

On December 5th, 2018 a speech on the role of the military institutions was given by Colonel Nuno Lemos Pires in the auditorium of Escola Secundária José Saramago, in Mafra.

I will write a critical analysis on this speech, but before I would like to make a brief summary of some of the aspects covered.

The institutions mentioned in this speech were the military institutions, which in democratic countries have the role of assuring not only the respect of every individual's rights, but also of guaranteeing inclusion and administering violence. However, in unstructured countries they sometimes wind up being the cause of oppression and may lead to armed conflicts. War might be considered a permanent situation, which has been a fact throughout History. There have always been wars, for various reasons, except during a short period of time. When wars first appeared, they strove for the acquisition of profit. However, across History they have suffered a huge evolution, more pronounced during the Roman Empire and Napoleonic Wars, having acquired new purposes and pretexts. One of these pretexts dwells on the misinterpretation (due to the lack of contextualization of a particular passage) of Scriptures, such as the Bible, the Torah and the Koran, leading to the so called "just wars".

Following the exposition of the facts mentioned above, war was broken down to three factors: natural phenomenon (biological aggressiveness/instincts of violence), social phenomenon (due to flawed systems) and rational actions (based on different ideologies). Therefore, as war is a permanent situation, which is deeply ingrained in us as living beings, how can it be halted? This question was enlightened by the Colonel. War, along with other similar conflicts, is countered by the respect of the universal values stated in the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, by the acceptance of imperfection and the use of reason.

At last, a summary was made on the current situation and the future trends. In today's society, a new type of conflict emerges, the "new wars", which are fights of ideals, won by fear and of illegal financing. In the future there tends to be an increase in population, a decrease of resources, climate changes, decay of power and development of new technologies.

Over the course of this speech, Colonel Nuno Lemos Pires exhibited the fundamental characteristics of a powerful speaker, since he was able to project his voice, in order to reach the whole auditorium, without resorting to the use of a microphone, grasping the attention of the audience and keeping it until the very last minute. I find that the information explained was of extreme relevance, and, due to the content and the shocking images, which portray not only our present but also our future, it was possible for each of the attendants to capture the message transmitted.

Finally, I believe that the message spread should be shared with as many people as possible, because it is mandatory to raise awareness to the consequences that some current situations will have in a near future.

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