

It used to be love...

Window into the Italian soul



I will not judge or offer enlightening conclusions, I will leave this delight to fancier journalists

and commentators. I will simply tell the story of the numbers, as they appear black on white on newly emerging research regarding Italy's perceptions of the "others" within its borders. [...]

The most beautiful game



The Italian dream: 9 July 2006 - 23 June 2008.

During the World Cup,

the Italian side made the impossible come true; it was Spain, once again, to call for a rather tough wake up and soccer seems now to resemble even more to the rest of Italian society: a story of missed opportunities and declining influence. The [draft paper](#) starts a new research that will be conducted with SDA Bocconi and will tell how Italian soccer can still reverse the trend. All those that are interested can join the work group or ask for more information by e-mailing giovanni.dazzo@vision-forum.org.

Next Newsletter - Call for ideas Europe at its last chance



We can estimate the crisis affecting Europe at this time, considering how the

European newspapers have underestimated the importance of this event. Irish, the only people having the right of voting at the referendum on the constitutional treaty, have followed in French and Dutch's footsteps. The referendum results can provide the opportunity for a debate on the future of Europe, that Vision will host in the next newsletter. Vision suggests a careful consideration of this issue. Anyone interested to respond to this call for paper can send some comments to info@vision-forum.org.

Next Newsletter 2 - Call for ideas Italy goes for nuclear



The new Government is considering the possibility to restart its nuclear energy programme

by 2013, in order to reduce the country's great dependence on oil, gas and imported power. In fact, Italy is now the only G8 country without its own nuclear power, and is the world's largest net importer of electricity. Similar questions are faced by the rest of European countries and the connections between energy and both production models and democracy make us to consider essential that the debate goes beyond the inner circle of experts. Do you agree that the time has come to go back to nuclear energy? Would you rather prefer the country to invest on renewable energies? How big could be the role of waste reduction? Anyone interested on the topic, can send comments or short papers to info@vision-forum.org.

Vision News

The Kyoto of the Cities



As a follow up on the Vision project on "Climate Change and Democracy" as well as the participation in the Bali conference,

Vision is about to launch "The Kyoto of the Cities" a project with the objective to explore the possibility of engaging major cities in an international agreement on environment - related goals and explore strategies for CO2 emissions in housing, waste management and urban transportation. The project's results will be delivered at a conference taking place in autumn in Milano. Anyone interested in the project can have further information by writing to info@vision-forum.org.

The demons of globalisation



The phenomenon of globalisation has been accused of generating the most serious problems in the modern society. It is considered, by most of people, as the only guilty of economic gaps, poverty and uncertainty. Our start [position paper](#) shows that the reality is different and starts an investigation that will try to answer to come fundamental questions. What are the benefits and the disadvantages? In terms of number of people living in poverty? Inequalities? Overall economic growth? What are the further changes that are about to arrive?

Which are the realistic options to govern problems that are increasingly global in scope? And by the way what is globalization after all and what does make the latest increase in mobility of trade, people and ideas different from similar globalizations that mankind has experienced in history? When did the latest globalization start and was it really a spontaneous process? Vision project will try to understand whether it is hope or fear the one that should prevail taking for granted that the net final result will always depend on a clash of ideas that is only about to start.

Economic Liberalism vs. Economic Nationalism: a new "UN for Energy" to overcome disputes

By Stefano Casertano

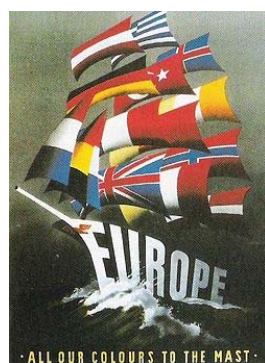


President George W. Bush got a loud "no!" last week when asking Saudi Arabia to increase oil production, in order to cool down booming barrel prices. As strange as it may seem, 22 years earlier the Riyadh court had received a visit from his father, the

then Vice-President George Bush sr., carrying an opposite request: reduce oil production. These two diplomatic visits show us how the position of Western economies towards Oil producing countries has changed in the last years. Production and price swings are a normal occurrence in the Oil world, and the US administrations have to be flexible enough to select the right policy for the contingencies. [...]

It is democracy, stupid

by Francesco Grillo and Koert Debeuf



What everybody feared finally happened: the Irish said NO to the Lisbon Treaty. Once again the European Union is knocked down in its aims to make the Union of 27 workable. The question is whether the EU is knocked out, as it was after the Dutch and French referenda. According to the Irish Foreign Minister Martin

the Lisbon Treaty is dead. Vaclav Klaus, president of the Czech Republic cannot agree more. So what is next? We think time has come to organise a European-wide referendum that gives a final answer; a final yes or no. [...]

