Abstract

In this article, the author offers ten suggestions for a critical rethink of the European Union: 1) The Europe of invented tradition: the Europe marked by a long period of wars, which is presented as the historical centre of world, as the heart of civilization, as the birthplace of progress, liberty and reason; 2) The Europe of merchants and hierarchies. The Europe of economic alliances tied to neoliberalism in which the political-democratic dimension as taken second place; and also the Europe of hierarchies, with the United States occupying a prominent role; 3) The myth of Europe of the welfare state, of good capitalism, as opposed to the ferocious capitalism of the United States; 4) The Europe of rights and freedoms in regression, especially after the terrorist attacks of September 11th; the Europe of the demonisation and repression of the ant globalisation movements; and the Europe of the rigid laws faced by poor immigrants; 5) The Europe of Blair, Chirac, Schröeder, Berlusconi or Aznar without commitment to the causes of justice, solidarity and peace; 6) The Europe devoid of a strategic project and with notable internal divisions; 7) The Europe that maintains an uncertain relationship with the United States; the Europe of dollar/euro collisions that could provoke a dynamic of unrestrained confrontation; 8) The Europe of different speeds, in which those that have recently arrived are forced to settle on the fringes of society, and those that are not integrated enter into a process akin to that of under-developed countries; 9) The Europe of a constitution without nation or state, with problems that worry left-wing resistance: a deficit in democracy, the fragility of social rights, foreign policies that go from bad to worse; and 10) The concept of Europe as an imagined mental construction as opposed to the myth of Europe as a natural unchangeable reality.

Keywords

Europe, E.U., Myts about Europe, A critical look at Europe.