



# Democracy and Social Equality vs. Money

RADMILO PESIC

UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE, WAAS

# Democracy vs. Plutocracy - early days

***We have to decide. We may have a democracy, or wealth concentrated in hands of few, but we cannot have both.***

**Louis Brandeis (1856-1941)**

US Supreme Court Judge 1916-39 and the author of

*“Other People’s Money and How the Bankers Use it ” (1914)*

# Democracy vs. Plutocracy - now

*We will never have a government that represents common American peoples interests, until we bring a real reform of political campaigns financing and expel big capital out of politics.*

**Bernie Sanders**

*Our revolution: A Future to Believe In 2016*

# Who are the Enemies of Freedom?

- ▶ Is there a Freedom without the Democracy?
- ▶ Who are the enemies of democracy now? Still existing totalitarians, growing stronger and stronger populists, and always powerful and influential PLUTOCRATS.
- ▶ *“You know, I think many people have the mistaken impression that Congress regulates Wall Street. In truth that's not the case. The real truth is that Wall Street regulates the Congress.”* B. Sanders
- ▶ *“Americans' right to free speech should not be proportionate to their bank accounts.”* B. Sanders

# Political Questions

- ▶ Are our social and political processes seriously contaminated by political parties finances?
- ▶ Are we facing a downturn of Political Party Democracy? Less and less interest to join Parties and to vote? Who will replace Political Parties in the democratic processes?
- ▶ What are the changes necessary for modern democratic processes?
- ▶ How to transform peoples' will and expectations into a political program without previously transforming them into money?
- ▶ What are political consequences of Neoliberal dogma? A "trickledown effect"? Who believes in it now?
- ▶ Stiglitz: "If a leading presidential candidate in an emerging market lost favor with Wall Street, the banks would pull their money out of the country. Voters then faced a stark choice: Give in to Wall Street or face a severe financial crisis."

# Economic Questions

- ▶ Are we faced with the end of MIDDLE CLASS SOCIETIES?
- ▶ Can the Inequality Problem be tackled by a monetary tools?
- ▶ Should we expect to solve A DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM by a “neutral” money? Is money creation process neutral at all?
- ▶ What is the alternative for government monopoly in monetary policy?
- ▶ Are PRIVATE MONIES the Panacea? Seniorage problem.
- ▶ Is Private (alternative) Money production the best way of obtaining political power without democracy?
- ▶ What if the digital currencies pave way to a new type of totalitarsm?
- ▶ Is the “good old cash” the best way of keeping a sensitive fruit of democracy? Is the anonymity of cash so important? Block chain – Big Brother’s best toy?
- ▶ Shall we go back to the gold standard? Or we have to find a NEW “GOLD” for a monetary standard? Commodity, or service, or.....?



As an artist suggested for us....



# References

- ▶ Brunhuber, S 2019 *Overcoming the Global Trilema: New Monetary Politics in the Antropocene: Dani Rodrik Revisted*. Vol. 4 No1. 39-46
- ▶ Dixon, F 2019 *Sustainable Finance Cadmus* Vol. 4 No1. 47-64
- ▶ Dullien, S; Goodwin, N; Harris, J M; Nelson, J A; Roach, B; Torras, M 2018 *Macroeconomics in Context, A European Perspective*. Routledge NY
- ▶ Jacobs, G ; Šlaus, I 2012 *The Power of Money*. Cadmus Vol.1 Issue5 68-73
- ▶ Jacobs, G 2013 *Multiplying Money*. Cadmus Vol.1 Issue6 123-141
- ▶ Milanovic, B 2016 *Global Inequality A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Camb. Mass
- ▶ Sandres, B 2016 *Our Revolution: A Future to Believe In* Kontrast Izd. Beograd
- ▶ Seeley, K 2017 *Macroeconomics in Ecological Context*. Springer
- ▶ Stiglitz, J E 2019 *People, Power, and Profits: Progressive Capitalism for an Age of Discontent*. W W Norton & Co