

When I was a boy, unrest was common but in 1960 five people were murdered in Reggio Emilia. The song *È morto Tondelli* is a reminder of this. Consequently, in Rome there were riots near the Basilica of St. Paul and cavalry charges against demonstrators. This marked the beginning of the political confrontation. The Tambroni Cabinet fell. What drove us at that time was socialist change within our society; the Italian road to Socialism. The young people of Rome maintained that this Italian road to Socialism was bound to have a violent character while we were fighting this kind of thing because we were used to confrontation. In 1990, like Pietro Ingrao and Sergio Garavini, I was against Achille Occhetto's political line; I was against the motion which called for the re-establishment of communism. Thus, when the party was formed I distanced myself. I wanted unity, not a party which would be competing with the Democratic Party of the Left (Partito Democratico della Sinistra; PDS). The baby had been thrown out with the bath water and yet there were many positive things which should have been maintained and reflected upon. At the end of the '70s, Enrico Berlinguer initiated discussions but those who had done away with the name and practice of the Communist Party had already held back discussions on the crisis of global communism. Demands resulting from Berlinguer's views were undervalued and unaccepted both by meliorists, such as Giorgio Napolitano, and by supporters of Armando Cossutta. Instead, a hotbed of ideas was needed in order to see what would come after the fall of the Berlin Wall, ideas around which the Left could establish another movement. Sitting on a Federal Committee immediately after a number of events had taken place (probably the 21st conference of the GUS, an Italian organisation working for human solidarity, whilst in Moscow intellectuals had taken part in demonstrations and been beaten up which caused great unrest), I raised the issue of a democracy without adjectives which would go beyond Lenin's definition of social democracy. My background was in classical studies and therefore in Crocean philosophy and talk of this sort of democracy was something I carried within me, while the Italian Communist Party (Partito Comunista Italiano; PCI) of the time still remained tied to the Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Palmiro Togliatti probably had a number of skeletons in his closet but he was the man who, in the post-war period, gave the PCI its pedagogic character. This helped a population which was not used to democracy and, as a political entity, it was as simple as ABC. Togliatti managed to give a sense of political life, public interest and the fact that the working class will one day play a leading role in political life. This communist party, among other things, aimed to proceed peacefully. Walter Veltroni conceived a "light" party under the motto 'I care': the exact opposite to the PCI which had a mass character and a different way of communicating and connecting with society.

Matteo Renzi's practice could not be further away; hence there was permanent discussion of its problems whilst the self-asserted desire to be the centre of attention was cut by those who were the real problems in society. Before I knew it, I had argued on numerous occasions, even around the table in a restaurant, with the person who brought the weapons of the Middle East to Italy (here in the Marche region there was a nucleus of Red Brigades). My stance has always been to oppose violence. In fact, we fought over this. I was city councillor when Aldo Moro was kidnapped and our position was one of strong condemnation, even calling for the strength of the Italian state towards these terrorists: no negotiations. This stance is still being discussed today.

The welfare state characterises Europe and only Europe can defend it, all the more so in a globalised context.

My journey at sea has been successful. I consider it successful for all the wonderful experiences I have had; a journey in a sea which at times is calm, as it is now, and at other times is very rough. The metaphor of my life is related to the sea; the sea is the key to interpreting my way of being. My person. The issue of environmental protection has become central for me. One of the worst crises was when, driving down the motorway on the way home from a road trip to Ireland and Britain, I found myself reading that the

Adriatic Sea had become covered with algae. When I arrived and discovered this enormous carpet of algae, I asked myself, 'Now what? Can't we go to the sea?' For several days I could not sleep. I went to Portonovo and found the shore covered with algae. My wife and I got in a pedal boat and went out from the shore to see if there was a point further out where there were no longer any algae. I remember that day because, besides the never-ending algae, a group of dolphins encircled us.