

DEMODERNIZATION OR INTERNAL TENSIONS OF MODERNITY?

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Abstract. *This article is devoted to criticism of the demodernization concept as a diagnosis of modern negative social and political phenomena. Author sees the main weakness of the demodernization concept in seeing the driving ideal of modernity as coherent and consistent.*

Hence the program of modernity implies an inner inconsistency that manifests, in particular, in tensions between freedom and equality, individual autonomy and common will, as well as the normative core of modernity and its institutional practices. In addition, the normative core of modernity evolves because its components do not comprise an internally consistent system but are interconnected freely and flexible. Interpretation of the program of modernity components and its constellation historically changes. One important feature of modernity is a focus on the rational reconstruction of society on the grounds of a utopian vision of an ideal society. Accordingly, ethnic cleansing and the Holocaust are the 'dark side' of modernity that connects with idea of the self-determination of a people that are understood as a homogeneous ethnic entity.

Neoliberalism became the basic ideological program of the last decades of the twentieth century and it also reproduces important features of modernity.

Neoliberalism combines the pathos of moral universalism and the aspiration of rational mastership. Implementation of the neoliberal principles of the minimal state and free market lead to a strengthening of globalized elites, increased inequality, and erosion of the middle class, which together result in a crisis of liberal democracy and the rise of populism.

Therefore, the modern phenomena that can be defined as demodernization are the consequences of realizing the modern ideal of freedom defined in a neoliberal manner. They bring out the internal tensions of the program of modernity.

Key words: *demodernization, modernity, neoliberalism, populism, the crisis of liberal democracy.*

The full text of this article is accessible in Russian.