

THERE SHOULD BE MORE NEO-LIBERALISM IN THE WORLD



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The neo-liberal prescription is the right model for this world, just as it has been in the past. **The problem with this model namely lies in the fact that it has not been implemented in full.** For instance, the United States today is a case in point – a country that should become more neo-liberal. This is a better model because it is based on the supremacy of the free market and because it capable of offering better solutions for most problems than the socio-liberal model. During the last few decades, the financial sphere has constantly been trying to adjust itself, but, at the same time, they continue to be subjected to regulation through interventions on the part of the government. However, when the consequences of such a destructive activity finally manifested themselves in the economic and financial crisis, people pointed their fingers at deregulation as the cause rather than laying blame for what happened on the government.

The pursuance of isolationist and protectionist practices within the sphere of politics and economics, which effectively cut a country off from the global market is obviously a horrible idea. The reduction in poverty during the last few decades is not an outcome of any fight against poverty that has occurred in Western countries. Rather, it is the result of successful

neo-liberal policies that have been implemented in developing countries.

It is unlikely that the West would ever simulate any management rules that were ultimately designed by some other civilisation, which is why something like this will not happen at any point in the foreseeable future.

Everybody praises China because its economic indicators demonstrate high growth rates. However, what is happening to China has also previously happened with respect to Japan in the 1960s and 1970s. Both of these countries lived through a period of rapid growth, namely because they have been successful in copying Western models.

One should refrain from thinking that they have devised something special here - they have simply copied what was already workable from elsewhere. There are no strictly defined rules of behavior and it is unlikely that any party would otherwise refuse to take advantage of such an approach.

The one thing that would be worth reviewing is the role of the United States as a global police force. The USA should come to occupy a similar status as Switzerland, for instance, in a truly neo-liberal world order. ■

THE TRADITIONS OF ENLIGHTENMENT ARE CAPABLE OF UNITING HUMANITY



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The roots of neo-liberalism are western. However, **neo-liberalism is merely a set of doctrines, the implementation of which should bring about similar results in any country where it is applied.** Wherever you apply this set of rules the corporations will gain tremendous power, while the democratic rights will be abolished, and the social sphere will be squeezed to a minimum. Let's take the Russian Federation, for instance. Immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the World Bank and the IMF devised a shock therapy program for Russia, which was a neo-liberal program in the full sense of the term. As an outcome of this program, the life expectancy of Russians experienced a sharp drop – the average life expectancy in Russia fell by five years, while the life expectancy for men dropped by seven years. At the same time, there was huge destitution and hardship in Russia, as a small group of people in Russia divided up major property that was previously state-owned. Such privatisation measures put this property in to the hands of those people we know today as oligarchs. To implement such kind of programs, you don't have to be a Western country in particular – you can do it in China, you can do it in America, you can do it anywhere because it has the same effect.

When you make economic freedom the most important value and priority, where the richest and the strongest in this world are permitted to do whatever they please, then what we will see take form is a very unequal and very unfair society.

We in modern-day Europe are becoming further and further removed from the important traditions of the Enlightenment. The rest of the world is coming under the influence of the West as well in this regard, despite the fact that the Enlightenment was one of the most wonderful moments in human history – an exclusively western phenomenon that the West should preserve its heritage.

I think that individuals' rights to political and religious freedom are very important and they are all elements that have been handed down through western tradition. Upon adopting them, any country can find itself capable of developing political and economic policies that are much fairer and create a much more equal society than those born of neo-liberal tendencies. ■

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