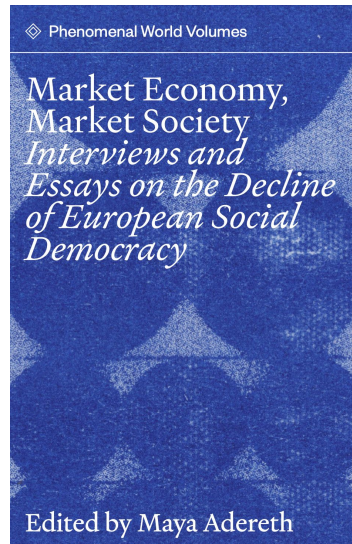


## Market Economy, Market Society

The first book from the Phenomenal World is a series of interviews and essays on the breakdown of social democracy across continental Europe in the 1980s and 1990s

### Press Release



New York, NY, February 3, 2020 — The Phenomenal World, a web publication supported by the Jain Family Institute, published today its first book, “Market Economy, Market Society.” Edited by Maya Adereth, the interviews and essays revolve around two related questions: what motivated left-leaning governments to pursue neoliberal restructuring, and was there an alternative?

In both popular and academic circles, the neoliberal shift is commonly associated with figures like Margaret Thatcher and

Ronald Reagan, and explanations for its consolidation tend to focus on broad technological shifts or the proliferation of right wing economic ideas. By contrast, “Market Economy, Market Society” starts from the observation that in much of Europe, economic liberalization was undertaken by Socialist governments and against the stated interests of their party and constituents. In order to understand why, Maya Adereth, JFI fellow and Phenomenal World editor, interviewed key decision makers on the pressures they faced that led them to undertake sweeping neoliberal reforms.

- Focusing on Spain, Italy, and France, the book includes interviews with a total of 11 policymakers, trade unionists, and activists—including former prime ministers **Felipe González** and **Giuliano Amato**, and former French Senate member **Anicet Le Pors**.

- Grounding the interviews within a historical, sociological, and political literature, the book contains three country-specific commentaries (**David Broder** on Italy, **Jonah Birch** on France, and **Juan Andrade** on Spain), as well as two introductory reflections from esteemed political scientist **Adam Przeworski** and **Stephanie Mudge**, author of *Leftism Revisited*.
- The interviews and commentaries offer a unique insight not only into the social and economic trends which fractured the social democratic consensus, but the strategic considerations made by policymakers and activists at the time.

The general articles draw on the interviews to consider the following questions: What alternatives did social-democratic policymakers have to adopting anti-inflationary policies and deregulating finance? Which of their concessions indicate something fundamental about the contradictions of social democracy? And how should the experience of the 80s inform our understanding of Keynesian demand management in the present?

[Find the full e-book here.](#)

Selections from the book will be cross-published in the Boston Review, Jacobin, Pandora (Italy), and CTXT (Spain).

Jack Gross, lead editor of the Phenomenal World, said, “We are extremely excited to inaugurate the Phenomenal World’s book series with *Market Economy*, *Market Society*. Accounts of the breakdown of social democracy across Europe often focus on the causally primary macroeconomic shifts of the post-1970s period. In approaching the question through the direct experiences of decision makers, this volume sheds light on the trials of a major shift that still defines our politics—and the trials of left parties in power.”

**About the Phenomenal World:**

The Phenomenal World is a web publication supported by the Jain Family Institute (JFI). The Phenomenal World publishes research, analysis, and commentary across the social sciences. Recent areas of focus include the politics of dollar hegemony, algorithmic bias and social scientific study of race, and the political economy of central bank independence. Follow us on Twitter at @worldphenomenal.

**About the Jain Family Institute:**

JFI is a nonpartisan applied research organization in the social sciences that works to bring research and policy from conception in theory to implementation in society. Founded in 2015 by Robert Jain, JFI focuses on building evidence around the most pressing social problems.

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