Astra Bocconi

Stella Polare

December 2024

BOSDIC

ALEPH Analisi Strategiche

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WRITTEN BY:
ANTONIO MILUTIN MARULLO

TEATRO ALLA SCALA: BEHIND THE CURTAINS

UNVEILING THE MAGIC OF THIS OPERA SEASON

A season of long-awaited returns

Opening the season with Verdi's ***La forza del destino***, an opera long avoided by artistic directors due to its reputation for bringing bad luck, is undoubtedly a bold statement. This superstition, rooted in a series of accidents that occurred during its productions and performances, is so pervasive in Italy that many refuse to say the opera's full title aloud, referring to it instead, half-jokingly but with caution, as l'innominabile (the unnameable). The opera had been absent from La Scala's repertoire for 25 years and had not opened a season in 59. For this monumental return, La Scala assembled a formidable cast, with Anna Netrebko as Leonora, Ludovic Tézier as Don Carlo and Brian Jagde stepping in for Jonas Kaufmann as Don Alvaro. The Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala was masterfully conducted by Maestro Riccardo Chailly, the theatre's musical director since 2015.

Despite all this, the most remarkable return to the stage this season is not the inaugural Verdian opera, but rather Bellini's ***Norma***, which has been absent from La Scala for almost half a century, last performed in 1977. Its prolonged absence is largely due to the sheer difficulty of the title role and the extraordinary calibre of the artists historically associated with it. Norma was famously a cavallo di battaglia for Maria Callas and was last performed at La Scala by Montserrat Caballé. With such towering figures in its history, the benchmark for this opera is exceptionally high. Adding to the weight of its legacy is the infamous incident involving Maria Callas during the inaugural gala at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma in 1958, an event that some regard as the beginning of her decline. Callas refused to return to the stage for the second act due to vocal health issues, which the audience and press did not take kindly to. However, this harsh response was largely driven by external factors unrelated to La Divina's performance that night, perhaps a tale for another time. With this history in mind, there is undoubtedly immense pressure on Marina Rebeka, who will take on this colossal role in June.

Wagner’s masterpiece and a world premiere

An insightful presentation of the new season at Teatro alla Scala, given by Superintendent Dominique Meyer to representatives from universities and conservatories, which I had the pleasure of attending personally in the fall, revealed the main projects for the 2024-2025 season: Wagner's Ring Cycle and the debut of a new opera commissioned by Teatro alla Scala, which Meyer affectionately referred to as “our baby”. Francesco Filidei’s ***Il nome della rosa***, based on Umberto Eco's acclaimed novel, will have its world premiere here on April 27th, 2025.

Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen is a cycle of four operas that took over a quarter of a century to complete and has not been performed at La Scala in a decade. Described by the Superintendent as “the most ambitious project in opera,” mounting The Ring Cycle is a monumental task, spanning four operas over three seasons, with as many years dedicated to planning the production. The operas will first be presented one at a time during three seasons: ***Das Rheingold*** in October 2024, ***Die Walküre*** in February 2025, ***Siegfried*** in June 2025, and ***Götterdämmerung*** in February 2026. What I find most exciting is that in March 2026, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the tetralogy’s first performance, La Scala will present two complete cycles of the four operas, each cycle performed within one week, as originally intended by Wagner.

Old but gold: great reprisals

The new season features some great reprisals, titles that you must have heard at least once, such as Verdi’s ***Rigoletto***, Mozart’s ***Così fan tutte*** and Puccini’s ***Tosca***, my personal favorite. There are two reasons for this. The first is the sheer beauty of its arias: ***E lucevan le stelle***, ***Vissi d’arte***, ***Recondita armonia***, just to name a few. The second is Pavarotti’s decision to interpret Cavaradossi in ***Tosca*** for his final stage performance. ***E lucevan le stelle*** was once the most famous tenor aria before Puccini composed ***Nessun Dorma*** from ***Turandot***. Needless to say, we expect great things from Francesco Meli and Fabio Sartori in March.

A beautiful opera gracing the theatre this season is Donizetti’s ***La Fille du Régiment***, which includes one of the most famous tenor arias, ***Ah! mes amis***, known for its nine high C’s which most tenors would struggle with, but not Juan Diego Flórez. Having witnessed it firsthand during a singing recital with my mother a few years ago, my first time at La Scala, I can say that, after enjoying dozens of performances, it remains my favourite night ever at the theatre. There is no better man alive to take on this role. Then again, I might be a little biased. Meyer jokingly suggested that if you want Juan Diego to repeat the famous aria, you'd better show him the warmth of the audience, which, for one, I most certainly will come October.

Opera is not affordable, or is it?
Let's debunk the myth that opera and Teatro alla Scala is too expensive for young students. La Scala's Under30 Pass is a €10 purchase that gives you access to a series of completely free events, ranging from open rehearsals for operas, ballets, and symphonic concerts throughout the season, to guided tours of the theatre's museum and unique events organized for the young community, along with discounts and last-minute promotions. La Scala's Opera Under30 Subscription starts at €85 for four operas (€21 per opera), including both Tosca and Così fan tutte. One of the best features of this subscription is that you get to be among the first to purchase tickets for the Under30 Previews in December, one of the greatest cultural events for young people in all of Europe, which cost €20 for any seat in the house.

Milano per la Scala's Giovani membership, priced at €100 for those under 35, gives free access to rehearsals for every opera and ballet of the season with a guest, as well as unique events like the dinner at the theatre following this year's Under30 preview of La forza del destino, which I had the pleasure of attending. Unironically, it took me a while to realize that I actually enjoy the operas I attend much more once I understand what's going on. The theatre organizes a free introduction to each opera in Ridotto Toscanini, as well as other free presentations. Milano per la Scala organizes entertaining and insightful sessions with Prof. Sartorelli to deepen your understanding of the operas. Worth mentioning is also Filarmonica della Scala's Generazione Filarmonica, an Under30 subscription offering 5 concerts for €100 (€20 per concert) with any seat in the house.

Finally, thanks to Teatro alla Scala's cultural promotion service, Sig. Roberto Bossi in particular, the Bocconi Students Opera Society, one of the most thriving and exciting student associations at our university (and I might be biased on this since I founded it in 2022), organizes for Bocconi students to attend operas at a price of €30 for box seats, as well as ballet, symphonic concerts, free rehearsals and fun social events.

WRITTEN BY:
MARCUS HARVEY ISAKSSON

ALEPH
Analisi Strategiche

FREE TRADE: A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT?

How National Security Concerns Are Shaping Modern Trade

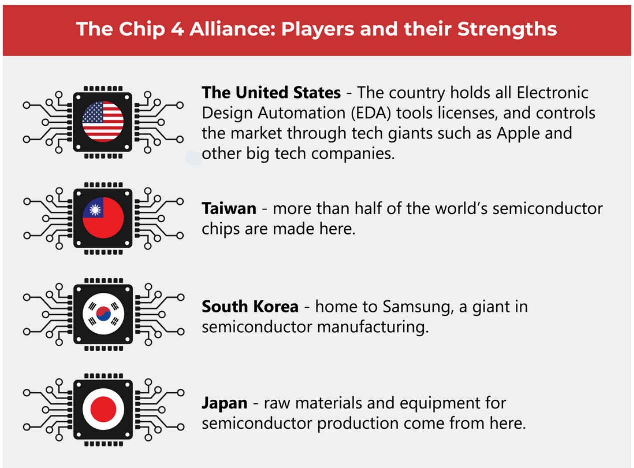
The 1990s marked a period of optimism, liberalisation and globalisation. In the aftermath of the Cold War, the West emerged seemingly triumphant, ushering in a new world order guided by democratisation, capitalism and free trade. The decade marked several landmark achievements in the liberalisation of international commerce with the establishment of WTO in 1995 following the Marrakesh Agreement, the European single market in 1993, and various free trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Political leaders championed the cause of globalisation and free trade, arguing it would not only enrich nations economically but also pave the way for a more interconnected and democratic world.

