
MANIFESTO OF MEDITERRANEAN CIVILIZATION

A "Manifesto" is written when a new vision of humankind and its relationship with the world comes to light. It is formulated when the existing ideas in the society look for a new expression. In this case, "the vision in incubation" is admittedly the result of a tradition that was previously developed for centuries and asks to be re-known and re-read with new eyes.

INTRODUCTION

There are just a few places on Earth where living experiences, controversial stories and speculations are concentrated and mixed turbulently.

There are just a few places on Earth where people have been looking and still constantly look for overtaking themselves, in every possible way.

And there are just a few places on Earth where interpretative models, conceptual scenarios and thoughts of a possible time are constantly drawn.

There are just a few places on Earth where the history seems to go so fast yet it seems so static.

The Mediterranean is one of those places.

Then the Mediterranean is no longer just a place, a sea, or an oblong strip of land around a sea.

The Mediterranean is a continuous and disorderly tension, sometimes even desperate, to a hypothetical harmony of existence, its own harmony, a "Mediterranean harmony."

The harmonious lines that have been sought by the ancient civilizations - the Egyptians, the Assyrian-Babylonians, the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Romans - through their social, political and economic structures, through their impressive architectural buildings, their technical innovations, their artistic experimentations and then their mythological, religious and philosophical systems.

Wandering Jews, the Roman empires of the West and the East, the Islamic Caliphate and all its offshoots, the Papacy, the Maritime Republics, the European empires, the Ottomans, the various nation-states, which in a more or less natural way, for centuries, have found their own space on the shores of the great Sea, continued to look for this harmony, sometimes frantically, sometimes leisurely. They have always sought harmony through all forms of thought, religion, study and analysis of reality.

And this motivation remains, sometimes also latent, in the nowadays Mediterranean. In fact, the existing contemporary Mediterranean has in it, whether it knows it or not, whether it likes it or not, the tangible signs of all these crossing millennia.

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Research for a Mediterranean harmony can be actualized in the movement towards the creation of a realized and responsible Civilization, a Mediterranean Civilization.

A civilization that has as its central pillars, the full realization of the human being and his assumption of personal and social responsibility.

And contributing to create a responsible and realized civilization is the stated intent of those who agree with this Manifesto.

Signatories have the intent to ideally gather themselves around a charter to start a debate - certainly long, complex and open to different positions - that has the aim to draw lines of a model for a Mediterranean Civilization.

A Civilization which has not yet been, but has to be realized. A Civilization that is eminently a vision and a Civilization that meets the possible aspirations of the people residing in the Mediterranean, and it looks towards a peaceful and harmonious "Globality".

Although the idea of a Mediterranean Civilization, understood as something unitary, may seem ahistorical or outdated, there are values, ideas and practices already designed and tested by women and men who, over the millennia, have inhabited the Mediterranean, which are common heritages of undeniable human and civil values: this conceptual and practical richness, if recognized, rediscovered and updated, may represent the center of a process of contemporary human rethinking in its internal and dynamic relationships and in the structures in which it organizes its relations.

This Manifesto is born, therefore, from the need of a global "rethinking" of humankind and the world.

"Rethinking" does not mean setting aside and discarding previous beliefs or ideas, but, on the contrary, it is an exercise on revitalization of commonly accepted views.

On the other hand, talking of a Mediterranean Civilization does not mean to recover obsolete concepts from antiquity, nor a claim to restore alleged political and religious medieval visions or worse to imagine a generic, vague and unrealistic Mediterranean identity, which it has not given. These are all mistakes that have already been done and it is not our intent to commit them again.

The intention instead, is to promote a process of re-appropriation of a living heritage impossible to be overlooked. A heritage that could become the engine of a cultural transformation, which, in strict compliance with all the many facets of Mediterranean culture, is able to propose a convergence of values, a dynamic synthesis that can, in turn, lead to form a shared vision of civilization.

Before the big political unions or the system pacts, before the creation of common markets and monetary aggregates, first of all it is needed to create shared spaces in which to meet, build common houses to discuss and create a new vision of man and of the world on which to lay the foundations of a Mediterranean building.

This solid base is the "Mediterranean awareness", awareness of the need to make an effort to meet with the past, the present and the future of the Mediterranean and the world.

Pillars on which a building stands, housing human beings fully realized and fully responsible.

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And on these pillars, it will be possible to erect a large Common Mediterranean House, expression of a peaceful, prosperous, respectful, dialoguing and happy civilization. Within the center, the human being remains in all his complexity, wholeness and completeness.

The method comprises of a free and open discussion. A discussion to treasure the heritage and positive impulses coming from the Mediterranean region, and it also knows how to learn from failures and welcome, in itself, visions and categories from outside in a constructive osmosis.

