

Levantine Arabic transcript:

عنا من سنة 1963 تم انتقال سوريا من مرحلة الاقتصاد و السياسة الليبرالية الي كانت تعتمد على الانتخابات لحكم يعتمد على قيادة الحزب للدولة و المجتمع بمنظومة اشتراكية تتشابه أحيانا مع الاتحاد السوفييتي يعني مع النظم الشيوعية و احيانا لا تتشابه. يعني عبارة عن عدة نظم صارت موجودة بالبلد خلال هالفترة هي من الستينات لهننا نحن سنة 2010 هلي بدأنا فيها حاليا و من مدة ست سبع سنوات للانتقال من الاقتصاد الموجه و رجعنا للخمسينات مثل ما كان عنا اقتصاد ليبرالي يعني امنا البنوك بسنة 1958 بفترة الوحدة مع جمال عبد الناصر مع مصر، أمنا المعامل، قمنا بشي اسمو الاصلاح الزراعي. عطينا الفلاح قلنا الأرض لمن يعمل بها و المعمل لمن يعمل به و على هالمقولات هي و أجبنا يعني نحن نفسنا ما تغيرنا على فكرة نفس الحزب اللي كان عم ينادي بالوحدة و الحرية و الاشتراكية نفسه هو قام بالانقلاب على نفسه بدون ما حدا ينقلب عليه و غير من الاقتصاد الاشتراكي الي شي سماه هتي هلا ابتدعه اسمو اقتصاد السوق الاجتماعي. هوي اقتصاد السوق الاجتماعي، هي كلمة اضافة الاجتماعي لاقتصاد السوق يعني مثل هيكي عنوان، أما بالفعل ما في شي اسمو اقتصاد اجتماعي. هي بألمانيا حاولو يضيفو كلمة اجتماعي و نحن بسورية استعناها هلا حاليا من ألمانيا بحيث أنو نضل يعني بتعرفي اقتصاد السوق متوحش يعني الليبرالي بيعتبرو انو دعه يعمل دعه يمر فلذلك هذا مبدأ دعه يعمل دعه يمر بجوز يشكل عبء على الطبقات الفقيرة فنحن بمفهومنا بعملية التحول للاقتصاد الاشتراكي الموجه للاقتصاد الليبرالي المنفتح طبعا نحننا القطار اللي كنا ماشين فيه باتجاه الاشتراكية و كان في عنا مقولة لا حياة في هذا البلد الا للتقدم و الاشتراكية.

و أنا بيوم من الأيام و أنا من عائلة معروفة بمجال التجارة يعني هلي كان يسموها بيوم من الايام البرجوازية الوطنية و اللي كانت تدافع عن كل المكتسبات الطبقة الوسطى.

الطبقي الوسطى حاليا تقريبا مانا موجودة.

English translation:

Syria has been moving away from the liberal political and economical period since 1963, which [the old system] used to rely on elections, toward a government that depends on a party that rules the country and society in a socialist manner that is sometimes similar to the Soviet Union, meaning to the communist systems, and sometimes it is not similar to them. I mean, it is almost as if many systems became present in the country during the sixties until now. In 2010 we started, currently, and for the past seven years [have been] moving away from the market-oriented [State Economy] and we got back to the fifties, when we had a liberal economy [Market Economy]. Basically, we nationalized the banks in 1958 during the union under Jamal Abdunaser¹ with Egypt; we nationalized the factories; we did what was called "Agricultural Reform," where we gave the farmer [lands], saying that land is for [one] who works on it, and a factory is for [one] who works in it. Based on all these mottos, we came now, and we're the same. We haven't changed; the same party which was calling for Unity, Freedom, Socialism without anyone turning on him [the party], and he changed the socialist economy into something he came up with, called the "The Social Market Economy." It is the Social Market Economy, and adding the word "Social" to the "Market Economy" is just a title, because, in reality, there is no such thing as the Social Market Economy.

¹ Famous Egyptian president. He led the United Arab Republic in 1958.

In Germany, they tried to add the word “Social,” and here in Syria we currently borrowed that from Germany, whereby we are still, you know [not entirely following the market economy]. As you know, the market economy is savage; I mean the liberals always say “Let him work, let him move forward.” That principle of “let him work, let him move forward” could become a burden for the poor class, in our opinion, during the process of changing from the social-oriented economy to the open liberal economy. Of course, the train we were walking through toward Communism² ... and we had a saying, “No life for anything in this country except progress and communism.”

And once upon a time I was from a known family in the field of business; they used to call us [these types of families] the national bourgeoisie, which used to defend all the earnings of the middle class. Nowadays, the middle class is almost non-existent.

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² Arabic expression meaning to follow a model.