

AIVARAS STEPUKONIS

The Modern World-System: Lithuania under the Conditions of Fading Capitalism

Summary

The article scrutinizes the dynamic variant of world-systems analysis as developed by the American thinker Immanuel Wallerstein. The concepts of economic cycle, secular trend, asymptote, bifurcation, and chaos are defined and elucidated. By discussing the secular trends of ever increasing costs of labor, production inputs, and state taxation it is shown why historical capitalism is presently undergoing a deep structural crisis that is very likely to terminate the capitalist world-system in favor of a new one. Finally,

a number of critical observations are voiced with regard to Wallerstein's world-systems theory based on ethical, psychological, topological, and technological arguments. Once the main predicaments of the capitalist world-system have been set in relief, a critical view is cast on the post-Soviet state of Lithuania that is all-too-eager to imprudently mimic and imitate the mechanisms of capitalist business-making in times when these very mechanisms are fundamentally failing in the core countries of the capitalist world.

Keywords: modern times, world-system, capitalism, globalization, secular trend, asymptote, bifurcation, chaos, crisis, Lithuania, state, post-Soviet, culture, economy, technology, progress, expansion, creative industries, space, colonization, human race, survival

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