

ARMENIAN MIGRATION TO BELARUS

Gevorg Poghosyan

Doctor, Professor of Sociology,

Academician of NAS RA,

Rima Poghosyan

PhD in Psychology

SUMMARY

The article deals with the social and economic causes of migration flows in recent years, designed from Armenia, in particular, in the Republic of Belarus. Based on official census data conducted since 1926 to present time, concludes that there are the reduction of the population of the Republic of Armenia for the past quarter of a century. The article concludes, that the Belarusian vector of Armenian migration to a large extent depends from the existence in the Republic of Belarus a large enough and well-organized Armenian Diaspora.

Key words: Armenian migration, causes, trends, Diaspora, Armenians of Belarus.

THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON ARMENIA IN TRANSITION

Narrative Essay

Berch Berberoglu

Department of Sociology,

University of Nevada, Reno

Neoliberalism came to Armenia with a vengeance in the aftermath of the 1991 independence of the nation from the former Soviet Union. The leading role in the transition from socialism to capitalism was played by forces that promoted globalization and privatization to denationalize and privatize state-owned enterprises that once led the industrialization drive in Armenia and other former republics of the Soviet Union.

Neoliberal Globalization: Myth and Reality

Much has been made of neoliberal globalization and its favorable impact on nations around the world. Some argue that globalization and its

corollary neoliberalism, privatization, and the spread of capitalist practices that have been exported to less developed nations are supposed to help them develop, and that the agents of this unfolding process is foreign capital through the instrumentality of transnational corporations. The prevailing myth, therefore, identifies the transnationals as the engines of development dedicated to the growth and expansion of economies with much benefits to the local population, leading to rising standard of living. The mythology of globalization also identifies the transnational corporations as the leading agents of free enterprise, free trade, and private accumulation of capital that will supposedly lead to prosperity for all. This big fallacy follows on the heels of neoliberal trickle-down economics that supposedly brings about development to otherwise cash-poor and debt-ridden economies and states that are stranded in the golden path to capitalist development that only foreign corporations can provide, and whose intentions are noble and whose mission and very existence are to contribute to the rapid development of underdeveloped countries. And the myth goes on and on.

The historical reality of nations that have become integrated into the global economy and have adopted the globalization process to hand over the reins of economic power to the transnationals know that just the opposite is true. That the transnational corporations are not charity organizations, that they are private corporations with a central driving motive forces of making profit – the bottom line, as they say. And that the profit motive, not national development, is the central defining characteristic of private corporations operating on a world scale. Foreign capital is invested to generate a greater return on investment (profit) for the private accumulation of capital, not to meet the needs of its people. They are in business to make money, not to develop a nation if that's going to cost them money! The unbridled self-interest of the corporations and their owners in this process of neoliberal globalization based on the exploitation of labor and other resources, is the *sin qua none* of modern global capitalism.

The reality of neoliberal globalization, however, is something entirely different than the rosy picture painted by its proponents. It has, in fact, ruined economies by bankrupting home industries, indebted nations, bankrupted home industries, promoted corruption, and spread misery and

destitution among broad segments of the population. Thus, under this process, the wealthy owners of transnational corporations have won and the not so fortunate (the worker) has paid a big price, not only him or herself, but for their nation.

Neoliberal Globalization Comes to Armenia

The period of transition in Armenia over the past 25 years witnessed the greatest transfer of wealth from the public to the private sector, when a handful of foreign corporations and local oligarchs came to own the commanding heights of the Armenian economy to transform Armenia from a socialist to a capitalist economy controlled by a new group of pro-capitalist political leaders that put Armenia's economic wealth on the auction block to sell off the nation's resources to local and foreign capital whose sole interest has been to extract value and accumulate capital for private gain. Many other instances of such transfer of wealth from the public domain to the private sphere over time have translated into enormous riches to the few and misery to the many in this great "free and independent" land that had promised much but delivered little to the ordinary, common citizens who toiled to build this nation over many decades of collective labor in giant industrial plants that fed and clothed its people. But no more.

