

2020 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

The true meaning of global

(Original)

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Dear Antonio of the past,

Do you remember what it meant to be a citizen of the world in 2020? It meant that you had seen Charlie Chaplin's filmography or that you liked the French Enlightenment in high school. It meant having made a lot of efforts, volunteering abroad, inquiring about opportunities to help in developing countries, pleading lost causes, fundraising, creating some apps or platforms that involved thousands or millions of people. But that wasn't enough, remember? It was beautiful and satisfying, but it wasn't exactly what you wanted, what we all wanted. A piece of the puzzle was missing. Policy makers were always the same: they worried about elections and voters, but not about the world. They promised to lower taxes or that they would win the contract for the next Olympic Games or that they would plant a thousand more trees... but it all ended with their mandate or with their ability to be financed or supported.

And what if the fascist, racist, sexist, scornful of the poor and inequalities, denial of climate change candidate wins? There go hopes! It was an unequal struggle, because what is right must be pursued at all costs. We needed a paradigm shift. And it happened. A political movement, which started from the bottom, collected increasing consents until it explodes: a global political movement. You will know the manifesto by heart because you will be part of it too and you will make a big contribution... The movement has settled in all the world parliaments in a few years and has raised its voice, speaking the truth: enough selfishness, enough parochialism, enough of the euro-zones, commercial duties, cold war and so on. That's enough!!!

The movement has entered all ministries and has never left because it's not a political party, it's an Idea. It's a seed that has been planted, that has sprouted, nourished by special people who have ignited the hopes of millions of people with their words and

inspiring gestures. An idea which grew strong, with roots made of kindness, internationality, love for nature, animals and men, justice and equality. Now the fruits can be picked. The movement's policies are now truly global because they run from the UK to Japan, from Canada to Africa, from China to Peru seamlessly. The world is no longer just interconnected or international, it's truly global.

Global because it no longer happens that a state offers advantages in relocating highly polluting factories. Global because human rights are respected everywhere, without distinction. Global because workers can aspire to any job in any company, commensurate with their skills, and meritocracy does not come directly from the bank account. Global because the health and survival of other species is taken into consideration like ours. Global because the well-being of all coincides with everyone's well-being.

Aristotle, in his *Metaphysics*, says that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. He was right! Why? Because everything is connected, we are all related! The old paradigm said *mors tua, vita mea* and therefore the policies were oriented to cheat others, in an absurd competition with few "winners". Now competition is healthy, because it is supported by cooperation. Imagine it: think of two friends who want to compete in the race, but one has new shoes and one is wearing slippers. Can there be competition ...? But if the former lends a hand to the other to buy shoes, competition can take place.

The best thing is that you can be proud of yourself. Because you have contributed and are contributing to this extraordinary growth. You spread the spirituality of being a global citizen. Now you can say you really are. Always fight for what's right. Fight for minorities, fight for the weak. Fight for those who cannot defend themselves. Fight against populism and easy politics. Fight against those who want to prevail. Fight for what you believe, because it will be worth it.

Greetings from the future,
knowing how you will grow, as a man and as a citizen,
A hug
Myself.