

Western Fundamentalism

It could be said with an element of exaggeration that fundamentalism is one of the most damaging diseases of the Western world.

It is so well rooted that it becomes unconscious and at the same time it is best represented by the most cheerful and unrefined politician in Europe, Silvio Berlusconi who said that the western civilization is the best one and as such it has to be imposed to the rest of the world.

Here I want to talk about two types of fundamentalism: a religious and a political one.

During the presentations of my new book *Overpowering species*, I invite readers to reflect on the important transformation of a thousand year old institution as the Roman Catholic Church who has been doing through centuries a slow but evident transformation on the way of abandonment of the temporary power on earth. I talk about Christianity in it's Roman Catholic version and its dominant ideology that has been governing the western society for centuries. In a timeframe that begins with Pope Alexander VI (1493-1503) and ends with the current Pope Francis (2013 - present) it is possible to evaluate the historical, biblical and theological transformations that has occurred. I refer to this particular timeframe in order to show that if there is no transformation, there will be no hope for Humanity.

In the papal bull *Inter Caetera* by Pope Alexander VI it is said that:

"[...] by the authority of Almighty God conferred upon us in blessed Peter and of the vicarship of Jesus Christ, which we hold on earth, do by tenor of these presents, should any of said islands have been found by your envoys and captains, give, grant, and assign to you and your heirs and successors, kings of Castile and Leon, forever, together with all their dominions, cities, camps, places, and villages, and all rights, jurisdictions, and appurtenances, all islands and mainlands found and to be found, discovered and to be discovered [...]"

This document legitimated the Spanish colonisation that led to the destruction of ethnic groups, cultures and ancestral religions.

The papal bull *Romanus Pontifex* written by Pope Nicholas V (1447-1455) to king Alfonso V of Portugal is even more arrogant:

"we had [...] granted among other things free and ample faculty to the aforesaid King Alfonso - to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed, and the kingdoms, dukedoms, principalities, dominions, possessions, and all movable and immovable goods whatsoever held and possessed by them and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery [...]"

This was another act that was applied in order to extend the Christian faith and the empire even at the cost of killing six millions indigenous and devastate the forests of Brazil.

This religious version of fundamentalism had it's secular representation in the colonisers, who put into practise the terror in their relation with native people.

In his *Dominus Jesus* (2001) Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger reaffirms the medieval idea according to which outside the Church there is no redemption. Thus people outside the Church live in a danger in relation to the eternal salvation. This expression of fundamentalism has it's political version in the Manifest Destiny. It's term was

made-up by the journalist John O'Sullivan to justify the American expansionism by appropriation of parts of Mexico.

In his speech in 1900 the United States Senator from Indiana Albert Beveridge said: " God [...] has marked us as His chosen people, henceforth to lead in the regeneration of the world". Other presidents of the United States (see my book), such as President George W. Bush have reaffirmed this believe to justify wars of conquest, especially in the Middle East.

To summarise: the western world sees itself as the best in the world and as such it has the best religion, the best government, the best technology, the best worldview. This is fundamentalism, it means to think of one's truth as the best and to impose it on others. A kind of arrogance that lives in the minds and in the subconscious of western people. Thank God we have an antidote that is self-criticism about the consequences that fundamentalism had led to Humanity.

So let's echo inside us the voice of the great Spanish poet Antonio Machado:

“Your truth? No, Truth;
come seek it with me.

As for yours, you can keep it”.

If we search for the truth together through communication and friendliness, then my truth will slowly abandon me making way for the Truth shared with the others. Thus may be it is possible to set limits to western fundamentalism.

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