Fast forward to the present and the contemporary narrative on free trade and globalisation unveils a notable shift. For instance, recent research suggests that between 2002 and 2018, support for free trade in Japan, the United States, and various European countries declined substantially. The shift has predominantly been propelled by a rising hostility towards free trade and globalisation among the working-class and low-skill workers, groups which have been forced to bear the brunt of the cost of globalisation. World leaders have noted that the tide is turning and has, in recent years, begun signaling a departure from the unbridled globalism of the past to a new era of protectionism and decoupling. While protectionism is a tale as old as trade, recent legislation suggests a shift from viewing trade solely as an economic consideration to regarding it as a matter of national security, making it an important instrument in a time characterised by ever-increasing geopolitical tensions.

The wary west

This shift in the perception of trade is not limited to one corner of the world or a single geopolitical block; rather, it is a commonality among new trade legislation and industrial policy. Despite its history of championing free trade, the United States has embraced the new era of protectionism and decoupling in many ways. Under the first Trump presidency, the “America First” economic policy imposed various tariffs. For instance, in March 2018, citing national security grounds, the U.S imposed 25% tariffs on steel and 10% on aluminium coming from key allies such as the EU, the

UK, South Korea, and Japan resulting in retaliatory measures. This type of protectionism is expected to worsen under Trump's second term. Even the Biden administration pursued an aggressive industrial policy, albeit in other areas. Following the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act, the U.S. has provided more than $450 billion in subsidies for green energy, electric cars, and semiconductors, often with the conditional requirement that production is domestic. A notable exemption is Taiwanese firms, which can take advantage of the CHIPS and Science Act incentives. Recent tensions between Taiwan and China have emphasised not only the geopolitical importance of Taiwan as an ally to the U.S. but also its significance as a trade partner. U.S intelligence estimates show that losing Taiwan's chip production could potentially erase up to $1 trillion per year from the global economy for the first few years, which experts fear could have severe repercussions for U.S national security, as semiconductors are a key driver for advanced weapon capabilities.



In the European Union, the idea of EU Strategic Autonomy (EU-SA) or 'open strategic autonomy' has recently gained traction following Russia's war against Ukraine and a desire to reduce dependence on the United States. First introduced in 2013 mainly as an approach to security and defence matters, the EU-SA has since been widened to all EU policy areas in light of Brexit, the Trump Presidency and China's growing assertiveness. Today, the strategy calls for greater energy independence and emphasises mitigating economic dependence on foreign supply chains, critical raw materials, semiconductors, and digital technology. By withholding energy shipments to Europe through its pipelines, Russia created political and economic pressure on countries dependent on its gas. Recognising the potential ramifications of such a vulnerability, the EU, along with other countries, has enacted policies to reduce the sourcing of critical products such as energy from "countries of concern."

Since 2019, the von der Leyen Commission has introduced several new defensive trade tools, such as outbound investment screening on sensitive technology, filtering foreign direct investments into the EU and an anti-coercion instrument. Later in October of the same year, the Commission adopted a recommendation on critical technology areas for the EU's economic security, to restrict potential leakage of critical technologies to countries such as China. On the national level, many EU countries have adopted or tightened preexisting investment screening mechanisms across the board, with many citing national security concerns.

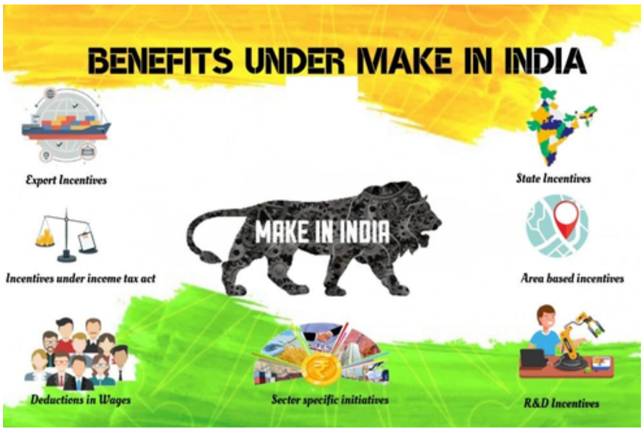
Pro-trade China?

Amid deteriorating relations with the West, significant debt, and unfavorable demographics, many economists have predicted an era of slower growth for the country, prompting shifts in its trade and national security strategy. In 2015, it launched "Made in China 2025," a state-led initiative aimed at achieving technological leadership in global high-tech manufacturing through subsidies, state-owned enterprises, and intellectual property acquisition, focusing on the now familiar "sensitive" technologies like AI and advanced robotics. However, the policy has drawn criticism from the U.S. and other industrialised democracies, arguing it relies on discriminatory treatment of foreign investment, forced technology transfers, intellectual property theft, and cyber espionage.

Internationally, China has extended its influence through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its subset, the Digital Silk Road (DSR). While the BRI focuses on opening foreign markets to Chinese goods and companies, the DSR specifically aims to build technological infrastructure that supports economic development and enhances China's power projection. Critics argue these policies prioritize state-led geopolitical and security agendas at the expense of free trade, despite China's ironic calls to avoid politicizing trade. At the 2024 World Economic Forum, Premier Li Qiang reiterated China's openness to foreign investment and emphasized reducing barriers to address global challenges.

Make in India

Amongst the deterioration of free rule-based international trade, India has seemingly emerged as a benefactor all while pursuing its own protectionist trade policies. A recent report showed how U.S. and European firms are shifting investment away from China to other developing markets, with India receiving the lion’s share of the redirected foreign capital. Many companies cited concerns over China's business environment, economic recovery and politics as the reasons for this shift. Total green-field investments announced by U.S and European firms increased by circa $65 billion or 400% between 2021 and 2022, while investment into China decreased to less than $20 billion during 2022 from peaking at $120 billion in 2018. As the United States has for the last two decades bet on India to become a key partner in its geopolitical rivalry against China, the recent economic shift should perhaps not come as a surprise. Indeed, India has many reasons to celebrate: favourable demographics in an otherwise ageing Asia, a recent discovery of lithium reserves (a key ingredient for the green transition), and the fastest pace of economic growth the country has seen in the last 13 years. Yet some argue India’s potential is limited by its longstanding and continued tradition of protectionism.



In the 1990s and 2000s, India, like much of the world, embraced liberalization, reducing average tariffs from over 80% in 1990 to 13% in 2008. Then, after Narendra Modi's election in 2014, India launched the "Make in India" initiative and has since started subsidizing semiconductor production and introducing new investment schemes to boost domestic manufacturing. In August 2023, a new policy required companies to get licenses to import personal computers or tablets as part of this push. Following the 2020 India-China border crisis, Modi's government shifted from seeking closer economic ties with China disentangling India from China and reducing its vulnerability in critical sectors, imposing restrictions on Chinese investments, Chinese access to Indian public procurement contracts, and Chinese companies' activities in critical sectors. These protectionist policies are therefore largely driven by national security concerns rather than economic ones.

Past vs Present: What’s Different Today?

Policymakers often view reshoring production as a way to create jobs, boost competitiveness, and reduce dependence on global supply chains. While historical examples like post-WWII U.S., France, and Germany, as well as Japan's semiconductor success in the 1970s, show some benefits to protective policies, many studies suggest that such policies had an economically harmful net effect on the export competitiveness of downstream sectors, with the most harmful policies being export subsidies and government ownership. The historical evidence is thus inconclusive at best, with a zero-sum game outlook on trade seemingly being the only way to rationalise such policies.

