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EucA event - DCW: Dissent, Conscience and the Wall II Symposium

Brussels 27 February 2014

Title : "The DDR Intellectuals' dissent and the need for opening and unification with Germany"

We are Alessio and Gregorio, two young student who are attending the first year of the undergraduate program in Engineering at the Politecnico of Turin. We've always thought that every school system had to provide a complete preparation to every student: this means that in an university mainly focused on scientific subjects, as Politecnico actually is, it is important for us to cultivate 360 degrees interests linked to all the aspects of the world we are living in. In fact, only by knowing history in a proper way, we can have the right tools to comprehend past and present events; but at the same time past events must be the bases on which we have to build a future characterized by the peaceful coexistence of all the countries.

It is fundamental to overcome ethnical, nationalistic and ideological differences (the same that brought our Countries to war during the first half of the 20th century and than to divisions and dichotomies that had been influencing Europe until the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Iron Curtain) in order to better understand the past, be conscious of our present and able to create our future. Once upon a time, a great visionary wrote that "*you may contribute a verse*". These words, by Walt Whitman, mean that everyone out of us must be aware of his capabilities as a citizen, as a person, as a human.

Abstract

In this abstract, we would like to clarify the role played by the intellectuals' dissent inside the DDR. We decided to focus on this particular aspect, in order to underline how the political views of intellectuals can be deeply influenced by the environment surrounding them.

Actually, their attitude toward the division of their country into two different political entities can not be considered a real and proper dissent: in fact, the main aim of their protest was just to improve the Socialism characterizing their country, which, according to their point of view, was full of negative and corrigible aspects, such as the aging of the

political institutions and the closing of the key-roles in the government to the most part of the population. The great majority of their thoughts was inspired by an utopian vision of Socialism, that was not easy to be realized in practice.

On account of that assumptions, intellectuals were truly convinced that Germany had to be divided into two regions, the western most linked to the NATO and the United States of America, while the DDR had to keep close bonds with the URSS. Most of them in fact did not actually appreciate West Germany, as it was considered corrupted by capitalism and hedonism, realities thought dangerous for the moral integrity of the DDR inhabitants.

We decided to choose some different intellectuals, who had important roles in the cultural establishment of the DDR (GDR): Stephan Heim, Günter Grass and Christa Wolf.

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