

The reasons for the demise of Liberty Europe

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Abstract. The article explores the reasons behind the collapse of liberal Europe in the 20th century, arguing that it was a necessary consequence of the core conflict between imperialism and social democracy. Imperialism undermined the foundations of social democracy by prioritizing expansion and war, leading to economic competition and irreconcilable conflicts among European nations. This competition eroded social democratic institutions, intensified the conflict between socialism and capitalism, and ultimately led to the demise of European democracy. The rise of fascism became an inevitable outcome as it offered a third option in the conflict between imperialism and socialism, appealing to those disillusioned with democracy and freedom. The article concludes that the demise of liberal Europe was due to the conflict between imperialism and socialism, which shattered the traditional democratic framework and led to the rise of fascism.

Keywords: Socialism, Fascism, Imperialism, Colonialism, The end of democracy.

1. Introduction

The collapse of 20th-century liberal Europe was not a coincidence but a necessary consequence. I will use the reports of Lenin and Luxemburg and the views of Hobson and Roger Casement to discuss how imperialism and social democracy became the core conflict; over the past century, internal conflicts on the European continent have evolved from those between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat to those between imperialism and socialism, ultimately leading to the demise of European democracy and freedom. I believe that the conflict between imperialism and social democracy eventually led to the death of liberal Europe in the 20th century and the rise of fascism.

1.1. The rivalry between Imperialism and Colonialism

Imperialism has made the European continent more unstable. Imperialism undermined the foundations of social democratic thought, and more and more voices began to oppose the social democratic framework because imperialism regards expansion and war as its primary policy. “No mere array...like Great Britain...” Hobbes discusses that the driving force of imperialism is the economy because the country's economy needs to develop, and opening up new markets is extremely important. However, for an industrial country like the United Kingdom, a country ruled by capitalism, one thing the government must accomplish is annexation of land and opening markets. The power of the entire country should be used for this purpose.

“After 1870...annexation...” The European continent made industrial expansion a prerequisite. The article mentions that Germany, the United States, and Belgium have seized our old markets, and we must expand new markets to meet our economic needs. It is mentioned here that our opponents think the same way and want to seize land and people for economic growth. These countries threaten our territory and threaten our markets. These countries have become a threat to us after annexing new markets, and they have closed trade and economic ties with us. From this, it can be seen that for all Western countries, the competition for colonial markets has become a race in which they must be the first to seize land. In essence, the conflicts between European countries have become irreconcilable because of the economic impact of imperialism; all imperialist countries must compete. It is written here that force is used to force new markets and cooperation with our cooperation. The conflict embodied in this force is the contradiction between imperialism, and this contradiction and ideology completely enveloped the European continent. However, this ideology would spread to the rest of the

world as these industrial countries opened up new “protectorates.” This expansionist ideology, this ideology that glorifies the use of force, made liberal Europe no longer exist. “We have seen that in its economic essence, imperialism is monopoly capitalism.” In Lenin's discourse, it is written that imperialism is monopoly capitalism, and the bourgeoisie in these countries occupies a strong position. “Monopolies, oligarchy, the striving for domination and not for freedom” is dominant, and expanding the market is paramount. How to maintain their rule and how to annex new land effectively is what capitalism or imperialism needs to consider, while freedom is not. This means that on the European continent in the 20th century, all capitalist countries essentially carried out political actions to oppose democracy and freedom. Therefore, the birth of imperialism or capitalism marked the demise of liberty in Europe.

1.2. The end of democracy

The end of social democracy has led to the conflict between socialism and capitalism becoming more and more intense. Without social democracy as a buffer between socialism and capitalism, a bottom-up revolution is inevitable. It is precisely because of the conflict between these two ideologies that the disintegration of European liberalism has been created. “I ...the most certain power?” Alexander provides a path to reform socialism, with compromise as the mainstay of social democratic thought. It is argued that the Revolutionary Party initially wanted to seize power, but then they began to compromise and form alliances with other parties. This approach made the party lose credibility and influence. “Such . . country.” We can see that the efforts of social democracy are to reconcile contradictions and reduce the outbreak of conflicts.