The protectionist policies pursued today are fundamentally different in three notable ways. Firstly, policies are motivated not only by an infant industry argument but also rationalised by framing issues as a matter of national security. Policies target “sensitive” sectors which tend to have potential military applications. Export controls have been understandably imposed expost after acts of war, but perhaps more worryingly, they are also being applied proactively against potential adversaries. For instance, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States agreed to restrict exports of advanced node semiconductors in response to Chinese President Xi Jinping’s “military-civil fusion” policy. In President Biden’s executive order on inbound and outbound investment screening, the only country labelled as a country of concern was China. Secondly, the policies are not limited to developing economies; it is the world's most developed countries leading the race in subsidising and decoupling. As mentioned, China, the United States, the EU and India are all pursuing similar policies and framing the issue with an analogous national security narrative, likely spurring the continuing spiral.

Lastly, the policies are pursued in a far more interconnected world where global supply chains require international cooperation. However, trust in global supply chains has seemingly dwindled in recent years as the system's fragility and the world's interdependence have become more apparent. The breakdown of global supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic was deemed a leading cause of the rise in inflation and economic downturn. The 2021 blockade of the Suez Canal exposed further vulnerabilities and emphasised the world economy's reliance on functioning a well-oiled seafaring industry. Yet, the recent Houthi rebel missile attacks in the Red Sea threaten to cause another crisis potentially continuing to diminish trust in global supply chains and further intertwining trade issues with national security.

Hope and Despair

Despite the rhetoric and policies suggesting a global downturn in trade, the data tells a more optimistic story. World Bank Research Manager Daria Taglioni highlighted three paradoxes in global trade trends. First, despite the U.S.-China trade war and the EU's efforts to "de-risk" trade, China has become more integrated into global trade networks. Second, despite shocks in global supply chains induced by the pandemic and new trade-policy, global value chains (GVCs) have grown, accounting for 52% of global trade in 2022, up from 48% in 2015, even surpassing pre-2008 crisis levels. Third, despite rising protectionism, firms continue to engage with global customers and suppliers. International trade as a percentage of world GDP remained fairly stable during the pandemic and recovered swiftly, hitting a record high of 62.8% in 2022.

There is, however, still cause for concern, as protectionist policies have outpaced tradeliberalisation policies in recent years, and researchers remain highly uncertain about the future. A working paper from the IMF suggests that technological fragmentation, as seen with semiconductors for instance, can lead to a loss of 5% of GDP for many of the world's economies. A recent paper by economists at the WTO estimated the opportunity costs of decoupling the world into two geopolitical economic blocks could be as high as 12% of GDP in some regions. These high costs stem from the fact that complex supply chains have been carefully developed over decades and cannot be easily replaced, particularly in industries which rely on specialised inputs and global trade networks.

For countries that are not as strongly politically and economically aligned in the "West vs East" paradigm, the current fragmentation of global trade provides both kopportunity and risk. One such region is Latin America, which has enjoyed significant investments from China whilst maintaining strong trade relations with the EU and the United States. Accordingly, economists argue that the region would be well-equipped to deal with mild scenarios of global trade fragmentation. Latin America can potentially benefit if companies choose to relocate operations to the region, if the risks for trade disruptions are perceived as lower or to find alternative sources of key commodities, such as raw materials. However, in more extreme scenarios, where global trade is divided into competing blocks, not aligning with either block may result in the region losing access to important markets. This has already proven difficult in the development of 5G technology in the region, as countries are attempting to walk a fine line between complying with U.S. pressure to ban Huawei bids whilst maintaining strong relations with China, which has become the region's largest trading partner.

There is cause for hope and concern. Trade is as important as ever, yet the direction of current policy trends and political rhetoric could potentially have disastrous consequences. As trade and national security concerns increasingly overlap amid rising geopolitical tensions and protectionism, it's important to question the long-term goals of these trends. Economically, the policies are flawed; politically, they appeal to rising nationalism and assertiveness against rivals. While free trade isn't always ideal in a world of national security concerns, these policies signal a shift away from globalization and towards a fragmented, multipolar world. This shift comes at a time when global cooperation is needed to address complex, existential challenges. In the past, we have seen how trade can build bridges between countries. Today, we are seeing how trade is used as a tool to burn them.

WRITTEN BY:
BERGI AVDULAJ
NOEL SULEJMANI

ALBANIA: THE HIDDEN GEM OF EUROPE

For many the dates 28-29 November don't mean anything, but for this small country located on the western side of the Ballkans it was the end of constant wars, tears and unfortunate goodbyes. In this day in 1912 Ismail Qemali, the leader of the united front consisting of different national organizations, waved the Albanian flag for the first time after having formed the constitution in the coastal city of Vlora, Albania. Having won their freedom, was only the first step as the process of creating a solidified country is long lasting, because even though we can see improvement there is still a lot to do.

Some of you might be familiar with the Albanian culture and history, but you can never fully understand these people without having the chance of knowing what Albania is all about. This date marks the beginning of a new era for a state with a greater heart and pride than its own territories. The Independence Day in Albania can be seen as a cheerful and enjoyable event, which in fact is, but that can only be considered as the tip of the iceberg. If you asked an Albanian about the meaning of their flag, you will know that the red represents the blood of all the fallen and the two-headed eagle is a symbol of the all-watching eyes.

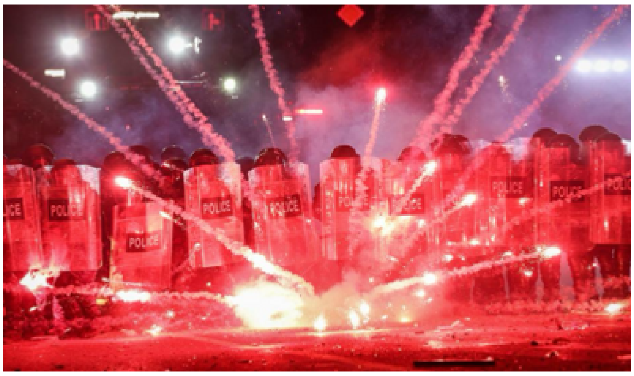
Since it has been isolated from the rest of the world for many years, people often tend to make assumptions, which in some cases may be true, but by now I think we all know the saying: "Don't judge a book, by its cover." Being one of the oldest populations in Europe their history and literature has a lot to show, which is impressive since they have been invaded by Romans, Byzantines, Ottoman Empire and Slavic Tribes for over millennials. Still, this didn't hold them back on fighting for their own beliefs using either swords or pens. After everything was over, they couldn't free everyone as 60% of the population was left to be under the terror of the foreign oppressors. That's why nowadays you can always find an Albanian in every corner of the world and if you manage to get on their good side, you will always have a friend for life, as they tend to keep their circle close.

Furthermore, if you are feeling curios and want to visit Albania, just do so, because there are endless possibilities of having a good time either that be alone or with loved ones. The prices are the cheapest you could ask for, the people are some of the most hospitable you have ever met and to top it all, there is a great diversity of sights to check, either that be nature, cities or even historical monuments.

Don’t just take our word for it, if you really not convinced just book a flight, and find out yourself. The good part is that you will have a lot to tell, since this country is unique and can’t be compared to any others you could think of. The best way to learn more its not by outside sources, because you might change your mind once you get to see everything with your own eyes and with your heart open to new relationships. That is what the Albanian Independence Day is all about, giving the world a closer look to what the country is and being opened to new connections all over. To close it with this Albanian quote, the past can be a great guidebook to the future, but if you keep focusing on it the present is going to pass by and you will not realize that this is already the future. What I want to tell you is that this country is new to the world stage and you never know, some time from now, you might be on your way to Albania.

WRITTEN BY:
RUSA MALAGURADZE

GEORGIA AT A CROSSROADS



The power of the people is stronger than the people in power. Right now, the country of Georgia is fighting to prove this.

If you've seen images of fireworks lighting up the parliament building in Tbilisi or protests flooding the streets, you might wonder: what's really happening there?

