

AMERICAN HEGEMONY
AND THE POLITICS OF COUNTER-POWER

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WHY IS AMERICA THE STRONGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD?

The USA's hegemony is not a coincidence. It is the consequence of a way of functioning, socially and individually, which is not perfect, but efficient. The United States is the country of freedom and strength because everyone participates in this success both for him/herself and for the country.

America's hegemony finds its roots in its very creation, when a group of people decided to make of their lives a unity with the others. This new uniformity system became a common way of "know how"—a same way of doing and thinking for every American—that participated to the hegemony of the country. *The USA's hegemony is the result of a same way of thinking and doing*, of a common Law, which creates solidarity and stands as the basis for establishing the laws of a democratic system. It is in its constitution, a very strong institution, made of a real revolution way of structure of mind and link between the people (us) and the government.

A new way of doing with a new way of thinking began; in America everyone has accepted and made on a same way the part of his/her own identity. From this "unity" emerged a feeling of equality, in which selection is more based on everyone's level of work and wanting than on their social class. This way of considering an economic system is at the basis of the country's political way of doing too. Economics lead politics; as well as economics are politics. From the top to the down, each level is connected to the one above and below. The notion of togetherness is applied everywhere in firms, and/or other types of work, where the interest is for everyone to earn a living and for all to participate in the success of the enterprise. In the U.S., to win is a strong value. And every firm is a family.

America's history is based on people who have chosen their "destiny" and their "destination." Everyone knows what it means to work hard to earn a good life; it is a freely accepted choice. This is the real unity with which every American identifies. But freedom is not free: Freedom has its laws and its necessities that can be followed because they are loved, not feared. Fear is the result of a parental system, not an adult one. To accept something because we think it is good for us is to be free; to refuse something just because someone else asked us to accept it is to be dependent.

Thus, an essential explanation for America's hegemony and solitude today is how different American history and its way functioning are compared to the rest of the world's countries. America's hegemony results from the fact that most people in the country obey and defend the law; this is the basis of an American mind. No life without law. American hegemony is the result of this ability to work for oneself, but with others, and to make a project, an idea, and/or a skill succeed.

American hegemony is not only the fact that America is the strongest country in the world, but also that America succeeds to accomplish unity across all of its differences; this unity is at the basis of America's strength and hegemony. Thus, a same word has two meanings: on the first, unity, or the homogeneity of obedience to same laws and values, depends the second, superiority.

IS AMERICA A LEADER OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES OR AN ARROGANT SUPERPOWER THAT WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD AND TO ABUSE OF ITS POWER TO CONTROL OTHER COUNTRIES?

Since September 11, parts of the world have declared their hate toward America and Americans. Two years later, America went to Iraq to destroy a dictatorship's abuse of power, and almost the entire world sided against America. Everywhere, people criticized the U.S.' *reaction*. I ask myself, "was this reaction an example of America's power to counter-power?"

Counter-power, in this case, is a reply, a reaction to an abuse of power by terror and terrorism, now widespread in all the occidental countries, and even in the most powerful state in the world, the United States of America.

Counter-power is a concept of defense, to refuse the power of terror, to defend the laws of the Instinct of life and to insure the world does not continue to be destroyed by killer values that sacrifice lives only to make hate and inhumanity win. Counter power has to be a concept of defense, self-defense, not a concept of abuse of power.

This war between power and counter-power resembles the war between the unconscious and the conscious; the unconscious' deadly drives taking the power over the conscious' values of life.

Can this motivation to counter-power justify a war, the use of strength and the exercise of power? To protect values of life and of democracy is legitimized when terror threatens to destroy a society and to kill people without any respect of human values. This country deserves to be respected and if necessary to defend its values and to fight against terror and murder, which are counter-values of life and democracy. Yes but the question is how.

Counter-power is not a choice; it is a necessity: Democratic is more fragile than authoritarianism, because in authoritarianism, the chief is the only man who takes decisions. In democracy, even if a government and a president do not take the right decisions, eventually, the people get to reclaim their power of decision and to regulate the abuse of power: the people also have a power to counter-power. The U.S. is an adult nation, because it allows for auto-critic.

COUNTER - POWER IN POLITICS

In America, the two political parties, Republican and Democrat, exercise alternatively the right to counter-power, like a regulation necessary for good political health. This way of functioning is the best way to keep close to the realities and needs of the people and to not leave an arbitrary superpower takes too much power upon its people for a long time. The notion of counter-power could become the skill of every country on its way to freedom and democracy.

The U.S. political history proves that there is homogeneity within the people, as they go back and forth between only two parties, but mostly they all defend the same values, but go about implementing them in different ways. In other countries, such as France, the difference is that too many parties fight for power and the people are not homogeneous when it comes to the system of values they want to defend. In this case the people are more in reaction that in a real action to defend their values: ideas are not values.

Counter-power is not resistance; it is a real will to defend personal and democratic values that respect the individual and his/her freedom. Even when the power in place is not democratic, counter-power can take the role of defense and of regulation of the system.

Very big civilizations, such as Italy, Greece, Egypt, who had enormous power on the world, disappeared with time: why?

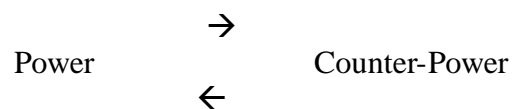
These powers had a long history of hegemony, but this status depended heavily on the leader, not on the country's homogeneity. In the U.S., things are different: the constitution, the federal system, the structure of society, all helps make the American people mature and conscious of their wish: everyone wants something, and wants to do it on his/her, with the others. It is a system in which individual and group go together to not only imagine but also achieve a good life they can be proud of.

In Italy, Spain, Greece or Egypt, the people were under the high authority of a power that had all the rights, and on the other side, the people were nothing and only suffered of dependence; no regulation was possible, because when people are unhappy and scared of authoritarianism, there can be no liberty, and nothing can be changed by the people; the only possibility left to the people is to leave their country. When hope and life are under constant domination, there is no place for counter-power.

COUNTER - POWER FOR THE FUTURE?

Why not?

In this notion of counter-power, there is a sort of equality between the two parts of the equation:



This is how a system of permanent and regular movement between power and counter-power can guarantee democracy.

The place of power cannot be given to more than one party at a time, but counter-power allows imposing limits onto the party in power. The principle of freedom lies here, in the regulation of a system, rather than its control. Freedom is a relationship between a head (the government), which has the power, and a body: the people, who are the guardians of democratic values.

The more the people will be made of individuals who are adult and responsible of their lives, the stronger will consciousness of reality and desire will be for everyone in a nation, and the more the politics of counter-power will be a real power for people to make of their country a place where all will work in the same way and where all will put their energy to the service of the same values, which will result in more well-being and respect of human values.

COUNTER - POWER AND MATURITY

