

The Contemporary Pseudo-Left

The Pseudo-left denotes political parties, organizations and theoretical/ideological tendencies, which utilize populist slogans and democratic phrases to promote the socioeconomic interests of privileged and affluent strata of the middle class.

Examples:

Syriza in Greece

Podemos in Spain

Nouveau Parti Anticapitaliste (NPA) in France

Also:

Offshoots of ex-Trotskyist (i.e., Pabloite) and state capitalist organizations such as:

NSSP in Sri Lanka

International Socialist Organization (ISO) in the United States.

And:

Remnants and descendants of the “Occupy” movements influenced by anarchist and post-anarchist tendencies.

Given the wide variety of petty-bourgeois pseudo-left organizations throughout the world, this is by no means a comprehensive list.

The Pseudo-left is anti-Marxist. It rejects historical materialism, embracing instead various forms of subjective idealism and philosophical irrationalism associated with existentialism, the Frankfurt School and contemporary postmodernism.

The Pseudo-left is anti-socialist, opposes class struggle, and denies the central role of the working class and the necessity of revolution in the progressive transformation of society.

The Pseudo-left is pro-capitalist and nationalistic. Its economic program counterposes supra-class populism to the independent political organization and mass mobilization of the working class against the capitalist system.

The Pseudo-left promotes “identity politics” fixing on issues related to nationality, ethnicity, race, gender and sexuality in order to acquire greater influence in corporations, the colleges and universities, the higher-paying professions, the trade unions and in government and state institution, to effect a more favorable distribution of wealth among the richest 10 percent of the population.

The Pseudo-left seeks greater access to, rather than the destruction of, social privilege.

The Pseudo-left is generally pro-imperialist, and utilizes the slogans of “human rights” to legitimize, and even directly support, neo-colonialist military operations.