

REVIEWS

IVAN KRASTEVA: AFTER EUROPE

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Europe is currently facing a significant crisis that stems from the threat to its traditions and roots that are built on Christianity and Enlightenment legacies. As a project that seemed to be unique, irreplaceable and unparalleled, the European Union is now facing doubts and questions that have until recently been unthinkable: are we witnessing the break-up of the European Union as we know it or these events are a necessary step towards reform that will help to preserve the original ideas of the creators of the common European project and thus protect the Western way of life and its values?

In his book „After Europe“, author Ivan Krastiev seeks to provide the reader, through various perspectives, with the causes of the current events in Europe. These events will define its further political development in the European Union. The author does not seek to provide guidance on how to save Europe, nor does it prematurely bury it, but seeks to provide an analysis of current events using the experience from past events. The author seeks parallels of current development in the European Union with the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy, as well as explains the causes of today's events based on the collapse of the Soviet Union and its consequences. According to the author, one of the main catalysts of the current crisis development in Europe is migration, which revealed in the full nakedness the weaknesses of the European project when attacking the most basic of human instincts, which is fear. It is the fear for our own existence, the fear that the way of life we are accustomed to and which we considered to be something obvious is endangered by this revolution (in this case migration). This revolution is the driving force of the electoral rebellion against the establishment we are witnessing in today's stronger support of anti-systemic and populist parties. The migration crisis has provoked a situation in Europe in which people argue about identity, values, human rights, and are questioning EU's elites about their non-willingness or inability to deal with it.

In the introduction of the first chapter, the author deals with two important monographs which, after the end of the Cold War, deal with further scenario of the development of society and which are essentially opposed to each other. It

is the book „End of History“, in which Francis Fukuyama described the West as the winner of ideological conflict and liberal Western democracy as a model to follow for all other parts of the world. He also assumes that West should export its values and institutional set-up after the fall of the Iron Curtain to other parts of the world. Contrary to Fukuyama, however, the author puts attention to the book „New World Disorder“ by Ken Jowitt, where it is stated that the end of Leninism does not mean the end of history, but rather the beginning of the era of chaos, insecurity, various crises and conflicts. Subsequently, in this chapter, the author deals with the migration crisis, its historical reasons dated since the colonization era. He also explains the difference between refugees and migrants. On the basis of these events, he explains the current trend of the rise of nationalism and populism, which he sees especially in demographic reasons and European people concerns about their existence, values, identity and the traditional way of life.

Subsequently, the author deals with the crisis of the historical class breakdown of voters to the right and left when he talks about the failure of the left in an effort to deal with the migration crisis and the subsequent move of the working class votes to the extreme right. The author's opinion on the migration crisis is also linked with a change in the attitude of Europeans to the issue of human rights and the spread of democracy to other parts of the world. At the same time, according to the author, the migration crisis undermines Europeans' confidence in the political system as such. At the same time, it again divides Europe into Western and Eastern, which was successfully bridged after 1989. As for the attitudes of the people of Central and Eastern Europe, the author says about the lack of solidarity with refugees and the unwillingness to accept them in their own countries. Based on historical events and examples, it explains the causes of these countries' negative attitudes to migration.

In the second chapter the author presents the view that today's problems in Europe revolve around the question of democracy. In his view, in many cases (such as Greece or Italy), we are witnessing what he calls the limited democracy, and that voters are no longer creators of history on the basis of interventions from Brussels, but only spectators following their course. Author provides a picture of two different EUs; the first, the liberal post national cosmopolitan project of the political elites; and the second, that of the common people in Europe which are worried by the loss of their own identity, way of life and control. Subsequently, the author deals with the inclination of Central European voters with a strong European belief in anti-European and populist parties, which he calls the Central European paradox. He is also dealing with a referendum as a very easily exploitable instrument of direct democracy which, in his opinion, can serve populist politicians to promote explicitly anti-European measures. He concludes by reflecting on the ominous political, economic, and geopolitical future that would await the continent if the EU itself begins to disintegrate.

This book brings indisputable contribution to a very wide range of readers, such as students of politics, politicians and historians, as it offers a fresh understanding of the current crisis in Europe. From the unexpected return of nationalism and socialism to the rise of populism and eruption of “demographic panic,” this slim volume but wide-ranging book examines key social and political dynamics likely to shape Europe’s politics in the years to come. On the basis of failure to deal with migrant influx, we are currently witnessing a crisis in liberalism, democracy, and Europe. Even though the author provides a very deep and understandable analysis of current problems in Europe, he doesn’t come with any solutions, except for hope and optimism, that there will emerge some leaders in Europe who will be able to find enough power to guide Europe in its bad times.

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