

Critical comment: Group 18 - "Die weltbürgerliche Generation und die kosmopolitische Revolution: Welche Aufgabe hat die heutige Jugend in der Weltgeschichte?"

Our project group "Die weltbürgerliche Generation und die kosmopolitische Revolution: Welche Aufgabe hat die heutige Jugend in der Weltgeschichte?" debated what our understanding of today's youth's duty and responsibility is regarding the multiple challenges we currently are and will be facing in the future.

This question led us to critically analyse whether it is possible to initiate a global revolution conducted by the whole youth, though the crisis's we are all encountering concern us all to a different extend.

On the one hand today's youth is expected to take part in, or even initiate a revolution, yet it is mainly forgotten that the circumstances revolving those youngsters are not always the same. Considering Maslow's hierarchy of needs¹ it is known that one's basic requirements are all the same. Up to which extend those needs are fulfilled is one of the discrepancies existing. Therewith it is not possible for the whole youth to take action in one global revolution.

On the other hand, it is not necessary for the whole youth to participate in the act of changing the world. A fraction of the whole would be enough to start the process of change. You would only need a group of spokespeople who have the willingness and needed education to lead the way to a successful and prosper change.

Though having said that, assuming it were correct and non-patronizing to decide what is best for all without really being able to take into consideration the different given circumstances people live in. For instance, their social background as well as environment, their culture, principles and beliefs and last but not least their education implements a certain neo-colonialist way of thinking.

Furthermore, looking back at Europe's history, there is a dark chapter of colonialism in which it has happened before that the privileged White Europeans forced their beliefs, way of living and culture on the colonized and oppressed people. It would be a Eurocentric thought to suppose that our way is the right way for everyone. This has happened before in Europe's colonial history and we all know how that turned out.

In order to contradict the scenario named above, spokespeople who would act representatively for the whole youth would have to engage in dialogue with those whose personal circumstances do not allow them to individually act, to try and take everyone's needs and living conditions into consideration. Bearing that in mind one could argue that it would not be patronizing anymore as it is for the greater good.

To put it in a nutshell, we came to the conclusion that the thought of triggering a cosmopolitan revolution is currently utopian. However, if we started with small steps for instance connecting with one another on a smaller scale those groups could have the potential to grow bigger unconstrainedly over time and eventually ending up in a cosmopolitan revolution in the future.

By Luca Rasqui and Sara Mirete Pujadas for group 18

¹ Saul McLeod (2018): Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Online via <https://canadacollege.edu/dreamers/docs/Maslows-Hierarchy-of-Needs.pdf> (13.10.2022)