

Review of: "Neoliberalism, Strong State and Democracy"

Remi Okeke¹

¹ Madonna University

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Hubert Gabrisch has brilliantly dissected the existing dossier on neoliberalism. A refreshing aspect of the contribution is ironically locatable in its historiographical approach to the issues of neoliberalism, the state (strong state) and democracy. Somewhere under section two (Departure from Neoclassic Economics) he talks about the General Theory (GT) as the opus magnum of Keynes. GT is rather the magnum opus of Keynes. Under section five (Interstate Federalism) there is also the contention that “neoliberals were generally skeptical about the possibility of an apolitical government at the national level.....” The contentious concept of an apolitical government is distracting to the point that Gabrisch set out to make in this section. It is understood as an allusion to “technocratic government”. However, governments may govern less but they are not likely to be found “apolitical”. Then among the paper’s highlights is the subtle direction of attention to the reemergence of authoritarian liberalism as an empirical reality.