

Abstracts and Keywords

Lavorare insieme per un grande sogno: alle origini della funzione pubblica europea

Andrea Becherucci

This article investigates the role of the lack of historical memory of colonialism in shaping relations between the European Union (EU) and Sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, an internal and an international perspective have been brought together, as an analysis of the impact of the lingering colonial culture on minority discrimination within the EU should also consider the development of reciprocal relations on a foreign level.

Methodologically, African-origin immigration towards the EU and the protection of fundamental human rights within and beyond European borders served as two concrete examples to explore this interconnection. In both instances, the concerns affecting domestic dynamics were also the most disputed between African and European representatives during international negotiations throughout different frameworks and decades.

On the one hand, the continuous sources of conflict that overcome economic and strategic interests in the dialogue between the European Union and African countries have made it necessary to address the underlying causes of racism and persisting mutual stereotypes. Indeed, different views on migration management and human rights protection hinder an equal dialogue between Europe and Africa, unveiling divisions that cannot be solved through pragmatic solutions. Besides, on the internal level, the resurgence of racist incidents in European cities and the ideological turn that speeches take when dealing with African-origin minorities shows the need to reflect upon the long-term obstacles lying behind reciprocal misunderstandings.

Keywords: European Union, Remembrance, Colonization, Postcolonialism, Immigration

EU Colonial Amnesia as a Bridge: Connecting EU-African Relations and African Minorities Discrimination

Eleonora Cappa

This article investigates the role of the lack of historical memory of colonialism in shaping relations between the European Union (EU) and Sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, an internal and an international perspective have been brought together, as an analysis of the impact of the lingering colonial culture on minority discrimination within the EU should also consider the development of reciprocal relations on a foreign level.

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Impero e sovranazionalità. Otto von Habsburg e l'idea di Europa

Giuseppe Romeo

L'Europa nella sua storia millenaria, nelle sue alterne, e quasi mai indolori vicende, nel tentativo di risolvere una complessità dettata dall'autorevolezza delle diverse leadership che si sono succedute e riconfigurate man mano nel tempo, secondo capacità di conquista del potere o attraverso presunti diritti dinastici, rappresenta un buon laboratorio tra ciò che è un susseguirsi e un sovrapporsi di storie di imperi e ciò che è l'effetto della crescita di un impero spesso sotteso al concetto di imperialismo. Nel loro evolversi come modelli di governance e di pianificazione territoriale, gli imperi si sono presentati nella storia dell'umanità, ed europea, non solo quali formule concentrate di potere e di potenza ma anche quali veicoli di distribuzione di idee e di valori, creando contaminazioni decisive nei popoli che li compongono sino a provocarne sia l'ascesa che lo stesso declino, entrambi dovuti alle condizioni economiche di supporto o alla tenuta interna, in termini di consenso, dell'autorità imperiale e della sua riconosciuta o meno legittimità. Ottone d'Asburgo-Lorena (o Ottone von Habsburg-Lothringen), deputato al parlamento europeo nel 1979 per l'Unione cristiano-sociale tedesca (CSU), e riconfermato sino al 1999, non mise mai da parte il significato "europeo" dell'impero sovranazionale austro-ungarico.

Parole chiave: Aristide Briand, Ausgleich, Confederazione germanica, Conferenza di Berlino, continentalismo, Europa dei popoli, europeismo, Francesco Giuseppe, Grande Guerra, Guerra dei Trent'anni, Gustav Stresemann, Impero ottomano, liberalismo, liberismo, machtpolitik, Orbis Europeus Christianus, ordine continentale, Ottone von Habsburg, Pace di Augusta, Pace di Carlowitz, Pace di Vestfalia, Paneuropa, Parlamento europeo, Questione d'Oriente, Richard Nikolaus Graf Coudenhove-Kalergi, Totalitarismi, Vienna, Weimar

The Europe in its thousand-year history, in its alternating and almost never painless events, in the attempt to resolve a complexity dictated by the authority of the various leaderships that have succeeded and reconfigured gradually over time, according to the ability to conquer power or through presumed dynastic rights, represents a good laboratory between what is a succession and overlapping of histories of empires and what is the effect of the growth of an empire often underlying the concept of imperialism. In their evolution as models of governance and territorial planning, empires have presented themselves in human and European history not only as concentrated formulas of power and might but also as vehicles for the distribution of ideas and values, creating contaminations decisive in the peoples that compose them to the point of causing both their rise and their decline, both due to the economic conditions of support or to the internal stability, in terms of consensus, of the imperial authority and its recognized or not legitimacy. Otto of Habsburg-Lorraine (or Otto von Habsburg-Lothringen), member of the European Parliament in 1979 for the German Christian Social Union (CSU), and reconfirmed until 1999, never put aside the "European" meaning of the supranational Austro-Hungarian empire.

