

## *The American Presidency. After Donald Trump*

### Introduction

di Giuseppe Franco Ferrari

The image of the US presidential form of government has always depended on the specimens of individual presidents, according to the opinions of both American and European observers.

George Wash. was defined first at war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his compatriots, bestowing on the President a moral and almost religious authority, legitimating the nation in its *statu nascenti*.

Andrew Jackson was evaluated by Tocqueville as the emblem of an ongoing plebiscitarian mechanism.

In 1918 Woodrow Wilson raised in Max Weber the idea of an effective selection mechanism in a tendential plebiscitarian system.

The age of FD Roosevelt aroused a feeling of unprecedented concentration of power in all contemporary observers.

Kennedy and even more Johnson looked crushed by overwhelming responsibilities.

Reagan was labeled as the main character of a rhetoric presidency, centered on the search for popular consensus responding to growing expectations in a neo-factionist context.

One of the possible explanations is the evolution of the form of government. However much depended on the personalities of the presidents.

It is early to make statements about the Trump Presidency.

President Trump has definitely been an unorthodox head of State, but he had to confront unexperienced problems in an environment different from all those experienced in earlier times. The challenge of the times might have been unbearable, given the worldwide economic and political conditions.

A more detailed judgement will hopefully be the output of this seminar. But it will take much longer to define his place in American constitutional history.

*Giuseppe Franco Ferrari*  
Dip.to di Studi giuridici  
Univesrità comm.le L. Bocconi  
[ferrari.giuseppe@unibocconi.it](mailto:ferrari.giuseppe@unibocconi.it)