AN ITALIAN “SUBPRIMACY”? THE ITALIAN NAVY MARINES’ AND THE BATTISTI’S CASES

SUPERVISOR
Professor Pasquale Ferrara

CANDIDATE
Gianmarco Filippini
616592

CO-SUPERVISOR
Professor Maria Beatrice Deli

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Introduction

1. Italy and the new international governance
   1.1 G20 vs G8
      1.1.1 The BRICS in the G-20 perspective: the Brazilian and the Indian development
      1.1.2 The future of the G-20 in the UN context
   1.2 The Security Council reform
      1.2.1 Uniting for Consensus vs. G4
   1.3 The Italian subprimacy: definition and meaning

2. Battisti’s Case
   2.1 The bilateral relations between Italy and Brazil
   2.2 The events
      2.2.1 The years of lead and the break to Brazil
      2.2.2 The extradition path, after the Suprema Tribunal Federal sentence
   2.3 The International Law
      2.3.1 Its violations of the signed treaties: the 1989 Extradition Treaty and article 3, article 5 infringement.
      2.3.2 Its violations of the signed treaties: the 1954 Conciliation Covenant
   2.4 The Battisti affair: a case of subprimacy?

3. The Italian Navy Marines’ Case (Marò’)
   3.1 The bilateral relations between Italy and India
   3.2 The events
      3.2.1 Indian and Italian public opinion reactions
   3.3 Further Italian legal developments
      3.3.1 Judiciary developments
      3.3.2 Diplomatic developments
3.4 The Enrica Lexie release and the appeal to the Supreme Court of New Delhi
   3.4.1 The Agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons
3.5 The debate within the Security Council
3.6 A practical evidence: the interview

4 The Re-emerging powers and the Italian “subprimacy”

4.1 Foreign Policy and the International/Domestic nexus
4.2 States and Status: coming to terms with a new world
   4.2.1 The future meets the past
   4.2.2 The asymmetrical multipolarity: a global shift of power
   4.2.3 Towards a multilateral world
4.3 The new world order and the re-emerging powers’ identity
   4.3.1 The emergence of power through global indicators
   4.3.2 The practical case: BRIC as re-emerging powers
4.4 The role of the European Union
4.5 The Italian subprimacy: how could it happen?
   4.5.1 Towards the subprimacy? An analysis of the Italian domestic politics

Conclusions

Bibliography
Books
Papers
Institutional Sources
Articles

Acknowledgments
INTRODUCTION

“He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command”

(Niccolò Machiavelli, The prince)

Machiavelli’s quote can sum the following work up, since it represents the current leadership idea within the today global shift of powers. In this scenario, my personal aim is to deeply examine one country’s specific role in this system, Italy. It will be argued that it, in the last decades, has lost the ability to be considered a leading influential power in world politics.

The true problem for Italy is how it can maintain its prominent prominent position on many international forums given its weakening influence around the globe and given the lack of a strong political will to support and agree on international policies.

In this work’s specific case, Italy has gone through high-ranked positions (where it was considered one of the greatest powers) towards perpetual a status and influence that can only be viewed by others as one having limited international influence and being considered as a less important world power.

Previous researches have investigated the position of Italy on the world’s international stage and have also seen a fading power with only a moderate ability to persuade and alter international
policies. Their analysis meant to state and demonstrate that Italy no longer occupies an important position and no longer demands a top seat. This work will consider the causes for this and will look at the global shift of power the world is witnessing nowadays, where new countries (like BRIC) are emerging again and demanding a greater role and position in the international arenas.

This work looks at both the declining power of Italy alongside the growing power of other countries, the weakening role of Italy in what it is suggested as Italy in ‘subprimacy’.

Italy’s fall towards subprimacy will be considered in the next chapters and it will be argued that although real and evident this new role may not be permanent but it will require strong leadership and consensus to ‘stop the rot’.

The argument is summarized below.

