

I think that we do not have to wonder about what could be the proper intervention of a Peace movement about the current dramatic state of the refugees, who are overwhelming Greece on their way to Europe. It's an intervention about what should have been unquestionable or just reasonable. Sadly though, this is missing in the public dialogue about what could be the way out of the Syrian crisis. In Brussels, Washington, Ankara, Moscow, Riyadh, Damascus, Teheran the word PEACE is banished. The only thing that is troubling the players of this bloody geopolitical game is how to domineer over the enemies. We are used to seeing History as a result of War and Violence, as the physical order of things. In Syria, the civil war started supposedly in order for Assad to leave and this led to a series of events regarding the fate of the Russian Navy Base in Latakia, the prospect of establishing a Kurdish state, the ambition of Teheran for a Shiite arc till the Mediterranean Sea which subsequently, causes the reaction of the Saudi Arabia's Sunnis, the nightmares of Turkey in fear of its dismemberment etc. And all of the above in a state of unprecedented cruelty of ISIS, in a region burdened with the ghosts of Colonialism, in the time of a historical revival of the Cold War and a global financial crisis. It seems as all of the players have fallen into the Black Hole of the Middle East and the Northern Africa collapse, where some countries no longer exist and others are in a highly unstable situation. This is where Insanity takes over: Under conditions of growing instability and mistrust, military solutions are selected which, by definition, increase instability and expose everyone to an uncontrollable engagement with incalculable consequences. The standpoint of the Peace movement is that security comes from Peace and not by the pursuit of Power. Over two centuries of the Enlightenment and faith in Reason have passed but still they failed to consolidate this simple truth or to give birth to International Institutions with strong authority and international in-depth cooperation, like modern problems require. The marginal figure of the United Nations' Secretary- General in this crisis is here to remind us of the ironic expression of Hitler for the League of Nations as a "little shop". All of these, in the time of a deep environmental crisis that occurred as a result of the "produce and consume" model that we adopted, require enormous organizational efforts and international coordination to address. What needs to be done is to strengthen the UN authority and deepen the International Law, establishing a Court of Arbitration which will initiate legal action against all International disputes and declare War as illegal. However, we can all prefer to continue the pursuit of Power knowing that, as History teaches us, there cannot be an Empire without collapsing, a military victory not in vain and defeated that were not former winners. We may prefer mutual extermination, thousands of victims, destruction which will now be greater than ever...

It seems, however, that the leading elites have found themselves in a state of, what we can call, "intoxication" of Power and the solution to every problem is to increase the power over others. When this is done by everyone, we end up in a situation where all are against all and short term alliances are made, which fall apart as easily as they were initially made. The intoxication of power does not refer only to the military or geopolitical power. It refers to economic power as expressed in the principle of "greed is a good thing". The promiscuity of the international capital pounces on the righteous and the unrighteous, creating human waste and increasing economic inequality. This situation leads the international system to a vicious circle state, where rationalism subsides in favor of Fear and Violence that destroy

cooperation exactly when we mostly need it. Against this insanity, it seems that social and political entities with little or no power have the primary responsibility. Civil society must react propounding a moral philosophy in front of the cynicism of the elites. A moral philosophy which will start defending the rights of the refugees, will declare war as prehistoric and will advocate peace as the only means necessary to turn the planet into Paradise. Besides, the concept of Peace includes all of Moral Philosophy's pillars like Freedom, Justice, Solidarity, Equality..

In the meantime, refugees are drowning in the Aegean Sea and their drama can break all illusions about how effective is the so-called European "Union". The refugee crisis tore apart the Schengen Agreement and the 1951 Refugee Convention about the rights of the refugees reestablishing the short-sighted national egoism and burying any efforts to find a European solution which will ensure safety and survival for the refugees. Walls have been built to keep the desperate away neglecting the fact that a wall not only keeps some people on the outside but also keeps others "inside", within a pseudo safety shell of selfishness and inhumanity. The greatest illusion is that we can live along with the absurd death on our backyard. That we can live along with the illusion that the absurd death of the Other does not concern us. Emmanuel Levinas, the philosopher, claimed that we can exist only through the Other and the Other is always our own responsibility. Perhaps the notion of responsibility is heavy for the lazy, degenerate consumer. Perhaps, the walls are built so that we don't see those people on the outside because they remind us of our responsibility for everything that is happening outside of our comfort zone. Perhaps, the walls are built so that we can avoid confronting the reality of this planet, a reality which will create questions and cause grief. But, as Kubler- Ross points out, it is necessary to look Evil in the eyes, to feel the emotion that it causes and then to evolve. We, instead of this, treat the refugees as something evil, turn our eyes away, avoid our responsibilities and create a sense of alienation from our own inner self who wants to run and hug them.

According to Giorgio Agamben, the position of the refugee coincides with that of *homo sacer*, a figure in Ancient Rome, whom anyone could even kill without committing murder (in the legal sense) as he had no legal status. It seems as we have not progressed much since then. Today's *homo sacer* has no passport, we don't know where he comes from, he wears dirty clothes, he holds a plastic bag and he looks with his big, black, watery eyes at the stern policeman on the other side of the fence. The great difference between now and then is that these people are now many and will be even more as long as the international system of greed and power will find a way to do business in War. Our planet has already shown its limits and we now have economic refugees, (why is it that they don't deserve to plea for asylum?) and soon there 'll be environmental refugees and political refugees due to the spread of Totalitarianism which will be brought when Fear and Violence prevails on a political level.

Nowadays, similar to the years of Ancient Rome, there is no one guilty for the drowned in the Aegean Sea, for the unaccompanied refugee children, for the pregnant women who walk on the muddy fields. There is no one guilty for this massive despair. There is just an agreement about the refugees which was once signed but there is no legal authority to

ensure that it is now applied. Hanna Arendt states the paradox that this figure of "bare life" which should be entitled to rights more than any other, this same figure is deprived of everything. Especially those who have nothing, not even a passport, those who have lost every aspect of their life except for the fact that they are still human, especially those should be entitled to human rights.

The refugees of war and poverty don't actually attempt to invade the "West" but to abandon those places of the planet where civilization and democracy have been suspended. So, they exist as "bare lives" since their country has been turned into a field of looting and geopolitical conflict. They continue their journey and end up the same "bare lives" on the camps that have been created for them..

No vivid imagination is necessary to envision a planet with 4 trillion dollars, which are currently spent for War annually, being spent on projects that will promote human growth. But first, the International Cooperation is necessary to declare war as illegal once and for all, and consciences need to be awakened. Hopefully, the sound of Bikers for Peace's motorcycle engines will contribute to that.....