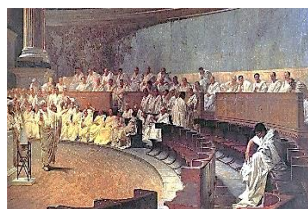


OUR DREAMS, CULTURES and DESTINY

"I dreamed goddess Asia insisted I belonged to her, because I was born in Asia. The opposite happened: Zeus abducted me to the island of Crete, where I entered the Hellenic world and gave birth to among other Minos, who became later king of Crete. My family missed me and they started a search. It is believed that the land extends from west of Asia and north of Africa and is bounded by the Arctic and the Atlantic Ocean: they have not found me."



The story goes that under king Minos the earliest "high" culture in Europe was originated, far before **Ancient Greece's era of civilization**. Later in time, in western Europe, the Celts spread the La Tène culture, on aspects competitive to the **Roman state**, where already was a vision of a future in which "Europe" would acquire some kind of unity.



Hereafter, a system of thought based on **religion**, determined by church, was a characteristic. The earthly existence was minor and life was focused on the afterlife. After a period of time, this way of life was criticized and Europe justified that ideas have no objective existence outside man. Dogmas were abandoned and religion was accommodated in a secular order in the sense of separation between church and state, and as a private matter in society. **Man became central**, the beginning of modernity was marked.



The way was paved for the dominance of reason and the idea that every person had a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, not a future promise paradise, but in the here and now, styled in a self reality. It became one of the pillars of Western civilization, culminating the prosperous life we are now living in. Science and intellectual exchange was encouraged and **transformative eras arose**, in which great cultural, intellectual, literary, artistic movements flourished.

But from ancient Greece to the present day, it all happened not without numerous of conflicts and wars concerning land, religion and ideologies. Such miseries brought us the idea of perpetual peace, which in recent times did get form through the establishment of the European Union.



After a rocky history, Europa is the largest area of peace and prosperity in history. But rather that there is a widespread companionship, peoples struggle about identity, sovereignty and capacity and are searching for truly destiny. **Cooperation** and **humanism**, a broad category of ethical philosophies that affirm the dignity and worth of all people, can offer as such. Europe this way can show what it stands for and for which not, what it can do and what not:

- a safe and secure Europe;
- a prosperous and sustainable Europe;
- a social Europe (fostering ongoing dialogue between world of thoughts and of humane stances, searching a proper balance between reason and religion, and taking stand against revenge, resentments, oppression and intimidation);
- a stronger Europe on the global scene.

We are equipped with a repository of tools, that can shape our life and therefore able to find appropriate relevance that gives Europe glamor.