

## VALERIO PELLIZZARI

Writer for Laterza publishing house since 2010

Journalist since 1965

Special correspondent for the Rome daily newspaper "Il Messaggero" since 1980

Commentator for the daily "La Stampa" since 2008

Winner of the Max David prize for journalism in 1996

Member of the jury for the international literary Prize Tiziano Terzani

Contributor to Geografie sul Pasubio, summer school of reportage

Has published these books:

*Asia after Ping-pong*, PAN, Milan, 1972.

*Vietnam without Memory*, Vallecchi, Florence, 1985.

*Kabul-Kabul*, Vallecchi, Florence, 1989.

*The Ali Baba's Room*, Sperling & Kupfer, Milan, 2004 - translated in Arabic, Afaq Publishing house, Cairo, 2007

*In the battle, when grapes are ripe*, Laterza, Bari, 2012

Another new book regarding Kapuscinski is substantially closed. Working on a new book regarding Korean peninsula, expected printing time beginning 2024.

Over the last forty five years Valerio Pellizzari has regularly reported and investigated developments in political affairs in the Middle and Far East, Central Asia, Magreb and Eastern Europe.

Specifically, he was a live witness to the Cyprus crisis, the war between Vietnam and Cambodia and the Iran-Iraq war. In Indochina he reported about the reconstruction after the American withdrawal and, in India, about the Bhopal tragedy and the siege of Amristar's Golden Temple.

Frequent trips to Afghanistan, starting from 1974 and during the time of the Soviet occupation, until today, allowed him to track political and military developments until the Geneva negotiations that established a new provisional structure in the country, and to describe the following, wrong attitude of the western generals in the country, repeating the soviet mistakes 25 years later. Until the arrival of talibans, with several exclusive documents regarding their brutal justice.

Witness to repeated political crises in Turkey, and to the fall of Marcos in Manila, he reported on Japan ( the economic boom, the slow agony of Hirohito and the confession, after fifty years of silence, of a Japanese war criminal in Manchuria), the Tibet rebellion in 1987 and the protest in

Tienanmen Square. He visited several times the Republic of Korea and PDR of Korea at the time of Kim Il Sung before the Olympic games in 1988 and later in 2018, after the meeting in Singapore between president Kim and president Trump.

His articles from Russia described the fall of Gorbachev, the dismembering of the Soviet empire from Moscow to Kazakhstan, the reality from the secret-atomic city of Kurciatov-Semipalatinsk (first report by a western correspondent), the war in Ossetia in 1992 and other events in the Caucasus.

In the Near East he covered the Kuwait front during the Gulf war, Iraqi repression in Kurdistan, and the American bombardments in Iraq in 1998.

In the Mediterranean area he had many reports on the Algerian civil war, the Bosnian conflict (including the siege of Gorazde, Srebrenica and Zepa), the Serbian collapse in Kosovo, on the fall of the Albanian regime in 1997, the fall of Milosevic and the Aja trial.

His most recent chronicles concern the demise of the Taliban, the return of the king to Kabul, the wrong politics of the western diplomacy in Kabul and in Pakistan, the second Iraqi war, the fall of Saddam in Baghdad, and the operation against Bin Laden in Abbottabad.

Among his more important interviews are those with the former king Zahir Shah, at the time of the Geneva negotiations (the only interview granted by the king), with President Najbullah when the Red Army withdrew from Afghanistan (the only interview granted on that occasion), with general Ratko Mladic after the siege of Gorazde, the last interview with Milosevic in his Belgrade villa prior to his arrest, and with Duch, the professor responsible for the concentration camp of Toul Sleng in Cambodia during the regime of Pol Pot (the only interview allowed during eight years in prison before the trial).

Additionally, he has had exclusive interviews with Makarios, Pham Van Dong, Indira Gandhi, Demirel, Ecevit, Marcos, the Dalai Lama, Tansu Ciller, Nakasone, Rajiv Gandhi, Akashi, president Kostunica, Carla Del Ponte, president Gamsakurdia (when he was always refusing any interview), the patriarch Alessio II, the patriarch Bartolomeo I, Turkish president Gul (only discussing the relations with Armenia).