Now, having become integrated into the global political economy and the neoliberal globalization process, Armenia finds itself in the claws of global capitalism that has transformed its economy and society through its internal agents of private accumulation with much wealth for the few and hard work and much struggle to stay alive for the many. Why? Why did it have to evolve this way in the aftermath of the fervor of the independence movement that many thought would bring prosperity to all, but in fact did so to only a few who were well positioned to capture the reigns of state power to unfold the drama that is the life story of the masses in Armenia today?

One can write these lines only with disappointment and sorrow in knowing what this young nation of less than three million, together with its brothers and sisters in Artsakh and diaspora could have become over the past two and a half decades, and which still could become under a committed people's leadership working for the well-being of a nation traumatized not only by past crimes committed by its hostile neighbors, but

now by its very own select few who value personal wealth over collective prosperity for a set of common national goals to make this country a model democratic republic based on the rule of law that values its national treasures, above all its people toiling in the Ararat valley and the surrounding fertile territory in its once-productive and prosperous factories and mills that have gathered rust and turned into a museum of failed economies of scale and a national will that had made Armenia the envy of its foes over the course of its formative history.

Where Do We Go from Here? Prospects for the Future

What will it take to turn things around and bring prosperity to the economy and people of this small landlocked nation? What role will its state play in leading the effort to reward those who toil for her people and make the Armenian dream a collective reality? What policies and practices will the state need to promulgate to energize its masses to take up the tasks to confront the challenges that await them to transform the economy, society, and the state, and revolutionize society and social relations to rid the nation of corruption, personal enrichment, and political repression of those who are ready to struggle for social justice through an equitable distribution of wealth and resources of the nation? What policies and provisions will be required to undertake a massive development initiative through the redistribution of wealth and resources to transform socio-economic relations, secure the rule of law, and enlist the commitment of its current leaders, in both the private and public spheres, to reinvigorate and revitalize the Armenian spirit by ensuring a just and equitable social order? What will it take to make the government responsive to the will of the people who are ready to do their part to make Armenia a great nation that it has always been and could even be better?

It is the collective voice of the Armenian people that we hear everywhere across the nation, but not yet responded to and is waiting to be recognized and honored that will make this nation worthy of its promise to be free! Free of poverty, destitution, and misery that are the ravages of wealth and income inequality that are the hallmark of a class-divided society. This is not what Armenia deserves, nor should she resign to her fate to endure the consequences of policies that have wrought havoc to this beautiful land. Change must come, and come sooner than later, to avoid a looming catastrophe that would feed into the desires of the enemies of this

great nation who are more than happy to foment conflict and confrontation leading to crisis and chaos that would threaten its very existence. At what cost and with what consequences will these changes come, and with what results? Is the risk of such contradictions and conflict worth the sacrifices that may need to be made to set the people *really* free? Should this be the legacy of the past 25 years that the Armenian masses have endured in their struggle to survive under conditions of great adversity?

Who shall take the lead and make things right in serving the needs of the Armenian people, if not their very own government and the leaders that they trusted to bring the needed changes so that honor and prosperity can come to their nation that they so badly desire and deserve? What is to be done to save Armenia from social and political disaster when conflict among its own people (under the watchful eyes of Mother Armenia) could become a recipe for others to destroy its promise to be really free? Must such entrenched inequities that have matured and developed under the watchful eyes of the guardians of the Armenian nation over the past 25 years lead to civil strife and threaten the social order and lead to political instability and turmoil? Is this the price one must pay to reclaim what belongs to the people in setting the course to build the nation's destiny in the 21st century?

Final Words: Prognosis

Given the totality of the people's struggle over the course of Armenia's recent history, we must ask what has been the impact of this process that some view as inevitable and has brought much havoc to the Armenian nation and its institutions when many doubt the sincerity of its governing bodies to serve the people who are the real creators of wealth through their labor. In the final analysis, it is the people (working people) that make this nation great, and it is the people (the great masses) whom one can trust to bring through their toil development and prosperity to this amazing nation. Hence, it is the people who must be consulted and encouraged to take part in their own governance – and this, after all, is the ultimate egalitarian, democratic process that would secure a real popular participation in the development of Armenia and the Armenian people -- not neoliberalism, privatization, social divisions, class polarization, authoritarianism, corruption, and violation of human and civil rights of the people (men, women, and children) in a word, the working, toiling people.

