



Neoliberalism, neo-imperialism, and sustainable development

Challenges to the future of Europe

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Towards Sustainable Futures – Tools and Strategies
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Sustainable Development History Lessons: Four options for escaping the scarcity trap

Three opt for expansion

- The imperial option
- The liberal option
- The engineering option

One opts for adaptation

- The political sustainability option



Expansionist options are not capable of providing solutions for tomorrow. How can sustainable development be achieved as long as exansionism dominates internationally ?



One mostly ignored victim of Sept. 11th was

Neoliberalism.

*Sick and weak already beforehand, it did not
survive the attack.*

The loving family is dedicated to defend its legacy.

Domestically, the death went unnoticed. Nonetheless:

The neoliberal decade is over.

The tide has turned.





Neoliberalism - remember what is was?

1. Primacy of the market over politics
2. Market mechanisms as preferred and omnipotent problem solvers
3. Deregulation and privatisation as key strategies
4. Welcoming globalisation, TNCs as safeguard against „un-economic“ interests
5. Belief that governments have lost their power to the global market





A New Age of Geopolitics

POWER is the name of the game, and EMPIRE.

Some call it a new Rome and dream of a *pax romana*.

However, a *pax mongolica* is more plausible: Based on a free trade area, the law of *one* nation and rapid deployment forces.

For sustainable development,

- The **acknowledgement of resource scarcities**, and the **need for proactive policies** are major breakthroughs,

- The **neglect of equity, solidarity and freedom of self-determination** is a major setback.





Sustainability in the Neo-imperial age: option or oxymoron?

In the short run, these two are mutually exclusive:

- Under imperial (e.g. current US) priorities, sustainability cannot materialise.
- Under sustainability conditions, hegemony cannot prevail.

However, as the imperial approach begins to fail, inroads for sustainable development become possible.

For this behalf, strategies must be developed and measures must be prepared NOW.





The challenge for Europe: providing leadership in partnership

- In the short run, it can **end the ambiguity** and opt for sustainability.
- It can create sustainability partnerships of EU, NIS and ACP countries, and with India, China and Brasil.
- Amongst these, **policy co-operation and economic partnership on equal footing** should prevail. This would also provide shelter against the US economic pressures to be expected.





A wealth of options – time to act

In the long run, Europe will be but one power in a multipolar world.

Working for a better world now, based on the best of European traditions, means working for better future prospects for Europe in the World to be.

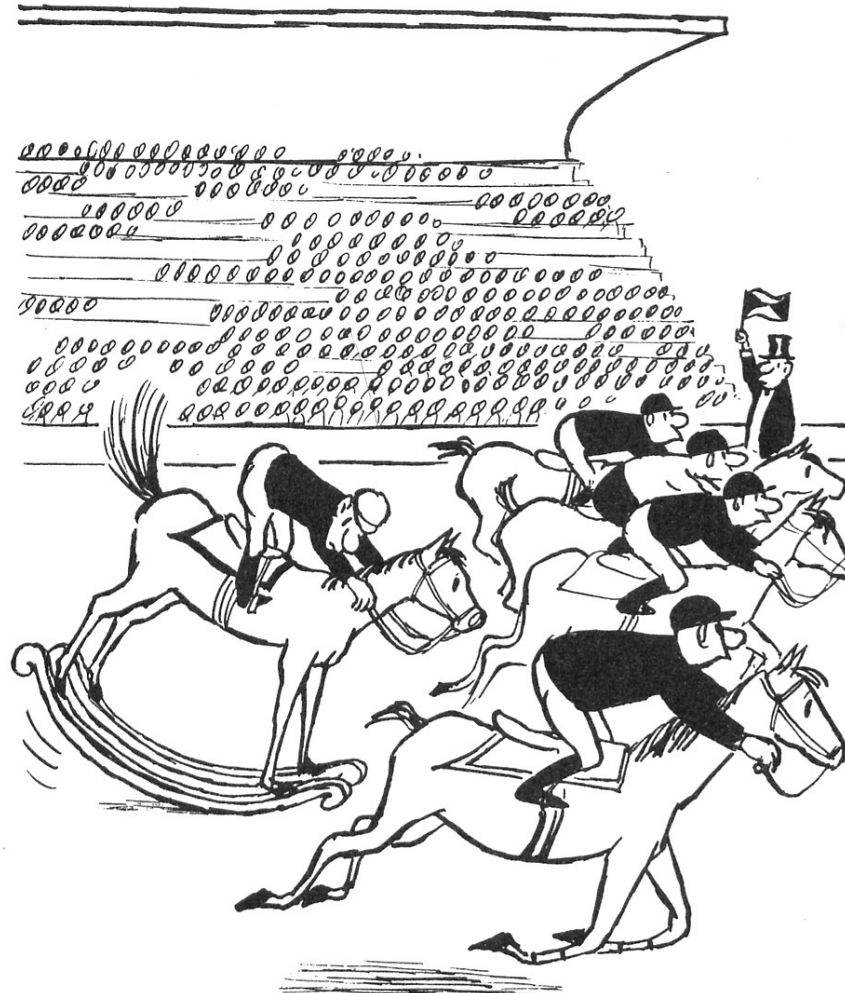


Europe can contribute experience, diversity, investment and innovation, but must learn fair sharing (and to control its imperialistic instincts).





One day, we might find ourselves left behind if we do not prepare properly now...





Thank you for your attention.

- For further information and
- to download publications
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