

# Introduction



As recently as 1986 a Japanese scholar speaking about Western Europe declared that we had reached the end of the "euro-centrism". One of his arguments was that "nothing was happening any more in Europe"! The center of events had been displaced to other regions of the world.

I agreed with him then. First because I was happy to watch the fact that Western Europe was opening its eyes to the vast world, and becoming ready to learn

with other peoples + other 2  
regions.

Second, because - maybe  
due to experiences in my  
own country - I felt that  
a great paralysis was over-  
taking Europe. The economy  
was trapped into the impos-  
sibility of coupling control  
of inflation with full  
employment. Political  
life was stifling, giving  
to people ~~that~~ the impression  
that things were going  
for the best while deep  
down people were aware  
that they were not  
participating, not deciding.

Ideas seemed to circulate<sup>3</sup>  
only within a small circle  
+ seemed somehow unable  
to create a new configurat-  
ion for our life in society.

Indeed, at that time,  
I had the sensation that  
imagination had deserted  
the centers of power!

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

Then suddenly the  
events in Eastern Europe  
started to shake that  
apparent stability!

- New questions emerged  
about Europe's identity  
- where before we had  
ideological confrontation

we had now a renewed 4  
sense of regional, local  
culture;



- the European community is confronted with radical questions about its scope, composition, nature ~~to~~ with the distribution of power among its institutions;
- issues that until recent years were the concern of social movements more than of the established public powers became central in the public policies;
- well-established economic + social systems became subject to question - marks

which are still waiting <sup>5</sup>  
for adequate answers;

- cooperation with other nations  
which had been caught up  
in the routine of international  
and institutions ~~were~~  
is now challenged in its  
orientation + content.

Western Europe imposed  
Fundação Cuidar o Futuro  
conditions to the emerging  
democracies in Eastern  
Europe and tried, is  
trying - in endless trips  
to the East - to help. As  
it tried to help the Third  
World. As it tried to  
help Africa.

But didn't.

6

Only now, confronting Eastern Europe, Western Europe may be able to ask the fundamental ~~tasks~~ <sup>question</sup> about what needs to be changed in Western Europe itself. Then + only then its help ~~may~~ <sup>can</sup> become effective, ~~because together Western Europe + other parts of the world will have~~

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

In this continent, W Europe is facing in a nutshell the problems the whole world is confronted with.

II. Political order or 7  
the equality of participation

The famous "new world order" — the re-arrangement of the political forces in the world — cannot be based on the

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

