

Introduction - A New Global Human Order

This book is intended to fill a void in a world situation of great confusion and convulsions.

After the Gulf War, President George Bush announced a New World Order, but within a short time, what emerged was a New World Disorder. And, as in the post-Depression period (1930s) and the pre-World War II period, all kinds of “saviours” are descending on the people with quack remedies - the fundamentalists, the Religious Right, the Far Right, the Ultrationalists, xenophobists and neo-fascists. Demagogues like Hitler and Mussolini glibly bandied national socialism (Nazism) and practiced intense nationalism linked to racism (the master race) in their quest for political power in the service of vested interests.

Today, in a period of intense crisis of modernized monopoly capitalism, the demagogues are once again rearing their ugly heads. They must not be allowed to succeed.

Our times call for clear thinking: to diagnose the ills of our globe, to ascertain the root cause of society's growing problems and to formulate what must be done - a set of guiding principles and a program of action.

Certain concepts of democracy, human rights, regional integration, free trade, sustainable development, among others - are being discussed. These need to be examined fully - form as well as content.

Democracy is a vital ingredient of development. It must be representative, consultative and participatory. The people, especially women, must be fully empowered. The goal of democracy must be, as the American Declaration of Independence stipulated: *“life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”*

Human rights must embrace civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. Human needs and human security must be the object of development.

The economic basis is inter-related and must interact with the political, ideological, institutional and cultural superstructure. Economic growth is necessary for the satisfaction of basic needs and human development, as much as human development is necessary for economic growth. There is

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a nexus between poverty, hunger, famine, malnutrition, homelessness, illiteracy, disease, population explosion, environmental degradation, migration, narcotics production, usage and trafficking, and crime.

Human development and the protection of the environment are closely linked. There will be no protection of the environment if the boundaries of poverty continue to expand.

Change is necessary. The “trickle-down” process under monopoly capitalism is not working. Instead, the rich are getting richer at the expense of the poor, and the gap between the developed and developing countries is ever-widening.

However, change will not come about unless a coalition of the left, democratic and progressive forces - the working class and the progressive sections of the middle class (petitbourgeoisie) and the patriotic section of the capitalist class (bourgeoisie) - exercise state power.

My memorandum to Jacques Delors, President of the European Union, my Paper to the UN Hearing on Development and my Appeal to Heads-of-Government and others make the case for urgent radical reforms for a New Global Human Order - an Order providing for genuine North/South and East/West partnership and cooperation based on interdependence for mutual benefits.

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