

Within the Italian Social Movement there were some ideas that swayed me, but it was like they were covered by a layer of dust, you heard people that were stuck in their ways and could not understand the changing world. When the student protests started, before taking on extreme left ideals, I was in strong opposition of the direction of the Italian Social Movement because in my opinion, we would also have to join the protests. It was a challenge for the system. We said that we were against the system and we had to stick to it. At the time I went through a bit of a crisis, when the famous battle of Valle Giulia happened, people who were part of our line-up found themselves on either side.

Then came Rauti with his ideas of non-political politics, in the sense of doing politics through sports centres, clubs, a more cultural and active take on politics, he swayed me enormously. And Rauti's ecology was one of his strong points. The respect for nature should be considered intrinsic to the world of social rights (not economics, which doesn't interest me). In those years, I got very close to Peronism, the Argentinean movement. I started studying fascism in new ways. Not as a conservative movement but as the revolutionary movement, and there I found some things that went very well with my own views.

I believed in Berlusconi at the beginning, I thought that an entrepreneur with a clear idea could reorganise the Italian political and social system. About 6 years ago I had a major crisis and in the last elections I was willing to vote for Grillo.

In my opinion, the right must be a social right, that is to say, a right that helps companies to create jobs and wealth for the whole of society. I've always been a fierce opponent of financial speculation because it makes everyone poorer. Wealth accumulates in the hands of very few people which does not help to create welfare, jobs and widespread wealth. The basic idea of fascism, which was right, was that there should be an entrepreneurship in a nation which benefitted everyone's interests and not just their own. In those years, fascism was for me, based on the social right and the concept of a nation, not a state, but something that flowed through the centuries forming a single thread between the past and present.

Our world, in some respects, was gallant. Once, as a right-wing university organisation, we had planned a conference in Bologna, our political opponents arrived and with a violent confrontation they found us and prevented us from having it. We were just heading back to our office all disheartened when we met two guys who were part of the group that had attacked us. Immediately we chased after them to return the blows that we had taken, of these two guys one fled and the other remained in the road to face us. Then our leader said that we could not do anything because he was a brave man. We pushed him to the side, chased after the other one and gave it to him. Violence was accepted in our setting, it was just that it would have never occurred to me or my friends to prevent them from holding a Left demonstration. We considered it as a value to react with violence to the bullying we encountered. We were not pacifists.

A right-winged boy studying at the University of Bologna would encounter a number of problems when the conflict was radicalised. On average, every 15-20 days a left-wing punitive expedition would enter into the faculty of engineering. They got me in the classroom, gave me a series of blows and threw me out of the university but I calmly dusted myself off and returned safely inside. My girlfriend, who later became my wife, now my ex, was waited for outside our house and beaten because she was a fascist's girlfriend. In those years I seriously considered getting a gun, then not so much because I did not want to radicalise my political activism up to such a point and for other reasons, so

I continued fighting with my fists.

Personally, I was very taken by the romanticism of the Italian Social Republic's fighters: they knew how to fight a lost cause very well, but continued to fight for their honour and dignity. Mussolini had a great idea but it was ruined along the way. I think more highly of the Italian Social Republic's youth because they were under fascism but distanced themselves from the triumphalism which governed at that time and fought for their loyalty to the flag. In 1943, it became apparent that the Axis alliance had lost the war, there had been the landing in Normandy, the Allies were advancing in Europe, the German offensive on the eastern front had stopped and the German troops were retreating. These guys were fighting in uniform, that's why I do not appreciate the partisans, because for me you should fight in uniform. Many died. This is the best example of fascism: honour and loyalty.

I still don't think that democracy is the best governmental system. But then I realised that since human nature is what it is, even if the best person in the world was acting as a dictator he would lose contact with the common people and with reality. It's been the case for all dictators: almost all have come to power with good intentions and every one of them has lost touch with reality. So I am not convinced that even dictatorship is the best form of government. I have always lived with humiliation, the idea of racial laws; the idea that my political movement had introduced these racial laws in Italy was almost unbearable. I explained it in such a way by going to the roots: fascism was born in Verona in 1919 with a programmatic manifesto consisting of 21 points. One of these points clearly states that no man should be evaluated for his political views, his race or his religion. So with the racial laws, fascism contradicted itself.

I am in favour of the European Union but not the Euro. The European Community has been one of the cornerstones of my life. Nobody says it, because it makes them feel uncomfortable, but the Axis army had enlisted divisions from every country in Europe: Hungarian, Dutch, French, all fighting for the European idea. However, the Europe we see today is a Europe of markets. I like the thought of Europe as a common matrix, histories that fuse together into one larger story. The small countries, those who the members of the Northern League refer to, those who maintain their traditions, would be well suited with a place in a large project. But the small countries as a national entity are left out of history. What's more, the greatest catastrophe for Southern Italy was the unification of Italy because the south (not that I am a southern sympathiser) has been depleted of its well-being. The Piedmontese have dismantled all of their companies that worked in the south and moved them to the north.

The twentieth century marked the end of Europe as a great power – after the twentieth century Europe has become marginal due to major powers growing elsewhere.

When I was in school and teaching physics, I used to start off with a lab experiment, I told the students to write down the data and then to correlate them with each other and find the rules that regulate variables.