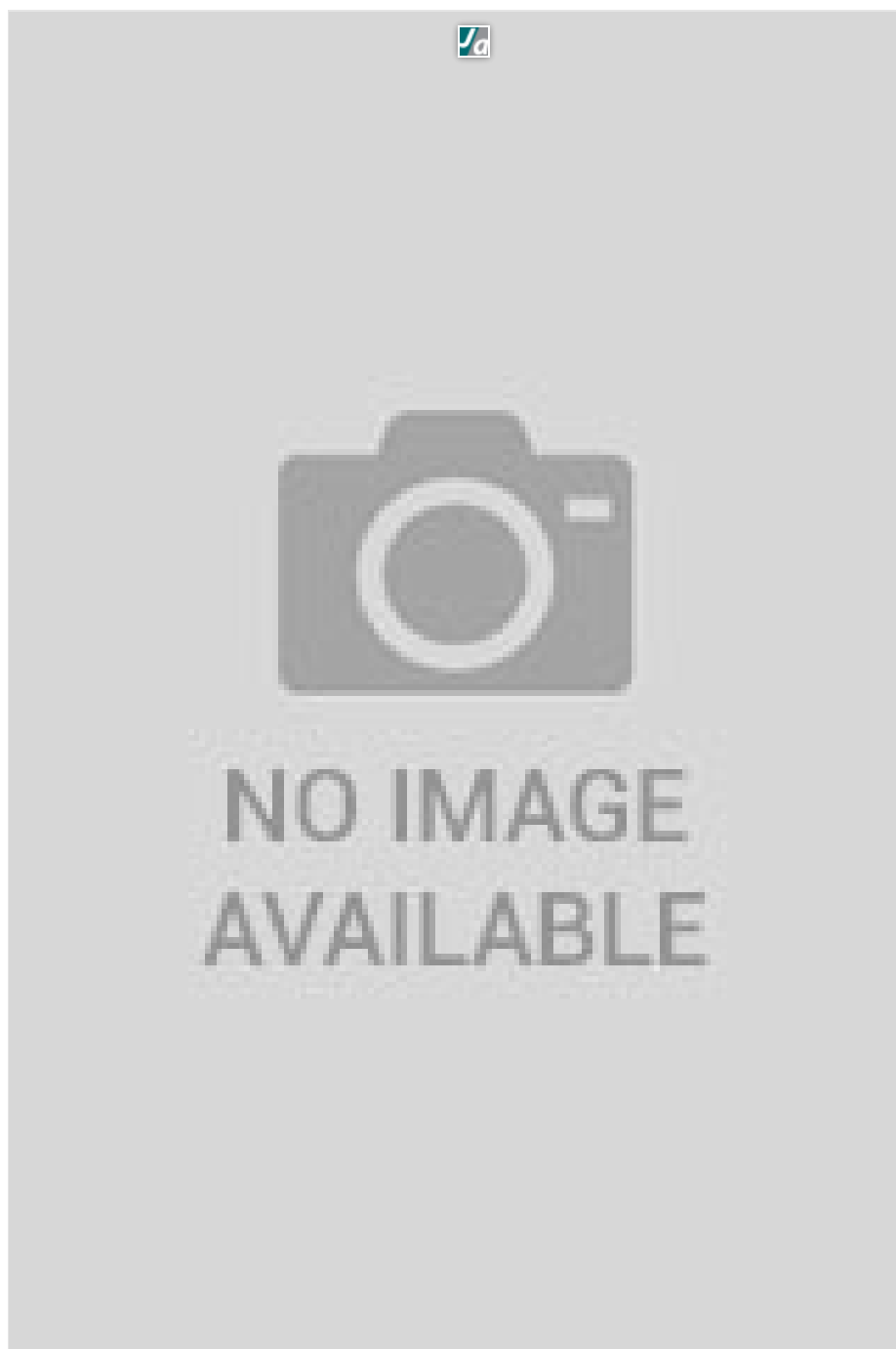


# Bourdieu's Criticism of the Neoliberal Philosophy of Development, the Myth of 'Mondialization' and the New Europe

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## Bourdieu's Criticism of the Neoliberal Philosophy of Development, the Myth of 'Mondialization' and the New Europe

