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Book Review

Vickers, Tom 2020: *Borders, Migration and Class in an Age of Crisis: Producing Workers and Immigrants, Global Migration and Social Change Series*, Bristol: Bristol University Press, pp. 244+ix (Paperback)

Increasing cross-border flow of people is an essential characteristic of globalization. However, there are different patterns of migration in different continents of the world. The impact of globalization is varying with class structure of a given society. European societies have experienced immigration of workers and refugees from different parts of the world which has implications for their social structure, economy and polity and cultural milieu. Global Migration and Social change Series initiated a dialogue on the nexus between migration, citizenship and social change. The book under review is a part of this series. The focus of the research undertaken is on the crises of migration within crises of capitalism. The book consists of seven chapters.

In the introductory chapter, the author presents the conceptual framework of his analysis in terms of the aims of the book, applying of Marxism today, research methods and the structure of the book.

Chapter 2 entitled "Imperialism, Migration and class in the 21st Century" presents an analysis of contemporary capitalism in order to frame the ensuing discussions of immigration and welfare crisis following a Leninist analysis of imperialism and engages with other writers and argues that Leninist approach represents a distinctive contribution to understanding how international movement of capital, commodities and labour interact with national divisions to structure the working class.

Chapter 3, "Deconstructing Migration Crises in Europe", focuses on British immigration policy and practices in relation to the changing needs of British imperialism since the 1990s and traces the proliferation of British borders both internally as well as externally. Here he also considers re-articulation of the 'migrant crisis' through the praxis of social movements and campaigns.

In the chapter 4 entitled "Deconstructing Welfare Crises", the author examines the process by which politicians transformed the narrative about the global financial crisis, and the massive transfer of wealth in financial institutions that followed a narrative about high welfare spending as a justification for austerity. Anti-austerity narratives are also critiqued. Changes to state welfare and implications for mobility are discussed, focusing on housing, health care and social care, and benefits. The last section of the chapter explores re-articulations of the welfare crisis in terms of discussion of social movements and campaigns organizing around demands for decent housing and against cuts to local state services.

Chapter 5 entitled "Mobility Power and Labour Power in the crises of Imperialism", argues that the changes to border and welfare practices help in creating conditions for 'precarity', associated with the growth of various forms of labour-related and social insecurity. This can be understood as an intensification of labour-discipline, reducing workers' control over their mobility and often involving enforced patterns of movement or stasis. The chapter also examines these ideas in an empirical

situation of North-East England and conceptualized multiple 'dynamics of 'precarity' as ways of understanding differential conditions for exploitation.

Chapter 6 entitled "Deconstructing migrant/Worker categories in Britain discusses the ways in which state-endorsed divisions within the working class have been reflected and reinforced at a discursive level. The author argues that ideological categories position workers in multiple, shifting and often in contradictory ways within 'common-sense' narratives that justify and reinforce capitalist exploitation by given empirical evidence from three British Television documentaries.

In the concluding chapter (Seven), the author proposed two possible trajectories for Britain: First of remaining within capitalism, with increasingly antagonistic relations the migrant-native divide that are enforced with increasing violence, legally, physically and discursively, and reduced mobility power for the majority, leading to deepening exploitation; Second of radically breaking from capitalism to find a social form that can move beyond its inherent crises and divisions, afford people material security, and enable them to realize their creative potential.

The book presents a deep analysis, both at the theoretical level as well as at the empirical level, of the crises of capitalism and its inseparable nexus with imperialism right from the colonial period to the present era of global economy from Marxian perspective. The analysis and arguments forwarded by the author are quite convincing. But there are little chances that the present leadership of the Britain will adopt a radical path. The crises presented by Covid-19 and Russia- Ukraine War and the active engagement of Britain with European Union has deepened the crises further. The book is highly useful to understand the implications of global capitalism for the class structure, mobility power and migrant-natives divide in the contemporary British society. This kind of analysis can be extended to other societies experiencing the consequences of globalization.

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