

IL PEDANTE

Crisis in Fabula. A Capital Tale
and the Twilight of Democracy

Presented by

Il Pedante

Bruxelles, European Parliament
6th June 2018

CONTENTS

- Il Pedante
- Facciamo Come
- The Blog
- The Book

IL PEDANTE

THE CHARACTER, THE MAN

IL PEDANTE

THE CHARACTER



- Born in September 2013 on Twitter as @EuroMasochismo.
- Severe, formal, ornate (pedant) speech. Avatar is Tomás de Torquemada.
- (Re)tweets mainly in Italian but also in English, French, German, Latin.
- Criticism of Neoliberalism, Progressism, Maastricht Europe, mass communication, fashionable ideologies and political trends.

IL PEDANTE

THE MAN



- Born during the “Baby Boom” of the 70’ on the outskirts of Monza (Northern Italy). Eldest of three in a middle class family.
- Studied Modern Literature in Milan and Vienna.
- Graduated in Classical Music in Novara.
- Worked for 10 years in the field of natural gas distribution as a junior consultant.
- Works today as a musician, copywriter and writer.

FACCIAMOCOME.ORG

A GENERATOR OF XENOMANIAC "SUPERCACZZOLE"

FACCIAMOCOME.ORG

“Let’s do like...”

A GENERATOR OF XENOMANIAC “SUPERCACZZOLE”

“Elaborated nonsense”

- Started on 7th February 2014.
- Random sentence generator available at <http://facciamocome.org>.
- Aims at making fun of Italians’ inferiority complex and self-debasement when comparing with other Countries.
- Satirical counternarrative to Italian media’s and politicians’ obsession with depicting Italy as the Cinderella of Europe/world because of its alleged delay to embrace Neoliberal and market-oriented “redeeming” dogmas.
- More than 1,7 million sentences generated, 1600 sentence templates, dozens of authors (some of them... serious) as of May 2018.
- An auto-generated book, application programming interface (API), widget, Twitter bot, collectible visit cards.

FACCIAMOCOME.ORG

A GENERATOR OF XENOMANIAC "SUPERCACZZOLE"

Mentre Pompei va a pezzi, in Paraguay
hanno salvato i monumenti trasformandoli
in autogrill.

Random phrase

Random country



facebook Tweet

"While Pompeii crumbles, Paraguay saved its monuments by converting them into motorway service areas"

CLICK PER GENERARE

1.710.753

FACCIAMOCOME.ORG

A GENERATOR OF XENOMANIAC "SUPERCAZZOLE"

In Bassa Sassonia il 95% dei giovani non vuole il posto fisso. I restanti hanno genitori italiani.

1454

<http://facciamocome.org>

"In Lower Saxony, 95% of young people do not want a secured job. The remaining ones have Italian parents."

Nelle Isole Vergini britanniche i lavoratori hanno più diritti perché protestano di meno.

949

<http://facciamocome.org>

"Workers of the British Virgin Islands have more rights because they complain less"

L'Italia era la cicala, le Isole Åland la formica. Poi arrivò l'inverno.

278

<http://facciamocome.org>

"Italy was the grasshopper, Åland Islands were the ant. Then came the winter"

lo bevo solo vino dell'Uganda, il nostro lo allungano con lo smalto per le unghie.

769

<http://facciamocome.org>

"I only drink Uganda's wine. Ours is diluted with nail polish"

FACCIAMOCOME.ORG

A GENERATOR OF XENOMANIAC "SUPERCAZZOLE"

Italian self-racism is a known national "bug".

"The playscript of the anti-italian is about attributing to the entire national community the specific and unique faults of one's own rogue personality, with the aggravating hypocrisy of rising above it and pretending to be a sophisticated anglo-scandinavian lord who ended in a world of mediterranean troglodytes by chance"

(Costanzo Preve)

"The filthy Italian scab of belittling ourselves"

(Carlo Emilio Gadda)

"They become fond of the problems of the future, identify what's wrong and eventually conclude that Italy, in order to be fine, needs to do like Switzerland. These people... are even crazier than the other ones, who used to insist that Italy, in order to be fine, needed to rule all over the world"

(Giovannino Guareschi)

"We need to surrender sovereignty/attract Foreign Direct Investments/be more credible abroad/listen to [random country]'s recommendations/draw lessons from [random country]"

(An average day on Italian newspapers)

ILPEDANTE.ORG

THE BLOG

ILPEDANTE.ORG

THE BLOG

- Started on 27th March 2015, available at <http://ilpedante.org>.
- Not an online journal. Presents 85 short essays on political/economic topics with focus on mainstream narrative, aiming at deconstructing its inconsistencies.
- Mainly in Italian, some posts are translated in Spanish (7) and English (1)
- Ca. 2500 comments, some of them being little essays on their own, serving as inspiration for further research and writing.
- Number of visitors and any other info about visitors are deliberately not gathered.
- Ranked second at Internet Macchianera Awards 2016 for best political website of opinion.

