



Global Citizenship: what's about ?

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**Rome International Seminar
III ed. September 2019**

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Global Citizenship: an utopia, a necessity... or what ?

Introduction



- The story I'm going to tell you is a four steps story.
- It begins by posing the issue of the difficult and complex relationship between unity and diversity as a characterising feature of the other complex and difficult relationship between global and local, and it concludes that we live in a “dangerous world”, but we can have some chance to survive it and even to change it for the better, hopefully.

Introduction



- It goes on, in its second step, to try to understand the meaning of “global”, and it concludes that what is global is essentially “glocal”.
- We then come closer, with the third step, to the very issue at stake, resulting from previous steps, and it concludes that such issue is fundamentally about the sustainability of planetary diversity.

Introduction



- The story has no end, in the sense that it is :“endless”.
- In its fourth and last step, while acknowledging the issue of sustainable planetary diversity and the resulting challenge on how to live together as equals in dignity and rights in a dangerous world (“CCC world”), it concludes for a pledge in favour of an idea of “global citizenship” as balancing/connecting point between global & local, unity & diversity, with a final warning to all of you participating to this seminar.

Global Citizenship

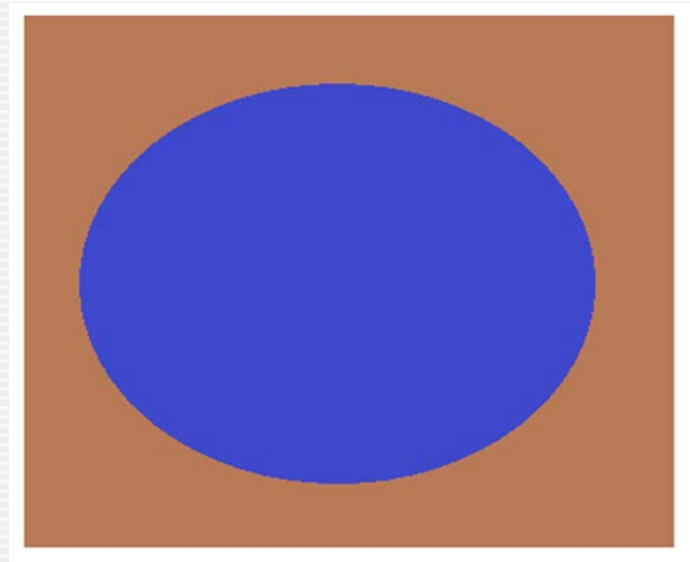


I
What world
would you like to live in?

One size fits all



like this



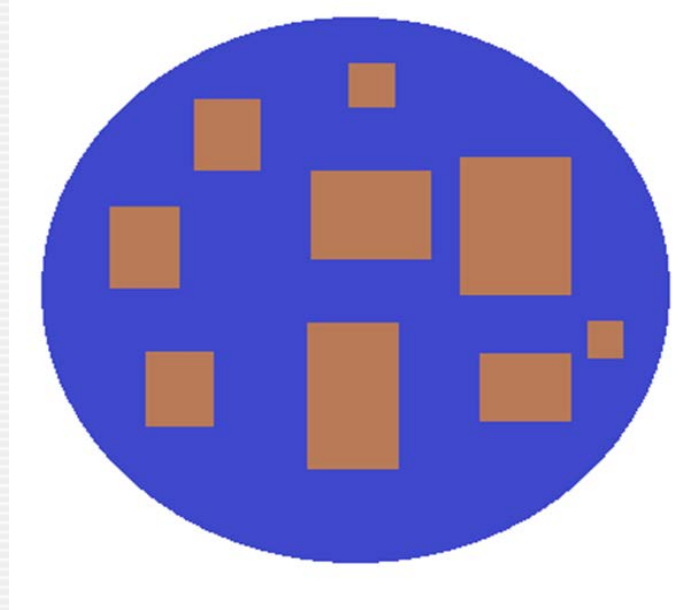
- a flat world, where one size fits all, under one government, something like a world in a cage...



