The legacy of Ronald Reagan and the curse of neo-Reaganism

President Ronald Reagan left office over twenty years ago; his political legend and legacy are, however, not only still alive, but also exert a significant impact on the contemporary domestic and foreign policies of the U.S. Reagan’s genuine political legacy is overlain, however, by an ideological and political thread developed over a score of years, based on a mythologized and distorted image of his presidency. In his policy toward the Soviet Union and communism, President Reagan resorted not only to political, economic and military pressure, but was also prepared to search for agreement and compromise. Supporting, in his rhetoric, the progress of democracy and freedom across the world, he was simultaneously very reserved in supporting a democratic transformation in some of the countries with which the United States maintained friendly relationships. Reagonomics certainly stimulated the American economy; it also contributed, however, to certain negative phenomena visible to this day.

It seems that, facing a serious economic crisis and substantial changes in the global balance of power, the United States should make up its mind and either reject certain canons in its thinking on economic development and international policy which have taken roots to a large degree thanks to the Reagan presidency or subject them to profound re-evaluation.