For centuries, Georgia has faced betrayal after betrayal from Russia. From invasions to occupations, Russia has repeatedly tried to dominate and control. In 2008, Russian forces invaded, leaving 20% of Georgia's territory under occupation—a wound that remains open to this day. To Georgians, Russia is not just a neighbor but a constant reminder of lost freedom and broken promises.

Earlier this year, Georgia's pro-Russian government, Georgian Dream, reintroduced the controversial "Russian Law" that labels NGOs and media as "foreign agents" – an attack on free speech and civil society. Despite massive protests, Georgian Dream passed the law anyway, showing its disregard for the people's voices.

The October 2024 elections were rigged. We have clear evidence of vote-buying, including cases of individuals voting multiple times in different regions. Still, Georgian Dream declared victory, tightening its grip on power.

By November, the situation worsened. Parliament reconvened without opposition members, turning it into a one-party system fully controlled by Georgian Dream. Then, on November 26, the government announced its presidential candidate: Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former footballer with no qualifications beyond a UEFA coaching license and his role in pushing the "Russian Law."

But the biggest blow came on November 27, when Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze announced Georgia would suspend EU membership talks until 2028 and reject EU budgetary grants. This decision, a betrayal of pre-election promises, aligns Georgia more closely with Russia and violates its own constitution. Article 78 of the Georgian Constitution requires all government bodies to work toward integration with the EU and NATO.

The people of Georgia have had enough. Protests erupted across the country in response to the government's actions. Citizens are demanding a pro-European future and free, fair elections to restore democracy.

But Georgian Dream has met peaceful protests with violence and repressions, tear gas, water cannons, and mass arrests. Over 400 protesters, including opposition leaders, have been detained, who are severely beaten.

Despite the government's repression, the Georgian people refuse to back down. Our fight is about more than policies or politicians—it's about defending the dream of a free, democratic Georgia, it's a powerful reminder: democracy is not given. It is won by those who demand it.

WRITTEN BY:
BENEDETTA MUTI

BUILDING A FUTURE FREE FROM VIOLENCE
THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PROTECTING WOMEN

On November 25th, in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a conference was held by Astra in collaboration with Women in Business (WIB), the first female association at Bocconi University aimed at actively contributing to greater awareness of women's empowerment. This event brought together experts Cristina Brondoni, journalist, criminologist, and writer, and Ilaria Baldini, author and volunteer at CADMI (Casa di Accoglienza per Donne Maltrattate). Moderated by Professor Germain Gauthier, the event highlighted the multifaceted nature of violence, its roots in societal norms, and the urgent need for collective action to foster a violence-free future.

The discussion began with Baldini sharing her personal experiences at CADMI, where she has encountered harrowing stories that underscore how social habits can normalize violence. Often starting with psychological manipulation, such as forms of control and emotional abuse, violence traps women in a cycle of tension, aggression, apology, and escalation. Brondoni emphasized that the main red flag is isolation: separation from family and friends creates a prison-like existence, often misunderstood as love or protectiveness but, in reality, calculated as a strategy to exert control.

The conversation then shifted to cultural narratives, such as fairy tales where passive princesses await rescue, perpetuating harmful stereotypes. These biases are often reinforced by advertisements that portray women as caregivers and homemakers, while men are depicted as powerful and ambitious. Such representations shape societal expectations, normalizing inequality and laying the groundwork for violence. Baldini stressed the confusion between biology and culture: men are not born violent, nor are women born victims. However, societal institutions and stereotypes fail to challenge these roles, perpetuating cycles of abuse.

Breaking the silence begins with raising awareness about common red flags: possessiveness, isolation, and dependency, which are often disguised as love. These behaviors hide behind seemingly innocent phrases like, “Why do you need to go out? Can’t you just stay with me tonight?” or “I’m sorry for what I did, but you know it’s because I love you so much.” Recognizing these signs is the first step toward escaping abuse.

The speakers also addressed the issue of economic violence, a less-discussed but equally damaging form of abuse that further

traps women by leaving them financially dependent. Abusers often justify their actions under the guise of care or responsibility, creating an atmosphere of fear around financial decisions, even for basic needs. Economic violence can escalate to sabotaging employment opportunities with excuses like, “That job takes too much time away from the family” or “I don’t want other men looking at you at work”. Economic dependence leaves women feeling trapped, especially if they have children or lack external support. Without access to resources, even the thought of leaving an abusive relationship can seem impossible. This highlights the urgent need for systemic support, such as financial literacy programs, secure housing options, and employment opportunities that empower women to rebuild their independence.

Baldini explained how CADMI supports women by offering confidential evaluations, safe spaces, and guidance on navigating legal systems. The center emphasizes understanding the risks and consequences before taking steps like filing a police report, which is often the most dangerous moment for victims.

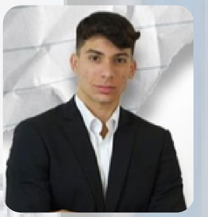
Social media emerged as another key driver in the discussion. While platforms like #MeToo have raised awareness and mobilized action, social media also creates vulnerabilities for victims of abuse and stalking. For some, it is their only connection to the outside world due to the isolation imposed by their abuser. However, abusers exploit this connection by monitoring activity, tracking locations through posts, or sending threatening messages. At the same time, social media’s curated nature can deepen isolation. Victims often feel compelled to present a "perfect" life, hiding signs of abuse behind cheerful captions and polished images. This prevents them from seeking help out of fear of judgment or disbelief. Addressing this requires promoting online safety, equipping platforms with tools to combat harassment, and fostering an environment where victims feel empowered to seek support without fear.

As Baldini aptly pointed out, women have made significant strides in fighting for their rights, but the problem of violence ultimately lies with men. She noted, with some irony, that there were no more than five men present at the conference, including the moderator. Real change requires men to take responsibility, challenge their behaviors, and reject the hypocrisy of performative support. The speakers called for collective efforts to dismantle societal expectations that confine women to traditional roles like marriage and motherhood.

The path to a violence-free society is not paved with punitive measures alone.

True victory will not come with more life sentences, but when no more women lose their lives to violence. As the speakers reminded us, before femicide, there is societal indifference toward violence. To achieve a violence-free future, society must liberate individuals from restrictive gender roles, allowing everyone the freedom to define their own path—whether that involves pursuing a career, choosing not to marry, or living independently.

The event concluded with a call to action: building a future free from violence requires the active participation of everyone, especially men, in challenging cultural norms and creating spaces where women are safe, valued, and free to thrive. Violence, as the speakers emphasized, is not an impulsive act. It is calculated, rooted in control, and perpetuated by societal complicity. The time for change is now, and it begins with breaking the silence and demanding accountability at every level of society.



WRITTEN BY:
FRANCESCO CARLETTA

THE FUTURE OF AUTOMOTIVE IN ITALY: THE STELLANTIS CASE

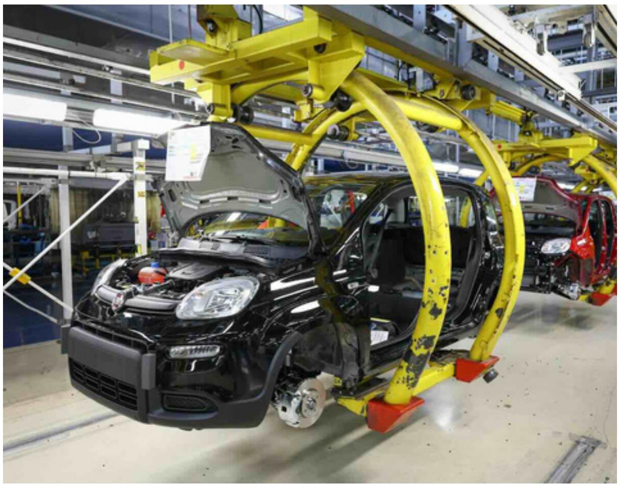
In recent years, the Italian and European political debate has highlighted the issue of automotive in the national and transnational scenario, raising many concerns about the world of automobile production in the European industrial dynamics, beginning to feel as hostile the unstoppable forces of the industrial realities of China and America, of which Europe and Italy are feeling the dramatic economic and labour consequences. To be able to understand concretely the real European and Italian perspectives, it is necessary to analyse the current industrial scenario- automotive, starting from Stellantis, a company that represents an industrial giant with few equals in the automotive sector.

