

In the year 2023 of the Gregorian calendar, a **WAR** is being waged,

[like the current war in Ukraine and all those that have taken place in recent years in Latin America, Chile and Argentina, Afghanistan, the two wars in Iraq and the wars in Yemen and Syria, which have brought **infinite sorrow** upon humanity and resulted in **millions of refugees** – destroying people’s homes and lives before turning them into “**People of the Tents**”; not to mention all the people who have been killed and therefore “*deprived of the right to speak*”; all the tragedies provoked by weapons; all those traumatised by war, along with their friends near and far, impoverished and forced to live in extreme conditions – tent cities or refugee camps, in foreign countries where people speak a foreign tongue – often separated from their loved ones for months or years]

and it is one of the **least “green” human events** of modern times, causing an emission of pollutants and a consumption of energy that is largely ignored by those who, by virtue of their positions and the jobs they are paid to do, have direct access to means of mass communication. Instead, they use that privilege and the attention they receive to invite people – in the name of environmental responsibility and energy-saving measures, both irreproachable ideas in my opinion – **not to boil the water** while pasta is cooking. It is a means of disinformation through a lack of information, while unjustifiably blaming those who like to prepare a plate of spaghetti in peace.

Perhaps not everyone knows – I invite you to investigate the matter for yourselves – that it is not easy to clearly distinguish CO2 emissions produced by war machines, either in times of peace or in times of war, because they **ARE NOT** included in official **pollution statistics**. They are neither taken into consideration, quantified nor estimated (*The Nutmeg's Curse*, Amitav Ghosh, 2021). I ask the reader: **have you ever seen them discussed in newspapers or on television?**

The environmental impact of the war apparatus of belligerent countries, in the Year of our Lord 2023 – electric generators, local, national and international means of transportation [airplanes, helicopters, drones, tanks, armoured cars, air, land and sea vehicles] and the related industries whose products of mass destruction are shipped thousands of kilometres away – seems to **escape the attention of many official champions of the “green” agenda:**

*“What have the eyes yet to see
and endure: the ferocious demons of war
pretending to pray.”*

Franco Battiato

Fortunately, despite everything, there are also people who prefer to support their local economies by choosing locally-sourced produce whenever possible. A war like the one we are currently funding, which may last for a long time – as anyone who has read Thucydides cannot help but fear – is also and above all **a war against the Planet Earth, Gaia**

and all her forms of life, which the Western “model of development” has been violating for many decades now, and with increasing ferocity, thus alienating humanity from Nature and destroying Native cultures and their worldviews all around the world.

“To destroy a people, you must first sever their roots”

Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn

[1918-2008, Nobel Prize 1970,

author of *The Gulag Archipelago*]

Up until now, due to ignorance, lack of information, neglect or impotence, we have been accomplices in the destruction of our Earth through our actions and those of our ancestors, and the continued concentration of **99% of the wealth** produced by the labour of everyone into the hands of **1% of the population**, according to the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2012.

We can do better and I invite you to start now, for the well-being of everyone, near or far, since we all breathe the same air that the wind blows and drink the same flowing water, thanks to the green denizens of the Amazon **who today are being burned alive**

– like **Giordano Bruno** in Campo dei Fiori [Rome, 1600 AD] and many other women and men in the Old World and in the New World –

in a kind of war that is less evident to our eyes but **potentially fatal for all of humanity**, a war that brings to

mind the *Yankee* strategy of fencing in Native American populations, exterminating bison and destroying the Nature that these cultures respected and honoured to force “the enemy” into hunger, as was the case with the *enclosures* in England, Scotland and Ireland (XIII – XIX centuries: the privatization of the common land that forced farmers to move to cities and turned country people into “cheap workforce”).

Let’s stop this war before – once again – history repeats itself.

Giovanni Marinelli
ITT Marco Polo, Isolotto, Florence
April 2023

P.S. “*Desertum fecerunt et pacem appellaverunt*”
“They make a desert and they call it peace.”

This saying is a liberally-adapted quote taken from the speech by **Calgacus, King of the Caledonians**, in *The Agricola* by Tacitus, referring to the position of the Britons in relation to the Romans: *Ubi solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant*.

“They make a solitude and call it peace.”

Publius Cornelius Tacitus [c. 55 AD – c. 117-120 AD, was a Roman historian, orator and senator. He is considered the greatest exponent of the historiographical genre of Latin literature].

“Robbers of the world, having by their universal plunder exhausted the land, they rifle the deep. If the enemy be rich, they are rapacious; if he be poor, they lust for dominion; neither the east nor the west has been able to satisfy them. Alone among men they covet with equal eagerness poverty and riches. To robbery, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire; they make a solitude and call it peace.”

Sitting Bison [erroneously known as *Sitting Bull, “Tatanka Yotanka” / “Tatanka : “Bison” – North America 1831-1890 : chief of the Hunkpapa Sioux (Lakota)].

The following quote has long been attributed to *Sitting Bull; Wikipedia now claims that the Sioux leader may not have in fact said it. Given that it is beautiful and could prove to be true regardless of who first said it:

“Only when they have poisoned the last river, chopped down the last tree, hunted the last bison and caught the last fish will they realise they can’t eat the money in their banks.”