

History

Ecoradicalism as the Reaction of the Overpopulation and Challenge for Global Security

Leila (Ia) Khubashvili*, Aleksandre Ubiria*

* Faculty of Humanities, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

(Presented by Academy Member Omar Gogiashvili)

In the contemporary world, the radicalization of the idea of the Ecologism as the anthropogenic factor takes place. One of the demonstrations of Ecoradicalism is ecofascism, which is one of the reactions of the overpopulation. Ecofascism presents the new ideology that gained the attention of the society as the directly focused force on violent actions. The term ecofascism is widely used numerous times in scientific works (ecofascism: lessons from the German experience; The rise of ecofascism. Climate Change and the far right and etc.). The abovementioned ideology represents the synthesis of ecologism and far-right ideas, but it is not the only definition. Analyzing the abovementioned term in a wrong way sometimes causes misunderstanding. In some cases, those people who don't have any connection with ecofascism, are called ecofascists. In the paper, the subject of transformation of ecofascism and the problem of its identification of ecoradical ideas is presented. Nowadays, in most cases, ecoradicals are called ecofascists. Except of the individual manifestos of the ecoterrorists, many ecoradical organizations gain attention, whose popularity is growing day after day on the background of aggravating the ecological problems. If we take into consideration, that these organizations, have global scale and only on one, particular region, their radicalization may be serious danger for the legal order of the contemporary world. According to the actuality of the problem, it is important to find the reasons of the formation of the modern ecoradicalism and analyse its alternative variants. © 2024 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.

ecofascism, ecoradicalism, global security, overpopulation

In the contemporary world, the phenomenon of the population explosion provides strengthening anthropogenic factor on the natural environment, which on its hand, defines ecological problems and the danger of the ecological catastrophe. Undoubtedly, ecological security is the fundament of the global one, on which appoints the effect of the Global Warming and ecological problems which doesn't have boundaries. The main force of this process is

overpopulation and its typical signs are the deficit of resources, famine and extreme poverty. Solving these problems is able with covering the new spaces, for example, covering the territory of the forest. But in the case of the increase of population, it only temporarily solves the problem of the overpopulation. Except of this, destroying the forest aggravates the ecological problems more. The statistics, given below, clearly shows us the horri-

ble results which was caused by covering the new spaces on the account of destroying the forest.

The space of the forests in the world is still being decreased [1]:

1990 year: 42 364 330 square kilometers

2020 year: 40 589 310 square kilometers

There should be mentioned cardinal differences among the continents:

In 1990, the Africa's forest covered 7 428 010 square kilometers. While in 2020, only 6 366 390 square kilometers.

For comparison: In Europe, where there is depopulation, the space of the forest was increased in 1990 with 9 943 190 square kilometers and in 2020 year, with 10 174 610 square kilometers.

The analogical differences among the continents is in terms of the extreme poverty. If the population, living in the extreme poverty all over the world decreases, on the continent of Africa, where the demographic explosion did not end. There is increasing number of the people who live in the extreme poverty [2].

The above mentioned statistics clearly shows that the difference among the continents causes the actualization of the migration processes and one of its reasons is overpopulation, as the catalyst of many problems and in the nearest period it is the reason of the formation of ecoterrorism.

Ecofascism was born in the period of the Colonialism. Ecototalitarianism is older event and it is the indivisible part of the history of mankind, but in the contemporary period it has large scales and in terms of the national and international legal order, it became a danger. The fundamentals of the Ecototalitarianism was revealed in getting the unfamiliar space and the control of the preservation of the environment. In these conditions, the local population was disabled and their actions harmed the nature – this was the opinion of the colonizers. Thus, the main apologists of the preserving the environment are the colonizers. For example, we can name the initiatives of Great Britain in India and the France's ones in Algeria [3]. In the basin of

the Caribbean Sea, the colonizers didn't take into consideration the necessities of the population and made accent on expanding the space of the forest in this geographical area [4]. According to that here was a certain choice: providing the population completely or the change of the projects of environment's preservation. Also, there should be mentioned the population's tempo of natural growth and migration processes. The migration processes aggravated the existing context more. Thus, it is not accidental in this period to make the accent on the importance of Thomas Malthus' ideas [3].

