

A EUROPE OF CULTURE

A scientific, historical and philosophical reflection
on the “cultural” meaning of Europe

2 About Time: the foundational narratives of European Community

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War Returns to Europe Again

"You who live safe in your warm houses, you who find, returning in the evening, hot food and friendly faces: Consider if this is a man, who works in the mud, who does not know peace, who fights for a scrap of bread, who dies because of a yes or no. Consider if this is a woman, without hair and without name, with no more strength to remember, her eyes empty and her womb cold, like a frog in winter. Meditate that this came about: I commend these words to you. Carve them in your hearts, at home and in the streets, going to bed and rising; repeat them to your children, or may your house fall apart."

Primo Levi (1979: 18)


Foundational Narrative 1: Europe as a Peace Project





Foundational Narrative 2: Crisis Forges a Continent





Foundational Narrative 3: Change through Economic Ties





Foundational Narrative 4: Regulation replaces Power Politics



Foundational Narratives

Narratives are about the connections we wish to make. It is up to voters and their representatives, to the officials and civil servants to shape the future of EU politics. In doing so, European contemporaries need to learn from the past, and deconstruct the foundational narratives that shape EU politics to this day.