In this 25th anniversary of the young and rebellious Armenian people, it is time to ask "What will it take to set this great nation on course?" - a course that will advance the collective interests of its people (one big Armenian family), without the divisions and inequities that now exist between those who hide behind tall walls in their big mansions, as against those who scrape by in their small quarters with minimal comforts of modern existence. It is the movements toward social equity and social justice that will deliver the promise and the vision for a new Armenia in which its people will be the ones to decide how to lead the nation and in which direction. This social project will inevitably enlist the masses of Armenia's working people and its allies towards equity and prosperity in the 21st century.

SUMMARY

The historical reality of nations that have become integrated into the global economy and have adopted the globalization process to know that just the opposite is true. The reality of neoliberal globalization is something entirely different than the rosy picture painted by its proponents. It has, in fact, ruined economies by bankrupting home industries, indebted nations, promoted corruption, and spread misery and destitution among broad segments of the population.

Neoliberalism came to Armenia with a vengeance in the aftermath of the 1991 independence of the nation from the former Soviet Union. The period of transition in Armenia over the past 25 years witnessed the greatest transfer of wealth from the public to the private sector, to transform Armenia from a socialist to a capitalist economy, controlled by a new group of political leaders.

Now, having become integrated into the global political economy and the neoliberal globalization process, Armenia finds itself in the claws of global capitalism that has transformed its economy and society through its internal agents of private accumulation with much wealth for the few and hard work and much struggle to stay alive for the many. The new generation of leaders put Armenia's economic wealth on the auction block to sell off the nation's resources to local and foreign capital whose sole interest has been to extract value and accumulate capital for private gain.

Key words: globalization, integration, economy, Armenian

ՎԼՈՐԱԼԻԶԱՑՄԱՆ ԱԶԴԵՑՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ ԱՆՑՈՒՄԱՅԻՆ

ՇՐՋԱՆԻ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՎՐԱ

Նկարագրական էսսե

Պերճ Բերբերոզյու

Նեվադա, Ռիկո Համալսարանի

Սոցիոլոգիայի ամբիոնի պրոֆեսոր

ԱՍՓՈՓՈՒՄ

Պատմական իրականությունն այն ազգերի, որոնք ձգտում են ինտեգրվել համաշխարհային տնտեսության մեջ և ընդունվել են համաշխարհայնացման գործընթացներում պետք է իմանալ, որ ճիշտ հակառակն է ցուցանում: Նեոլիբերալ գլոբալիզացիայի իրականությունը բոլորովին տարբեր է, քան իր համակիրների կողմից պատկերված վարդագույն նկարը: Այն, ըստ էության, ավերված տնտեսություններ են, սնանկացած տեղական արտադրություններ, պարտքերի մեջ խրված ազգեր, նպաստավորված կոռուպցիա, և թշվառության ու աղքատության տարածումը բնակչության լայն շրջաններում:

Նեոլիբերալիզմը Հայաստան է եկել նախկին Խորհրդային Միության փլուզման հետևանքով 1991թ. ազգային անկախության հաստատման արդյունքում: Անցումային շրջանի Հայաստանում վերջին 25 տարիների ընթացքում ականատես եղան հարստության ամենամեծ փոխանցմանը հասարակությունից հանրության մասնավոր հատվածին, ինչպես նաև Հայաստանի վերափոխմանը՝ սոցիալիստական տնտեսությունից կապիտալիստական տնտեսությանը, որը հսկվեց քաղաքական առաջնորդների մի նոր խմբի կողմից:

