



*7. Letter, September 2022*

## **Imperialist Politics contra Security and Social Emancipation**

Dear friends of political philosophy,

The social, capital, financial, environmental and geopolitical trends and trouble spots affecting each individual state and the entire world of states present a picture of growing tension and instability. Enormous destructive potentials are threatening: consequences of the energy transition and climate change, pandemics, decivilization through existential hardship, unrest and state collapse, economic crises and wars, armed conflicts, not least nuclear catastrophes.

### **Leap forward in the transition period**

Everything points to a developmental leap in the opened socio-historical transitional epoch: The capitalist world system and its American centre of movement are tumbling into a critical phase of descending development and uprising. Contrary to this, however, it has hardly been clarified which social-systemic formation could or should crystallize in return. The European world of states plays a special role here:

Compared with other large civilizational areas, we are dealing here with a relatively highly developed constitutional, social and national state. Its highly investive and infrastructural formation contains a still more or less latent, economic and civilizational potential for a system-historical turn, but is still capital- and finance-based and crowned with the neoliberal regime of the EU.

The development of this potential is made particularly difficult by the aftermath of the collapse of socialism experiments, the emaciation of socialism efforts in the West, right-wing currents and the weaknesses of the political left. It was here, of all places, that the West-East tension became increasingly heated and escalated to the Russian war of aggression on the Ukraine, which grossly violates international law. The consequences of all this can be seen in enormous regressive developments, which seriously oppose emancipatory practices:

### **The Ukraine and geopolitical developments**

In order to form Ukraine in a strictly nationalist way, to put it in the front line of NATO against Russia and to bring it into the EU, the reckless hasard Selensky is waging a proxy war of the USA against Russia 'down to the last Ukrainian'. This has been joined by the EU as a closely related co-actor of the so-called value oriented, highly armed, all along interventionist western world and, above all, by a US-devoted political Germany. The propaganda and ideology that has dominated the media since then tries to mobilise people to be ready to sacrifice, to create an anti-Russian public mood and perhaps will prepare a german-dominated EU-Imperialism.

At the same time the forced forward directed defence of the ailing US- and dollar-imperialism aims at the weakening of Russia and its influence, the splitting of the 'House of Europe' in order to mobilise with 'transatlantic' backing and allies in other regions of the world against China as an economic-systemic adversary and competing global power. In this context the Selensky regime as a warmonger until the reconquest of Crimea and the controversial future of Taiwan play a highly explosive role.

However, even with massive support from NATO countries, this war can never be 'won' and Russia can never be brought out of the positions it has taken and brought to its knees. Further fuelling and the bloc confrontation will only lead to more human victims and damage to civilisation, and the economic sanctions involve considerable impairment of the economy and the lives of people on both sides. Furthermore, global food shortages, problems of marginalised groups and migratory pressures are intensifying. Instead of alleviating social hardship and countering the climate catastrophe, investments are being made in insane over-armament.

Finally the USA will never be able to prevent the People's Republic of China from assuming a fundamentally appropriate position in the world. Moreover, any interventionist, imperial geopolitics will fail because of the growing self-interest of peoples and states, the need for world economic and political coexistence, the formation of regional partnerships, the setbacks of neoliberal globalisation and efforts of active deglobalisation.

### **Challenges of the social left**

This systemic-historical and geopolitical situation will be aggravated by serious capital and financial economic disturbances and crises: All this means an extreme challenge for the social left on the European terrain. It exists diversified, in many agitated movements, as a partly relatively integrated, partly repressed, weakly organised, ideologically divided potential. The extreme dangers and new experiences are now pushing for a more conscious and consistent formation:

The decadence and regressive forces of the liberal-capitalist world are concentrated in the imperial triumvirate of USA-NATO and EU. The latter is by no means proving to be a peace and progress project, but rather a central lever of neoliberal modernisation, undermining of sovereign statehood, forced bloc confrontation as well as militarisation and thus the prevention of democratic, social-state development.

The alternative, liberating perspective, however, ties in precisely with the social form of development of a sovereign legal, social and national statehood, with the suppressed, half-concealed, politico-economically hitherto missed potentiality that is inherent in the contradictory reproductive formation of this 'social capitalism'. This points to the fundamental capacity for controlled political-economic self-development, to the possibilities of higher-level confederative interconnection as well as the chances of a 'neutral', non-patronising internationality.

It is therefore fatal to misjudge this positive dimension of the national in the broadest sense and to leave the whole thing to right-wing currents or autocrats. The strengthening of such regressive, nationalist forces is also a reaction to the neoliberal furore and partly due to the lack of a real left alternative. Otherwise, this can be found neither in an individualistic futuring, nor through the redistribution of capitalistically produced wealth, nor in a 'globalism' or in the sphere of 'cosmopolitan illusions'.

### **Outlines and analytics of the new**

In order to explore the 'latently' existing alternative, considerable clarifications in the field of Praxis and Marxist thinking and a further development of the 'critique' into a future-proof 'science of political economy' are still necessary. It is roughly outlined as a social-economic, democratic and ecological system alternative. For this, the social-state economy must be freed from the vicious claw of exportism, austerity and privatisation through consistent fiscal and institutional measures and brought into a new dynamic balance. After all, no transformation concept is ultimately valid and credible if it does not demonstrate the abolition of the capitalistically incurable, intrinsic compulsion to exploitation and growth that is ruining the world.

Only 'social-ecological' alternatives fall short without such a reformatting of economic relations of value and reproduction in the sense of a budgetary socio-economy. Along this narrow way

there will be no end to alienated labour, growing social division and poverty, no participatory and substantial democracy, no world relations based on parity and solidarity, no real countering of catastrophes and not more humane natural relations at all. Instead, there would be an upward tendency towards a digitally monitored, technologically excessive, as profitable as ultimately fatal 'green capitalism' with characteristics of a new type totalitarian regime.

### **Concretization in respect of associational social forces**

In this actual crisis and overall situation, at the crossroads of the transitional period, there must, against imperialist politics and military interventions, immediately be claimed for a ceasefire and for entering into negotiations on new systems and institutionalities of collective security. However, if a left opposition will further on act as a consistent, well-founded and anchored opposition, as the peace and turning force, this still requires decided efforts for analytical-programmatic self-discovery, to concretize the reasonable alternative and for practical-political convergence.

This is the way to win over the oppressed or already in many ways active forces of social practice and emancipation, which are capable of association, for a different and better life, for the decision on the direction of a fundamental reorganization of the economic, social and cultural life.

Best regards,  
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