
Everything in just one night

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“Something is Chancing” is the title of an old movie played by Jack Nicholson, and something is chancing in America as well. As the profile of the next democratic government is going to be revealed, even Wall Street seems to start believing that “yes, we can”. We appreciated Timothy Geithner, who compensates the Clinton’s appointment as Secretary of State, a position that, paradoxically, is of great prestige but doesn’t include too much power. The foreign policy is decided by the President and the National Security Counselor. This is the name we have to wait for. This change is going to be concrete in America. The mood of the nation seems to be suddenly renovated.

It happened in one night. In just one night America pushed away the memories of Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, the secret flights, the wars and returned to be The Capitol on the Hill, the city that is standing on the hill and enlightens the world through its example. This is how those emigrants have imagined it, those exiles escaping from the European religious wars and its hate. Contemporary, is vanishing the sense of imminent decline, the spread crisis, an uncertain future have been replaced by a renewed hope. It’s not a chance that the whole Obama’s electoral campaign was based on a single leitmotiv: hope, or even better “Hope & Change”.

Observing those celebrating faces that illuminated the night in Chicago, I was wandering about the eyes of young people in Beijing and how they were reacting in front of those images. What about the eyes of all the citizen subjects that live in a dictatorship? And for what concerns the young Medvedev’s eyes, the crowned dauphin?

It was in that moment that I realized that the crowd in Chicago wasn't celebrating the new elected President Obama, on the contrary, it was celebrating itself, they were proud of being a democracy, of being their selves the concrete proof of the existing sovereignty, they were proud of being the driving force of the actual change.

Some days ago a video was uploaded on youtube.com in which Barack Obama affirmed with conviction that the America would have take soon a new lease of life. In past time, it happened that others were on the edge of the precipice, feeling the incipient end. This is how America became aware of its possible collapse, just like it happened to Rome.

In 1987 all bookshops best sellers were books such as: Paul Kennedy's *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*; *The end of the American century* of Stephen Schlosseim; *Can America compete?* By Robert Lawrence; *The Overburdened Economy* written by Lloyd Dumas; *The Decline and Crash of the American Economy* by Joel Kurtzman; Walter Russel Mead's *Mortal Splendor*; *Beyond American Hegemony* by David P. Calleo. Even this time who believed in the decline wrote again, as Seymour Melman who published *The military economy and the decline of United States*; *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire* by Nial Ferguson; Immanuel Wallerstein who wrote *Decline of American Power: The U.S. in a Chaotic World*; *Nemesis: The Last Days of the American Republic* by Chalmers Johnson, *The End of the American Era* by Charles A. Kupchan; *The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria.

Nevertheless, these moments have played an essential incubator role in the in the turning points of the American history. These crises have shown the distortions to be reformed and, at the same time, indicated the best intelligence of the country (would it be a man as Obama without the crisis?)

"America will rise again" affirmed the elected President in the video and maybe there will be a new American century, in spite of several prophecies regarding the unlikely coming of a Chinese era.

If this is going to be realized, it won't depends only on Obama's credits, but even Bush's government should be revalued. Indeed, if the United States will be able to build new relations with Asian regions, with the purpose to prevent the establishment of the balance of power in that area (having in mind the example of Europe in the XIX and XX centuries), it will be achieved thanks to the republican President's vituperation. In examining the reasons for what happened, it shouldn't being taken into consideration neither the Iraqi desert nor the Afghani Mountains, they represent just part of the explanation. In fact, India is the focal point and, above all, the American determination to avoid the nuclear apartheid, focusing on New Delhi and its aspiration in becoming a global power, with the consequence of a total disconnection with the previous policy against arms proliferation.

Bush just like Nixon. At the time, Nixon's journey in Beijing consented the United States to break the impasse created after the defeat in Vietnam, giving new life to the Washington's strategy in Asia and, contemporary, facilitating the power relations realignment in the region, counterbalancing the relations with Moscow. From the economic point of view, that trip represented the starting point of a deep rearrangement of the world economic system, also called globalization.

Besides, in China the reopening of relations with the United States implied a double effect: on one hand it ended the extended period of isolation due to the breaking of relations with the URSS, on the other hand it created the opportunity to remedy the damages created during The Great Leap Forward.

The evolution of Indian-American relations, although it didn't receive a huge attention, probably because of the extremely technical aspects it focused on, had the same importance of the Chinese one and it showed several coincidences with the '70.

Bush's Indian action wanted to give a new impulse to the American foreign policy, especially in the Middle-East. This policy, indeed, deeply rearranged the structure of relations in Asia and, in the middle run, it might led to a change of the international economic relations¹. Probably, this could explain why John Lewis Gaddis, Professor of Military and Naval History at Yale University and Dean of Cold War Historians, has described this Bush's government strategy as "the most sweeping redesign of U.S. grand strategy since the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt"². This is why, in all probability, we are at the beginning of a new American century.

¹ Blinder Alan S., "Offshoring: The Next Industrial Revolution?", *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2006

² John Lewis Gaddis, "Grand Strategy in the Second Term", *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2005