

A EUROPE OF FREE NATIONS

Debates about the European Union have always been inextricably linked to debates over European values. But do all nations of the continent share these values? Do these values originate in the traditions of these nations, and are they generally accepted? Are these values desirable for the European elite?

The determination of this European canon in question has various implications, in particular in political and cultural terms.

If we were to define Europe geographically, we would need to include Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. Would these countries also accept a common canon? There is significant debate over this even among the nations of the EU; but if we add countries which have issues with democracy, it becomes impossible to define the concept of one shared, geographically delineated value.

Does a historical canon exist? Surely this would be the easiest thing to determine. The historical canon includes the traditions of Christian culture, individual liberty and the freedom of the nation, as well as a commitment to democracy and respect for human rights. Certainly, just as Christian culture traces its roots to Judaism, Greece and Rome, this culture and its traditions have also become highly diverse. It would be difficult to deny certain features of this culture, such as respect for private property or, for instance, monogamy. Not only are these Christian values, but together with other tenets which we hold to be self-evident, they form a unique collection of laws which have become parts of the European canon. This canon affects several states outside Europe as well, such as the United States, Canada or Australia.

Most recently, European values have been determined through decisions taken by the European elite. But who are this elite exactly? They possess no training, life experience or special recognition anointing them for this office. The European elite is created as a result of institutional decisions, based on which they are granted access to the power and money resulting from the games played by the strongest actors of the EU. Their strength has nothing to do with their actual support in society, and their decisions often run counter to the wills of the nations. The fact itself that unilateral decisions taken by the bureaucrats of various institutions may hinder the democratic solutions of entire nations proves that the European canon is being determined as though by a sect or by oligarchs. The decisions of the European elite do not defend specific interests, for they often proudly denounce such basic values as liberty,

the right to life or democracy. European values actually tend to serve those institutions of the EU which destroy all other values if they hinder them in their expansion or dominance. In this sect-like or corporate ideology, this is not an entirely neutral institution, for on its current level of development it looks after of its principal sponsors – the largest countries of the EU – at the expense of other nations. Sooner or later, this pathology will turn against the sponsors themselves; but for now, the corporation lives symbiotically with them. They provide the necessary driving force to erect this new construct.

Thankfully, we will not be seeing the results of this final stage of development in a process of pan-European corporation anytime soon; I hope, in fact, that we never get there. Europe is witnessing a wave of revolution by people who wish to return to fundamental European values, especially in terms of respect for democratic rules in decision making, and in terms of the acknowledgment of the freedom of nations. These efforts, which are not always reflected in specific projects, have already resulted in political changes in certain countries, and will soon become the subject of serious debates within the EU.

Social movements must play a key role in these efforts. Their strength, and their clearly stated will, helps launch the debates and helps establish political camps expressing the will of society.

The spirit of freedom – the real spirit of Europe – is sweeping across our continent, and encouraging people to implement reforms which will lead the EU out of its current crisis. The illusion that the European elite is under, that through political games and propaganda it is possible to deprive hundreds of millions of people of their right to make decisions about their own lives and the fates of their states and nations, will be dispelled. A new “Spring of Nations” is upon us, as we already predicted on 15 March 2012, at the joint Polish-Hungarian celebration in Budapest. Then, it was but a dream. Today, we feel the winds of this spring in the air around us.

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