In some cases, Malthusianism is connected with ecofascism, because Malthusianists support the control of the birth rate and migration processes. The American feminist philosopher, B.Hartmann in his book "The America Syndrome. Apocalypse, War and our Call to Greatness" (2017), directly connects Malthusianism's ideas with Neo-Malthusianism ones (the regulaton of the birth; ecological security) with "White Nationalism" [5] and also, the ophthalmologist John Tanton (The founder of the anti-migrant organization „FAIR“) is named as the supporter of the Neo-eugenics. According to these facts, there can be said that ecofascism is the synthesis of the environment's preservation, anti-migration and eugenics. The special accent is made on migrants, because their inhabitation in the new area, causes the degradation of the ecosystem. But there is one right question: Why we should consider a person as an Ecofascist, if he is supporter of the birth's regulation and also isn't supporter of Eugenics. In this case, we speak about the regulation of birth for everybody, without distinction of racial origin, in order to suppress the overpopulation. Thus, we think that blaming the followers of Neo-Malthusianistic ideas on being ecofascists, isn't correct.

Ecologism and eugenics are considered to be the most popular peculiarities of ecofascism. In addition, there is racial theory in the far-right ecologism. For example, we can name Madison

Grant who has become popular with his book “The Passing of The Great Race“ [6].

Meanwhile investigating the history of ecofascism, the Green Policy is vitally important. The Green Political Parties were formed in the 70s’ of the 20th century. Nowadays, the Green Policy is a global event. Its main focus is to preserve the environment, in order to keep the planet’s ecology and natural resources for the future generations. But, the Green Policy itself is much more than just preserving the environment. During the process of speaking the Green Policy, we should mention the dependence towards it in the Nazi Germany. We speak about the “Green Wing“ of Germany’s National-Socialistic movement [7], which has not been investigated properly till today.

Before the National-Socialistic revolution (1933 year), in Germany, there were lots of organizations whose aim was to preserve environment. Also, we should mention that Germany was not only the homeland for ecology, but for the new idea which was revealed in the synthesis of ecologism and Nationalism. Even in 1815, the father of German Nationalism – Ernst Arndt connected patriotism with the preservation of the nature [8]. His environmentalism is connected with xenophobic nationalism [7] – preserving the natural environment of the German land and for the welfare of the German nation. But also, it is important to admit that he had negative dependence towards mixed marriages which is closely connected to the holiness of the race.

Wilhelm Riehl’s (historian of culture) masterpieces are important, namely his work – “The Natural History of the German People“ (1990) [9], in which according to the author’s opinion, there should be preserved conservative policy in Germany and for that it is important to be based on the peasant: “Peasant, is the surviving power of the German Nation; thus, let’s make attempt to keep this force“ [9]. It can be said, that Riehl developed the so-called “Mark’s Theory“ (author of this theory is the law professor of Munich University

George Ludwig Von Maurer who lived in 1790-1872), according to which the corner-stone of the history of the German people was collective property of the land and the absence of state. Regardless of the fact Riehl with his opinions was against industrialization and urbanism, it’s not correct to blame him on Anti-Semitism [7], because in terms of this kind of estimation German Nationalism will be identified to Anti-Semitism, which was caused by the German policy in the next period. Wilhelm Riehl’s focus is to keep the German nature (environment). It is worth to emphasise his dependence towards the importance of the forest: “Forest should be preserved not only to keep warmth in the oven in the winter, but to keep Germany as German. The mystic darkness of the primordial forest“... “Forest forms the spirit of the nation“ [8]. This is so-called “Green Mysticism. Preservation of the own land, forests, mountains, rivers and etc do not represent extreme Nationalism. Taking care of the natural environment is particularly actual nowadays, because the process of aggravation of the ecological problems is the result of the human’s remissness.

As the result of the crisis in the Weimar Republic, there started National Socialistic revolution and after that Nazism made annexation of the Green Idea and in terms of that there was not finally formed the ecofascism and because of that fact we can connect the formation of the ecofascism to the later period. In the National Socialistic Germany there was paid special attention to the preservation of the environment, but National Socialism and Ecototalitarianism (ecoradical movement) are different ideologies.

