

CONTRADICTIONS IN THE TRANSITION FROM A PLANNED TO A MARKET ECONOMY IN HUNGARY

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Following the dramatic political, economic, and social changes in East-Central Europe, a new challenge of historical importance has arisen: the choice for future social and economic development. In Hungary, there is a general understanding that the so-called social market economy, based on private property, will lead to an improved society and economy.

The task is a difficult one. The country is plagued by a series of adverse effects of obsolete technology, low economic efficiency, environmental degradation on the one hand, and moral and societal degradation on the other. A widely accepted opinion is that quick technological progress will be one of the best solutions for overcoming the problems. Another point of view is that many new technologies generate new environmental and health risks. .

During the period of transition, society is faced with some new problems, like the risk of capital import accompanied by the transfer of polluting industries from western countries. More important is the attitude of the entrepreneurs, who are profit-oriented and operate with limited capital resulting in the negligence of the environment, at least in the short term. .

In the long term, the country will get involved in the general stream of technical development. In this case, it will be necessary to take into consideration both sides of modern techniques. On the one side, we have the adjusting to daily life, modernizing production, and increasing efficiency. On the other side, there are the adverse and dehumanizing effects, the squandering of energy and material resources, and the creation of new environmental risks. .

The possible adverse effects must be neutralized. There is an estimated danger that the problems will not be solved completely by technology. New measures and elements of environmental and biopolitics structural changes are:

- the ecological modernization of all economic sectors, stressing energy-saving, recycling and the re-use of raw materials and waste products, the economic use of raw materials, decentralization of energy generation, sustainable energy resources, renovating instead of building new areas, reducing private transport, improving ecological agriculture and biotechnology to replace chemicals; and
- the growth in quality instead of quantity, the emphasis on information and services instead of production.

It will be necessary to make changes in economic thinking. Instead of conventional value categories, new ones must be used; for example, altruistic value, preservation value, and existence value. New moral and economic incentives will be necessary to direct the technical development and innovations in order to better cover the real needs of society.

A distinction is made between effect-oriented and source-oriented technology. The former belongs to the so-called curative policy only directed at counteracting the effects of environmental pollution. Whereas the latter is a form of preventive policy aimed at the prevention of pollution.

The innumerable new tasks require changes in the educational systems. A good educational basis could neutralize the dominant interest in connection with respect to uncontrolled technical growth.

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