

## **Nobel Peace Prize: and the winner is interdependence.**

By Sandro Calvani<sup>1</sup>

The 2009 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to President Obama is intended to reward the sense of urgency for peace and his extrovert leadership.

The **sense of urgency** is conveyed by awarding the prize to a candidate nominated for the first time that very same year. It had already happened in the past in the case of Theodore Roosevelt. **Extrovert leadership** is manifest and unbridled in Barack Obama; it is a rare yearning transcending the specific time and space of a peace effort, not focused specifically on those who are close by geographically or generationally.

These two values can be recognized in all the six motivations given by the Oslo judges (three women and two men) as indication of the positive peace efforts undertaken immediately and effectively by Obama, and they would be the basis upon which to build a world peace for the new century: a new consensus to rapidly eliminate nuclear weapons; a willingness to hold dialogue with everyone (without exceptions) in response to any conflict; a global engagement to efficiently tackle climate change; a considerable effort to make democracy grow in its every form (both on the national and international level); a special consideration for human rights and for the respect of all values and attitudes held by humanity. All six of these are changes of global governance that are both urgent and expressions of peoples' interdependence. They are changes that must be immediately put into practice by the leaders who talk about those innovations and who do so for the good of all of humanity, not just for one or few peoples.

In the past years, the Oslo Committee rewarded several specific peace efforts, like a peace treaty in the Middle East or in the Balkans, or the engagement against climate change. But this time the Committee is suggesting a quality leap towards a global peace continuum that is more important than the sum of its parts. The judges of the Nobel Prize want to emphasize that not a single one of the aforementioned six peace conditions is sustainable without the other five. Those pursuing peace must address all six provisions together. Obama has begun this multifaceted and multilateral path with rare determination.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNICRI Director. The opinions here expressed are personal. [www.sandrocalvani.it](http://www.sandrocalvani.it). This op-ed has been published by the Italian magazine Aesse.

Prior to him, another 97 persons and 23 organizations have been awarded the Prize for having tried and succeeded in laying out at least a piece of the global peace puzzle. One hundred years ago, in 1909, Ernesto Teodoro Moneta picked up the Prize awarded to him in 1907; he was the Milanese president of the Lombard Peace League and the only Italian to ever win a Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, Moneta said that “the more each nation contributes to the global good with its values, the greater will be the advantage and the happiness of all the peoples.”

So the waiting line for a governance of the interdependence of peace is at least a century old. If Obama were able to make the final dash, Moneta’s hopes could become reality.