

Thema „Coronavirus“ im Unterricht

Crisis of Democracy?

M1 *The Irish Times* – ‘Boredom and fear are an explosive combination’

People won't put up with months of lockdown, *The Irish Times* fears:

‘The Imperial College report is less ambiguous: social distancing needs to be in force for at least two-thirds of the time until a vaccine becomes available.

That's 18 months away. The risk, during that period, is that resentment will fester. Right now, we are frightened and grateful for strong and stable leadership, but fatigue and irritation will set in.

People who are bored and anxious are susceptible to voices offering other, more appealing scenarios and solutions, or those who say there was another way. Down the road, a whole other crisis of democracy is looming.’

Source: Eurotopics, *Boredom and fear are an explosive combination*, 2020, <https://frama.link/NCfBBpgN> (last access: 20th March 2020)

M2 *Süddeutsche Zeitung* – ‘Taboo after taboo being broken’

Contemporary historian René Schlott also has an uneasy feeling about the drastic shutting down of public life. In a guest commentary for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* he writes:

‘If we didn't know better we could interpret the events of recent days for a right-wing populist takeover.

However, once a precedent has been set, who can rule out the possibility that the same restrictions on fundamental rights will be reactivated again in the future in the name of another supposed emergency? (...)

The closure of the border with Austria, partly on the grounds that it prevents panic buying from the neighbouring country, is a slap in the face to all those who, until a few days ago, defended the policy of open borders. The fundamental right to asylum has been made obsolete. The humanitarian dam has burst.’

Source: Eurotopics, *Taboo after taboo being broken*, 2020, <https://frama.link/NCfBBpgN> (last access: 20th March 20)

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Exercises (M1)

1. (M1) Why does the author fear a crisis of democracy can develop as a consequence of the pandemic?
2. (M1) **What** could this ‘crisis of democracy’ look like? Did the author’s fears become true?
3. (M1) According to you, were there any basic rights affected by the government’s crisis management in Luxembourg? If so, which basic rights are you thinking of?
4. (M2) Do you see border closures as compatible with basic rights such as freedom of movement, asylum protection, etc. in the context of the pandemic?
5. (M1&M2) If you were Prime Minister, would you have taken such measures as border closings and lockdown? Explain your answer using at least two arguments.

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