

Review of the mass protests in Belarus after the re-election of Lukashenko based on Rosa Luxemburg theories.

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For the past centuries, the achievement of social democracy has been the trend of many states. Social democracy is an ideology that allows people to achieve social justice and equality and also include a capitalist framework. In social-democratic countries, society builds around freedom and involvement of people in decisions making for their country.

Nevertheless, despite the social democratic system, for 26 years, President retained an authoritarian regime in Belarus. After the collapse of the USSR, Belarus managed to preserve state property and not succumb to the privatization process, but the soviet-based ideology been used, to build an authoritarian regime.

The topic of this paper is to link the mass protests in 2020 to the mass protests in revolutionary Russia in 1917 and identify how they similar and why they began. As one of the key thinkers who supported the change in 1917 was Rosa Luxemburg, therefore her theory and thought could be applied to the situation in Belarus after the re-elections.

Luxemburg believed that nation needs political freedom which consists of both social and economic, and this is what Belarussian citizens demanded.

Firstly, I want to outline the main values that integrate the democratic module that she defended. According to Luxemburg without freedom, there is no democracy. The freedom of the press, of assembly and association, strong and free public opinion, complete freedom of conscience for all individuals and open tolerance for different opinions and belief. As well as unlimited political freedom and constant education to the masses.

This current problem in Belarus echoes with Luxemburg's persistent themes of achieving social democracy.

The peaceful life in Belarus ended after the elections, which happened in August 2020, when masses began an unequal fight against the state regime. People were tired of the infringement of freedom, restriction of speech and press and also a hard-economic situation, and they began to

protest. This struggle has manifest itself in various forms, such as protests, factory strikes, media war against the state. People could see just one way that only a nationwide strike could really change the situation (Shchytsova, 2020). Strikes were taken place in many Belarussian cities and many key factories. At the factories such as the Atlant and Gefest appliance manufacturers, as well as at the Milavitsa clothing factory, the Grodno meat-packing plant, the Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ), and the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ). Moreover, major enterprises, cafes, and just students and women went out to the streets to express their views. And therefore, there is seen a connection to Revolutionary Russia in 1917. Back then the revolution action has begun with mass strikes, factories protests. Luxemburg wrote about mass strikes on different factories in Russia, which suddenly flash in the different parts of the country. All of them differ from each other, however, they had the same goals. Decrease labour exploitation, decreasing authoritarian regime and achieving social freedom.

Moreover, political struggle due to Luxemburg theory leads to economical struggle, and this knowledge she based on an example of the Russian revolution. And this also, where observed in Belarus “after a decade of the economy stagnating and further contracting due to coronavirus, people are fed up”(Zenkovich, 2020).

Luxemburg said that “Mass strikes does not produce revolution the revolution produced mass strikes” (Luxemburg, 1906: 147). And Luxemburg view revolution, as the only way to achieve freedom as the power of the government is too strong. Reforms will not overcome an authoritarian regime; they can only give way for another dictator! This conclusion has been based on Rosa Luxemburg writings and thoughts, about social democracy during the Russia Revolution (1917).