

Proces of political disintegration speeding up after a crisis ten years ago was again accelerated in recent year with features like

- decline of parties directly connected with restauration of capitalism in many countries
- growth and stabilisation of new, in majority right-wing populist countries
- lack of or low profile of left wing parties connected to the working class and youth

In the aftermath of Great Recession 2007-2009 we could see mighty trade-union protests like up to 100 thousands in Prague in 2012 or 250 thousands in Warsaw. But lack of strategy to win on the part of trade union leadership, accompanied with lack of left political alternative opened the space to various populist projects - PiS in Poland, ANO in Czech Republic, FIDESZ in Hungary etc.

We see huge long-term growing polarisation of societies, clearly caused by loss of trust into free market economy on big part of especially working class and poor. But due to lack of significant socialist and generally radical left-wing forces this polarisation takes various forms, often being described and generally pictured as a conflict between "liberal democratic" and "national conservative" ideas.

In policy of PiS and ANO, same as of SMER in Slovakia and other forces after 2010 we could see some features of attempt to put "national bourgeois interest first" and use kind of better-off economical situation to release partly burden on the working class after second wave of austerity in early 2010's, usually in the form of increases of family benefits, regulation of some prices, increase of minimal wages and pensions. E

Except stabilising its social base while in same time serving as fiscal stimulous for national economies (see Pauls articles) they also strived to present a picture of "national unity in growth" - kind of revision of central neoliberal narrative of free market across the globe of the restauration decade, those distancing themselves from largely hated traditional right wing.

It did not prevent them, of course in further deteriorating position of especially organized working class as we have seen with "slavery law" in Hungary or Slovak new right-populist government storm against most of "social pact" elements since 2019.

Dependence of the region on big powers, especially Germany, as largely subcontractor economies keeps these forces in check from point of view of Western imperialism but unlike their uncritical predecessors, they whenever needed prop up euroscepticism, nationalist rhetoric, struggle against "foreign cultures and ideologies" (feminism, rights of minorities etc.) and open racism. While they were time to time looking to China and/or Russia testing if dependence on rich EU could be challenged, submission to EU is - at the time being - prevailing mainly due to now unbreakable economical ties and due to uncertainty of after-pandemic situation.

Their conservative, arrogant and corrupt modus operandi is incompatible especially with mass of urban youth. Though many are influenced by "liberal opposition", like in the west growing number of young people understands that neither liberal right is to challenge burning issues like environment, inaccesable housing and job insecurity. Protesting young people in Poland or Hungary also learn first bitter lessons of incapibility and unwillingness of EU to really tackle growing authoritarian grip of their hated governments over different institutions of the state, or basic rights and freedoms. Though there are still strong illusions in EU and liberal pro-capitalist opposition is widely seen by youth as only viable instrument, it is clear that further experiences will force changes in this consciousness.

After-covid crises could and in many countries will also lead to growth far right currents, likely along the line of AfD in Germany as Central Europe is concerned at least mixed with specific reactionary according to local "tradition" (religion, racism against Roma and Sinti, oppression of national minorities, even campaigns to regain historical regions from neighbouring states). This in itself will be another trigger for youth to revolt. But as we have seen in Austria, where experience with far right is more advanced, their time will be limited, especially on the background of present crisis where these forces will side fully and openly with capitalist class against the workers and youth.