

Brexit, Trump, the AfD and the 'New World Order in Action'¹

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Surprised by the Brexit vote in the UK, the victory of Donald Trump and the strong showing of the far-right AfD party in the German elections?

Well, you won't be, if you read the extremely thought-provoking new book, *The New World Order in Action, Globalisation, the Brexit Revolution and the Left* by Takis Fotopoulos.

The Greek left-wing political philosopher and economist argues that such phenomena are manifestations of a public backlash against what he describes as the "New World Order of neoliberal globalization" — a project driven by what he calls the "Transnational Elites" (an interconnected network of elites based mainly in the G7 countries), which seeks to destroy all economic and national sovereignty and impose a new form of low-wage servitude on mankind.

The Three Phases

In chapter one, Fotopoulos gives us a short history lesson and distinguishes between the three main phases in the development of today's capitalist global economy.

There was a liberal phase in the 19th century that led to a failed attempt at globalization in the early 20th century.

Then there was a "statist" phase which was universalized in the west after World War Two, in the form of social democracy and the welfare state.

Then, beginning in the 1980s, came the present neoliberal phase, associated with a massive expansion of Transnational Corporations (TNCs) and deregulation of the financial services industry. The start of this period coincided, not by accident, Fotopoulos adds, with the collapse of "actually existing socialism" in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. What happened was that the power of TNCs and monopoly finance capital became so great, that alternative economic models, based on national markets, were dismantled.

This era of neoliberal globalization — ushered in by Mrs. Thatcher and Ronald Reagan — and pushed by the TNCs and banking/financial elites who funded them, has led to "an unprecedented concentration of income and wealth," so much so that by 2016 an Oxfam report showed that the net worth of the richest 62 people was equal to the combined wealth of half the world.

¹ First published: 14:43 29.09.2017(updated 14:55 29.09.2017).

<<https://sputniknews.com/columnists/201709291057805864-brexit-trump-afd/>>

In 2017, Oxfam revealed² that just eight people owned the same wealth as half the world — 3.6 billion people.

This is shocking, but no accident, as it's how the system was designed. The present era also been marked by endless wars, as the Transnational Elites target for destruction independent, resource-rich, strategically important nations which try and resist colonization, such as Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and Syria. These wars — routinely sold to the public as "humanitarian interventions" — in turn, have led to a huge refugee crisis, which then confuses and splits domestic opposition to neoliberal globalization.

Fotopoulos is quite scathing about how the "left" in the west has either gone along with the elite, globalist project or failed to understand the "nature of the beast" that it is up against.

The Issue of 'Austerity'

Fotopoulos notes how many self-styled progressives regard "austerity" as being merely being a "bad" choice made by "bad" politicians, instead of it being a key feature of neoliberal globalization. He cites a 6,000 word article³ by Paul Krugman published in the Guardian, in 2015, in which the Nobel prize-winning American economist fails to mention the words "neoliberal" and "globalization" even once, and ignores the fact that "austerity" is also the policy of the EU and all US administrations since Reagan.

It's the failure to understand that austerity policies are the inevitable consequence of "race to the bottom" neoliberal globalization — and not just the policies of a few misguided politicians, which led to fiascos such as the sell-out of the Greek people by the "anti-austerity" Syriza party.

To end austerity, Syriza needed to make a clean break with the status quo — and that would have meant saying "antio sas" not only to the euro and the EU, but what Fotopolous calls "the other transnational institutions of the NWO (WTO, IMF, NATO and so on)." But as a party of the globalist, "reformist" left, Syriza did no such thing, and consequently the Greek people's agony only intensified.

Rise of the Neo-Nationalist Right

It's been the failure — or reluctance — of the main parties of the left to properly understand modern globalization, Fotopolous argues, that has led to the rise of the neo-nationalist right. The many victims of the current system have largely been ignored by pro-globalist parties of the left and center-left, and so populist parties of the radical right — focusing obsessively on large scale immigration-which itself is merely a symptom

² "Eight people own same wealth as half the world", Posted by Melanie Kramers Senior Press Officer (16th Jan 2017). <<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2017/01/eight-people-own-same-wealth-as-half-the-world>>

³ Paul Krugman, "The case for cuts was a lie. Why does Britain still believe it? The austerity delusion", The Guardian (29 April 2015). <<https://www.theguardian.com/business/ng-interactive/2015/apr/29/the-austerity-delusion>>

of neoliberal globalization and the free movement of capital — (and the Transnational Elites' wars), have moved in to fill the gap.

