

## **09 - «OUR EVERYDAY CAPITALISM»**

### **- A perspective on the 19th century**

This workshop aims to discuss one of the most significant structural changes of the 19th century. The «long 19th century» saw most of the states in Europe at least start their respective processes of modernization. The uneven dynamic of implementation and varying success in the realization of these processes are an important indicator of the differences between individual European (and other) social and political orders as well as of the complexity of the term «modernization» itself. The changes the 19th century brought are thus important due to their strong interconnections which manifested themselves in numerous ways.

The workshop will deal with different modernization processes and the social, political, cultural and economic changes they brought about. The «massing of society» as related of the demographic boom and the «democratization» of societies; rapid social differentiation and its consequences; new functions and forms of the state that arose during the 19th century; new concepts regarding the relationship between state and individual, state and social group and state vs. state are all analyzed in the context of the advance of capitalism into European everyday life on a micro- and macro- level, with resulting changes in mentality and cultural surroundings that made it one of the great turning points of the 19th century.

#### **Papers/Case studies:**

##### **1. Demographic changes**

Demographic changes were a prerequisite and consequence of the agricultural and industrial revolution. To be analyzed preferably on a limited, regional or local example.

##### **2. Industrialization**

The real reaches of the initial phase of industrialization in a specific area, reflecting on the micro- (everyday life for the population of the area, living standards...) and macro- level (import, export, GDP and GDP *per capita*...)

##### **3. «The remains of the old order»**

The survival of non-industrial economic structures (guilds, small-scale craftsmen, etc.) and their economic and social role in a certain area.

##### **4. Economic theories**

The appearance, development and practical implementation of different economic theories. Ideas about capitalism being «natural», communism «inevitable», liberalism «civilized and with a mission», *laissez-faire* being «free» and feudalism's «tested values»

## **5. The transport revolution**

A necessary part of industrial revolutions, drastically different in different areas and in different situations. The development of new and the improvement of existing forms of transport and their effect, usefulness and importance in globalization.

## **6. Changes in the content and form of the State**

The growth of state administration as a modernization process. The constant rise in the needs of state treasuries (in an era of *laissez-faire!*), the appearance of new functions and forms states took in an effort to (re)define economies (fiscal policies, education, health, etc.)

## **7. New forms of social relations**

Local examples of social differentiation in a wider or global context. The different roles of aristocracy in 1800 and 1900, the appearance of the *bourgeoisie* in the context of the economic, political and cultural characteristics of an area. The move from agriculture to industrial manufacture; peasantry – proletariat.

## **8. Great expectations**

Optimistic expectations of «uninterrupted growth» in contrast with economic crises, social unrest and ultimately, the First World War as the end/collapse of the «long 19th century».

## **9. Urbanization**

The new roles of cities and the accelerated growth of their gravitational pull towards surrounding areas as a consequence of the demographic and industrial revolution. Are there universally applicable patterns to be seen in the development of cities in the 19th century or is their development subject to their individual circumstances?

## **10. Colonialism – Imperialism**

The economic and political reasons for the turning of European states towards non-European areas in the 19th century. Imperial initiatives as a race for prestige and/or a «release valve» for European economic life.