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Theme: Nationalism and Globalization

Date 11.01.2021

The Globalization of Nationalism

The new generation of Europeans and non-Europeans living on the continent today can hardly imagine that prosperous and free Europe today, at the beginning and middle of the twentieth century, had devastating wars like the ones we see in the Middle East today. Now, after a relatively long period of political stability and economic prosperity, we are once again witnessing the growth of trends in Europe that have affected the political stability of Europe and the industrialized West and other parts of the world. Traditional left and right groupings have been influenced by a new grouping called nationalists.

Almost from the beginning of the twentieth century, the pace of industrial development increased dramatically. Industrial developments led to major changes in the economy and society within national governments. Internationally, the interdependence of states also increased, so that in the last years of the last century, nation-states became part of a network of global communications that arose from technological revolutions, and also influenced politics and culture.(Moises Naim, 2009). With the beginning of the 21st century, whispers of opposition to the process of globalization have begun, and now, after nearly two decades, those whispers have turned into violent uprisings and protests. Opponents of the process of globalization are critical of defending the existence of the nation-state and democracy within the nation-state and distancing themselves from transnational decision-making processes (Greenfeld,2011). The process of globalization of politics, economy and culture has had consequences that have led to protest reactions in certain sections of society in industrialized countries as well as developing countries. These reactions manifest themselves in forms of nationalism.

Nationalism is primarily a reaction of a nation to external threats and divisive factors. The drivers of new nationalist movements in the West include the waves of immigration to these countries, the cultural threat posed by foreign cultures, especially Muslims, and the spread of unemployment in order to transfer capital to other countries with cheap labor.

Because this force sees external factors as threatening and destroying the national government, their reactions are considered nationalistic. Behind these reactions are both the social left and the right. Traditionally, some left-wing political parties see the process of globalization as a continuation of imperialist domination (Moises Naim, 2009). But right-wing anti-global movements are led by right-wing parties and forces. Meanwhile, the nationalist reactions of the last decade in the West are not limited to external threatening factors. These movements also object to the important transnational factors that Western industrialized countries themselves have played a key role in establishing and developing(Vivienne Walt, 2019) For this reason, movements opposed to globalization policies are in conflict with those in favor of the policies of this process, which are established internal parties. These forces often appear in the form of mass movements that challenge the traditional policies of the left and right parties in domestic and foreign policy. They believe that the development of international organizations and transnational relations has weakened democracy within the country and marginalized the functioning of the national government. They believe that the decisions of transnational organizations such as the United Nations and decision-making bodies in unions and transnational organizations such as EU institutions and transnational corporations have taken precedence over those passed by the legislature in the national government and in many cases undermine the country's electorate.

The nationalists have finally come to the conclusion that the stability of democracy within the nation-state depends on leaving or limiting transnational institutions and returning to strengthening the nation-state. According to them, the involvement of transnational organizations has only resulted in the weakening of democracy in the national government. This trend has sparked widespread protests over the past ten years and has attracted large sections of public opinion in support of it in many Western countries. These nationalist tendencies have gained governmental power in a few European countries through elections.

Finally, the existence of nation-states is the cornerstone of the international community. After World War II and the founding of the United Nations and the political, economic, and military alliances that followed, the face of international relations changed. Under international treaties, many states saw the political expediency of ceding part of their sovereignty to transnational organizations after holding a referendum or the ratification of legislatures in the national government. In other words, parts of the right of national sovereignty (such as the determination of customs tariffs, the possibility of appealing the rulings of national courts in international courts, etc.), which is the most important feature of the national government, retreat in favor of the sovereignty of international assemblies. Over the past ten years, there has been a growing trend in Western democracies that has paved the way for other alternatives that are incompatible with the foundations of democracy. These tendencies are moving away from democracy to solve their own problems and those of the region, and they want strong leaders. The election of Trump in the United States, the emergence of powerful leaders in China and Putin in Russia, Erdogan in Turkey, the powerful leaders in Poland and Hungary, is a kind of return from democratic nationalism to hegemonic nationalism.

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