



Grammenos Mastrojeni

L'ARCA DI NOÈ

Noah's Ark

Nonfiction; pp. 325

Chiarelettere, January 2014

Translation rights:
Chiarelettere/GeMS

Manuscript available

The UN's estimates as well as that of various governments and intelligence sources (USA, UK, not openly but also China) point to a collapse of civil structures in weak states, massive migration waves, food and water shortages, and a dramatic slow down in growth and development in the near future - by 2030-2050 - all due to widespread environmental stress. As a consequence, a rise in the risk of conflict is also forecasted. Scrupulous regional forecasts by the year 2030 allow to identify areas where dangerous dynamics of this kind are more likely to occur, but we are not yet able to "calculate" exactly what the final outcome of this situation will be on a planetary scale. Nonetheless, the fear is spreading that the sum of local, identified, crisis might lead to global instability: a fear voiced by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon when he defined "the present economic system as a global environmental suicide pact" (World Economic Forum, 2011).

Indeed, there is a mounting fear of an imminent global and cumulative "resonance effect" between environmental unbalances and human unbalances: unbalance in the environment caused by men could feed unbalanced situations and behaviours in human communities (wars, migrations, predatory economies, etc.) that would trigger further environmental unbalances which, in turn, would stimulate an even more irrational and unbalanced human response and so on, in a potentially endless and devastating cumulative cycle.

A turning point, a threshold phase of catastrophe is thus approaching: we have to take urgent measures, taking into account that effective remedies are not totally compatible with the pillars of modern economy, which is efficient and therefore cannot be abandoned but requires a rethinking that goes beyond incidental corrective measures (Stern Report: "Climate change points to the greatest failure of market economy"). What we need is a difficult injection of new cultural values, above all the notion that balance is a value

For more information: info@bgagency.it



worth including among the objectives of a healthy economic system. This would pave the way to a progress that goes far beyond the goal of avoiding a catastrophe: a state of balance inside human society and with the environment is currently being identified also as the formula of the “Graal” of contemporary economic and political research: kick-starting a system that produces quality of life instead of quantity in life. The motto would be: “what’s good for you is good for your planet!”

Grammenos Mastrojeni is in the Italian diplomatic service since 1991, cooperates with the Climate Reality Project founded by Al Gore. Besides teaching "Conflict Resolution" in various universities, he teaches "Environment, Resources and Geostrategy" at Ottawa University. He has published a numbers of books and many articles about environment and geopolitical balances.

His blog is <http://www.effetto Serra-effetto guerra.info>