

INTERVIEW WITH FRANCESCO GIUBILEI

Interviewed by: Goran Dejanović¹

Francesco Giubilei is an author and publisher based in Italy. He is the President of the Italian Conservative foundation *Fondazione Tatarella* and the founder of the think tank *Nazione Futura*. He also teaches at the *University G. Fortunato of Benevento*. Mr. Giubilei was recently included in Forbes's list of 100 most influential youths in Italy under 30. He has authored nine books including *The History of European Conservative Thought* (his first work to be published in English). His writings frequently appear in the Italian daily *Il Giornale*, *The American Conservative*, and *The European Conservative* magazines. He is a member of the Scientific Committee on the Future of Europe of the Italian government.



Has the entry of Italy or any other country into the European Union made the notion of “sovereignty of the people” questionable?

The concept of popular sovereignty is the basis of the Italian Constitution and of every democracy, in recent decades a process has taken place that has led nations to surrender part of their sovereignty to supranational entities such as the European Union, which has meant that it was lost part of popular sovereignty. This is a process that also took place with the covid and with the tri-

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umph of technocracy which has decreased the role of national parliaments in favor of technical-scientific committees.

How and to what extent is the identity of European citizens endangered by frequent waves of migrants and intrusions across established borders?

There is an important distinction between irregular and regular immigration. Enter in Europe regularly, find a job, pay taxes, respect the laws and our history is one thing, another is to enter illegally. It is necessary to control national borders (and therefore also European ones) for two reasons: both for us European citizens and for those who have moved to Europe regularly making sacrifices and do not understand how it is possible for hundreds of thousands of people to enter in Europe without respecting the law.

How important do you consider the principle of subsidiarity to be in leasing the autonomy of the jurisdiction for the internal affairs of the Member States (e.g., education, culture, freedom of the media, etc.) for the future of the European Union?

Subsidiarity is a fundamental aspect, the proximity of the centers of power to the lives of citizens helps to achieve greater efficiency and respect for the wishes of the people. Unfortunately, it is very often the opposite of what happens in the EU where we have a supranational structure that interferes in every area of citizens' life without respecting local communities.

Are you personally more for the European Union as a federal state or as a confederation of sovereign nation-states, and why?

I am in favor of a confederal Europe, a Europe of nations that takes into consideration the identities and differences of the various nations but also the points in common that contribute forming Eu-

rope. On the contrary, the idea of a United States of Europe with a strong bureaucratic centralization is not the direction we must follow for our future.

Can the European Union be an equal power with Russia, China, and the United States in the future?

If the European Union had the ability to pursue a series of issues in a univocal way and to have a clear agenda in foreign policy, on the subject of energy, in defense of its Christian identity and therefore of Christians persecuted in the world, it could compete with the USA, China, Russia. Today this is not the case and the EU is not recognized as an interlocutor like other major nations.

How well does the European Union articulate a common foreign policy today? Are you in favor of strengthening the European Union army?

Before thinking of a common European army, we should think of a shared foreign policy, which is lacking today. There is German, French, Italian foreign policy and gradually the member states but almost always lacks the strength to speak on some shared issues with a single voice. If this step is not done first, talking about a common European army is a utopia.

How was the migration crisis viewed in your country, and do you think the EU had an effective political and legal response to the situation?

Italy is one of the European nations with the greatest problems related to immigration, being a peninsula, Italy is surrounded on three sides by the sea and southern Italy, in particular in Lampedusa and Sicily, hundreds of migrants arrive by sea every day. trying to enter Italy illegally. The situation for our country is difficult

because we feel left alone to face an emergency that does not only concern Italy but all of Europe.

In his book *Understanding Europe*, Christopher Dawson argued that as Europe became less Christian, its influence in international relations also declined. In your opinion, is Europe's Christian identity important for its political future, and should its place be regulated at the European level, as in, say, the Hungarian constitution?

Forgetting Christian roots means denying our European identity, Europe is founded on Christian roots. What is happening is not only the failure to remember the Christian heritage of Europe but the attempt to cancel it through the principle of "cancel culture" which applies not only to monuments but also to our history and identity.

What does Europe mean to you in the broadest context of the term?

Europe is a civilization united by the common classical and Christian roots, it is an idea rather than a geographical expression, it is a set of identities that united together constitute a shared historical and cultural vision.