Questioning globalization: Good nationalists or bad neighbours?

By Giovanni Dazzo

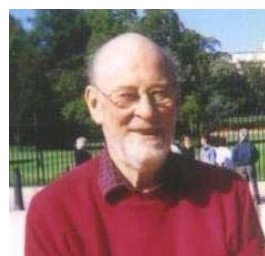


The Simply put: globalization is an odd term. For the past few decades though, the term has been used a great deal. And as with all words that are used far too much, it has come to lose meaning. It has become

an umbrella term, specifying a number of different aspects of this international operation. It is most likely true that, if asked, a majority of people would not be able to succinctly describe the concept. However, this is with good reason. The view of globalization differs among individuals. Some see globalization as it pertains to economy or politics or culture. However, the term is all encompassing. It pertains to all of the previously mentioned subjects and a myriad of others. So, when a politician states that he is anti-globalization, what does it exactly mean? Does the politician oppose the notions of free investment, the transfer of goods and services, or the often-occurring exploitation of the poor? [...]

Fighting the "Demons of Globalization"

By Roger Absalom



The demons of globalisation are, I think, like all the demons that have plagued humanity, entirely in the mind. In other words they are a complex mystification of what is really the case. 'Globalisation' is

presented to us as an entity as material and irreversible as the force of gravity, as 'something we must all come to terms with', something essentially outside history and outside the possibility of control. Yet none of these attributes can be corroborated by concrete evidence: 'globalisation' is an all-powerful and all-pervasive 'demon' that is in reality confined to human consciousness. [...]

Globalisation: a hardship or a help?

By Rachel Owens



Globalisation is a phenomenon whose existence, regardless of whether you endorse it or abhor it, is by now undeniable. It is an issue which sparks strong and varied reactions as people consider what they, as citizens of a

transforming global society, can benefit from the changes brought about by globalisation which, being in constant flux and moving at an ever faster pace, represents to some a relatively daunting outlook of the future. Yet, as with any transformations transpiring on a global scale, from the expansion of the Roman empire to the industrial revolution, some participants will be winners and others will be losers – the aim is surely, to try and ensure the greatest quantity of winners and suitable compensation for the losers. Thus, it is important to consider both the benefits (and to whom they apply), as well as the hardships, generated by a phenomenon which, by combining economic, technological, socio-cultural and political forces, represents an extremely powerful influence over the future direction our society will take. [...]

The different sides of Globalization

by Flavius Stan



Globalization is like rain! We live with it, we can't get away from it, and it is very important to our society. The big difference is, you can't get anyone to get excited about rain,

whereas you can't find anyone who doesn't have very strong opinions about anything and everything that might fall under the umbrella of globalization! Globalization is confusing, because no one can really point out what it is, and what it is not. Any real or imagined social problems in your neighborhood? Public opinion makers will tell you that it is some foreigners' fault, and they are in your neighborhood because of our globalized world. Failure of your country to sustain its welfare, economy and safety net? Bad influence of external market pressures, given the ills of globalization, the argument goes. Can't sell your t-shirts at the street market any more? That's an easy one – it's always the fault of the Chinese (globalization again!). [...]

Globalisation: still a question.

By Mariarosaria Nava



We have been getting into the phase of globalisation for years, and we are still wondering if it is good or not for us and our countries. The formula adopted by Giulio Tremonti, linking reality and ideology in his book in order to explain the above-mentioned phenomenon, does not

seem right to someone, above all to those businessmen that have been facing the international markets for ages. But it is even true that most Multinational Corporations are nationally based, controlled by national shareholders, and trade and invest multinationally with a large majority of sales and assets in their home country. So, we need to take into consideration the other side of the issue. [...]

The illusion of the twenty-first century

by Luigi Palma



We have gone beyond the fable of continuous and ubiquitous progress. The fable of globalization proceeds inexorably on the down-hill. Instead of falling, prices rise: goods, oil, food, money and non-essential goods are often cheaper to procure than basic needs items. Over the past ten

years, the structure and speed of the world have changed, and processes which normally would have taken decades have been compressed and unleashed suddenly, releasing forces that appear uncontrollable. For millions of people these processes have not helped. Many have seen their living conditions deteriorate, have lost their jobs, income and security. Economic integration of markets, as envisioned in the policies of international economic institutions, not only has not delivered widespread prosperity, but has often led to increased poverty in many parts of the world, especially in underdeveloped countries. [...]