THE RISE OF ‘ILLIBERAL’ DEMOCRACY: THE ORBÁNIZATION OF HUNGARIAN POLITICAL CULTURE

Peter Wilkin

ABSTRACT

This article examines the rise of the political right and far-right in Hungarian political culture. It highlights the contribution that world-systems analysis can bring to an historical sociological understanding of the concept of political culture, with a particular focus on contemporary Hungary. Many commentators are asking: how it can be that 30 years of democratic transition has led to the dominance in Hungary of a politics of intolerance, illiberalism and ethno-Nationalism, as manifested in both the current government, Fidesz, and the neo-fascist party, Jobbik. This paper argues that the correct way to frame the question is to ask: why, given the legacy of authoritarian social and political movements that have shaped Hungary’s modern history, should a stable, liberal, political culture emerge after communism? Instead what the paper shows is that the goals of classical liberalism and a liberal political culture have long been destroyed by three factors: capitalism; the nation-state; and the persistence of traditional and sometimes irrational forms of social hierarchy, prejudice and authority. Hungary’s current Orbánisation reflects an on-going tension between liberal and illiberal tendencies, the latter being part of the foundations of the modern world-system. Rather than viewing Hungary as a dangerous exception to be quarantined by the European Union, it should be recognised that the political right in Hungary is linked to broader trends across the world-system that foster intolerance and other anti-enlightenment and socially divisive tendencies. Political cultures polarised by decades of neoliberal reforms and in which there is no meaningful socialist alternative have reduced Hungary’s elite political debates to the choice of either neoliberalism or ethnonationalism, neither of which is likely to generate socially progressive solutions to its current problems.

KEYWORDS

political culture; far-right; authoritarian right; neo-fascism; Hungary; Orbanization

FULL TEXT:

PDF

REFERENCES

Chicago Press.


Chirot, D., 2001. A clash of civilizations or of paradigms? Theorizing progress and social change. A

Ages until the early twentieth century. Univ of California Press.


Press.


Press.


Press.
And most Hungarian and Poland governments have democratic mandates that are supported by the majority in a parliament. But as their own leaders often say, they are not liberal democracies. Liberalism, certainly in Poland, is not generally seen as something positive. It is associated with anarchy. Therefore in Poland, the main development in recent political development, in recent months, has been to incapacitate or even effectively destroy the Constitutional Court, the main element of the system of justice, which by Polish law is able to control the government, to control the legislative power, to decide whether the legislation is in agreement with the. In this video, Professor Mach explains the rise of illiberal democracy in Hungary and Poland. An illiberal democracy, fails to accommodate the differences for many citizens and races. Many times this leads to war and more conflict. Simply one has to take into consideration; those countries like Iraq are countries that are built from a breakup of some sort. These countries have many ethnic and religious divisions. When given a free election these countries, have one group rise to power, leading exclusion and discrimination of the minority. Politically speaking America has constitutional republic democracy because it empowers three branches so there is not a tyrannical situation. Zakaria clearly says that most countries don’t tend to follow this belief because the founding fathers always felt that
there should be limited power in all aspects of government.