

Economic Ruin, War, Environmental Disaster, Loss of National Sovereignty. The Fears Connected to the Oresund's Bridge in the Twentieth Century

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The Oresund's bridge connects Copenhagen and Malmö since the year 2000. Already imagined by literates and engineers from Denmark and Sweden since the nineteenth century, in the second half of the twentieth century its planning became the product of the cooperation between the two states, which started its construction in the mid-1990s.

The planning of the bridge has been inspired by ideas of openness, cooperation, and unity among the two peoples; since the nineteenth century, its advantages have been described by its supporters in social and economic terms: with a bridge on the Sound, a major flow of persons and goods could have moved without barriers from and to the whole Scandinavian peninsula. Nevertheless, not all the expectations on the Oresund's bridge have been positive.

This paper aims at presenting the fears connected to the Oresund's bridge when this was still the product of imagination. In the twentieth century, Swedish and Danish commentators have pointed out that the bridge was a risky matter: in case of war, it would have facilitated the foreign armies' entry into Scandinavia or it would have been a military target whose ruins would have obstructed the navigation on the Sound. Others have feared that the bridge would have been economically damaging for the nearby living communities. Since the seventies, when the environmental concerns obliged to consider the impact of the bridge, the fear of an environmental disaster succeeded in gathering organized protests against the bridge on both sides of the Sound. In the nineties, in Sweden, the idea of the bridge was connected to the EU-membership and consequently to the potential loss of national sovereignty.