

RETHINKING CONTEMPORANEITY THROUGH COMPLEXITY

THE LATEST BOOKS ON GLOBALIZATION

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The possible “end” of the liberal order remains one of the issues most debated by scholars. The question concerns the nature of liberalism and its relationship with democracy and globalization. Could liberalism represent a shelter from the rise of populism and nationalism (on the one hand), or the power of multinationals (on the other hand), or does it constitute a major part of the problem due to its sliding into oligarchy and demagoguery (*The Demons of Liberal Democracy*)? If we observe this issue from a global perspective, another set of questions arises (*Democracy Under Threat. A Crisis of Legitimacy?*): is democracy threatened by globalization? Is the welfare state in individual countries under pressure from global trends? What are the implications of high-level migration and rising populism for democracy? Is there a legitimacy crisis in contemporary democracies?

The disaffection with the liberal institutions experienced by people in the Western world may find its cause in the material condition of life they live. As stated by Taylor and Bronstone (*People, Place and Global Order: Foundations of a Networked Political Economy*), the pace of change and uncertainty in the work world – no job for life, zero-hours contract etc. – are creating a profound sense of unease that may be unprecedented, and we run the risk of alienating entire groups of society with many feeling “left behind”. The solution proposed by the author consists of a new economy for the common good.

On a global scale, the answer to these questions may be found in what Weiss and Wilkinson call a rethinking of global

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governance (*Rethinking Global Governance*), that is the idea of disrupting the simple association between global governance and the actions and activities of international organizations in the post-Cold War, in order to probe the intricate and multi-faceted manner in which the world is governed.

The “migrant paradigm” could represent the framework through which to observe this complex network (*Étudier les migrations internationales*). Yet, also in this field some scholars argue the necessity of a “rethinking”, starting from the keywords which reflect our cultures and form parts of specific cultural and historical narratives (*Migrating Meanings. Sharing Keywords in a Global World*) and arriving at the importance of re-interpreting migration movements in the world from a historical perspective (*Conscripts of Migration: Neoliberal Globalization, Nationalism and the Literature of New African Diasporas*). In any case, it seems that the shift from a traditional and simple perspective to a new and more complex viewpoint could constitute a useful and vital way to analyze our contemporaneity.

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