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By Juan Torres López 26.11.2023

Netherlands: it had to happen



**Sources:** Desire to write

The recent victory of the far right in the general elections in the Netherlands could only have surprised those who have been oblivious to what has been happening in that country over the last thirteen years.

Since then, the liberal right, led by Mark Rutte, has been in power, which has not stopped carrying out tax cuts for the richest, privatisations and cuts in spending and social benefits. The Netherlands, for example, has one of the Europe's Most Regressive Tax Rates: The Percentage of Revenue Dedicated to Paying tax in most income groups is around 40%, but only 20% in the richest 1% of the population.

Successive Liberal governments have made a market-oriented housing policy that has increased the difficulty of access to the middle classes, without improving the lower-income classes, and which has caused a huge increase in prices.

Mark Rutte said early in his tenure that he had to put an end to the idea that, according to him, his compatriots had of the State: "a happiness machine." To achieve this, it has cut investment and spending, leading to the worsening of public health services, transportation, education, or care (in 2015, it was established that the elderly and dependents became a family "obligation"). The Director of UNICEF in In 2018, the Netherlands denounced the fact that the prosperous country had been left out of the the rights of vulnerable groups of children.

In the last thirteen years, successive governments have Liberals have carried out a veritable dispossession of income and rights of the middle- and lower-income classes, while at the same time they have converted their the most aggressive tax haven in Europe, granting all kinds of tax and financial favors to big business.

Perhaps the most obvious evidence of this dispossession is that households in the Netherlands have the highest indebtedness compared to its gross disposable income in Europe: 187.03% in the first quarter this year, twice as many as the Spanish (89.4%).

The strategy followed by the Dutch Liberals (like those of other countries) so that this dispossession would not result in a The social revolt has been twofold. On the one hand, blaming the working classes for squandering public money and, on the other hand, making immigration responsible for all the bad things that were happening to them.

The former reached its most embarrassing peak in 2021: Even the government had to resign when it was discovered that he had accused fraud in the social benefits of more than 30,000 low-income families, without Grounds: None. Some 70,000 children suffered mainly from the fake and 1,115 ended up in guardianship institutions for that cause. The Anti-immigration discourse has not ceased to be given and has become more and more strong, just as dispossession grew, when the reality is that the Immigrant workers take care of very low-wage jobs and more and that the problems associated with immigration have to do, above all, all this, with the weakening of the public and social services that I have distinguished.

Unlike a few decades ago, the The liberal right does not hide the dispossession that occurs when it governs. Now He acknowledges it, but blames it on immigration or the dispossessed themselves (As my fellow liberal economists say, because they don't invest what they do.) enough in themselves).

That's when the far right comes in, offering aid (sovereignty, security, traditional values, defence of the nation, etc.) and protection against the enemy who comes to take away "what is ours".

Now, the extreme right appears because at the same time Over time, the left disappears or loses its way. Instead of focusing on the socio-economic issues that really shape people's lives with an ecumenical discourse, addressed to the great social majorities in order to protect them from transversality and common sense, they are divided and fragment to identify with the interests of small segments or groups minority populations, and giving priority to issues of identity and or to tell society what is or is not politically correct. Without being able to stop what is coming at us.

Source: <a href="https://juantorreslopez.com/paises-bajos-tenia-que-pasar/">https://juantorreslopez.com/paises-bajos-tenia-que-pasar/</a>

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