In the first analysis, it is necessary to understand the real reach of Stellantis in Italy and Europe, a company which includes the brands Abarth, Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Citroen, Dodge, DS Automobiles, Fiat, Jeep, Lancia, Maserati, Opel, Peugeot, Ram, Vauxhall, Free2move and Leasys. Stellantis, a company whose total turnover in 2022 rose from 152.11 billion euros to 179.59 billion euros (+18%) and net profit passed from 13.35 billion euros in 2021 to 16.77 billion euros in 2022 (+26%). Although in 2023 Stellantis recorded a net turnover of 189.5 billion euros, in the last quarter of 2024 Stellantis carried out the dramatic announcement that made shareholders and former CEO Carlo Tavares tremble: net revenues of 85 billion euros (down 14% compared to the first half of 2023, mainly due to lower volumes and mix), net profit of €5.6 billion (down 48% compared to the first half of 2023, due to the decrease in North America) and almost neutral net industrial cash flows (-0.4 billion euro, penalized by a lower AOI, as well as negative working capital performance and higher investments).

Secondly, the separation of former CEO Carlo Tavares from Stellantis has not eliminated magically the problems of the group; in fact, the biggest problems of the automotive giant are decentralization (Stellantis is abandoning production in Italy to move away from the place where tax burden is lighter) and underproduction. As regards underproduction, an exemplary model can be represented by the historic headquarters of Mirafiori which, according to the economic daily "MilanoFinanza", is approaching closure: it produces a lot but sells little.

Considering the above, in recent weeks, due to the poor closing of the quarter, CEO Carlo Tavares resigned ahead of the

contractual deadline in 2026. More analytical economic reasoning allows us to conclude that the responsibilities should not be attributed entirely to Tavares, but perhaps it is possible to elaborate a reflection on the legislation in force in Europe, Legislation that will impose very heavy fines on all industries which have not achieved a certain level of sustainability and which have not achieved a minimum number of sales of electric



vehicles: The only consequences were large market surpluses in North America and Europe and a huge belly pain for small investors.

In conclusion, Europe needs to think seriously about the energy transition and the world in which it intends to tackle sustainability challenges, because the risk is to win this race on their own and to see the US and China not participating in this race towards a more sustainable industry.


WRITTEN BY:
TEODORA STEFAN
SORANA UNGUR

THE SCRAPPED ROMANIAN ELECTIONS

“I Love or I hate you, I hate or I love you/ I don't know” are simultaneously the lyrics of the song Romania’s Prime Minister, Marcel Ciolacu, uses in one of his most recent TikTok videos, as well as the perfect words to describe how Romanians feel about the Romanian Constitutional Court (CCR) right now.

On the 6th of December, CCR decided to cancel the Romanian elections, while the second round of the presidential elections was taking place. Many Romanians from diaspora, such as myself, either voted, or were in the process of voting, by the time they received the news. The official reason given by the Court was “the free expression of the citizens' vote has been affected”.

That explanation is, indeed, as clear as mud. So, how did we get here?

To make the long story short, the answer is: Călin Georgescu

The second round of the presidential elections was supposed to be a battle between Călin Georgescu, an independent candidate, whose overwhelming success in the first round threw almost everyone (except maybe the Kremlin) for a loop, and Elena Lasconi, from the Save Romania Party (USR).

Călin Georgescu, who barely registered in pre-election polling, rode on a white horse (in a very Putin-like manner), past the candidates of the biggest Romanian political parties (PSD, USR, PNL and AUR) in the first round of the elections. Most Romanians didn’t even know he existed one month ago, yet he got over 22 percent of the vote. Some say that he managed that because he is a Russian agent, others say that he’s a far-right product of the system, and the ex-president, Traian Băsescu, says that he’s a robot. Many questions, but few answers. If he is a Russian agent, did CCR save us from becoming Russian citizens? Or would have he lost to Lasconi, ending the saga? How much did partisan party interests influence this decision? Will Romanian democracy survive? Who will we vote for?
Let’s see what we know for sure:

First, some relevant background info. Georgescu's campaign didn't happen in a void. Romanians were, putting it mildly, dissatisfied with the main political parties, which ruled together in different forms since the Revolution, PSD and the Liberal Party (PNL), for quite a while. Despite PSD being traditionally classified as left wing and PNL being classified as right-wing, these classifications might not translate well for an external observer. Both parties are essentially offshoots of the Romanian Communist Party (PCR), with the difference that PSD is more economically left-leaning and socially conservative, while PNL is more economically right and traditionally more pro-West. Since then, the members of PSD have been involved in the biggest corruption scandals in the country and have repeatedly made moves to undermine democracy in order to consolidate its power. Once a pro-EU, pro-NATO alternative to PSD, PNL destroyed its reputation during the mandate of the current president, Klaus Iohannis, by partnering up with PSD in the government.

On top of this already tainted image of PSD and PNL, came the higher than EU average inflation and a huge justice scandal. As such, Romanians got fed up and began to turn to anti-establishment options. And then along came Georgescu, TikTok and, maybe, Russian bots.

Although he is posing as a "man from outside the system", Georgescu's public persona does not seem to match his CV. Călin Georgescu is at his origin an engineer, who after the Revolution, held various positions in the Ministry of Environment and in the Ministry of External Affairs. Beyond this, between 2010 and 2012, he was a special rapporteur for the UN, followed by a role as executive director of the Global Sustainable Index Institute between 2015 and 2016.

Following the victory of the anti-establishment and sovereignist party, AUR, in 2020, he was proposed as AUR's candidate for the prime minister position. Yet, the love between Georgescu and AUR was short-lived. In 2022, the two parted ways in part due to his expressed admiration towards two very controversial figures from the interwar period, and in part because Georgescu weeps for joy whenever the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, speaks.

Beyond his admiration for controversial figures, Georgescu's political ideas can be summed up by the following: Romania should be in the EU and NATO, but should not be on its knees; Romania should push for a fast peace in Ukraine; NATO's ballistic missile defense shield in Deveselu is a provocation for Russia; and water is memory.

He pretty much appears as a highbrow Viktor Orbán. If he was German, he would've been in AfD. And he holds the opinions one would expect from such a candidate, minus the water is memory thing. New Age is his own personal spin on the average sovereignist politician character.

Now, where it becomes interesting is that Georgescu claims to have invested no money in his campaign, which he ran fully on TikTok. Considering that he wasn't well known prior to September, the fact that some of his TikTok videos managed to get millions of views without any investment is very suspicious.

While Georgescu was shaking things up, capitalizing on the dissatisfaction with the establishment, PSD, the main political party in the country, bet on the Romanians' current desire for stability, opting for the slogan "The safe route for Romania". However, their calculation that a corrupt candidate would be preferred to a dubious entity like Călin Georgescu, was proven wrong. PSD's horse in the presidential race, the prime minister, Marcel Ciolacu, did not reach the second round, positioning himself in third place, behind USR's candidate, Elena Lasconi. This is a first in the over 30 years since the Revolution. Losing to an independent candidate and a woman from a much smaller party is shameful and causes fears of losing relevance.

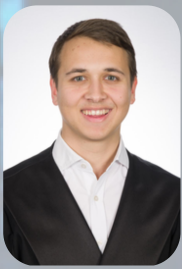
Regardless, Călin Georgescu won the first round on the 24th of November, part of the civil society protested, the prime minister didn't make it to the second round, and parliamentary elections took place on the 1st of December. It's also worth mentioning that CCR had requested a recount which was executed prior to the parliamentary elections, and after which CCR validated the first round of the elections.

