

WHO WILL OWN THE EU – THE SUPERRICH OR THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE?

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Abstract: *By focusing on the superrich, the question of ‘who will own the EU?’ must be addressed on various levels. First of all, it is a matter of assessing the extent of wealth concentration in Europe. Secondly there are the theoretical problems of class analysis. Is a new ruling class based on these accumulation processes evolving in Europe? Thirdly we have to ask whether we are entering a new epoch or societal formation based on a quite unique mix of novel accumulation processes. Our focus centres on the second level: ‘who does what (to whom)?’. We hold that postulating a European ‘ruling class’ is premature. We will try to describe the actors and profiteers of capitalism-based high-tech-refeudalisation of Europe in terms of a complex network of cooperating and competing elites. And we will use a new term to describe their networks: ‘monetary power complex’.*

Key words: *Power Structure Research, power elites, ‘monetary power complex’, privatisation, valorisation, value distribution, informatisation*

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