

How the Left Embraced Elitism

The New York Times, Feb. 11, 2019

The progressives' Green New Deal centralizes power.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey introducing the Green New Deal on Thursday. Pete Marovich for The New York Times



Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey introducing the Green New Deal on Thursday. Pete Marovich for The New York Times

Over the past generation, global capitalism has produced the greatest reduction in human poverty in history. Over the past 10 years, American capitalism has produced 20 million new jobs. The productive dynamism of capitalism is truly a wonder to behold.

But economic growth alone is not enough. Growth alone does not translate into economic security for the middle class and the less skilled. Growth alone does nothing to reverse the social decay afflicting communities across America.

This reality is transforming the political debate — and shifting everything leftward. Among conservatives there are now a bevy of thinkers who are trying to find ways to use government to reduce inequality, promote work and restore community.

David Brooks has been a columnist with The Times since 2003. He is the author of “The Road to Character” and the forthcoming book, “The Second Mountain.”