ILPEDANTE.ORG

THE BLOG

Il Pedante

ABOUT

PRIVACY

PROGETTI ▾

CERCA

ITALIANO ▾

Il Pedante

Ripetere l'ovvio in tempo di menzogna è un atto rivoluzionario

"Restating the obvious in times of deceit
Is a revolutionary act"

Ciucchi senza confini

Lascientia non vult.

19 maggio, 2018 | 20 commenti | Pedanteria: ●

Pedantry level (1 to 5)

Avengers: Infinity War

Pirotecnico malthusianesimo terminale per tutta la famiglia.

07 maggio, 2018 | 38 commenti | Pedanteria: ●●●●●

ILPEDANTE.ORG

THE BLOG

The blog's posts and topics form the theoretical skeleton of the book. Some popular posts later became chapters of the book. Some examples:

Il socialismo dei ricchi

Socialism of the Rich

On how strongly market-oriented and competitive economies rely on Socialist-like privileges for big business and the rich.

Il questismo

Thisism

On how advocating a different idea of Europe than #this is the safest way to preserve and protect #this idea of Europe.

Le apologie del fallimento

Apologia of the Failure

On how ongoing failures of Neoliberal policies are excused by blaming their victims. Rhetorical myths are esposed and debunked by comparing them to Freudian psychoanalytic discourse.

Dementia symboli

The Folly of Symbols

On how contemporary political thought mainly relies on automatic, Pavlovian-like symbolic processes, both to easily engage the mass and to avoid the acknowledgment of failures.

CRISIS IN FABULA

THE BOOK

CRISIS IN FABULA

THE BOOK

- Full Italian title: “La crisi narrata. Romanzo dei capitali e crepuscolo della democrazia”
- Written in January-April 2017, published on 16th November 2017. Fourth reprint in progress. First (and only) published book by the author.
- Idea promoters were Vladimiro Giacché and Alberto Bagnai, whose books deeply influenced the author.
- 50% original contents + 50% adapted blog’s posts.
- Both a collection of essays and a consistent volume with an underlying “plot”.

