

Rightist Surge

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In the spring of 2006 Hungarians had a parliamentary election when the so-called "left and middle left" coalition, the Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP), and the Liberals won election. The right opposition was after that always very offensive. What is even more important the government buried its election slogans and started a harsh neo-liberal economic and social policy. This raised at once disillusion and discontent among ordinary Hungarians.

The next turn happened already in the early days of September when it turned out in the media that the PM delivered the speech still in June in the broadened Central Committee and before the MPs of the HSP that four years i.e. for the former term of the coalition when he was just as well a PM. He lied always and did nothing. This evoked a general outburst of discontent. To this came the efforts of the Right to use this discontent to coerce the PM and the whole government to resign. The claim was naturally repeated in the Parliament itself. In Hungary besides the parliamentary Right there are even non-parliamentary extreme right groups. They organized with the silent consent and supported the standing demonstrations before the Parliament with the same aim and slogans, a group of a few thousand men led by these extremists and even football hooligans invaded the television. These events were grasped at once by the international press and TVs as this was really not an everyday event with flame and blood. The deeper meaning of this day and the aftermath was more than depressing not only for the Left and the Real Left. In truth the HSP does not belong to the real social Left anymore.

What concerns the events of the 23rd October in Budapest one has to know more about the historical past and about what happened in 1956. From that time and first of all in the last 15 years the allusion to this historical event was always used by the Right to get in offensive against the Left. This happened naturally on the fiftieth anniversary of 1956.

There were thousands and ten thousands of men on the streets mainly led by the Right, and naturally by organized extreme right groups but one should not simplify the case and the mass was greater, than those of these extremist groups. The collisions happened again with the police and Hungary turned again to the front page of the international press and the TV for a few days.

These things are over but the discontent is even broader, deeper and standing. And this has already nothing to do with the flames and the September-October events and collisions. This has to do of the steps and the real policy of the government. The gap between poor and rich is getting broader. For instance, in the age of Kadar it was one to three, now it is 1 to 7. The great majority of the people is very much disillusioned and there is not any possibility to change this disastrous neo-liberal policy. But one has to remember that the government itself is under pressure from outside, from the sides of the IMF and from the EU and Brussels. They demanded explicitly cuts in public expenditure as the national debt was really very high and there was a very great deficit in the financial equilibrium. These are the deeper causes of all that happened in September-October 2006 and one can add to it that there is total hiatus of the real left in the country.

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