**Chapters**

In the dissertation, the introductory study will take into account the new international governance related to Italy. As a consequence, in order to understand this process, a description about BRIC in the G-20 perspective will be given. A more specific focus will broaden the Brazilian and the Indian development within such perspective and will deepen the knowledge about how BRIC countries have become the new G-20 weakness in the UN context,
so far. That is why, the chapter will also consider the Security Council reform, as well as the contrasting groups created within it: a reference to the quarrel between Uniting for Consensus group against the G-4 one will be given, too. The issue will gain access into the heart of the problem in the last part, where a theoretical definition of the **Italian subprimacy** will make the reader understand the direction this work is aiming to follow.

**A second** and a **third** aspect of the work will concern the two cases which **subprimacy** is related to: the Battisti and the Italian Navy Marines cases. These affairs inspect the bad side of the coin and will prove that two countries like Brazil and India are still able to keep Italy in check. During these chapters, the main events will be examined as well as the international law involved within both the affairs. A useful link will step up to the plate through the last sections of both affairs, where it will be defined whether or not they can be considered as **subprime** cases. An expert-in-field’s **interview** will strengthen such position, offering a practical evidence to the dissertation.

**The fourth** and last chapter of this work explores the re-emerging countries and their close link with the so called Italian **subprimacy** in relation to the global shift of powers. While a general explication about the international and the domestic nexus will be given, this section will also take into account the multi-laterality of the today’s world, trying to explain as well the reasons for which the re-emerging countries (and to that extent, the BRIC countries) are strongly subeverting the main current powers’ behaviours.
Moreover, it will be stressed the Italian role within the global system of powers and the way its domestic policies have been led in the last decades.

In the end, the reader will have the right instruments to judge by himself whether Italy is living a subprime period and to improve upon the final theories about their contingent limits.
CONCLUSION

In sum, this work went through four sections which analysed different ways leading to the same path.

This dissertation has investigated the influence that re-emerging countries are having on the powers belonging to the Great groups. Particularly, such a work has given a special account for this widespread phenomenon as far as Italy is concerned within the international system.

Notably, the purpose of the current study was to determine the quite fast Italian fall towards a period of subprimacy, affected by the especial quick growth of those re-emerging countries, namely what scholars call the BRIC group (Brazil, Russia, India and China).

Indeed, this work has shown that Italy is now witnessing a new global shift of powers and must try its best to fit within such new international governance, which sees the re-emerging countries as a brand-new strength able to affect global decisions and rule all over the ancients balances created through the United Nations.

One of the more significant findings to appear through these studies is that all the efforts made to bound the re-emerging powers and to keep an élitarian polarity have been useless. World is now witnessing a cooperative/competitive momentum where BRIC countries are allowed to support or dismiss the international organizations’ work: as mentioned in the pages before, this is not
the final destination of a resolution, but a sensible destination to go to.

This happens also because re-emerging countries, and BRIC ones in particular, do not want to stand still and assist the developed countries, but they definitely aspire to increase their participation in global institutions in order to gain global power.

The current conclusions can be drawn from the present work through the account given in the two cases considered so far: the Battisti and the Italian Navy Marines ones. The results of such investigation showed that both cases are a clear findings of a growing Italian weakness towards those BRIC countries mentioned before, namely Brazil and India.

As far as they are concerned, Italy has never pushed the United Nations to solve these affairs and many felt the UN could leverage some behaviours, since both India and Brazil are seeking for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

**The second major finding** has its roots in the UN Security Council reform. The latter has not surely helped in solving the diplomatic controversy among Great Powers and BRIC countries: Italy has always been the spokesperson about the dissatisfaction as related to such reform which would have witnessed the presence of more permanent seats. This official stance on the issue brought Italy to be considered as a diplomatic enemy to be shocked by all those re-emerging countries, which have found their way back to a partial
but successful achievement of their aims through the cases explored so far.

Such moves are carrying Italy against BRIC countries which would play any role in order to stress the heavy voice they are able to make nowadays.
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