CRISIS IN FABULA

THE BOOK

Il Pedante

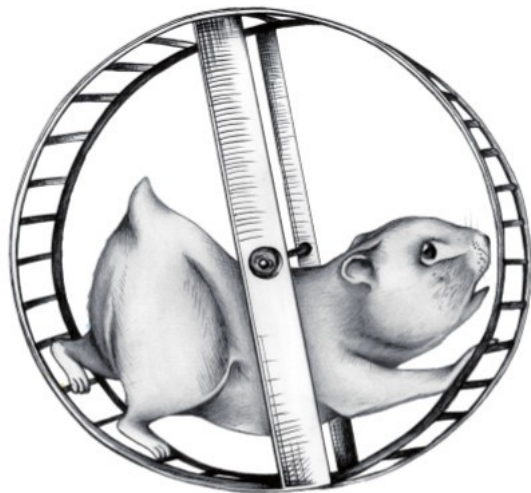
LA CRISI NARRATA

I

Il Pedante

LA CRISI NARRATA

Prefazione di Alberto Bagnai



Romanzo dei capitali
e crepuscolo della democrazia

Imprimatur

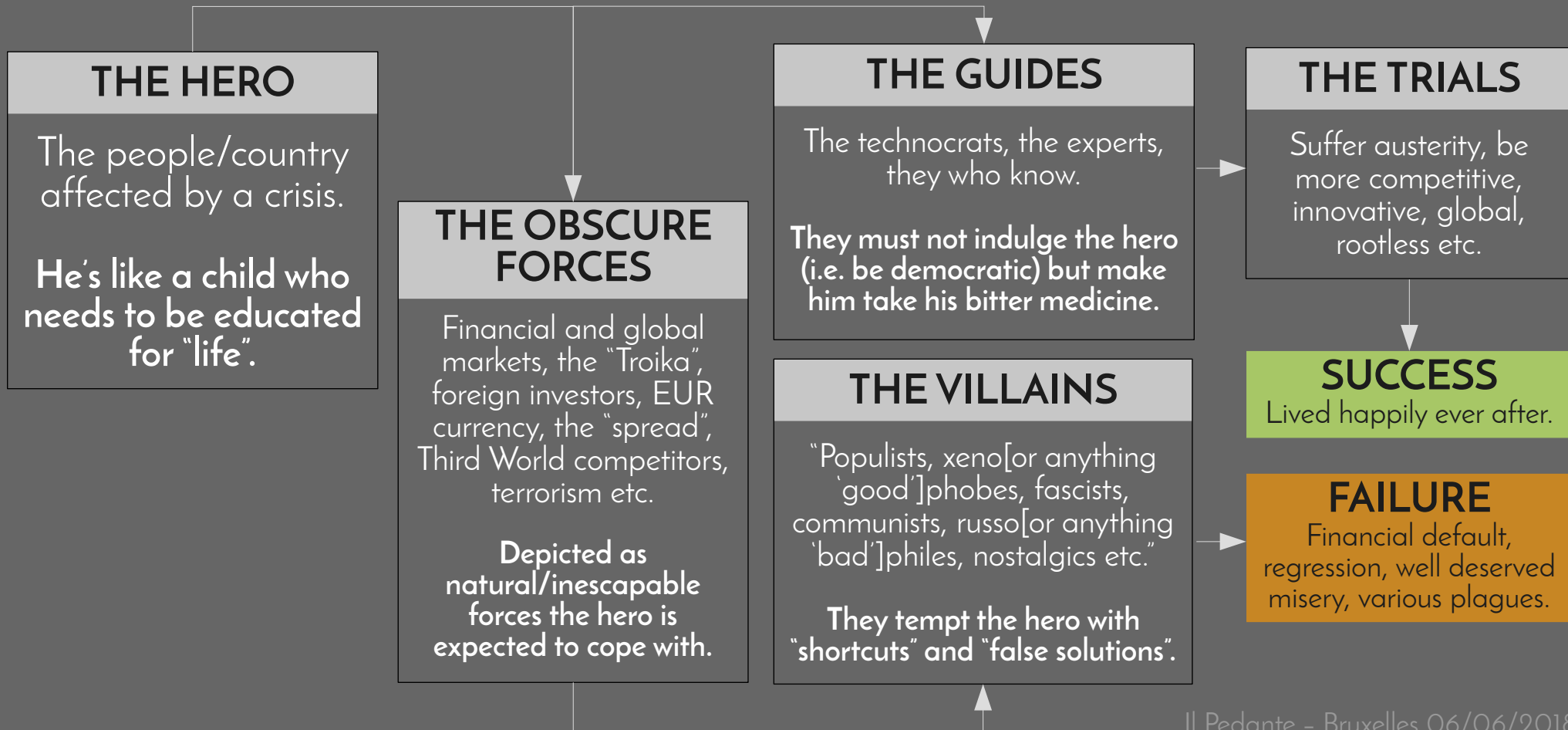
"The industrial, occupational and social crisis of our Country is nothing but a chapter of a wider retreat of rights and welfare in the democratic West. Its causes are often told with the words of politics and economics. In this collection of essays, the author tries to 'tell that tale' in order to identify the deepest and strongest root of the decline in its representation and, paradoxically, in the prescriptions that are expected to heal it"...

La crisi produttiva, occupazionale e sociale del nostro Paese non è che il capitolo di un arretramento più generale dei diritti e del benessere diffuso che sta investendo l'Occidente democratico. Le sue cause sono spesso raccontate con gli strumenti della politica e dell'economia. Con questa raccolta ragionata di saggi l'autore si propone di «raccontare quel racconto» per individuare nella rappresentazione del declino e, paradossalmente, delle ricette con cui si pretende di superarlo, la sua radice più profonda e tenace. Il «romanzo» dei capitali che occupano lo Stato reclamandone le prerogative con vincoli finanziari, privatizzazioni, deflazione competitiva e cessioni della sovranità popolare è tanto più pericoloso in quanto acclamato dalle sue stesse vittime e tollerato da chi vi si deve opporre.

CRISIS IN FABULA

THE BOOK

The childish narrative through which "plutocracy" - i.e. the government of the richer - legitimates its power is "told" by means of formal, linguistic, psychological, narratological tools.



CRISIS IN FABULA

THE BOOK

The analysis is organized in three parts:

1. Plot and authors

Plutocracy as the abstract need/destiny of the richer to permeate public government and become State himself in order to overcome State's limitations to his growth - Plutocracy (deflation) vs. social democracy (inflation): the case of Italy - **Surrender of sovereignty** as the way to achieve p.c. with the consent of the governed - How and why p.c. seduces its victims - etc.

2. Rhetoric

Anatomy of the tale: simplicity, unanimity, repetition, epic, moralism, denial etc. - The **False synecdoche** as a standard media technique - **Symbolic thought** - The myth of innovation - The "apocalyptic" evolution of the **Left** - etc.

3. Characters

Meritocracy, the Moderates, Honesty, Conspiracy, Hate, Terror, Fear (of the fear) - The ongoing attack on democracy: the case of Brexit, democracy ad Benitum, democracy ad Hitlerum - etc.

Thank you for listening!

ilpedante@riseup.net

Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0)