# Crisis of a liberal democratic regime?

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# Presentation thesis

- Liberal democratic regime is „muddling through" a period of crisis due to various reasons;

- Its crisis is a result of our inability to strengthen its core stones, its rivals seem to be more efficient;

- Recent crisis might be understood as a chance to return legitimacy to liberal democratic regime.

# Liberal democracy as a regime

- Strong middle class and well- functioning civil society are often seen as pre-conditions for liberal democracy.

- Liberal democracy - political systems that attempts to:

- Defend civil liberties;

- Regulate government intervention;

- Increase the scope for freedom of citizens;

- Develop a society open to talent;

- Frame rules that maximize the well-being of all citizens.

# Main principles of a liberal democratic regime

- Liberal democracies are based on four main principles:

- A belief in the individual;
- A belief in reason and progress;
- A consensual theory of society;
- A suspicion of concentrated forms of power.

# Liberal democratic regime nowadays

- Liberal society as a cynical society

- Central Europe - liberal democratic regime as a symbol bandit capitalism

- Liberal democratic regime lost its participatory ethos /chair made of three legs is losing its legs…/

# Crisis of modernity

## Crisis of state

- Theory of elites
- Marxist theory
- State corporativism
- Societal corporativism

Pluralist theory of 21. century - crisis of pluralism (erosion toward mediacracy, plutocracy, oligarchy, pseudo-democracy, illiberal democracy).

# Crisis of modernity

## Crisis of society

- Ideals of pluralism clashes with reality

- Social stratas fight for their position on the stratification tree, the most endangered – middle class

- Rising discrepancy between material ad cultural status of a middle class

- New forms of political control over society

- Post-democracy

# „*Problem is real*" /Structuralist view/

- Fragmentarization of social cohesion
- Disappearance of social solidarity
- Panic of middle classes
- Rise of anomy
- Ontological insecurity
- Lack of trust
- Alienation from society

# „Is there a problem?" /Constructivist view/

- Social construction of reality and construction of post-modern views

- Consequences of definition of situation

- Obvious world and internal world of people of late modernity

- Abstract systems of modern society and lack of trust as a source of insecurity and lack of trust

- Generation identity

- Conspiratory type of thinking

- Mass society as an incompetent actor

# Crisis as a reaction on „post" situation

- „Post" society and inability to deal with new situation
  - Post-democratic society
  - Post-civilization society
  - Post-imperalist society
  - Post-optimist society
  - Post-secular society
  - Post-heroic society

- Risk society as a society that lost ability to be reflexive

# Post-modern society as an anxious society

- Liberal democratic regime is recently being reproduced mostly thanks to epidemics of consumption and capitalism is based on its dominant idea - choice;

- But - ideology of choice is overwhelming, people feel they have too much choice, result is feeling of anxiety, people are „frozen" from having so many choices in their life.

- Renata Salecl: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bqMY82xzWo

# Demand for a paradigm change ?

- Demand for a paradigm change ?

- Cultural capitalism of 1968 - this time crisis is broader

- Lack of vision…

- Slavoj Žižek:
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpAMbpQ8J7g

# Crisis as a chance?

- Crisis does not lead to an increase of participatory ethos

- Post-modern society as a society with one leg?

- Emancipated civil society as a chance for liberal democracy in 21st century