

Italian foreign policy and the new global challenges: relief, aid and reconstruction in natural and man-made disasters

It is important to assess with a scientific methodology and to explain through reliable theoretical interpretations Italy's involvement in world emergency policies because, like traditional international policies over territorial security and economic balance - even these policies, so far absent from the world political space, are necessary to stabilize the international system and its major institutions and government policies. The purpose of the research is therefore to respond to the need to explain the changes in the Italian foreign policy making as a result of its participation in emergency operations after wars and natural disasters over the last 20 years. Participation in these operations - which are central to the emergency policies produced by global institutions like the UN and regional institutions like the EU - creates opportunities, entails pressures and imposes constraints to the system of Italian foreign policy that did not exist in the past.

Based on the research experience gained by the Unit members, the project will focus on two areas of political emergency, addressed in the political science literature, arising from natural disasters and violent conflicts.

The research on Italy's actions in world rescue, relief and reconstruction policies in natural disasters aims to verify, through the analysis of the Italian participation in operations in Haiti (earthquake 2010) and Sri Lanka (tsunami of 2004), three hypotheses: (H1) the existence (or absence) and extent of the political consequences in the domestic and the international experience of the Italian civil protection that governments have implemented in response to natural disasters, (H2) the existence (or absence) and extent of the adaptation of Italian civil protection agencies to the needs of international cooperation, (H3) the existence (or absence) and extent of the change in the culture of Italian foreign policy in terms of risk and responsibility sharing.

The research on Italy's actions as a response to international emergencies caused by conflicts (including persecution and genocide) and wars focuses on operations in Kosovo (1999) and Libya (2011) which include activities of peace-making and Security Sector Reform (SSR). The two operations carried out under multilateral interventions will be studied and the following hypotheses will be assessed in two different temporal and geopolitical contexts: (H4) the existence (or absence) and extent of the connection of Italian foreign policy with the multilateral security policies of international institutions (UN) and regional institutions (EU and NATO), (H5) the existence (or absence) and extent of the adaptation of state apparatus, contributing to the military and civilian participation in peacebuilding operations; (H6) existence (or absence) and the extent of

the political impact of Italian intervention in violent conflicts within the domestic and international system.

The methodological approach of this research is the life cycle of public policy. For each case, the following elements will be taken into consideration: (a) the entry mechanisms of the issue in the domestic and international political agenda, (b) the participants in the development stage of the possible solutions, (c) the decision-making process and its content or rules, programmes and agencies to implement decisions, (d) the implementation of decisions, (e) the results and the retroactive effects.