

Session 2

The Political Economy of EU Economic governance

Left alternatives to Authoritarian Neoliberalism

The Greek drama and the refugee crisis are deep breaks in the history of European integration

Business as usual is not possible anymore

The governance instruments of the EU are not adapted to these extraordinary challenges

The gap between the rich and the poor is increasing

The gap between the periphery and the centre is increasing

There is not just austerity in Europe; there is a class war between the majority of the people and the ruling class determined to redistribute income and wealth from the rest of society to themselves.

There is a structural deficit in democracy in the EU institutions

The neoliberal orientation is rooted in the treaties (“authoritarian constitution”)

The deeply anti-democratic nature of institutions and policies reflects their original and current purpose : to serve the interest of the corporate and financial sector and the various elites, constituting today’s oligarchies. They operate in darkness and opacity, out of view of Europe citizens

Crisis management is intensifying the authoritarian rule

Neoliberal policies have largely contributed to the rising tide of right populist movements, racism and xenophobia leading to a general shift to the right in conservative and social-democratic parties

Two examples of authoritarian and anti-democratic ruling of the EU and the eurozone :

- the votes in 2005 by 3 countries (Denmark, France, Ireland) against the constitutional treaty was not taken into account => Lisbon was adopted
- the vote by the Greek people against austerity in 2015 was ignored by European authorities

The reforms prepared by the European authorities will increase the democratic deficit : the so-called “Five president report” launched by Juncker in 2015 for “completing Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union” amounts to authoritarian and neoliberal deepening of the euro area.

It is possible to transform the EU into a social, democratic and peaceful union, if there is a strong mobilization from below

Fundamental change is required, which can only come from below

A break with the existing system of treaties is required

We need a democratic rebellion in Europe. This movement is needed to place human rights, civil, political, social, economic, cultural and democratic rights at the heart of the European project.

In view of Europe’s current state, we must call for civil disobedience to the European institutions’ toxic rules, policies, treaties

We need new constituent processes and self-determination through binding referenda. We reaffirm the duty to disobey undemocratic dictates when in government, as a democratic obligation to the people

We shall resist the illegal and undemocratic practices of the ECB, the European Commission and the IMF. The so-called Eurogroup has no legitimacy.

We do not accept any more sacrifices for a currency which is outside any democratic control

We demand democratic control over the banking system

Resistance should take different forms :

- use existing instruments : positive example provide by the European Citizen's Initiative (ECI) organized by an alliance of almost 500 civil society organizations regarding the Investors / States Dispute Settlement (ISDS) system : 90% of voters (about 3 millions) voted against the ISDS in the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)
- organize convergence of social movements to fight against EU and eurozone policies : Blockupy : Frankfurt demonstration in 2015 against the ECB policies; transnational demonstrations in more than 20 cities in 8 countries against social precarization and migrant policies in the EU

In the future we need to mobilize on crucial issues such as

- debt : We must affirm the sovereign right of the people to audit the debt and to refuse to repay the illegitimate and illegal debts.
- refugees : We must demand : let's the refugees in ! We do not accept that the so-called borderless Europe erects walls and electrifying fences everywhere