On December 4th, the mystery of Georgescu's campaign began to unravel, I as Romania's president, Klaus Iohannis, declassified Romanian intelligence documents which show that Georgescu has used illegal practices to gain views, such as impersonating national institutions. Beyond this, the documents hint at the interference of a "statal actor" in the elections. Many analysts claim that the tactics used by Georgescu are similar to those the Kremlin used in Moldova and Ukraine to promote their candidates.

t was quite a scandal, for once the political discussions in Romanian families went beyond: " All politicians are the same, all thieves anyway, doesn't matter". And all the big parties (PSD, PNL, USR) and the Hungarians' Party (UDMR), rallied behind Georgescu's opponent Elena Lasconi, after making some deals about the composition of the future government. It seemed like the whole country became divided into 2 camps. And both had good chances of winning.

Diaspora started to vote. And then, CCR (the judges of which have all but one, been appointed by PSD and PNL) canceled the elections. There have been mixed opinions about this decision. The prime minister and the president portrayed it as a solution to a problem of national security, while Elena Lasconi claims that CCR has undermined democracy. Everyone else is confused and concerned. Romania is in delirium.

What now?
Now we get to do this whole thing again! Most likely in March. In the meantime, Klaus Iohannis will remain president, and Marcel Ciolacu is working on becoming TikTok famous.



WRITTEN BY:
BERNAT BAELLA I MASUET

THE SB-1047 BILL AND THE QUESTION OF AI REGULATION AT THE US STATE LEVEL

California is known for being the home of technological companies like Apple, Google and Meta. Due to a mix of universities, research centers, entrepreneurial spirit, and human talent, the state is a hub of innovation. Artificial Intelligence (henceforth, AI) is no exception to this.

As more companies develop their AIs, regulations try to keep pace. California has been one of the first US states to do so. The state's legislative process follows a series of steps, after which, the proposed bills get sent to the Governor, who can sign it, allow the bill to become a law without signing it or veto it. [1] Only in the last case does the bill not become a law.

In the last months, several AI bills have been signed into law in California, including AB-3030, which requires healthcare providers to disclose when they use Generative AI to communicate with patients, AB-2905, which makes robocalls inform that they are using AI-generated voices, or AB-1831, that includes content generated by AI systems as child pornography [2] . As seen with the examples, the laws do not focus on a single sector or activity but rather try to be as comprehensive as possible.

Among the bills sent to be signed by the Governor of California, one has stood out among the rest: SB-1047 Safe and Secure Innovation for Frontier Artificial Intelligence Models Act. The AI community in California is not a homogenous bloc. On the one hand, Open AI, and groups representing Meta, owner of Facebook, and Google, opposed it on the grounds that it would be bad for AI development. On the other hand, Elon Musk, one of the founders of Open AI who later left the company due to disagreements with the direction of the company, and AI scientists such as Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio defended the need for the regulation provided by the bill. They cited the risks presented with AI models and the need for companies to implement safeguards [3] . Apparently, the arguments presented by the opposing parties were more compelling, since the Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, vetoed the law, preventing it from entering into force.

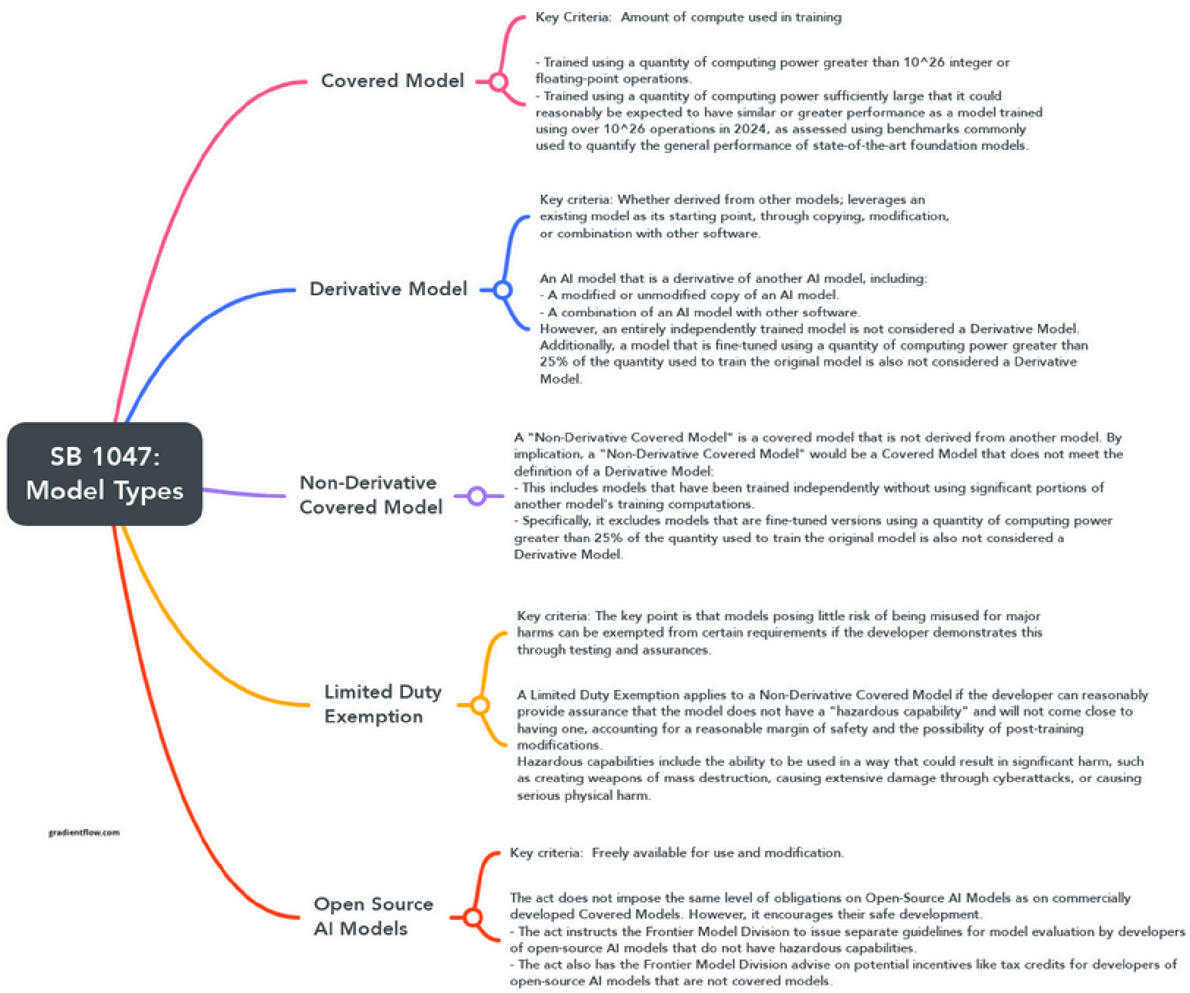
Among the measures proposed by the bill, the most controversial ones were making companies liable for harms made by AI models and forcing companies to introduce a “Kill switch” for AI systems.

The implicit threat made by the opposing parties to this bill is that they would consider relocating somewhere else where these restrictions were not in place. Jason Kwon, OpenAI’s Chief Strategy Officer, warned about this in a letter sent to Senator Scott Wiener, one of the authors of the SB-1047 Bill. This situation poses a conundrum for California’s regulators: to regulate or not to regulate, or rather, up to which point to regulate, to avoid overstepping the mark.

