

Project Group (Number and Name): Gruppe 17, Die weltbürgerliche Generation und die kosmopolitische Revolution: Welche Aufgaben hat die heutige Jugend in der Weltgeschichte?

Comment

Authors of the Comment: Nele Buschermöhle, Louisa Buck, Melanie Schnieders

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The globalized generation and the cosmopolitan revolution: Which challenge has then current youth in our world history

The current youth is facing multiple global crises that can't be solved on a national level. At the moment society is battling a pandemic, is trying to stop the climate crisis and bring back peace. One approach which is addressing this is cosmopolitanism. The idea is that the world should transform into one united world state and the system of national states and their individual politics takes a step back. Through that, transnational and global problems will be easier to solve, a more equal participation of states will be established and the 17 sustainable development goals can be reached.

Even though international governmental organizations exist, national states are fighting for their own interests instead of focussing on global politics. The United Nation is an approach to bring all countries together and to establish and remain at peace. But this is not yet working as wished for, an current example is Russia deciding to attack Ukraine because of their national interests.

Reaching a point of intense cooperation between states, which includes them giving up parts of their sovereignty and power, will not be realized in the foreseeable future. Looking at Europe as an example of states working together one can see that getting to the desired state of unity takes a long time to build up to, despite the cultural and structural similarities that the European countries share. Implementing this on a global level means having to work with several different political, economic and social differences which will complicate and slow down the process even more. This is not compatible with certain crises like the climate crisis that require huge actions and changes within a short amount of time.

A second potential problem coming up is the danger of the global north taking the leading role and the global south being overruled. This can be found in already existing international organizations and alliances. Examples for that is the security council of the United Nations, where European countries have an overproportional share of the seats, and the Group of Twenty states where northern countries are debating about problems in the global south with giving them a say in it.

Ascribing the youth the responsibility to realize cosmopolitanism is understandable. The new generation is typically in a progressive mindset and is not yet stuck in already existing mindsets and systems. Therefore they are more likely to push for new initiatives and solutions. They grew up with globalization and feel like global citizens. Ideas like cosmopolitanism will be propelled by them. This can already be found in the global movement of Fridays For Future. But something that will make this nearly impossible is that politicians are not taking the youth seriously.

It can be agreed upon that a change of paradigm is needed. If the approach of cosmopolitanism by building a world state is the right choice is arguable. Especially if looking at the limited time that is left to prevent certain turning points. Putting all the responsibility for

change only in the hands of the youth is not the way to go. Crises like the ones society is facing today can't be solved alone, but need to be addressed together.

Video Information

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Authors of the Video: Nele Buschermöhle, Louisa Buck, Amelie Schlentzek, Laura Flöter, Patricia Lyszkiewicz, Niklas Schönfeldt, Jule von Appen, Bentje Becker, Michelle Gerlach, Melanie Schnieders

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