ABSTRACT

The article discusses the history of liberalism and the reasons why it is playing a key role in the politics of European countries. The article also analyzes the practical and vital role of liberalism in the political and social life of European countries. In particular, the positive results of the liberal approach to threats that contradict European culture, mentality, ideology (Nazism, nationalism, LGBT movement, local separatism) are illustrated with examples. Through the article the author tries to prove liberalism is the most apt way to solve political and social problems for the time being.

KEYWORDS

Liberalism, same-sex marriage, nationalism, Nazism, ideology, The European Union, speech freedom, right, political, sexual morality, Civil Code, Crimea, “Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace”

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest achievements of human civilization in the field of political science is undoubtedly liberalism. From the policies of capitalism, communism, democracy, and liberalism that prevailed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, only liberalism has gave a chance to accumulate of material wealth for humankind comparing to its predecessors, allowed not to be afraid of a government or other organizations to enter into a marital relationship with a person of another political or religious affiliation[1:42].
While we have seen many examples of liberalism or liberalizing in the history of politics, it was not studied and defined until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, then liberalism was defined in some European countries as a particular line of politics, political ideology, and entered the political arena in the form of political views of some groups. We can encounter first liberalism in the political views of J. Locke, A. Smith, I. Kant, S. Montesquieu and Thomas Jefferson [2:265].

The entry of a new political ideology into the life of society took the form of the introduction of capitalism instead of the feudal system. Not all segments of society welcomed the liberalization policy. In particular, the nobleman, aristocrat, feudal and monarch groups of society tried to oppose sharply the new order. Each of these groups were a supporter of the policy of conservatism, socialism, communism or anarchism, which was against the state or any form of discipline it established. Of course, in the face of such a sharp political conflict of ideas, the main task of the liberals was to develop their own well-founded and convincing theories and programs. In the seventeenth century, the founders of liberalism identified the following as its main principles:

- putting human interests first plan;
- ensuring personal freedom;
- putting the interest of the individual above the interest of society (individualism);
- rationalism, the gradually development of society on the basis of a clear plan in evolutionary ways, abandoning the revolutionary;
- complete freedom of the economy from state influence[3:210-224].

The essence of modern liberalism (neoliberalism) is as follows:

- private property has a social nature. after all, the owner is not the only one involved in its creation and reproduction;
- the state has the right to direct private property relations;
- the liberal theory of industrial democracy recognizes and supports the participation of workers in government;
- the classical liberal theory that the state is a “night watchman” has been replaced by the concept of a “prosperous state”.

But, the reason for warm welcome of democratization and liberalism in Europe is that they took an important role in society and politics through the population (mainly the youth) life in the form of globalization and popular culture. Taking into a count the fact that the psychology of young people is prone to freedom, independent living and free decision-making and innovation it is clear how much the driving role of globalization and popular culture is playing in their life.

There is strong reason to call the XX and XXI centuries the most effective periods of liberalism. Such views as divine distinction between family, woman, gender, marriage, birth which have been ingrained in the moral views of European peoples for centuries, were broken by movement of youth especially initiated by women in the 1960s in the heterosexual youth revolution. The homosexual revolution initiated by young men in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries has completely abolished traditional sexual morality in Europe.

According to liberals, sex is a very personal part of human life and the state has no right to control, control or prohibit it by law. However, much of work of many governments today is focused on this.... Of course, rape should be considered as a crime in the same way as any other form of violence against an individual[4:122].

After 1990, there was a major upheaval in the legalization of same-sex marriages in Europe.
On April 3, 1993, Norway passed a law on the registration of same-sex marriages. In Sweden, the law came into force in 1995, and in Hungary in June 1996[5:74]. In September 2009, the Hungarian Parliament approved a new Civil Code for the registration of same-sex marriages. According to him, same-sex families have the right to enjoy all the rights and opportunities of couples, with the exception of the transition to one surname, adoption and use of artificial insemination. However, the Civil Code stipulates that marriage is still a union of a man and a woman[6].

Currently 29 of the 50 countries and 8 of the 9 dependent territories in Europe recognize some type of same-sex unions, among them most members of the European Union (23/27) [7].

Nationalism is one of the ideologies that has been widely criticized by world politicians. In 1882, Ernest Renan wrote his famous collection of lectures “What is a Nation?”, where he put forward the idea of building a future without nationalism. One of the representatives of liberalism, Emilia Paina, denied his views, saying that “Liberal democracy must be based on the citizenship of the nation”[8:87].

Liberalism is a system of values in which the starting point and purpose of any action’s dignity, freedom, and responsibility is taken into account in society and economy. Therefore, the liberals accepted nationalism as a value, not a problem, and proposed the creation of equal conditions for it.

An example of the liberalization attitudes towards nationalism is the fact that attitude of the government of the Russian Federation on nationalism often changes from hatred to love and vice versa. For example, in September 2003, President Vladimir Putin described “chauvinism and nationalism as vices”[9] and in 2014 described himself as “Russia’s biggest nationalist”[10]. The National Strategy for the Implementation of National Policy, approved by President Vladimir Putin in 2012, was adopted as a solution to the debate over nationalism in Russia[8:100].

