INEQUALITY AND ITS PERCEPTION

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Abstract. The growth of economic and social inequality, which is observed nowadays in equal measure in both post-Soviet and states with developed market economies and liberal democracy, is connected to a paradoxical political situation. The priority in the political agenda is the fight against "existential inequality" (G. Therborn), while economic inequality is increasingly perceived as one of the greatest threats to modern societies and the global world as a whole. In this the paper, the "Gimpelson-Treisman hypothesis", which concerns the discrepancy between actual and perceived inequalities, Ukrainian society as an example is analyzed. It is demonstrated that an improved hypothesis allows us to propose an explanation of this paradox based on Ukrainian society, namely, why in a situation of growing social inequality we are not witnessing a "left" political turn, but rather a "right-wing populist" one.
Keywords: inequality, post-Soviet states, Ukraine, liberalism, democracy.

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