can be defeated but only with cooperation; this is also the message of the Encyclical Letter "Laudato si'" of Pope Francis. I see helps coming from all over the World and this is amazing: human beings can suffer and fight against each other, but in a moment of need they are always willing to rise.