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The perspective of a social state economy in a multipolar world order

Dear friends of political philosophy,

In the face of omnipresent and escalating crises and confrontations, social regression and confusion, what is needed all the more is a basic idealistic steadiness and, beyond all criticism of liberal-capitalist conditions, a positive programmatic reassurance of the left: The associative forces for a social change can only find each other and gain ground if plausible and unifying concepts for an alternative economic constitution and way of life come into play.

As the situation of the social left in countries in Europe shows, however, a concrete systemic alternative has still not been demonstrated or a political, programmatic convergence achieved. However, there is an increase in voices, arguments and concepts that can be further elaborated in terms of value, reproduction and systems theory and profiled in social defense and reform efforts. To this end, essential basic elements, transitional forms and indications of direction are emerging:

1. The constitution of society as a legal, social and national state forms the decisive field of possible participatory democratic practice, social transformation and emancipation, due to the overall economic and political significance of such statehood. What is needed above all is the assertion of state sovereignty in relation to capital- and financial-economic powers and an egalitarian democratic policy.

This orientation also demands resistance to tendencies to disempower the sovereign social constitution through *supranational centralism and transnational institutionalities* as well as the rejection of real and ideal *globalism*.

2. At the achieved, overshooting level of productive and social-formative potentials, the unfolding of the public social-infrastructure foundations for the economy and welfare of society becomes a priority: Such *foundational economy* or public, *social economy services* are the foundation of everyday life, essential for true equality, personal self-development and social security. At the same time, they form, quasi inversely, basic preconditions of industrial economic production and, in this relationship, also constitute a force of social *value creation*.

The capitalist operation of such public, general services, on the other hand, is unnecessary and counterproductive. In principle, they belong under social state and municipal direction, held in socio-economic forms of establishment, ownership and operation, largely maintained by public funding and made generally available.

3. The empowerment of democratic self-determination of the community requires the retrieval of corresponding functions of the current central banking and finance capitalism into the horizon of a more developed tax, monetary, financial and fiscal system.

This means, among other things, a restructuring of the entire tax system and, all in all, a real *fiscal revolution*, also in return for the otherwise inexorably growing inequality of income, wealth and life opportunities.

4. For commodity-, industrial- or capital-economic labor and social reproduction, market-economic forms are necessary and suitable. In view of the interconnections and interdependencies in international economic traffic and in the economic world system, they must be regulated and can be arranged mutually beneficial or solidary. Equally, however, state- or social-economic forms are appropriate wherever it is in the social interest to do so.

Such a mixed economy on a social-infrastructural basis, a *socialist market economy* if you will, corresponds to its own social-state forms of ownership and enterprise with institutionalized social responsibilities. It requires economic and development governance in the longer term.

5. The release of the socio-economic configuration inherent in social capitalism can be based on and promote an existing domestic self-referentiality of reproduction, either at the regional level or through the expansion of the fundamental economic department with respect to its interrelationship with the commodity economy.

This requires foreign economic sovereign governance and the rejection of liberalist-capitalist free trade, can be based on the increasing setbacks of neoliberal globalization, and can also be linked to initiatives of the marginalized South in the sense of deglobalization and alternative development.

6. As it turns out, a social state economy is linked to alternative forms of financial, social and market economics and a sovereign constitution. As a result, it supports and enables the tendential containment or elimination of capitalist exploitation and growth constraints and consistent orientation toward an ecological, balanced economy and way of life.

This political-economic formation corresponds to a *multipolar*, non-imperial world order. In this context, *confederal* and multilateral forms of state interaction are appropriate, especially in neighboring or continental economic and cultural areas, and not least at the global level.

Best regards,
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