However, with the spread of imperialism and capitalism, the expansion of colonialism has led more and more voices to oppose social democracy. “Hence, Socialism... development.” The criticism of social democracy caused the collapse of a system that could have maintained freedom and democracy, and the voice of more radical socialist reform was amplified. “The title... is the *goal*.” Rosa Luxemburg's criticism of social democracy caused the growing division between social democratic and radical socialist parties. The hope of reconciliation with capitalism became slim. The bourgeois economic model made it impossible for the middle-class social democratic parties and the socialist parties belonging to the proletariat to be no longer possible; the proletariat began to seek revolution.

The emergence of this proletariat and the collapse of the social democratic system made the road to European freedom no longer a reality. Under these circumstances, the contradiction between socialism and capitalism became highly sharp, making revolution and war inevitable. “With . . countries.” firmly opposed the rule of the bourgeoisie and the exploitation of colonialism in Asian and African countries. “Expressing ... nations.” These two sentences from the Working People's manifesto state that if the world wants real peace, democracy, and freedom, it must fight. It must eliminate capitalism and imperialism. Capitalism's exploitation and oppression of other countries are unacceptable. No matter what, revolution must be used as a process, and only revolution can liberate the proletariat; revolutionary war is defined as the only solution. It can be seen that the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat must be resolved through war. Only the destruction of one side can bring peace to the other. “Their employer.” Revolution is a social problem, and revolution is not imminent as long as this social problem can be alleviated. However, monopolistic capitalism has thrown alleviation of social issues behind it, and then a revolution is inevitable.

The liberal-democratic European framework was built on social democracy, but the rise of imperialism and monopolistic capitalism corroded liberal Europe. This expansionism, this colonialism, was fundamentally opposed to liberal democracy. And because the expansionist acts of imperialism and anti-social-democratic policies called into question the framework that sustained liberal Europe, the strength of social democracy was dispersed. “That... life.” Opposition to social democracy eroded its legitimacy, and on this basis, the proletariat sought more radical and extreme methods. In this era, the form of government no longer mattered. “In... parasitism.” German monarchists and American bourgeois were the same, both enemies of the proletariat. This conflict,

which evolved from imperialist practices and competition for resources between each country, became a complete class struggle movement in Europe and even worldwide. Under these circumstances, liberal Europe could not exist.

1.3. The Birth of Fascism

As the contradiction between imperialism and socialism deepened, new ideas emerged. Because of the long-standing struggle and the perceived omnipresence of proletarian revolutions, European countries were disappointed in democracy and freedom. In this situation, an idea from the masses that could cooperate with capitalism within the context of imperialism could spread rapidly. "Fascism denies... progress." The criticism of democracy in fascist ideology was more in line with people's perception of the current situation. People found that, both internationally and domestically, various forces were struggling. Domestically, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie were fighting for control of the country. Externally, imperialist countries were fighting for resources.

The democratic system that belonged to this world was hypocritical. "The nationality . . . civilization."; "Fascism . . servitude." Especially for countries that followed colonial imperialism, the rise of nationalism was inevitable. Imperialist practices awakened national consciousness, which began to oppose imperialism. However, this national consciousness gave rise to collectivism, which became highly hostile to socialism and the previous democracy. From this, we can see that due to imperialism's oppression of other countries, the oppressed peoples' national consciousness was awakened, which in turn became a natural breeding ground for fascism. Fascism, with its expansionist and warlike ideology, continued to emerge in colonized regions and within imperialist countries. However, because imperialism and capitalism were fighting socialism, fascists believed that class struggle in a "fascist...society" was impossible and that the existing social hierarchy would not be broken down by class struggle. Therefore, fascists, through the promotion of power, the exaggeration of the country and the nation, and because Europe in the 20th century was already on the brink of conflict, and no one believed in freedom and democracy, fascism quickly became the third option in the conflict between imperialism and socialism.

2. Summary

In summary, because imperialism broke traditional democratic institutions in the twentieth century and the conflict with socialism erupted, making the European continent unstable, fascism, which proclaimed the power of the strong, became the people's choice, leading to the demise of European democracy. Therefore, I believe that focusing on the conflict between imperialism and socialism is very important in our discussion of the current era in Europe, and it is also because of the study of the conflict between these two ideologies that I can conclude that the demise of a free Europe was due to the conflict between imperialism and socialism.

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