Այժմ, լինելով ինտեգրված համաշխարհային տնտեսությանն և նեոլիբերալ գլոբալացման գործընթացներում, Հայաստանը հայտնվել է գլոբալ կապիտալիզմի ճիւղաններում, որը վերափոխել է նրա տնտեսությունը և հասարակությունն իր մասնավոր կուտակման ներքին գործակալների միջոցով՝ քչերի համար շատ մեծ հարստությունով և շատերի համար ծանր աշխատանքով ողջ մնալու համար պայքարով: Նոր ղեկավարների սերունդը աճուրդի է դրել Հայաստանի տնտեսական հարստությունը՝ վաճառելով ազգային

Յետոյսնէր տեղական ու արտասահմանյան կապիտալին. որի միակ շահն ու նպատակն է եղել ստանալ իր եկամուտն ու կուտակել մասնավոր կապիտալը:

Բանալի բառեր. գորալիզացիա. ինտեգրացում. տնտեսութեան. եպիկական արդիականացում. անցումային շրջան. աղքատություն. ազգային յետոյսնէր:

ВЛИЯНИЕ ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИИ НА АРМЕНИЮ ПЕРЕХОДНОГО ПЕРИОДА

Описательное эссе

Берч Бербероглу

Профессор кафедры социологии

Университета Рино, Невада

РЕЗЮМЕ

Историческая реальность тех народов, которые стали интегрироваться в мировую экономику и вовлеклись в процессы глобализации, следует знать, что выглядит как раз наоборот. Реальность неолиберальной глобализации - это нечто совсем иное, чем радужная картина, которую рисуют ее сторонники. Она, по сути, разрушила экономику за счет банкротства отечественной промышленности, сделала всех должниками, способствовала коррупции, а также распространила нищету и страдания среди широких слоев населения.

Неолиберализм приехал в Армению с удвоенной силой в период после 1991 года после приобретения страной независимости от бывшего Советского Союза. Переходный период в Армении за последние 25 лет стал свидетелем наибольшего перераспределения богатства от общественного к частному сектору, чтобы перевести экономику Армению от социалистической к капиталистической, контролируемой новой группой политических лидеров.

Теперь, став интегрированной в глобальную экономику и в процессы неолиберальной глобализации, Армения оказалась в когтях глобального капитализма, который посредством своих внутренних агентов частного накопления трансформировал ее экономику и общество в нечто с огромным богатством для немногих и с тяжелой работой изо всех сил для многих, чтобы остаться в живых. Новое

поколение лидеров вынесло все экономическое богатство Армении на аукцион, чтобы продать ресурсы нации местному и иностранному капиталу, чей единственный интерес состоит в том, чтобы извлечь выгоду и накапливать капитал для личной выгоды.

Ключевые слова: глобализация, интеграция, экономика, армянская модернизация, переходный период, бедность, национальные ресурсы

СОЦИАЛЬНЫЕ И ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ ПОСЛЕДСТВИЯ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИИ ОБЩЕСТВА. ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ РАЗВИТИЯ

Ирина Аракелян

Кандидат экономических наук

Последнее десятилетие XX века принесло немало перемен в общественной жизни Армении. Трансформация общества, разрыв экономических связей, разрушение привычных форм деятельности на посткоммунистическом пространстве привели к политической нестабильности, социальной и экономической поляризации общества. Трудности переходного периода усугубились экстремальными условиями жизни, вызванными лавиной хлынувших стихийных бедствий.

Переход к рыночной экономике, сложившиеся противоречия в экономических отношениях, неравные условия функционирования различных форм собственности привели к усилению кризисных тенденций в экономике и социальной жизни республики.

В этом хаосе нововведений, перехода из одной системы в другую, в период глобального социально-экономического кризиса возникновение новых проблем и задач оказалось неизбежным. Большинство из этих проблем воспринимаются и оцениваются населением, политиками и обществоведами неоднозначно. Пожалуй, одна тенденция не вызывает разноречивых толкований – сегодня мы имеем полуголодный, переживший социальное и душевное потрясение народ, окончательное разочарование в демократических силах и непредсказуемое будущее.

Глобальные трансформации, происходящие в современном мире,