



GEORG SØRENSEN

Cultural Challenges to Liberal World Order

The victory of the liberal economic and political model was celebrated during the 1990s—the first decade after the end of the Cold War. But the model is not a static construction, perfect for everyone at all times, as Fukuyama would have us believe. It develops in a context of opposition and support and that process opens to both strong and weak elements in it. For some time, the model has been in deep crisis, both economically and politically and both in the liberal heartlands and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, it has become abundantly clear that the promotion of liberal principles worldwide is a project ripe with tensions and pitfalls. This paper supports a materialist

theory of cultural challenges:

because of the material weaknesses of the liberal model, it is decreasingly able to deliver on its promises. And in that situation the support for liberal principles is shrinking. There are no major alternatives to the model, but that is no guarantee of its success.