If they put very strict requirements and safeguards, some companies might choose to move to other US states where the regulation about AI is looser or nonexistent, with the laissez-faire approach applying to a greater degree. Since the companies would still be present in the US, the state could do little to prevent them from doing so. It is also true that few states offer the advantages of California, or that the enterprises might not end up carrying out the threat, with few or no relevant companies moving out. Some relevant companies have left the state in the past, with the expansive regulation of the state being cited as one of the reasons 4 . Examples include Fortune 1000 companies like McKesso, a pharmaceutical distributor, oil companies like Chevron, or technological ones such as Tesla or Oracle. Hence, even though not all companies would leave, some of the relevant ones could, affecting the state’s position as a “tech hub” and frontrunner in innovation.

The other alternative is not regulating AI or watering down the legislation, making compliance easier. This, in theory, would prevent an exodus of companies to other states, preserving the role played until now by California. This option, however, does not seem to be preferred by the state’s legislators, since they have previously passed several pioneering regulations.

However, a fact remains. California’s Senate or Assembly are not the European Commission, meaning that they do not regulate a territory as big as the EU. This obvious fact, however, is not always taken into account when crafting legislation. If the EU enacts legislation, companies have a much bigger incentive to comply. They can threaten to leave, but then they lose access to 16% of world GDP and a mature market 5 . If companies were to leave California, they would need to find new offices and relocate workers, but apart from that, which is more logistical than economical, there would not be many more relevant effects.



Thus, the basic question remains: up to what point can California legislate without companies leaving the state in search of kinder ones? The veto of this particular bill alone does not mean much, but seeing the trend followed by companies that did end up leaving the state and the federal situation, in which no relevant laws comparable to the ones in California have been passed, might indicate that the state can't do much else to regulate AI comprehensively. That is, without risking an exodus of leading companies. This view may be shared by Gavin Newsom, who despite pressure from legislators, might decide to wait for the new President to enact federal legislation, eliminating the incentive for companies to relocate within the US.

Only time will tell what happens. Perhaps no new laws similar to the SB-1047 Bill will be passed in California, perhaps an amended or watered-down version will pass, or maybe the new US President might decide to regulate it federally. The lesson is that regulating a matter such as AI is not as straightforward as in other areas, since companies might relocate relatively easily to avoid the strictest legislation. Thus, a need for international cooperation to regulate it is highly needed to avoid fragmentation and a cherry-picking of countries by enterprises based on how loosely they regulate AI.

WRITTEN BY:
ANTONIO MARIA MARRONE

GERMANY: A LIVING CONTRADICTION

“Bundesbank chief calls for softer debt brake to increase investment” titled the Financial Times on December 3rd, 2024. Almost a month before, on November 6th, literally hours after the win of Donald Trump in the American presidential elections, while Europe was still digesting the outcome of the polls, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called for an extraordinary meeting with vice-chancellor Robert Habeck and finance minister Christian Lindner. To quote an article of The Economist, “barely 12 hours later, it was all over”. The Traffic light coalition formed by the Social-Democratic Party, the Free Democratic Party and The Greens that had been in government ever since Angela Merkel stepped out of office in 2021, was fragmented for once, with Olaf Scholz firing Christian Lindner and the FDP withdrawing from the coalition. “The proximate cause for the collapse”, continues the article, “was a set of demands for changes to tax, social and climate policy issued by Mr. Lindner at the end of last week”. To put in simpler words, Lindner refused to soften the debt brake, that nowadays limits the German government to take on a debt not exceeding the 0,35% of the country’s annual gross domestic product.

On the same day, the chancellor announced to call for a vote of confidence, whose request is set to be submitted to Parliament on Wednesday 16th, while early federal elections are set to be held on February 23rd, 2025.

This political crisis was not unforeseen. Germany has undoubtably been one of the main victims of the recent events at the international stage and it is fair to say their economic model is now exhausted. Clear signs of popular dissatisfaction with the former government were given this summer by the results of the European elections. Olaf Scholz’s party (S&D) only obtained a 13,94%, while the Liberals, under the leadership of Christian Lindner, didn’t even achieve the threshold of 5% required to get into Parliament. These elections were a complete disaster, non to mention how the past governments’ rigorous commitment to austerity has allowed far right movements as the AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) to gain an astonishing momentum in the political spectrum especially in the former East Germany, whose working classes have suffered for decades the monetary union that took place back in 1991. In explosive times like the ones we are living, inertia has proven not to be the right answer.

Over the course of the last decades, we have seen Germany, as all the other European political elites, steadily following Washington's agenda instead of safeguarding national sovereignty and pursuing its own interests. This behavior has led the country into an existential crisis. As the German economy is a manufacturing powerhouse, the sector accounting for 79% of total production, and primarily focuses on export, it needs to maintain competitive production costs so that foreign demand does not fall. But, quoting an article from Politico, "Germany self-imposed deficit structures give governments little room to spend more than they collect in taxes". Investment is not incentivized, and, as mentioned by Bloomberg, "Companies have shifted resources outside their homeland, leading to a net outflow of capital of more than $700 billion since 2010. Almost 40% of that has taken place since 2021, when Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious coalition was voted into power". Such deindustrialization for a country like Germany has meant an astonishing fall in living conditions standards due to factors like escalating rates of pension poverty. A study from Destatis showed that the 21.34% of the population was affected by poverty or social exclusion in 2022. And the numbers are only growing larger.

As Isabella Weber said, "the collapse in living standards experienced by Germans is unprecedented since World War two".

Most importantly, a country so dependent on exports should bear in mind to have a multilateral perspective, as it was the case for Schroder and Merkel's governments, which focused on establishing bilateral relations both with China and Russia, alongside being allies of the United States.

Nowadays, more than ever, international tensions represent an obstacle for an economy based on exports like the German one, making it a victim of geopolitical schemes.
Undermining independent relations between Europe and Russia was arguably the only goal successfully achieved by the Biden Administration through the war in Ukraine. To quote the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, the sabotage of the gas pipeline Nord Stream was seen as "a tremendous opportunity" to weaken European ties with Russia. Unfortunately, through this pipeline, Germany used to receive gas at a price that guaranteed that the German manufacturing industry could remain competitive in foreign markets. Higher production costs have had a dramatic impact on the decision to shut down factories for firms like Wolskwagen.

If we look, on the other side, at the relations with China, due to a lack of innovation in the automotive industry, to quote an article published by Il Fatto Quotidiano, "Europe, for the first time since the end of the Second World War has lost the technological leadership, mostly towards Asian countries”. This process, when, at the same time, China has been undergoing a strong industrial development, resulted in German firms losing important market shares in China, with a firm like Wolkswagen going from 19% of the market share in 2020 to 16% in 2024. Still the Chinese market remains vital for Germany and its carmakers, embodying an enormous contradiction within the EU, which over the past few years has looked at China as a systemic enemy.

According to a research from the Rhodium Group, “German investments are deepening the dependency of some of the country’s largest companies on the Chinese market at a time in which economic de-risking from China is a stated policy goal in Berlin and Brussels”. Circumstances like this one highlight why Germany finds itself in a political stalemate. The country embodies an existential contradiction as its own strategic interests enter into conflict with the very same European guidelines which it has contributed to issue.

As we approach January 20th, the day in which the Trump’s second presidency will begin, concerns over possible tariffs on Europe become ever more tangible. The US being Germany’s biggest trading partner, with over 170 billion worth of exports exchanged, something needs to change. The need for domestic demand calls for massive public investments. But public funding by itself wouldn’t be enough. As long as the US have such ingerence in the domestic affairs of European countries, there won’t be any breathing room. In order to find its way out of this crisis, reestablishing bilateral relations with strategic partners as Russia and China in order to be competitive so to incentivize domestic demand could vigorously lift economic growth for the country, even though it does not look like this is not the route the future holds for Germany.

What is sure is that chickens always come home to roost and for German people the outcomes have been so far economic uncertainty and political instability.

