

POPULISM AS A MODERN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PHENOMENON

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The article provides the analysis of populism in its political and economic dimensions. The authors consider the problems of the authoritarian revenge in the modern world arguing that it is the consequence of democracy's inability to solve urgent social and economic problems. Millions of people in post-Soviet countries are disappointed with the reality of the democratic society and market economy that causes the rise of populism.

There are various approaches to studying populism. Among them we can distinguish ideological, logical, behavioural and instrumental interpretations of populism.

Populist movements lead to delegitimization of political system showing its inability to function under crisis. One of the examples is the rise of anti-migrant parties. After 2015, millions of Middle East migrants rushed towards the European countries. Only some of them were indeed refugees from the war-torn countries seeking for rescue and jobs. The others are not going to accept the European law, values and language that leads to the struggle between them and the native inhabitants. These contradictions and inability of government to solve them lead to the rise of the far-right movements. One of them is a German movement PEGIDA. Another far-right party is Alternative for Germany.

Le mouvement des Gilets jaunes (France) has been considered as a movement without a leader. The example of the Lega Nord in Italy has been analyzed in the context of Euroscepticism. Also, the idea of Italexit has been mentioned. The anti-migrant policy of M. Salvini has been analyzed. The ideas of Marine Le Pen have been considered.

The case of Belarus has been analyzed as one of the examples of economic populism. The authorities of the country refused to impose national lockdown. In our point of view, it was a populist decision determined by economic viability to keep all businesses open during COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic populism in Ukraine has been considered to be a result of unreal expectations of Ukrainian citizens. People are unaware about the mechanism of market economy, therefore they support populists for their promises. The high level of economic turbulence facilitates the successful activity of the populists. For example, the government promises to create many new jobs, but it is impossible under the dominance of the private sector with a weak control of the state. Unemployment cannot also disappear completely.

The works of the Western and Ukrainian scientists have been used in the article. These papers reflect the modern perception of the problem of populism in its political and economic dimensions. In our opinion, populism cannot be considered as only the positive or negative phenomenon. It should be investigated using the complex of scientific methods.

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