The surge in support for UKIP⁴ in 2014-15 in Britain, which led to the Brexit⁵ referendum and the vote to leave the EU, the rise of the maverick Donald Trump, the strong showing for the AfD party⁶ in Germany- and the National Front in France, can be seen as manifestations of this.

The progressive response — Fotopoulos notes — has too often been to lazily brand people voting for such parties and individuals as "racists," instead of focusing on the root cause of the growing popular discontent, which is neoliberal globalization and the economic destruction and dislocation which it has caused.

In his work, Fotopoulos is effectively building on research done by Professor Steve Hall et al, who argue that "The Rise of the Right" has been caused directly by the main parties of the left embracing neoliberalism and taking elite-friendly positions on globalization. (You can read my review of "The Rise of the Right" here⁷.)

Fotopoulos, like Hall et al, argues that only by opposing neoliberalism in toto and reconnecting with their traditional working-class base can the left succeed. Any attempt to improve the plight of the victims of globalization within the current TNC-friendly framework is doomed to failure.

The stark conclusion from reading his book is that genuinely progressive parties in the west who want real change, need to campaign not only for their countries to leave the EU, but all the other transnational institutions of the NWO as well, as these institutions are unreformable. There are important lessons in its pages for the British Labour Party — and its leader Jeremy Corbyn, who could be on the brink of power — and who at the party's annual conference this week called for⁸ "a new model of economic management to replace the failed dogmas of neo-liberalism."

Anyone who knows Corbyn, and who wishes him well, needs to send him a copy by first-class post (or by very large carrier pigeon).

Social Liberation and National Sovereignty

Evoking the anti-fascist/anti-Nazi resistance movements of World War Two, Fotopoulos' radical solution to the current crisis is for "national and social liberation fronts" to set up in countries across the world to defeat the neoliberal globalists. In the same way antiglobalists of the neonationalist right need to understand there can be no national

⁴ "Nigel Farage, the Pied Piper: Beer, Brussels, Bombast and Brexit", Sputnik (13:43 04.07.2016(updated 19:54 30.11.2016)). <<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201607041042394595-ukip-farage-brexit/>>

⁵ https://sputniknews.com/trend/brexit_uk_eu_membership/>

⁶ "Merkel's Position Shaky, While AfD Rise 'Is Return to European Norms'", Sputnik (20:32 25.09.201. updated 21:49 25.09.2017). <<https://sputniknews.com/europe/201709251057682000-angela-merkel-election-over/>>

⁷ Neil Clark "How the Liberalization of the Left Led to the Rise of the Far-Right," Sputnik (02.02.2017). <<https://sputniknews.com/columnists/201702021050271445-far-right-liberalization-lessons/>>

⁸ Neil Clark "Jeremy Corbyn - Britain's Prime Minister in All But Name," Sputnik (13:58 28.09.201. updated 19:37 28.09.2017). <<https://sputniknews.com/columnists/20170928105774111-jeremy-corbyn-labour-conference/>>

independence without social liberation, the antiglobalists of the left need to understand too that there can be no social liberation without a restoration of full national sovereignty.

The long term goal put forward by Fotopoulos in his book's closing chapter would be to move from today's grossly in-egalitarian NWO — to a democratic community of sovereign nations. This would lead to a world of genuine international solidarity, and not one where a few rich countries seek to dominate others, as is the case today.

If that sounds a tall order, then it undoubtedly is. The ideology of the neoliberal globalists has become culturally hegemonic. In fact, it's hard — if not impossible — to achieve any exalted position in the arts, economics, publishing, broadcasting, or academia in the west today without subscribing to the dominant ideology. Even the previously apolitical Eurovision Song Contest has been used as a forum for pushing it — as Fotopoulos — quoting an article of mine, notes on page 63.

Obsessive political correctness and the promotion of identity politics are just two of the methods used by those who benefit from neoliberal globalization, to divide and distract us. The "Russiagate" hoax — the 2017 version of the "Iraq has WMDs" scare, is another.

The neoliberal globalists like to accuse others of racism, but when it comes to smearing Russia, and Russians, anything goes. The "internationalism" they promote is of course a sham as it only applies to countries which submit to the Transnational Elites' authority. Countries which don't, and try to maintain their independence, are sanctioned and threatened with war.

You don't have to agree with everything Takis Fotopoulos says, and every judgement he makes in his 122,000 word book to agree with him that something urgently needs to be done to end the iniquity — and violence — of the present system.

Volume Two of his *New World Order in Action* series is eagerly anticipated