This Manifesto is first and foremost an exercise of bout and respect among human beings, decisive and complex exercise to learn how to attend and live in common houses.

Art. 1

CIVILIZATION OF REALIZATION

The Mediterranean Civilization recognizes full realization of a human being as first founding and ordering principle.

Full realization means to adopt a broad definition of the human being, which not only limits to his material needs - even if fundamental - but recognizes the complexity of his needs, of his aspirations and internal structure. A definition that does not bind the human being only to economic relations, but also takes in consideration his natural tendency towards a psychological, emotional, relational well-being and aspirations to a full social integration, freedom of movement and expression, to the manifestation of creativity. It also respects his beliefs and his ultimate research of a spiritual and transcendent dimension.

The full realization, thus interpreted, involves three essential freedoms:

1. The ability to lead a dignified life, through appropriate means.
2. To be able to fully express all his physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual potentiality.
3. The ability to feel a deep individual happiness.

In the Mediterranean Civilization, the individual happiness becomes public and political criterion.

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Art. 2

CIVILIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Mediterranean Civilization recognizes as a second founding and ordering principle, the personal and social responsibility of every member of the community.

People are not only induced to take responsibility for their actions in front of the community, but they would be helped to recognize their involvement in their personal situation and in the whole story of the community.

Each individual is the central part of his growth and training process, therefore each one has in him all the potential, skills and qualities to improve his internal and external condition and to act positively on the community conditions.

It is responsibility of the community to support this process of accountability.

Each individual is, therefore, enticed and called to take full responsibility for himself, for the people around and in need of help and for the entire community.

Art. 3

CIVILIZATION OF DIVERSITY

Each expression of the human being has to be welcomed, respected and promoted.

Any form of diversity, which is not detrimental to the principles and to the members of the community, should be understood as an expression of the human being and, therefore, cannot be condemned, neither prohibited nor persecuted or repressed.

Art. 4

CIVILIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE

The Mediterranean Civilization promotes access of all members to a complete knowledge.

Knowledge does not only imply the acquisition of specific knowledge or skills, but, according to a long and established Mediterranean tradition, it promotes the internalization of common and shared values, values that “make as cement and glue” in the construction of the Common House, the house in which all members of the community can find respect, care, solidarity, stimuli and the support they need.

Each member has an equal right to education, an access to knowledge and to be guided in knowledge.

Each member has duty to engage in education, in accessing and practicing knowledge, in order to avoid any form of ignorance, which is always detrimental to the free development of respectful relations and peaceful coexistence.

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Art. 5

CIVILIZATION OF SHARING

The Mediterranean Civilization rejects the most extreme forms of selfishness and self-satisfaction of members, who instead are tempted to share.

It promotes constant and methodical exercise of sharing ideas, experiences, and possibilities. The Mediterranean Civilization is founded on mutual aid and sharing of difficulties.

Moreover, it promotes a deep process of design and construction of a system of shared rules.

Art. 6

CIVILIZATION OF PROSPERITY

The Mediterranean Civilization promotes prosperity of all its members, understood as an element of freedom. It rejects the idea of man as a mere consumer of goods but it promotes the prosperity of everybody as a constituent to access a wider happiness.

Art. 7

CIVILIZATION OF HUMANLY SUSTAINABLE

The Mediterranean Civilization promotes a harmonious relationship of its members with the natural environment that supports it and allows it to life.

Nature is perceived as something not separated from humankind, but an integral part of it.

Acting in accordance with Nature is acting in compliance with humanity.

Art. 8

CIVILIZATION OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION

The Mediterranean Civilization welcomes to all kind of peaceful solutions to the conflicts that can arise within it as natural elements of any process of transformation, and take restoration of the original harmony a positive development. We hereby declare our solemn commitment to the idea that no conflict can be solved by violence but only through peaceful dialogue, guidance and support of prudent and responsible parties.

Undertaking responsibilities, standing committed to fruitful dialogue and to peace as the ultimate aim are the best means to resolve any conflict.

Art. 9

CIVILIZATION WITHOUT PRECISE BORDERS

The Mediterranean Civilization is an open and inclusive vision, neither based on discriminatory criteria, nor on the geographical, political, economic and cultural preconceptions. All human beings who recognize themselves in the vision and values that guide tension towards a Realized and Responsible Civilization are welcomed into this community, which aims to be first of all a cultural and spiritual community.

Art. 10

CIVILIZATION OF THE COMMON HOUSES

The Mediterranean civilization is a civilization of Common Houses, whose members choose values of proximity instead of those of removal and turning upon themselves.

Living in "Common Houses" means choosing deliberately respect instead of contrast. It means choosing to share instead of preferring particular interest. It reflects cooperation not antagonism, personal and social responsibility instead of surrendering to plans that appear foreordained.