



Istituto Veneto
di Scienze Lettere
ed Arti



*Paneuropa Italia Cultural association
member of the International Pan-European Union*

THE KALERGI PROJECT FOR THE PAN-EUROPEAN UNION

One hundred years after the publication of the essay Paneuropa

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2023 3:00-6.00 p.m.

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2023 9:30 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

**Palazzo Loredan
Campo S. Stefano, 2945
30124 Venice (Ve)**

A hundred years ago the project book by Nikolaus von Coudenhove - Kalergi was released in Austria to promote the European Union on culture, languages, traditions, albeit different, but the result of the same common roots of classicism and Judeo-Christian thought.

The paper starts from the tragedy of the First World War, defined by the author as a "European civil war" and proposes the coordinates of broad autonomy, but of strong ethical and political value: *In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas*. Divided into stages and precise programs, the project did not go through, for various reasons, but essentially for one. The US intervention imposed its own liberal economic paradigm on which it had forged the cohabitation of immigrants from the most diverse nations, aggregated on the lowest common denominator of the exchange economy. The League of Nations was born, clearly unable to unravel the nationalisms that triggered the First War and which were fatally leading to the second, precisely on the claims of access to essential resources that could not be overcome in a perspective of liberal exchange economy, impossible where demand far exceeds supply and there is a need to identify distribution criteria on a political or, in any case, not merely economic basis.

Having denounced the nihilistic approach of National Socialism, after the Anschluss of Austria, he emigrated to Switzerland, France and then to the United States, where he was a professor at New York University. Returning to his country, he was a tireless advocate of a Europe united on political and cultural foundations, from which - then - to derive the economic rules. He approached and shared his ideas

with many of the most influential figures of the Second World War, facilitated by the friendships established during the exile and propitiated by the exchange of books.

Among those who participated in the first phase of the movement were Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann, Sigmund Freud, Rainer Maria Rilke, Miguel de Unamuno, Salvador de Madariaga, Ortega y Gasset, Denis de Rougemont (whom he met in Vienna in 1927 and in New York in 1942). In the second phase, personalities such as Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi and Winston Churchill were included, the latter being a supporter of the United States of Europe, who should not have foreseen the United Kingdom, moreover at the time still a juridical empire, then the center of a Commonwealth of a mixed political-economic nature.

At a time when the European Union - shaped on competition, free trade and the single currency - demonstrates its fragility and loses the most seafaring of its states, it is worth rethinking the perspective suggested a hundred years ago by Coudenhove - Kalergi to start that much desired (but never really wanted) leap in quality, progress towards a political union. In fact, a common foreign policy now seems unavoidable, for defence, international crises and migration, taking charge of everyone's needs and promoting everyone's interest, in order to have a solid European home, rather than a fragile economic hut.



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Friday 3 November 2023 3.00 - 6.00 p.m. - Palazzo Loredan

Welcome Words

Gianna Di Danieli (President Paneuropa Italia)

Chair

Maria Laura Picchio Forlati (University of Padua - Member of IVSLA)

Speakers

Mirko Sossai (University of Roma 3): *The Kalergi European Project 1923-1924. An introduction in today perspective.*

Marino Zorzi (Former Director of Marciana Library, Venice - Member of IVSLA): *The Kalergi, from the island of Candia to the cosmopolitanism of Venice.*

Rainhard Kloucek (Paneuropa Austria): *The Pan-European Movement of the origins, from an intuition to a congress: 1922-1924.*

Claudio Cressati (University of Udine): *Luigi Einaudi: another voice for European unity after the "suicide of civilized Europe".*

Poster Presentation

Debate

Friday 3 November 2023 at 20.00 Dinner offered to the speakers at the Circolo dell'Unione - Palazzo Mocenigo on the Grand Canal in Venice

Saturday 4 November 2023 9.30 a.m.-1.00 p.m. - Palazzo Loredan

Chair

Marcello M. Fracanzani (Paneuropa Italia - Member IVSLA)

Speakers

Davide Fini (researcher): *Archive research on the journal Paneuropa, 1923-1939.*

Giacomo Biasutti (University of Trieste): *Cultural heritage, competition and identity: between Kalergi's perspective and the paradoxes of the subsidized economy*

Laris Gaiser (researcher - Paneuropa Slovenia): *The difficult road from Balkan nationalism to the European Union: is there a Kalergi Option?*

Conclusions:

Walburga von Habsburg Douglas (International Paneuropa Movement)

Saturday 4 November 2023 at 1.30 p.m. - Palazzo Franchetti: Light Lunch.

NB: the sessions will be held in English; no translation service is provided.

The venue held in IVSLA: see [at Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti](https://www.istitutoveneto.it/)