Nazism has served as a strong ideological motivation to wage a war of liberation against the occupying forces in recent and distant history. In 1995, the Chechen leader Akhmad Kadyrov used the services of Nazi ideas to widely support the independent movement against Russia (the Russian people). As a result of this unification of the nation in defense of its identity, Chechnya has the privilege that contradicts the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Chechen leader has the right to disobey the decisions of the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation and even the Supreme Court[12].

Loyalty to one’s nation and a sense of commitment to country’s served as a factor of joining Crimea and Sevastopol to Russian Federation through passing referendum voluntarily, when antigovernment revolution and Ukraine Republic became an anarchic Republic in 2014th year.

The main factor in this was the fact that in 2014, 68% of the population of Crimea and 81% of the population of Sevastopol were Russians[13:16]. According to the results of the referendum, 97% of the population voted in favor of joining Russia.

Refusing to recognize the results of the referendum in Crimea, stating the results as illegal by 100 of the 193 UN member countries, trying to stop the process of the referendum by US and NATO, even threatening The Russia Federation and Crimea with various sanctions by The EU and The United States could not stop the process of reunification of the nation[14:86].

If we look into public administration of states as Spain, Great Britain, The USA, Russia which are consist of numerous ethnic groups, where records of territorial nationalism levels are very high, we find the absence of such forms
of governing as monopolistic, dictatorial or imperialist, factors of hindering development of state and society prospering such as over-centralization of governance, have been eliminated. Citizens embodied in the ideology of local nationalism have highly valued human qualities, such as loyalty to the state, patriotism, a high inclination to protect the interests of their nation.

As a result of ethnic groups loyal to nationalist ideologies, struggling to have their own voice in The European Union, The EU was forced to create special political opportunities for some regions under the program “Europe with territories”. The Maastricht Contract provided an opportunity for The EU members which has their own local executive branch territories to participate in work of the European Commission with their own local representatives. This right was used by the federations of Belgium, Germany and Austria, the autonomous states of Spain and Italy, as well as the unitary United Kingdom, where the devaluation process is ongoing.

In addition, some European countries, which feels nationalism toward refugees problems for several years, have avoided crimes such as thefts, hijacking and raping by refugees, which Germany and Greece governments are facing every day.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of religion and expression. These rights include freedom to hold opinion without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” (Article 19 of the Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). Freedom of information, dissemination and freedom of speech emerged as a result of struggles for human freedom in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, which were later enshrined in the constitutions of The United States and Europe.

In the late of twentieth century, after the escalation of ideological wars in the XIX-XX centuries, the standardization of political views, the boundaries of human consciousness and speech repeatedly reached their climax and caused political crises. Finely they were won through science, breakthroughs of technological advances (television, radio, the Internet) and progress in the late twentieth century.

A British philosopher John Stuart Mill described freedom of the press as a “guarantee of the fight against corruption and tyranny” (1859).

Freedom of speech is one of the foundations of a democratic society and allows not only citizens of a state but also all people to express their critical views on their government.

Opportunities for access to information and freedom of movement across borders are key elements in building a pluralistic society.

In practice, we see variety degrees of violation of speech freedom and the right to receive and impart information in different countries. Such cases are also mentioned in some reports of the international organization “Human Rights Watch”. According to the organization, 31 “borderless journalists” were killed in the line of duty in 2011, and 489 were unjustifiably detained [15].

The struggle for human rights and freedom has led to great results at the international level. As a result of the successful cooperation of liberal parties and organizations, freedom of speech and opinion has taken on a completely new legal and practical form over the past fifty years. The Declaration of Human Rights served as the basis for the legal advancement of the issue.

In the second half of the twentieth century, in the most developed countries in Europe, there were processes that could be called a scientific and technological revolution. One of its results was the introduction of computer and communication technologies, the
emergence of social networks with a global character. This has provided a space for interaction, now known as the cyber environment.

Ten years after the drawing up of the D. Barlow’s Declaration (the “Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace”), his ideological followers have become real political players in a number of Western countries. This is a completely new socio-political phenomenon - the International Piracy Movement, which unites pirate parties in more than 60 countries (such a party first appeared in Sweden in 2006) [16:459-463]. The main task of the pirate parties is to ensure the need and right of everyone to real information through the activities of obtaining evidence of economic, political and financial crimes without permission of its owner and public disclosure. The parties operate within the framework of international legal norms.

Consequently, the people of Europe have radically changed their political, ideological views and goals several times over the last century. The determination of the national political idea by one person or a group of political elites, despite the protests, has led to unprecedented changes not only in life of the people of Europe, but also in life of the people of the world. We are witnessing that the refuses to block new ideas or ideologies trying to take a part in a leading role in life of European states, the liberal approach to political and ideological threats, has repeatedly rescued the states of European region from political and military conflicts.

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