Bourdieu's Criticism of the Neoliberal Philosophy of Development, the Myth of 'Mondialization' and the New Europe

**Author(s):** Ljubiša R. Mitrović

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**Summary/Abstract:** The author first discusses the basis of the neoliberal philosophy of development in the world, especially Bourdieu's criticism of the neoliberal ideology and strategy of development and their implications for the social relations in contemporary society. Bourdieu points to the connection between the neoliberal philosophy of

development with its appeals to progress, reason and science (especially economic sciences) through the new market fetishization, the process of historical restoration and thus, to paraphrase P. Bourdieu, to classify as outdated any progressive thought and action. Bourdieu especially criticizes the myth of "mondialization" as an integral part of the neoliberal development strategy in the modern times by speaking about it as "exploitation sans rivages" and "the main weapon in the struggle against the achievements of the welfare state." By making a distinction between the social democratic model of the social development and the democratic processes of the world integration and the "asymmetrical globalization model," Bourdieu stresses that globalization is not homogenization; it is, instead, continuation of the power and influence of a small number of the dominant nations over the totality of the national stock exchanges. In the context of his main theses, Bourdieu points to classical and new forms of the structural inequalities in the world (social violence and symbolic repression). In his works Bourdieu especially deals with the issue of the fate of the European welfare state under the conditions of the domination of the neoliberal ideology and globalization while exposing the myth about a harmonious and uncontroversial concept of European integration and the European Union. He points out that, under the influence of mega interests and the neoliberal development strategy, the welfare state in Europe is under attack, and that, in truth, the European Union is torn apart inside, split in two and differentiated as "the Europe of workers" and "the Europe of bankers," that is, into several development and cultural circles that overlap but are not always harmonious. Finally, the author stresses Bourdieu's appeal for the renewal of the critical sociology that has not given up its analytical as well as its humanist and emancipating role in society.

## Details

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60487 Frankfurt am Main  
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Phone: +49 (0)69-20026820  
Fax: +49 (0)69-20026819  
Email: [info@ceeol.com](mailto:info@ceeol.com)



Definition and meaning of neoliberalism. Criticisms of this mode of economics and an evaluation of whether these criticisms are justified. Also, examples of neoliberalism. Criticisms of neoliberalism. Market fundamentalism. Critics argue that advocating the use of free markets in areas, such as health and education is misplaced because by nature these are public services, which are not subject to the same profit motivation. Also, the free market ignores the externalities of health and education. A broadly neoliberal policy has seen a widening inequality of both wealth and income in the Western world. This is due to several factors, such as skilled workers in a position to command higher wages, but low-skilled workers in flexible labour markets more likely to see stagnant wages. The neoliberal embrace of individualism and opposition to “the collective society,” as Margaret Thatcher put it, also had perverse consequences for social and political life. Humans are social animals. But neoliberalism rejects both the medieval approach of having fixed social classes based on wealth and power and the modern approach of having a single, shared civic identity based on participation in a democratic community. As one commentator has argued, “Without the bedrock of class politics, identity politics has become an agenda of inclusionary neoliberalism in which individuals can be accommodated but addressing structural inequalities cannot.” What this means is Financial meltdown, environmental disaster and even the rise of Donald Trump – neoliberalism has played its part in them all. Why has the left failed to come up with an alternative? But the philosophy arose as a conscious attempt to reshape human life and shift the locus of power. Neoliberalism sees competition as the defining characteristic of human relations. It redefines citizens as consumers, whose democratic choices are best exercised by buying and selling, a process that rewards merit and punishes inefficiency. Neoliberals and neorealists are two views of the same approach. Both assume similar positions regarding the international system: states are main actors, they act rationally, and international anarchy shapes their behaviour. Most notably, neorealism and neoliberal share similar methodology, epistemology and ontology. Elias and Sutch (2007) go as far to suggest that positivists have acted as gatekeepers by setting strong parameters as to what would count as a fact in the discipline, using this to prevent non-positivist forms of knowledge from being examined (Elias & Sutch, 2007, p.14) The ‘fourth debate’ debate according to Lapid moved away from positivist assumptions and stimulated self-reflection. and pointed towards new measures of objectivity (Waever, 1996, p. 156).