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*False Consciousness in Our Time: Globalization and the Persisting Attraction of Myths, Fabrications, and Lies*

A discredited ideology once held that subordinate classes may be less aware of their objective interests than the ruling class. That is because members of a subordinate class are susceptible to false consciousness--distortions, errors, and systematic misrepresentation of dominant social relations. Their imaginaries of the social relations around them conceal or obscure the realities of their subordination, exploitation, and domination.

Can we be sure that all forms of false consciousness disappeared with the collapse of state Marxism? If any persist, what are its new variations? The post-bipolar age has been punctuated by elite discourse in praise of globalization, multiculturalism, negotiated and nested identities, hybridity, cosmopolitanism, postnationalism, and a world without borders. Migration is held to be the galvanizing force—the sine qua non—making such transformations possible.

Can it be that the acceptance and internalization of these ideas is precisely the false consciousness of our age? The functions performed by widely-accepted myths about globalization, transnational integration and identity, migration, secularism, and social cohesion merit examination in the context of the electoral rise of myth-busting radical parties, particularly in Europe, that invite us to reflect again on the common good.