“The Telegraph” étrille le bilan de Macron : « Autrefois le pays le plus beau, le plus brillant et le plus civilisé du monde, il est maintenant pris dans une spirale de déclin apparemment irréversible. »

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Emmanuel Macron humilié préside un pays qui a perdu sa raison d’être

Qu’est devenue la France ? Autrefois le pays le plus beau, le plus brillant et le plus civilisé du monde, il est maintenant pris dans une spirale de déclin apparemment irréversible. Les Français le savent – une enquête de l’année dernière a révélé que 61% d’entre eux pensent que le pays est en déclin – mais ils se sentent impuissants à l’empêcher…

(…) The Telegraph

Extraits :

Since then, the ageing wunderkind has sought to regain the trust of his people by admitting what they all know: that their country is no longer the pride of European civilisation, but a nation ill at ease with itself, unequal to the task of preserving its own identity, let alone its revolutionary legacy as the global champion of the rights of man.

Much of France is in a perpetual state of panic or rage about uncontrolled immigration and its own profoundly alienated Muslim population.

Last week, in a televised interview, Macron defended his record on law and order after the sensational murder of Lola, a 12-year-old Parisian girl, but for the first time conceded an inconvenient truth: "If we look at crime in Paris today, we cannot fail to see that at least half of the crime comes from people who are foreigners, either illegal immigrants or those who are waiting for a residence permit."

Even a year ago, Macron would have vehemently condemned such views from one of his Right-wing rivals. That he now says it himself is a sign of his desperation. For it implies not only that the French state has lost control of its borders, but that it is failing to integrate the rapidly growing proportion of the population whose origins lie in the former French colonies.

Paris is, after all, a microcosm of France. The lawless anarchy of the *banlieues* that surround the capital, amounting almost to low-level terrorism, is mirrored in almost every other city. The graffiti, vandalism and filth that disfigure the streets of Paris are ubiquitous elsewhere too.

The decaying infrastructure, the hideous monuments of avant garde “starchitects”, reflect the extinction of Parisian stylishness in art, dress and manners. And the conflagration that almost destroyed the Cathedral of Notre Dame in 2019 symbolised the collapse of Christianity in what was once a land more devoted to Our Lady than any other.



Notre Dame is still undergoing repairs after a devastating fire three years ago | CREDIT: REUTERS/Benoit Tessier/Pool

However bloated by its confiscatory fiscal policies and despite its protectionist trade policies, the French state has failed to prevent the descent of its industrial regions into terminal decline. The equivalent of the "Red Wall" in England is to be found in Northern and Eastern France, while the rural hinterland is equally depressed. Opinion polls now give Le Pen's National Rally nearly 50pc, with most of these protest voters concentrated in the rust belt regions and *la France profonde*.

Around 3m French homes are empty, or 8.2pc of the total

Macron had been humiliated: a president in name only, his office deprived of the power and the glory that the architect of the Fifth Republic, General de Gaulle, had intended.

Since then, the ageing wunderkind has sought to regain the trust of his people by admitting what they all know: that their country is no longer the pride of European civilisation, but a nation ill at ease with itself, unequal to the task of preserving its own identity, let alone its revolutionary legacy as the global champion of the rights of man.

One consequence has been the decline of French science. This was revealed by the pandemic, when Macron had to admit that his country was unable to produce its own Covid vaccine — unlike the US, UK and Germany. The French authorities also took much longer to vaccinate their population than their British counterparts.

Such facts are no surprise. France has never been a pure meritocracy: its rigours have always been tempered by connections, corruption and class. But the educational and economic impoverishment of the bourgeoisie has damaged professions such as the judiciary, medicine, the military and the media. The quality of politicians, too, is strikingly low. Just as Macron is no De Gaulle, so there are no journalists of the calibre of the General's great critic Raymond Aron. French public life is a moonscape of mediocrities.

Domestic decay has been accompanied by geopolitical decline. Under Macron, France has failed to support Ukraine against Russian aggression and has lost influence in its North African backyard. Who could forget the contrast between Volodymyr Zelensky's unfeigned admiration for Boris Johnson and his exasperation when he found himself embraced by Emmanuel Macron?