

Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche, Cattedra di Studi Asiatici

**IL PASSAGGIO DI POTERE TRA CINA E STATI UNITI  
ALL'INTERNO DELLA REGIONE MENA**

Come la Repubblica popolare cinese sta sostituendo l'America all'interno  
delle economie del Nord Africa e Medio Oriente.

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La tesi tratta del passaggio di potere che sta avvenendo all'interno dell'area del Medio Oriente e del Nord Africa dagli Stati Uniti verso la Repubblica Popolare Cinese. Infatti, nell'ultimo decennio, due opposte tendenze sono attualmente in atto nell'area MENA: ad un sempre maggiore disimpegno degli USA viene corrisposto un sempre maggiore coinvolgimento della Cina. Ad ogni modo, anche se un certo grado di influenza sia imputabile alla contemporaneità dei due fenomeni, le ragioni di questo graduale cambio di egemonia sono molteplici.

A riprova di ciò, si notano i tentativi degli stessi stati MENA di rinforzare i propri legami con la Cina, spinti dall'opportunità di riceverne i cospicui finanziamenti e le merci a basso costo. Il miglioramento e l'avanzamento delle relazioni tra i paesi dell'area e il colosso asiatico negli ultimi anni sono stati impressionanti, segno di un connubio di interessi sempre crescente. La loro collaborazione, infatti, non si ferma più al solo rapporto economico, ma si sta gradualmente espandendo anche ai rapporti diplomatici e agli scambi culturali. Soprattutto i paesi in via di sviluppo, vedono infatti nella Cina un modello di sviluppo molto più adatto alle loro esigenze rispetto al modello fornito dall'occidente. La sua impressionante crescita economica, che è riuscita nell'impresa di portare al di sopra della soglia di povertà quasi mezzo miliardo di persone, è inoltre un esempio di come sia possibile mantenere in buona salute un regime tramite l'applicazione di riforme economiche. I casi studio di Iran, Arabia Saudita e Algeria dimostrano un livello molto avanzato di impegno della Repubblica Popolare nell'economia dei Paesi MENA, fornendo ottimi esempi all'analisi del fenomeno.

Per quanto riguarda invece gli Stati Uniti, il loro distacco dall'area è dovuto principalmente ad una diversa impostazione di politica estera attuata dall'amministrazione Obama. Il presidente americano infatti ha messo in atto una strategia di "Pivot to Asia", seguendo la quale la presenza degli Stati Uniti all'interno dell'area MENA è diminuita in favore di un rafforzamento del ruolo americano all'interno dell'area del Pacifico. La creazione di nuovi mercati e la possibilità di influenzare un'area snodo del commercio mondiale sono tra le maggiori cause di questo mutamento di rotta. Nonostante questo, la presenza militare all'interno del Medio Oriente non è diminuita, come testimonia il nuovo piano sviluppato nell'estate del 2014 per "eradicare" il pericolo ISIL. Questa strategia inoltre rischia di minare alle fondamenta le importanti relazioni bilaterali con la Cina, che percepisce la strategia di

“Ribilanciamento” come un tentativo di “contenimento” degno del periodo della Guerra Fredda.

Da parte sua, la Cina è interessata soprattutto alle materie prime e alle risorse energetiche presenti nell’area. La sua politica estera è infatti prevalentemente incentrata sulla possibilità di accrescere il proprio profitto economico e di sostenere la propria crescita interna, che attualmente si attesta ad un “misero” 7% annuo. La strategia utilizzata è quella di non interferire all’interno degli affari interni degli altri stati, cercando inoltre costantemente di bilanciarsi tra i vari conflitti presenti nell’area. La sua tattica di non parteggiare per nessuno stato le ha infatti permesso di negoziare con facilità con Paesi arcinemici, quali Palestina e Israele. Il suo progetto di ricostruire la vecchia Via della Seta per migliorare le infrastrutture e i contatti che la legano agli stati dell’Asia centrale, dell’Africa e dell’Europa, ha inoltre riscosso un successo mondiale, attirando l’interesse di molteplici investitori internazionali.

Nonostante questo, molte questioni rimangono aperte e rischiano di compromettere non solo le relazioni tra stati, ma anche gli equilibri internazionali. La crescente rivalità tra gli Stati Uniti e la Cina è il primo dei risultati. Le loro interazioni hanno difatti avuto un brusco peggioramento a seguito dell’attuazione della strategia americana nel sudest asiatico, da sempre considerato dalla Cina come propria “periferia”. Inoltre, la percepita minaccia avvertita dagli Stati Uniti nei confronti di una potenza emergente, considerata revisionista del nuovo ordine mondiale, non aiuta la normalizzazione delle loro relazioni. La convinzione cinese che sia in atto una strategia di “contenimento” fa il resto. Le loro sostanziali divergenze nell’impostazione delle politiche estere e nel modello economico da seguire ha fatto arrivare a competere i due stati anche sul modello di sviluppo da esportare all’estero, accendendo una competizione ancora in corso tra il “Beijing Consensus” e il “Washington Consensus”. Il problema è che una loro intesa potrebbe invece rivelarsi fondamentale nella risoluzione di conflitti che si stanno sviluppando nell’area. Lo scoppio della Primavera Araba ha di fatto colto alla sprovvista la comunità internazionale e i suoi risvolti finali non sono ancora del tutto chiari. Inoltre, la proclamazione di un nuovo califfato da parte dell’organizzazione terroristica ISIL ha dato il via ad una probabile guerra sistemica nella regione che si potrà concludere solo con la completa revisione degli accordi Sykes-Picot.

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