When it comes to the period after the Second World War, there are important works of Savitri Devi’s “Impeachment of Man“ (2018), Gareth Hardin’s “The Tragedy of The Commons“ (1968) and Pentti Linkola’s “Can Life Prevail“ (2011). In the case of Savitri Devi (she is called as the “Missionaire of the Aryan Paganism in the neo-fascist circles) [10] speaks about the synthesis of

Neo-Nazism with the deep ecology. (“Impeachment of Man”) [11]. Gareth Hardin is named as ecofascist [12], which according to our opinion, is wrong estimation. Hardin, in his work “The Tragedy of The Commons” (1968) shares the position of Malthus and admits that the permanent growth of the resources is impossible [13], which itself points out that it is important to regulate the birth rate, but it does not mean that he is an ecofascist. Hardin and Linkola are represented as the followers of deep ecology, while Savitri Devi can be completely estimated as ecofascist. But for Linkola there is typical ecoradical position, which can be seen in his work “Can Life Prevail” (2011) [14].

According to the analysis given above, we can distinguish several definitions of ecofascism:

1. Ecofascism as the synthesis of the ecologism and far-right ideas;
2. Ecofascism as the preservation of the natural environment – formation of the ecodictatorship;
3. Ecofascism as the form of the terroristic activism (implemented terroristic acts of certain persons).

When it comes to the contemporary terroristic ecofascism, there should be found out its main reason of activation which is ignored on this stage. It is well known that the three most famous ecofascist terroristic acts were addressed against migrants and migration policy. In Norway, 77 people died because of the terroristic act implemented by Anders Breivik. 51 people died in New Zealand because of the massive assassination which was done by the terrorist Brenton Tarrant and in El Paso terrorist Patrick Crusius killed 23 people. In Breivik’s case, it was a terroristic act as the protest against immigration policy, while in Tarrant’s and Crusius’ cases, the victims are directly the migrants. Brenton Tarrant’s victims’ majority were from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Somali and etc.) These countries are known for the problem of overpopulation. The victims of Crusius massive assassination were mainly the citizens of Mexico.

The main challenge and danger for the contemporary globalization is migration which has many reasons but one of them is the core power of overpopulation. It aggravates the migration processes and because of this far-right wing is transformed into ecofascists and there is ecoterroristic activism aggravated. The main reason is to preserve the natural environment.

In our opinion, ecofascism is the synthesis of ecologism and racism (in most cases, Neo-Nazism), but when it comes to the other ecoradical movements, if they do not have connection with racial theory and xenophobia, it is wrong to consider them as the followers of the ideas of the ecofascism. While investigating the ecoradical ideas, this kind of attitude makes a serious error because of which the ecoterrorism can not be revealed.

Except of the above mentioned, so-called “Independent Activism” there should be mentioned organizations which are connected with the idea of ecofascism. The Green Brigade and “Greenline Front”. The members of these organizations are activated in the internet space, but if we take into consideration that a single ecofascist can liquidate many people, the existence of this type of organizations can be a serious challenge for the whole world, because they have global scale. For all of this above mentioned organizations it is typical to focus on violence, however, Green Brigade and Greenline Front can be directly considered as ecofascist organizations which are oriented on racial theory and ecologism [15]. If we take into consideration the above mentioned ecoterroristic groups, ecofascists consider massive assassinations as the alternative of overpopulation. After finishing this, we can say that the ecofascistic terrorism will lose its actuality. Before that the only one, humanistic alternative is to regulate the demographic processes (China’s “one-child policy” as an example), first of all, in developing countries which are known for the demographic explosion and overpopulation, which on its hand, causes destabilization and migration crisis and after that,

their aggravation. The chaotic nature of the demographic cycles and ignoring them, will deepen the ecological and social crisis in the future, which will

cause the strengthening of eco-radicalism and will make a serious threat for the global security.

ისტორია

ეკორადიკალიზმი, როგორც ჭარბმოსახლეობის რეაქცია და გლობალური უსაფრთხოების გამოწვევა

ლ. ხუბაშვილი*, ა. უბირია*

** ივანე ჯავახიშვილის სახ. თბილისის სახელმწიფო უნივერსიტეტი, ჰუმანიტარულ მეცნიერებათა ფაკულტეტი, თბილისი, საქართველო*

(წარმოდგენილია აკადემიის წევრის ო. გოგიაშვილის მიერ)