Keywords: Aristide Briand, Ausgleich, German Confederation, Berlin Conference, continentalism, Europe of the peoples, Europeanism, Franz Joseph, Great War, Thirty Years War, Gustav Stresemann, Ottoman Empire, liberalism, liberalism, machtpolitik, Orbis Europeus Christianus, continental order, Otto von Habsburg, Peace of Augsburg, Peace of Carlowitz, Peace of Westphalia, Paneuropa, European Parliament, Eastern Question, Richard Nikolaus Graf Coudenhove-Kalergi, Totalitarianisms, Vienna, Weimar

Epistemic Intermediaries and Europe's Defence Turn: Expert Knowledge and the Communication of the CSDP

Sara Pane, Davide Emanuele Iannace

Amid escalating geopolitical instability and institutional recalibration, the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has entered a critical phase of communicative and strategic transformation. This article investigates how expert knowledge about the CSDP is framed and disseminated through European public institutional communication, with particular attention to the role of epistemic intermediaries - understood as scholars, policy advisors, military personnel, and civil servants- who mediate between institutional narratives and public understanding. Based on a cross-national survey of 129 experts, the study examines their perceptions of communication effectiveness, knowledge accessibility, and the legitimacy of the CSDP. Findings point to a fragmented landscape shaped by institutional opacity, cognitive asymmetries, and

technocratic framing. While experts broadly support deeper defence integration, they express skepticism toward current EU communication strategies, especially regarding sufficiency, clarity, and citizen engagement. The article argues that in high-stakes policy domains like defence, communicative legitimacy is a core dimension of strategic autonomy. It concludes by emphasizing the centrality of epistemic intermediaries in shaping the diffusion, reception, and contestation of European security narratives, and calls for more transparent, dialogic, and epistemically plural communication infrastructures.

Keywords: CSDP, epistemic intermediaries, European Union, Public institutional communication, strategic autonomy

Ukraine – EU Cooperation for Post-War Recovery and Eurointegration

Oleksandr Sharov

The Ukraine's Case represents the most serious challenge for Europe in recent decades. This primarily concerns the countries of the European Union. Experiencing significant problems with their global competitiveness, they are nevertheless forced to incur significant expenses to support Ukraine against Russian aggression and certain losses as a result of anti-Russian economic sanctions. However, this is not only a gesture of goodwill, but also a forced measure, since it is precisely close cooperation between Ukraine and the EU and the inevitable entry of Ukraine into the Union that can contribute to solving the problem of European competitiveness and consolidating leading positions in the Global Economy. Based on this, the European Union should provide Ukraine with substantial financial assistance for its Post-War Economic Recovery. The program for such recovery should take into account the needs both – Ukraine and the EU itself, – new economic structures of which should be interconnected and compatible. This objective should be taken into account when developing pre-accession financial aid schemes, which are usually provided to candidate countries. In the case of Ukraine, such schemes should be tailor-made taking into account mentioned above.

Keywords: Ukraine, EU, Post-War Recovery, Accession, Eurointegration

The Fractured Legacy of Anti-Totalitarianism. Political Exploitations of a Discursive Frame in EU Memory Politics and Beyond

Andrea Apollonio, Raffaele Alberto Ventura

This article, through a critical engagement with relevant literature and institutional documents, explores the genesis, the evolution and the political weaponization of anti-totalitarianism in European politics. The first section situates the emergence of anti-totalitarianism within European intellectual debates from the 1930s to the 1980s, framed around the master signifier of "totalitarianism." The second section examines its role in EU memory politics, particularly its adoption as a memory frame in response to the Eastern enlargement of the European Union (2004–2007), legitimising the EU as a democratic and human rights-based political community. The third section analyzes the domestic reception of EU anti-totalitarianism, with a focus on the Italian context and its use by the post-fascist right to challenge the legacy of the Resistance and antifascism as a core element of Italy's civil religion. The article, highlighting the unintended consequences of EU memory frames, concludes that the widespread invocation to (anti)totalitarianism has diluted the concept into a "floating signifier," undermining its historical meaning and political potency.

Keywords: memory politics, European integration, antitotalitarianism, collective memory