

## *A FEW WORDS BEFORE...*

Critically analyzing neoliberalism and its myths in the Balkans is a dangerous undertaking, because the author(s) will immediately find themselves on some kind of list formed by non-governmental organizations to deny them further scientific progress and access to the media. Of course, there are also Western embassies that support this activity of non-governmental organizations, and are often the main instigators. They indicate which specific researcher should be humiliated and presented as a “conspiracy theorist.”

In the Balkans, non-governmental organizations have much money, access to the media, they have a network of agents of influence in ministries and state institutions. They also have an obedient and ready membership for all kinds of vile actions to not only belittle, but also permanently remove a specific researcher from the scientific and media scene. The reason is obvious: neoliberal myths, according to their logic, cannot be questioned. Because of all this, non-governmental organizations appear to the public more like para-intelligence structures than non-governmental organizations.

It is not surprising that critics of neoliberalism have called their colleagues, who recklessly defend an already failed paradigm, “watchdogs” of a failed ideology. And indeed, among the apologists of neoliberalism, one can observe fanaticism, militarism, hatred, intolerance and a sectarian attitude towards dissenters. Where they gain power in universities and institutes, critics of neoliberalism are quickly removed from their jobs. Due to their militaristic attitude, the apologists of neoliberalism do not understand they are turning the entire system into a dictatorship (only this way and no other way), and of course, there is always an alternative.

Neoliberalism is, therefore, so well protected from public criticism and it is not surprising that very few authors (we are talking about the Balkan area) dare to oppose neoliberal myths. However, some also brave researchers expose neoliberalism and neoliberal myths to critical reasoning. As far as the Balkans are concerned, the Doctor of Sociological Sciences, the scientific advisor of the

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Belgrade (Republic of Serbia) Institute for Political Studies (also recently the director of this institution) Miša Stojadinović stands out.

Stojadinović, who otherwise defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic “Noam Chomsky and contemporary society”, often quotes this author, so he accepted his catchphrase that “the responsibility of intellectuals lies in telling the truth and exposing lies.” Therefore, the author sincerely testifies both in personal life and in scientific work.

Thus, among other things, Stojadinović states that neoliberalism leads to the alienation of man, i.e. the common man becomes insignificant and isolated. As Chomsky says, “money is above man.” In this system, money is the measure of everything, not man. Of course, the neoliberal order does not defend the plundering of resources, the destruction of peoples and countries, if profits are in sight. Hence the numerous wars.

An important issue in Miša Stojadinović's monograph is the fate of the national state and national identity. It has been shown that if a person does not have a state or citizenship, he becomes stateless. Small countries are frequent victims of neoliberalism, i.e. of large transnational corporations that subjugate them. So in this part the established system looks more like neo-Trotskyism than a kind of democracy. By the way, the majority of Western politicians led by Blinken (the USA and the European Union declare themselves as Trotskyists, that is, neo-Trotskyists). The question of the fate of the state is followed by the fate of national and religious identity. Namely, in one of his speeches dedicated to the Balkans, Blinken recommended the Slavic citizens of North Macedonia to assimilate into Albanians! This kind of political insolence is also applied to other Orthodox Slavs (Serbs, Russians, Belorussians and Ukrainians) whose right to existence in their own states is challenged.

What to say on the statements of Western politicians that Russia “must be destroyed” or the insistence on the genocidal nature of the Serbs, even though the truth is quite the opposite. Serbs were subjected to genocide and ethnic cleansing from centuries-old hearths, and in some cases also ethnocide (Romania, Albania, Greece...).

Hence, the fate of the nation state and national identity is of prime importance for the Balkan peoples and not only them. This is precisely what Miša Stojadinović shows in this monograph.

Much has been written about democracy. But it has, at least as far as the Balkans are concerned, turned into demonocracy in the literal sense. Of course, here we should recall the ancient Greek thought, for example the thought of Aristotle, who classified democracy as a bad form of government, because it brings an oligarchy to power. Today, when you look at who rules in certain countries, you will notice that oligarchs rule, as the money owners. Nothing new under the heavens, except that the system of its advertising has been perfected. Democratization is really a myth, because it does not lead to respect for the will of the people, but to unprecedented violence against people. Sometimes democratization shows its ugly side, because people think that by voting they can decide on everything, even on professional issues that cannot be voted on, which introduces injustice into the open (for example, on the selection of scientific professions).

A particularly interesting issue that Stojadinović draws attention to is “The Slavs and the New World Order.” Namely, when the break-up of Yugoslavia began in 1991, the Slavs became the focus of interest. They also were, in a similar way before, during the liberation from the Ottomans (Turks), the Crimean War, the First and Second World Wars and now with the Special Military operation carried out by Russia in Ukraine.

The most numerous Eurasian nation is the target of constant attacks and hate speech. Serbophobia and Russophobia have become the default. According to the “Encyclopedia of Genocide”, during the Second World War, the Nazis killed between 19.7 and 23.9 million Slavs, mainly inhabitants of the USSR, Poles, Serbs and others. Modern researches speak of much higher figures (40 million). What is the worst in the Western media and scientific circles, the policy of reducing the number of killed Slavs is implemented. Serbia is not exempt, especially when it comes to the Jasenovac camp, where at least 700,000 Serbs were killed.

Everything that has been said before, in fact, shows how important the monograph by Miša Stojadinović is, especially for

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readers in the west of the planet, to get to know the real situation in this part of Europe.

In addition, the monograph on demythologizing neoliberalism, which is the dominant ideology of our time, will help to understand the policy of American President Reagan and British Prime Minister Thatcher (80s of the last century), as well as the current state of affairs. That is why, if it is not superfluous to say, I also recommend to the readers the monograph “Political Myths of Neoliberalism”, authored by Miša Stojadinović.

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