



APPEAL FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES OF THE WORLD

The images of the fifth day of war in Ukraine flash before our eyes, which have become accustomed to this spectacle in the heart of Europe: thousands of dead, hundreds of thousands displaced or exiled, cities and villages in ruins, bridges and buildings destroyed by cannon fire, monuments of culture or faith desecrated, violence and humiliation of all kinds, countless lives of simple people mutilated or torn apart forever. Human suffering cannot be summed up. Can one go beyond it? This question is addressed at the same time to Russia, which has invaded Ukraine, but also to those who have done so little to stop this war in the heart of Europe.

What can we say, in the face of such a tragedy, about a UN unsuited to the changes in our world with bureaucratic rules and vetoes that prevent real peace action; about a NATO that has remained a prisoner of archaic defence models; about a European Union that cares so little about the rest of Europe except for economic needs and following the law of markets and merchants; about a Russia that is trying to take over from the former Soviet Union using force and violence, about all these games barely disguised by the great powers and their interests?

Agreements constantly betrayed, pacts mocked and negotiators made ridiculous, international resolutions ignored, humanitarian convoys themselves becoming targets of deadly rage.

Russia has provoked a war in the heart of Europe, against a 'brother-country': Ukraine.

A European war that is being waged according to archaic and despotic criteria contrary to any logic. A morally illegitimate war with no legal basis. A war fought above all by causing humiliation, suffering, genocide, violations, massacres planned and announced in order to meet the needs of the policy of Russia and especially of its president, which has two aims:

- the first punitive of the Ukrainian people, guilty of not obeying the injunctions of the president of Russia in the name of a great power that has always been frustrated at no longer being able to dominate the world;
- the second precautionary in order to put Ukraine in a position where it cannot join NATO and other organisations, which is contrary to the international law of self-determination and self-government of Sovereign Peoples.

The stages of this new ordeal are called Kiev, Odessa, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Mariupol and many others. Ukraine, multinational and multicultural, is mortally wounded and, with it, our faith in a better world where national and cultural pluralism would be possible and assured. Brutality and barbarism are encouraged by inertia and indifference. Funeral chimes sound in this land rich in history and culture without awakening the consciences of those who should decide for us and on our behalf.

Immediately after the fall of Berlin, more than thirty years ago, the Fondazione Mediterraneo launched an Appeal for the constitution of the UNITED STATES OF THE WORLD and the UNITED STATES OF EUROPE: to

share knowledge, to promote social justice, to fight climate change with the destruction of creation and the spread of pandemics. But above all for a renewed dialogue between the peoples of the world to ensure prosperity, equality and coexistence.

Instead, Europe and the world have resigned in Ukraine. Our values and principles are mocked, our dignity is at its lowest point. Faced with such humiliation, we European and Mediterranean intellectuals have no choice but to cry out our anger, albeit in the desert, as has often happened in the past.

With the bloody clothes burning in the cities of Ukraine, assailed from all sides, the UN charter is now also burning, the principles of the French Revolution are burning and all the hopes for a more humane world that had arisen from the tragedy of the Second World War are going up in smoke. Images of humiliation and pain and moral defeat for the West: this is the result of Russia's insane intervention, planned for some time as proof of the assertion of a foolish and bastard power if you think that we are still in the grip of a pandemic and therefore all in a state of weakness and affliction.

Over Ukraine, after the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, and over the vestiges of centuries of civilisation that survived the invasions and annihilating force of history, bombers and heavy vehicles have poured and are pouring thousands and thousands of bombs, those that penetrate every defence, those that disperse into anti-personnel fragments, those electromagnetic ones that shock living beings with death, and thousands and thousands of missiles that the most refined technique has designed for destruction and massacre.

After the Second World War and the former Yugoslavia at the end of the last century, a new war is looming in Europe that the 'superpower Russia' decides to wage without reason, with the same certainty of itself and its destiny as the superpowers of the past: the Roman Empire at the time which, having lost its dynamic strength and cultural splendour, proudly proclaimed that it was elected to dominate with its enlightened law the peoples oppressed by unjust laws; Byzantium, which opposed the values of its Christian and supreme civilisation to the barbarians when, having finished its cultural and religious expansion, it had closed itself up in the armour of the imperial and ecclesiastical organisation and maintained its privileges through war or by buying peace; the Mongols, when their chivalry had exhausted its momentum and they closed themselves up in the pride of power, proclaiming even to the Pope their divine mission.

Civil Society said no to these wars. It said no because after the tragedy of the Second World War and the expansive force of civilisation in colonialism, both the West and the Arab-Muslim world - as well as other peoples of other faiths and civilisations - are able to promote those universal values on which to base the peaceful coexistence of different identities and cultures: human rights, peace between nations, dialogue instead of war.

The right solution is not war but the spread of democracy not as an imposition but as a process of self-determination of peoples against all tyranny. The world is full of tyrannical governments. But it is especially so where dispossession over the centuries has led to the degradation of life, society and politics. We are all responsible for these tyrants, not just those states that have supported them for a time according to the convenience of the moment and now, while fighting one another, ally themselves with others.

Let all states be respected, let the humble have the same dignity as the powerful, let no one claim divine representation and in the name of heaven bring carnage to the earth, as the President of Russia is woefully doing, leaving the whole world annihilated.

Let all men be equal, let the riches of the earth benefit those who ancestrally inhabit it, let our well-being not be based on the misery of those near and far. These are the conditions to put an end to the terrorism of individuals who, in desperation, sacrifice themselves for the dignity of their homeland and take occasional victims with them, as well as the terrorism of an army that destroys homes, the environment and resources and chases those who cannot defend themselves from their land.

Dialogue, respect for human rights, the spirit of fairness and the power of compassion are the tools to ensure that the second millennium, which began more than twenty years ago with suffering and misery, is redeemed into an era of solidarity and justice. These conditions depend on us, the men and women of the Mediterranean, of Europe and of the world, who have allowed an aggressive modernity to disrupt our lives and now want to transform it into a modernity of reconstruction and peace.

Let us once again throw a bottle into our sea with a common appeal to what remains of conscience on our shores. We address these words to our friends in Europe, the Mediterranean and the world to ask them to join us and support us.

For this:

1. **We condemn** any military attack on Ukraine and denounce the fact that war not only does not solve problems but increases them in Ukraine, Europe, Russia itself and the rest of the world.
2. **We condemn** those who ignore the will of the Ukrainian people, even trying to eliminate a government democratically elected by the people to create disaffection between the real and legal country.
3. **We call** on the government of the United States of America and the governments of the European Union to demand vigorously and by all democratic means respect for international law, especially the Geneva Convention and the UN Charter.
4. **We call** on the government of Russia, a country with ancient traditions of culture and civilisation, to respect human rights and to accept the demands for democracy expressed by its people towards all and, in particular, towards a "brother" country: Ukraine.

The governments of the West, just as they were silent when the holocaust of the Jews was being prepared and perpetrated, are now prevaricating with sanctions, even if they are severe, while waiting for the victor, once the fighting is over, to give them the appearance of having brokered peace.

It is up to civil society to rise up and say enough!

Stop the massacre of innocents!

Naples, Tunis, Marrakech, Amman, Rabat, Malta - 27 February 2022

First signatories:

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THE FOUNDATION'S APPEALS FOR PEACE SINCE 1990:

<https://www.fondazionemediterraneo.org/index.php/iniziativa/appelli2>

THE VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_cyE1QFUf0