

The Neoliberal Paradox: State Sovereignty and the Rise of Transnational Governance



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This paper examines the paradoxical relationship between neoliberalism and state sovereignty in the contemporary international system. While neoliberalism, with its emphasis on free markets, deregulation, and limited government intervention, has ostensibly championed the autonomy of states, it has simultaneously facilitated the rise of powerful transnational actors and institutions that challenge traditional notions of state sovereignty. The paper undertakes a comprehensive analysis of how international organizations, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), along with multinational corporations, have become key players in shaping global economic governance. It argues that these actors, driven by neoliberal principles, often impose constraints on the ability of states, particularly those in the Global South, to pursue independent economic policies and development strategies. By exploring in-depth case studies of specific trade agreements and investment treaties, the paper provides concrete evidence of how neoliberal policies have led to a significant transfer of power from states to transnational actors. This transfer of power raises crucial questions about democratic accountability, the efficacy of national regulations, and the future of state sovereignty in an increasingly globalized world.

Furthermore, the paper examines the implications of this shift in power for developing countries, arguing that the constraints imposed by neoliberal institutions and agreements can perpetuate economic dependency and exacerbate existing inequalities. It also explores the potential for resistance and alternative development models that prioritize social justice and environmental sustainability over the dictates of the global market.

Keywords: Neoliberalism, State Sovereignty, Transnational Governance, Globalization, International Organizations, Global South.

Biography:

Dionisis Asimiadis is a PhD candidate in Political Science. He was born in 1996 in Thessaloniki. He has worked for a long time as a radio and television producer and on major projects of the European Union. He graduated from the Department of Social Administration and Political Science and Law at Democritus University of Thrace, and he postgraduate studies specialize in European Policies, the design, and management of European Programs. He has been honored with the Second National Prize for Language Essay by the Eleftherios Venizelos Foundation and the Second Prize for Poetry by the Union of Writers of Northern Greece. In 2022, he has been published the book "Aspects of Greek Radicalism in the 19th Century