

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this work is to analyze the economic and social condition the South of Italy - and primarily the city of Naples - is living in. Therefore I will try to understand origins and consequences of the constant human capital impoverishment that there occurs. Hence I will stress that the only way to exit this all-embracing crisis has to be searched in larger and more convinced investments in education and training.

For this special purpose I will take into account the world of education *in primis*, then the huge phenomenon of high school dropouts and finally the increasing differences of performance existing among students from the North and from the South. In this chapter, I will argue that the deficit of the South is no longer explicable only in terms of lack of financial resources. As a demonstration of this statement there is the fact that the funds allocated by EU to the four regions of the South benefiting from the Cohesion Fund (Campania, Puglia, Calabria and Sicily), amounted to 43.6 billion euro for the period 2007-2013, but only 9.2 billion of them were actually invested.

Later on, using statistic data collected from various prestigious Research Centers, I will consider the moment of University education and, as a consequence, I will examine the growing disillusion with University. That used to be considered an institution that grant social mobility, but now this mobility process doesn't seem to be profitable anymore. Also an analysis of the student emigration trend from the South of Italy to the North or abroad will find space in this part of the work.

To understand in a more systematic way the senses of mistrust and discouragement that characterize these trends, I will make use of the vision of the "questione meridionale" as depression, as it has been provided in papers by Sebastiano Maffettone. I owe him an endless gratitude for his valuable insights.

Hence, starting from some historic and socio-economic conditions that have characterized the "questione meridionale" since the XVIIIth century until nowadays, I will comment on the lack of an entrepreneurial middle-class in Naples and state some proposals and guidelines deemed appropriate to stimulate an improvement in the living conditions of Neapolitan citizens. Every proposal has at his fund an improvement of the cultural condition and education of the citizens of

Naples, as a collectivity of ignorant cannot even imagine the figure of a virtuous and concrete administrator and politician. In fact, ignorance lowers the level of citizenship claim, making blurred the boundaries between favors and rights, while culture shapes the needs of the people to a high, modern and aware standard.

In the fourth chapter, I will described what I call "the Medellin case", that's to say I will trace conditions and co-operational processes in the town community of the Colombian city that led what was known to be "the capital of drugs and murders" to become one of the most interesting open-air social laboratories all around the world. In this analysis I will stress the importance that some juvenile organizations had through these transformations. Their activities addressed to a complete change in the way people, and of course, young people, perceived their relationship with violence. They taught and promoted non-violence and anti-militarism, showing to people how to solve conflicts without violence.

In my conclusions, after having related the Medellin case to the so-called "broken windows theory", I will address my attention to those who will become the main interpreters of this ever-living desire for changing, that is the younger Naples inhabitants.

The lack of opportunities generate a city with "broken windows" and nobody seems willing to fix them.

For this reason, it is urgent today in Naples assignment of leading political roles to motivated young citizens.

As in the case of Medellin, they are, the young, the only ones who have figured out that the problem of broken windows can be resolved only by repairing them, not by constructing new buildings with new windows.

In the political world which I believe possible the politicians do not have to live only of politics, but for politics and intellectuals must return to their respective institutions and develop their inner political commitment. Entrepreneurs need to face the reality of the market with winning ideas and with transparency and finally citizenship must participate in the management of public affairs and public good, rather than completely delegate the government of the present and the future.

Ultimately, everyone should do his part and all components should take part in a inclusive and synergistic process; this is the way because "*nothing is impossible for an organized will*".