WRITTEN BY:
RICCARDO MANZO

IL TEMA DELLA SICUREZZA A MILANO

Il tema riguardante la sicurezza nella città in cui viviamo è sicuramente molto delicato, mai come oggi molto "attenzionato", per questa ragione cercherò di presentare i dati più attendibili e di dibattere nella maniera più appropriata. Sicuramente negli ultimi anni il problema ha investito non solo coloro chi abitano nelle periferie o nell'hinterland milanese, che anzi risultano essere più "sicuri" rispetto ad altre zone considerate più centrali, ma anche coloro che vivono in zone definite di "élite". Ciò è dimostrato dal fatto che anche numerosi "vip" e influencer, dall'alto delle loro abitazioni in zone lussuose o in quartieri in voga, negli ultimi tempi hanno mostrato preoccupazione riguardo queste vicende ed episodi di violenza. Partendo dai dati è possibile rilevare dall'indice della criminalità pubblicato dal Sole 24 Ore questo autunno riguardo l'anno 2023, Milano, non solo città, si conferma la provincia più pericolosa d'Italia. L'analisi si basa sul numero di denunce effettuate dai cittadini in rapporto alla popolazione, ma non solo: infatti, è anche seconda per furti e terza per violenze sessuali, nello specifico nell'anno 2023 sono stati denunciati 7000 furti e 607 violenze sessuali. Alcune delle zone sicuramente più tenebrose da frequentare di notte sono sicuramente quelle intorno alle stazioni. Uno sicuramente degli eventi che, sicuramente, ha suscitato più scalpore è stato l'accoltellamento di un poliziotto a Lambrate nel mese di maggio del corrente anno, che stava difendendo una donna che era stata colpita sempre dallo stesso aggressore, un cittadino di origine marocchina di 37 anni.

Per questo il Ministero dell'interno ha avviato a luglio un nuovo progetto denominato "Stazioni sicure", presentato in Prefettura a Milano con anche la collaborazione e l'interessamento dello stesso Comune. Con questo patto si cerca di affrontare il problema aumentando il numero di forze dell'ordine e militari (100 in più solo a Milano) e sorvegliare costantemente le zone sensibili quali le stazioni e le aree limitrofe sia per contrastare la criminalità, che per arginare situazioni di degrado anche legate alla presenza di persone senza fissa dimora. Altro problema non secondario legato alla sicurezza è la scarsa integrazione (in alcuni casi volontaria) e l'emarginazione che vi è degli stranieri in questo territorio.

Secondo i dati del Ministero dell'Interno nella provincia di Milano il 20% dei residenti è straniero e quest'ultimi commettono il 65% dei reati totali. In seguito alla morte del diciannovenne Ramy, giovane italiano di seconda generazione con origini egiziane, schiantatosi con un t-max dopo un lungo inseguimento da parte dei carabinieri e dopo aver forse forzato un posto di blocco (in possesso di una catenina d'oro strappata e un alto numero di contanti), il quartiere Corvetto a pochi chilometri dalla nostra Università è stato messo a ferro e fuoco dalla comunità egiziana. Ragion per cui il Ministro dell'Interno Piantedosi insieme al Prefetto di Milano Pisani ha comunicato di stanziare altre 600 unità che affiancheranno le altre unità di polizia. Anche il sindaco di Milano Beppe Sala si è mostrato più titubante a definire Milano “una città sicura e che non ha problemi” dopo gli ultimi avvenimenti.

D’altra parte, un’altra interessante ricerca condotta dall’Università Federico II di Napoli e Walk21 Foundation che ha come nome “Step Up-Walkability for Women in Milan” analizza la percezione della sicurezza delle donne in città. Questo progetto prende in considerazione vari fattori legati all’ambiente urbano e all’identità delle persone e si è basato sulle risposte fornite da un questionario online a cui hanno partecipato più di 70000 persone. I risultati mostrano come le donne si sentano più insicure durante la notte (il 57% delle intervistate) rispetto agli uomini (solo l’8% ha paura di camminare per strada di notte).
Lo studio mostra anche quali sono i fattori che rendono le strade “più sicure” come gli impianti di illuminazione stradale, la presenza di attività aggregative e la frequenza di mezzi pubblici. In sintesi, a

mio parere, il capoluogo meneghino di certo non subisce gli stessi disordini delle “banliue parigine”, ma dovrebbe affrontare con più polso situazioni che possono trasformarsi in vere e proprie autarchie, dove le minoranze possono prendere in ostaggio anche quartieri interi. D’altronde sono fiducioso che con la comunità di intenti che ha visto protagonisti il Ministero, Il Comune e la Prefettura, si possa arrivare, se non ad una soluzione, quantomeno ad un arginamento del problema.

WRITTEN BY:
FEDERICA LEACI
INTERVIEWED:
ALICE BOBBERA

BOCCONI WOMEN VOLLEY A CHAT WITH ALICE BOBBERA

Almost at the end of her first semester as captain of the women volleyball team, Alice Bobbera is here with us to answer a few questions about these exciting months.

- First of all, thank you for being here with us, we know that you must have a lot on your plate. To start off, why don't you tell us something about yourself and your role in the team? How is it like being the captain?

Thank you for having me! I am currently in my third year of BIG and I have been on the team since FIRST coming here to Bocconi. This is my first time as captain but I was already vice last year.
I'm enjoying my new role; I actually don't feel the pressure as much as I thought I would, it's more about always being there and set the example for my teammates. You know that someone depends on you so you are more motivated.
Unfortunately, I'm going on exchange to Singapore next semester, so I will only be giving a limited contribution to the team, giving that they will play the majority of the games of the season while I'm away.

- You got promoted to the C league, what's it like being a university student and a top athlete at the same time?

I have been playing volleyball since I was little and I actually used to play in the B league before moving here, so I know a thing or two about time management. Luckily, the coach is always available because he knows it's a university team and our main priority right now is studying.
Also, we don't train as much as other professional teams; three times per week and only two of them are dedicated to on-court training. But it's fair, our number one concern is university.
Overall, it's a great way to let off steam. I try not to skip any training, even if I have an exam the next day.

- That's great! Now let's talk about the team. This season has not exactly started off with the right foot, how are you handling it? What's the team environment like?

It has been a bit hard. We have had to get used to play without many of the "older" members of the team, since a lot of them either left or are going on exchange.
We have a lot of new faces so we are still adjusting. It's weird being on a team where the newcomers are more than the more mature players, but I think we have managed to create a nice environment.

Undoubtely, losing after two years of victories only has been a struggle for the general morale, but I always try to stay positive and focus on what we did well, not on the mistakes. Being captain means that I have to motivate everyone: if I have to cheer I cheer, if I have to scold someone I do that. There’s an implicit agreement where everything that happens on the court stays on the court, so no hard feelings whatsoever.
As of now, our main goal is not to retreat back from the C league. Volleyball is a sport of coordination and synergy, which takes time to build. We are getting better and our latest victories prove that, since we scored a fantastic 3-0 in the last two matches. I only regret not being here for the entire academic year.

- Lastly, on a lighter note, what is the game that you will never forget? And, do you have any special good luck rituals with the team?

Rituals? Well, we always take turns to bring candy and listen to “Fuoricorso” by Il Pagante, when we practice spikes.
To answer your first question instead, a game I will never forget was last year, when we played against Cassina. We were fighting for the gold, so it was a decisive game. It was really challenging but we won 3-0. I remember the stadium feeling electric, so many people came to cheer for us.

- Sounds like an amazing happy ending for an amazing season! Thank you so much Alice, and the best of luck to the team from Astra!

CONTACTS

HEAD OF PRESS OFFICE: *TOMMASO MAGNANI*
EDITORIAL DIRECTORS: *FEDERICO MELLACE, GIADA PIGLIAPOCO*

FOLLOW US

@astrabocconi

@astrabocconi

@astrabocconi

STELLA POLARE

ASTRA BOCCONI