

POPREBEL

Disembeddedness in Central and Eastern Europe: a Polanyian approach to emerging populism

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The purpose of the proposed paper

- To review and evaluate the existing literature on the applicability of the „double movement” theory on Central and Eastern Europe
 - The regime change
 - The crisis of 2008
- To evaluate „populist” political movements within this framework

Main hypotheses

- In CEE „populist” policies are a counter movement against marketization – from the demand side
- In CEE „populist” policies are tools to embed neoliberalism after the 2008 crisis
 - A special type of populism emerges: transitional populism?

The pieces of the puzzle – on the global level

- Economic transition
 - Accelerated globalization, technological development, liberalization, the emergence of global production
- Changes on the three level of the global economy:
 - Systemic level – state interest in an anarchic system
 - Nation state level – interest groups
 - Level of ideas – new ideas and the role of ideologies
- Political transition
 - Moderation in political competition
 - Competition state (Cerny), cartel party systems (Blyth-Hopkin), golden straightjacket (Rodrik)
- From „embedded liberalism” (Ruggie) to „embedded neoliberalism”

The pieces of the puzzle – the regime change in CEE

- The debate between shock therapy and gradualism
- The neoliberal recipe and the recession
- The impossibility of simultaneous transition (Offe) and the reality
- Embedding neoliberalism in CEE (Greskovits and Boehle)
 - The Baltic case
 - The Visegrad case
- My answer: „Europeanization”
- Political cartel in pursuing EU integration

The pieces of the puzzle – the break up of the cartel

- The break up of the cartel in the US and Western Europe: new parties, new political dimensions
 - The role of globalization, technological changes, the crisis
 - The response: „taking back control”, mainly protectionist policies, and also reducing the strength of existing institutions
- The break up of the cartel in CEE: new parties, new political dimensions
 - The role of recessions and growing unemployment: Poland in 2001 – 2003, in rest of CEE after 2008 mostly
 - No external point of reference, lack of enforcement strength of EU
 - However, differences from Western European patterns

The future investigation – reasons and evidence for differences

- The dependent development of the region
 - Reliance on foreign capital, know-how, entrepreneurship
 - This causes also problems, criticism, and sometimes anger
- The direction „populist” need to take
 - Working together with foreign capital owners
 - Establish a new local industrial elite – as part of a traditional catch-up process
 - Embed these pro-business policies
- The mix of this could be called as transitional populism
 - Differences from developed countries
 - Differences from traditional Latin-American populism – the reliance of foreign partners
 - A separate approach is needed