A world of secluded nations & cultures



or like this



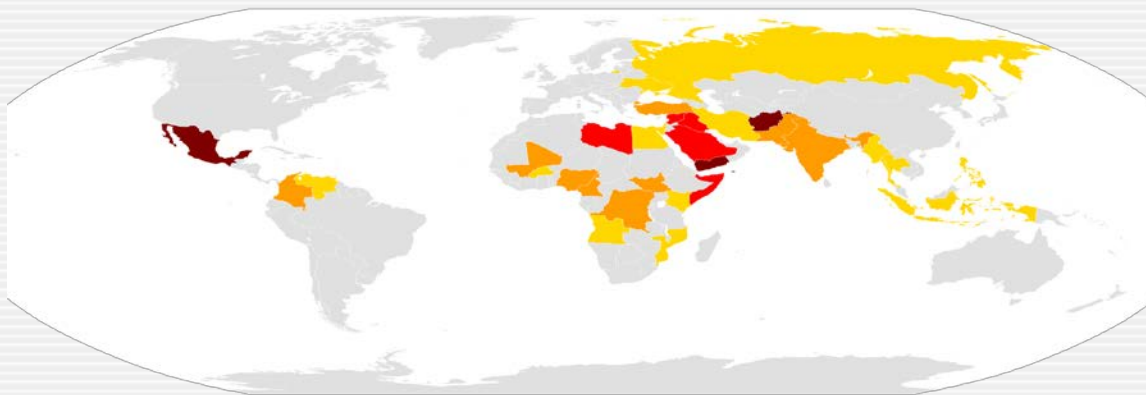
- a fragmented world, where people live within seemingly closed borders, each nation and culture “secluded” from each other...



The world as it is



List of ongoing armed conflicts



Ongoing armed conflicts in September 2019. ■ Major wars, 10,000 or more deaths in current or past year ■ Wars, 1,000–9,999 deaths in current or past year ■ Minor conflicts, 100–999 deaths in current or past year ■ Skirmishes and clashes, fewer than 100 deaths in current or past year

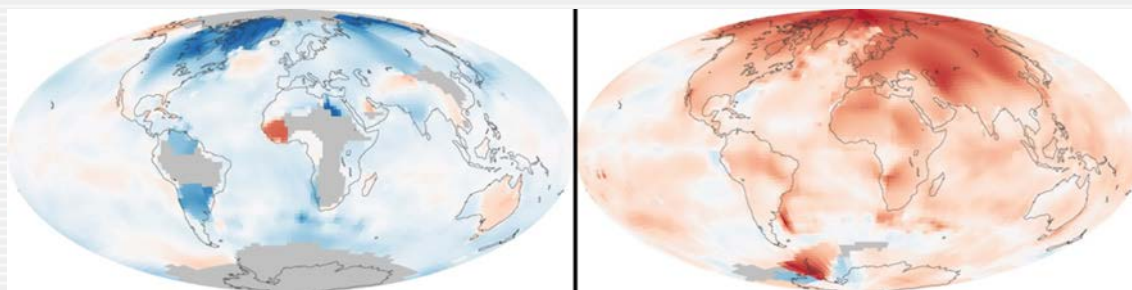
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts



The world as it is



EARTH'S TEMPERATURE CHANGES



“These striking images compare temperatures in each region of the world over 100 years apart. The left image shows Earth’s temperatures from 1880–1889 and the right image shows temperature from 2000–2009.”

Source: NASA: <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/blog/striking-nasa-selfies-show-earth-changing>



The world as it is and will continue to be, may be for the worst



Towards the 6th mass extinction, but the 1st due to human causes



The “CCC World”



We live in a “global” world:

- ever more Connected, Complex and Conflictual (CCC) world;
- facing global challenges in many fields such as: peace; human security, environment; sustainability; migration flows; human rights, population growth, etc.;
- where interdependence on a global scale, being a common feature of all such challenges, is the most widespread human condition;
-



Which alternative?



To live in a flat world: ideally without no boundaries at all, but under one world ruling power.

To stay in secluded nation-states: hypothetically safe within their own fenced territories.

To leave things going their way, as it is: armed conflicts, trans-border risks, discrimination, hate speech, violence, and evils any kind, all around the world.

Is there any alternative to try to change things? Along with some better option?

Let's take some inspirations, first!



Some 'inspiring' thoughts



Nelson Mandela : “Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”

Albert Einstein: “The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing”

Dalai Lama: “Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries... It lies with each of us individually”

- There is an 'encrypted' message contained in the combination of these three sentences



Here the message



Education to change the world, which is a dangerous place because of those who look on the evil and do nothing, while it is the responsibility, not only of political leaders, but of each of us individually to do something!



Global Citizenship



II

“Global” what?

What is “global”



Recalling the three “C” world, what is global is:

Connected (i.e., interconnected/transborder/sovranational/cosmopolitan);

Complex (i.e., plural/multiple);

Conflictual (i.e., diverse/challenging/destabilizing).

To the extent that the terms “connected, complex, conflictual” relate to each other, these basic features make up the conceptual framework of globalisation.



What is “global”



Given such framework, what is global is:

- constantly in tension between unity and diversity; and
- leading to two opposite, yet complementary scenarios, in a relationship of mutual implication, which can be synthesized, respectively, with a dual formula that works in a double way:

Unity in Diversity and Diversity in Unity.



