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Green Deal or Social Emancipation and Political-Economic System Transformation

Dear friends of political philosophy,

if one summarises all possible problems and trouble spots of social and global development, one could characterise the general situation in this way: We are dealing with a multiple crisis that affects practically all dimensions and fields of social practice and signals a significant transformation or a radical change in the socio-historical situation. But what does this transition mean?

The nature or definition of the situation determines what practical responses are demanded of the social and organised left and what broader orientations should apply. Meanwhile, the general perception and the prevailing politics and economics focus on an energy transition and the consequences of CO₂ emissions or climate change. What are the answers to these problems?

The response is to implement strategies for the conversion to non-fossil energies and regulations or taxonomies with a view to climate targets, sustainability regarding the use of resources, ecosystems and environmental protection. But what is proclaimed as a "Green Deal" primarily involves monetary assessments, financing and investments following the pattern of the capitalist economy or corresponding fiscal frameworks, combined with the proclamation of objectives that are partly unrealistic or refer to time horizons that are virtually uncontrollable.

This rolls out a green-alternative carpet to cushion the footfalls under which - whether in almost infinitely small moments, through major or even catastrophic after-effects - the destruction of the planetary habitat ceaselessly progresses. In general, there is a lack of sensitivity and a more developed awareness of the depth dimension of the disturbances of natural conditions. And above all, there is a lack of realisation that the pressure of exploitation and growth driving all of this is constitutive for the liberal-capitalist system of reproduction and irreversible.

Thus, the Green Deal stands as a possibly digitised Trojan horse in front of the fortifications of the critics and opponents. For critics and opponents, the emphasis is on "socio-ecological transformation". This formula corresponds to a wide range of ideas for an alternative, preferably more democratic economy, work and a better life. In approaches of "transformation research", concepts are developed ranging from a "foundational economy" to a "Keynes-Polanyi state", from proposals for a "fiscal revolution" to "de-globalisation" and thereby indicate a complex, contradictory processuality of socialist transition.

From this perspective, "green capitalism" appears as a digital-technologically enhanced smoke screen and an untenable promise, reinforced by the powerlessness of politics in relation to the capital economy. The call "System Change, not Climate Change" nevertheless hangs half in the air. This is revealed by connotations such as anti-neoliberal, non-capitalist, post-growth or even real-utopian. The positive truth or the necessary admission would be that 150 years after Marx, no viable and trustworthy systemic alternative is yet tangible.

This lack acts like a black hole in social consciousness, so that no light is shed on the present conditions, points of attack and possibilities by the necessary, missing concrete alternative or even dark future. This fundamental theoretical and political problem has deep roots that go back far beyond the failed centrally state-planned economy.

Marx focused on the relationship of wage labour versus capital and referred to limits or disruptive effects of *industrial capitalist accumulation* or growth. In contrast, the associated tendencies towards dazzling technological overdevelopment, multifaceted social division and extreme inequality, and the looting and destruction of global bases of existence have only come to the fore in our own time.

Only now, after the transition to the *socio-state-formation* and the implementation of *neo-liberal globalisation*, has the zenith of systemic unfolding been exceeded: That "turning point" therefore leads to a stage of regression in which all the contradictions of liberalist-capitalist dominated state and world conditions break open. They are mainly responsible for the erosion of the rule of law, constitutional democracy and the welfare state, for the hardships and problems of the population and for the disastrous conditions of nature and existence and offer no real solutions.

Therefore, the inconsistency of the green-washed growth strategy breaks out at climate conferences, organs of a world capitalist governance lose power and with the setbacks of neoliberal globalisation, imperialist competition and confrontation intensify up to economic wars and in arms races. In this way, the conditions at the existing "formational" bifurcation are essentially antagonistic and at the same time extremely contradictory, ambiguous, multidimensional regarding the emerging new, on which social movements and a resolute left are working.

What is needed above all is a more concrete knowledge of where to go on the paths of social emancipation: what is needed is a collective scientific effort to solve the still insufficiently fathomed matter. A social and "circular economy" that is not only "socially and ecologically" based, but also "politico-economically", i.e., based on value, reproduction and practice analytics, managed with social responsibility without the need for growth, means something other than recycling superfluous scrap, mass transport powered by hydrogen from questionable sources, green-washed exportism and friendly neo-colonialism.

Best regards,
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