

Europe's Fate in a Changing World

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to analyze the current economic and political situation of the European Union (EU), in the given changing international landscape. The paper contains two parts. In the first part, the analysis is focused on the current problems the EU is facing now with the war between Russia and Ukraine, and the fights in Israel. Also, it is analyzed the position of the EU with respect to the USA. The most important issue is the economic gap between the Western countries and the East-South countries. That generates many frustrations in poor countries' populations. A second significant issue is the decreasing demography of Europe. The second part of the paper focuses on the possible solutions the leaders of the EU may consider in order to align it to the initial vision of the EU founders.

Keywords: European Union, political analysis, economic analysis, international changes, populism

Introduction

The inherent difficulties of the EU, and later of the Eurozone, as a result of the grave errors that sealed its constitution, precluded from the outset the possibility of realizing its initial promises (rapid growth, reduction of inequalities, full employment, peace, and monetary stability). Among the many consequences of the EU's dysfunction, the most dramatic is the rupture between the rich European North and the poor and indebted South, sealed by the Stability Pact (Negroponti-Delivanis, 2012). And in terms of the EU's position on the international stage, its complete failure to secure an independent voice and policy vis-à-vis the United States, despite having been the dominant reason for its creation, justifies the profound disappointment of its late visionary, Jacques Delors, and more.

Despite its serious flaws, the EU has so far managed to survive and, above all, not be threatened with dissolution, at least not in the immediate future, thanks to its flexible capabilities. This is mainly due to the prudent and generally successful choices made by the leaders of each of its member states, who accept in advance and without hesitation the task of supporting its political choices and protecting it as much as possible from whatever threatens it. Even if this blind loyalty sometimes goes against the interests of the individual member states, but ultimately also against its "longevity". As it turns out, these rotating leaders have so far proved capable of convincing the people of the member states that, despite the EU's ever-increasing problems, it is better to stay in the EU than to leave it. I would also add that the general and accelerating decline of the West inevitably affects the quality of EU officials. These mainly long-term consequences of the West's progressive decline have recently been aggravated by the negative effects, especially in the case of Europe, of the war in Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas war, and, more recently, the events in the Red Sea. The

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