Editorial

Capitalist Societies Are Boiling Pots: Young People, Every Now and Then, Come Out of the Lid

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The public debate focused, again, on young people. Always with the same name: surprise! The young people, who, in the constitutional referendum, buried the Italian government plan against the judiciary, were a surprise. The pollsters had not seen them. Thus, no one had predicted the violent invasion of the very young in the commercial heart of Milan.

After the images of the looting of fashionable stores, collective theft has become the dominant theme. For the Italian government, teenagers in action are only delinquents to be repressed with yet another security decree. Others, rightly, separate looting from student demonstrations, which have precise political demands, and call for analysis of the social reasons for the apparently blind outbreaks of violence. We make two observations.

First. The damage and looting of shops and other structures, including public ones, is not a new and recent phenomenon. In American history, the most famous episode is that of the 1977 blackout that put New York in total darkness for an entire day, with thousands of shops looted. But the looting also involved large demonstrations of political anger such as after the police assassination of George Floyd. Conclusion: capitalist societies, with their blatant social inequality, which entrusts the poorest and the younger generations to the demons of narcissism, envy, aggression, interhuman competition without ethical constraints, are pots in permanent boiling, which occasionally have outbursts of various violence. For this reason, repression only aggravates the sources of malaise.

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Second. Speaking of adolescents, families and psychologists are invoked at school. But the issue is much more complex. In this issue of PNEI REVIEW we provide an interpretative model of human development and its disorders, which sees all the main aspects: from parenthood to the formation of brain circuits, to nutrition, to the role of physical contact, up to the architectural spaces in which the new human being grows.

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