What is “global”



Consequently, what is global is:

— bidirectional, moving between unity as a rule, a goal to be achieved in areas where greater and more urgent are the risks that the whole of humanity is and will be called to face with; and diversity as a rule, a value to be preserved that means, in turn, diversity as necessity, both in nature as well as in culture*.

* “*cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature*”: 2001 Unesco Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, Art. 1.



What is “global”



Along this double direction, what is global:

- on one hand, it accelerates the process of homogenisation, bringing about an ever greater uniformity of places & peoples, but at the risk of reducing if not destroying local economic and social realities;
- on the other, it sets in motion counter-dynamics leading, not without tension, to the emergence of people (individual and group) identities related to traditional, religious and cultural values.



What is “global”



In its true essence, therefore, what is global is “glocal”, because:

– the “unity in diversity” alone is not enough to balance the world vital biodiversity, without its complementary opposite represented by the formula of “diversity in unity”, leading instead to a multipolar world, in terms of a variety and plurality of peoples, societies, traditions, religions, cultures, and power centers.

Then, what is global is, properly understood, the complementarity of its universal and local components, intertwined in a relationship of mutual implication.



Global Citizenship



III

The issue at stake

Global Citizenship



Some recognised global consensus statement and officially declared goals



Universal Responsibility & Global Citizenship



“We must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked*.”

* i.e., mutually linked, as two sides of one world.

Source: *The “Earth Charter”* [2000], Preamble: www.earthcharter.org



Sustainable development & Global Citizenship



“New awareness of global risks such as climate warming or the erosion of cultural diversity, together with the advances made by the concept of sustainable development, point to the emergence of a global citizenship.”

Source: Unesco World Report, “*Towards Knowledge Societies*”, 2005



Intercultural dialogue & Global Citizenship



“We pledge to foster intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility. We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of sustainable development.”

Source: United Nations, “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”, Declaration, at n. 36



Cultural diversity & Global Citizenship



“By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.”

Source: *New Millennium Goals*, Sec. “Sustainable Development Goals”, Goal 4, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, at n. 4.7



The issue at stake



The junction of global citizenship with:

- *universal responsibility;*
- *sustainable development;*
- *intercultural dialogue;*
- *cultural diversity (and its appreciation as a value);*

- points, all in all, to the issue of:

“sustainability of planetary diversity”



Global Citizenship



IV

Sustainable Planetary Diversity

The challenge: how to live together



We are born equal by nature, in “dignity and rights”,
but —

we are diverse by culture, in our individual and/or
group ‘identity’ (tradition, religion, nationality ...),
therefore —

“Living together as equals in dignity”*, this is the
challenge ahead to us!

* *Living together as equals in dignity*, “White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue”,
2008, Council of Europe



The balance between unity and diversity



This comprehensive global challenge, to reach unity without flat uniformity, and at the same time to preserve and value diversity without fragmentation and isolation (“no one be left behind”), is the foundational goal ahead of us and the new generations.

But:

where to strike the balance between unity in diversity and diversity in unity?



Global citizenship: a balancing point



A connecting and balancing point between local (national community) and global (human family), can be found in the idea (and the practice) of “global citizenship”, understood as an educational/civil society effort, based on shared values, cultural diversity, mutual respect, sense of universal responsibility, as regards world’s evils (wars, environmental risks, social challenges and injustices) that compromise peace and peaceful coexistence among peoples.



Education to global citizenship: key aims



Education to global citizenship means to be committed:

- to reflect on issues that matter seriously for the future of humanity and our planet (sciences & humanities united in the global studies perspective);
- to become more responsible as regards issues such as peace, human security, human rights & international humanitarian law, environment and intergenerational justice, intercultural dialogue... (civil society empowerment);
- to think global and act local, and vice versa (think local and act global), in the sense and to the extent of the of mutual implication of the two terms (global and local joined together).



Global citizenship: a meaning



Global citizenship (which is not and will never be a “passport citizenship” linked with one/some national identity) is basically a product of education and civil society empowerment and engagement: i.e., a cultural attitude locally rooted, joint with a sense of universal responsibility.

May be an utopia, yet a necessary utopia, to face a real challenge: how to live together, as equals in dignity and rights, in a dangerous world!



In conclusion & synthesis



Global citizenship can be understood as model-type (and ideal) of peaceful coexistence (*living together as equals in dignity and rights*) featuring: sustainable planetary diversity, unity without uniformity; diversity without fragmentation; mutual and complementary relationship between local and global; sense of universal responsibility; education & civil society empowerment and engagement*.

* L. Moccia, *Global Citizenship: How to Approach Identity Issues from an Intercultural Point of View*, available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3458239

In conclusion



Global citizenship is a goal and a challenge at the same time.

And, at least for the duration of this seminar...

Final Warning



**This is the task ahead of you
as Global Citizens!**