თანამედროვე სამყაროში არსებული ჭარბმოსახლეობის, ანთროპოგენური ფაქტორის მიერ ეკოლოგიური პრობლემების გამწვავების შედეგად მიმდინარეობს ეკოლოგიზმის იდეის რადიკალიზაცია. ეკორადიკალიზმის ერთ-ერთი მთავარი გამოვლინება ეკოფაშიზმია, რომელიც ჭარბმოსახლეობის ერთ-ერთ რეაქციად გვევლინება. ეკოფაშიზმი ახალი იდეოლოგიაა, რომელმაც საზოგადოების ყურადღება მიიპყრო როგორც პირდაპირ ძალადობრივ მოქმედებაზე ორიენტირებულმა ძალამ. ტერმინი ეკოფაშიზმი არაერთხელ გამოყენებულა სამეცნიერო ნაშრომებში. აღნიშნული იდეოლოგია წარმოადგენს ეკოლოგიზმის და ულტრა მემარჯვენე იდეების სინთეზს, თუმცა ეს არ არის ერთადერთი დეფინიცია. აღნიშნული ტერმინის არასწორად გააზრება ხშირად გაუგებრობას იწვევს. მაგალითად, რიგ შემთხვევაში, ეკოფაშიზმს უწოდებენ ადამიანებს, რომლებსაც სინამდვილეში არანაირი კავშირი არ აქვთ ეკოფაშიზმთან, ასეთი დამოკიდებულება, ვფიქრობთ, გაუმართლებელია. წარმოდგენილ ნაშრომში განხილულია ეკოფაშიზმის ტრანსფორმაციის საკითხი და მისი სხვა ეკორადიკალურ იდეებთან გაიგივების პრობლემა. დღეს, ხშირ შემთხვევაში, ეკორადიკალებს უწოდებენ ეკოფაშიზმს, რაც, ჩვენი აზრით, არ არის მართებული. ეკოტერორისტების ინდივიდუალური მანიფესტების გარდა, ყურადღებას იპყრობს არაერთი ეკორადიკალური ორგანიზაცია, რომელთა პოპულარობაც ეკოლოგიური პრობლემების გამწვავების ფონზე დღითიდღე იზრდება. თუ გავითვალისწინებთ, რომ ასეთი ორგანიზაციები ძირითად შემთხვევაში გლობალურ ხასიათს ატარებს და არ შემოიფარგლება ერთი კონკრეტული რეგიონით, მათი რადიკალიზაცია შესაძლოა, სერიოზულ საფრთხეს წარმოადგენდეს თანამედროვე სამყაროს სამართლებრივი წესრიგისთვის. პრობლემის აქტუალობიდან გამომდინარე, მნიშვნელოვნად მიგ-

ვაჩნია დადგინდეს თანამედროვე ეკორადიკალიზმის ფორმირების მიზეზები და განხილულ იქნეს ალტერნატიული ვარიანტები.

REFERENCES

1. Global Forest Resources Assessment. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome (2020) p. 16.
2. Poverty trends: global, regional and national/devinit.org
3. Moore S. & Roberts A. (2022) The rise of ecofascism. Climate change and the far right. pp. 20, 18. Polity Press.
4. Grove H. R. (1995) Green Imperialism. Colonial expansion, tropical island Edens and the origins of environmentalism, p. 18, 1600-1860. Cambridge University Press.
5. Hartmann B. (2017) The America syndrome. Apocalypse, war and our call to greatness, pp. 192-193. Seven Stories Press. New York.
6. Grant M. (1916) The passing of the great race, p. 245. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons.
7. Biehl J. and Staudenmaier P. (1995) Ecofascism: lessons from the German experience. Edinburgh, pp. 5, 6, 6-8. AK Press.
8. Dominick R. (1992) The environmental movement in Germany. Prophets & Pioneers, 1871-1971. Indiana University Press. pp. 22, 23.
9. Riehl H. W. (1990) The natural history of the German people, p. 178, 178-181. The Edwin Mellen Press, Lewiston New York.
10. Goodrick-Clarke N. (1998) Hitler's Priestess. Savitri Devi, the Hindu-Aryan Myth, and Neo-Nazism, p. 217. New York University Press, New York and London.
11. Devi Savitri (2018) Impeachment of Man, p. 138. Wewelsburg Archives publication.
12. Tilley L., Max A. (2023) Eco-socialism will be anti-eugenic or it will be nothing: towards equal exchange and the end of population. Special Issue: Race & Climate, p. 202. Politics, Political Studies Association.
13. Hardin G. (1968) The tragedy of The commons. American Association for the Advancement of Science. *Journal Science*, new series, **162** (3859): 1242-1248.
14. Linkola P. (2011) Can Life Prevail. *Arktos*. p. 136.
15. Graham M. (2022) The extreme right, climate change and terrorism. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 34, 5: 979-996.

Received July, 2024