

1. Losses

A loss is not just the perception that something is missing. You feel a loss only if you have loved what you are missing now.

In Europe but also in the USA the promise of progress which was a general promise in democracies is not trusted anymore.

The change of mood:

Expectations of Progress	Expectation & Experience of Losses
improvement	deterioration
praise of the future	praise of the past
motivating presents	presents without perspective
narratives of success	tragic narratives
positive emotions	negative emotions
abundance	shortage
creativity & activity	suffering, passivity, lack of availability
infinity	finitude
predictability	unpredictability
a liberating subject	an emotionally bound subject
freedom and abundance	injured identity

Progress perspective vs. loss expectations

Andreas Reckwitz "Verlust" 2024, page 154

What challenges cause the change of emotional settings?

Those challenges, which are not trusted to be mastered.

- wars without strategy for an exit
- revolutions and regime change
- pandemics without leadership uniting the population for a common protection
- human caused climate change without a strategy to reduce emission and pollution
- assumed uncontrollable technologies
- dependencies on resources without strategy and means against blackmailing
- rapid technological and political change without predictability and control
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In general, new trends and developments devalue old things and practices and give more value to new things and practices.

Rapid changes always bring a risk of cultural and social devaluation, and the stress to follow.

2. Communication

Scientists need to investigate and analyze related problems and make proposals for solutions.

Media, TV, Talk-shows, shall not simply repeat the problems. This only increases the frustration, anger and negative mood, and leads to no solution. Possible approaches for solutions shall be presented to give an idea and insight of what may be needed. Creating orientation is the task instead of the impression of helplessness.

Politicians have to explain their consciousness of interacting challenges not for painting a too complicated and therefore dark picture, but as base for proposing a structural change as answer, which leads to better conditions. This has to be accompanied with a perspective for those who may feel as losers of the structural change.

The focus is to make everybody feel to be responsible for finding a solution or a compromise. Just outsourcing solution-finding to politics and rejecting what is not convenient is part of the problem. This is a challenge for everybody.

The purpose is to create a willingness to participate in the process of change. The purpose must not be to divide the population in order to make a needed change impossible.

3. Delivery

Without a willingness to support the process of structural change, an implementation of a solution may not be possible.

But if politics finally does not deliver, then the pessimistic assumption is enforced that a democratic society is unable to master the challenges ahead. This supports the call for an autocratic regime to have things done, regardless of this will bring a solution at all.

4. How would public debates have to run

- For regaining competitiveness based on new technologies
- For gaining sufficient strength and independency not to be blackmailed
- For strengthen European integration
- For being an attractive country and continent for the brightest heads on earth
- For implementing CO2 neutral energy supply and a recycling industry
- For gaining the strength needed to enforce required democratic and international rights
- For gaining the strength not to be attacked
- For controlling migration without endangering integration and the attractiveness of our state
- For keeping our social system affordable
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What goes wrong for which topic?