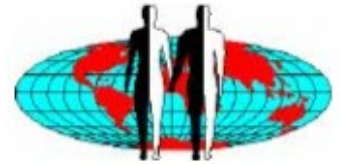


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BEWARE THE BOOM

The capitalist economy is continually cycling through booms and recessions. As the economy reaches a high production point and high profitability, investment, hoping to reap high dividends, enters the market to create expansion of production and cash in. Soon, however, the increased production outpaces the demand and production must be cut back to lower levels as a surplus of goods appears. This results in production lines and factory shut-downs, unemployment, and recession. Investment flees to greener pastures or hibernates waiting for new chances to capitalize. In the recession, the price of wages, raw materials, interest rates, and means of production falls, eventually making a new opportunity for buying these items. As the surplus falls, production becomes viable again and the economy climbs out of the recession into a steady production mode. As confidence returns, so does spending, creating, once more, good investment opportunities and boom conditions.

Hope springs eternal as good times arrive hoping they will last forever, no matter how many times we experience the boom/bust cycle. In the last decade we have witnessed the fall from star status to pariahs in Brazil, Russia, India, Ireland, and many others. Two more recent examples have been noted – Luanda, Angola, and Mongolia (*Toronto Star*, August 7, 2016 and September 24, 2016). As the price of oil and commodities soared a few years ago, Luanda

experienced a boom as capital rushed in. The government boasted 'a new Dubai' as glass sky-scrapers rose. Then, when oil prices crashed due to a world surplus, money fled and the Angolans were left to pick up the pieces. Hospitals have run out of necessary medical supplies and the families of the sick are left with buying them on the black market or doing without. Many thousands are dying from preventable diseases, although this is certainly nothing new for Africa. The massive wealth that is there when profits are to be made has no qualms about fleeing rather than saving lives. The country is now asking for billions to cope with the catastrophe. Angola relies on oil and gas for 45% of its economy and the low prices for these have dropped the value of the local currency resulting higher prices for imported necessities.

Wealth in the boom times became concentrated in the hands of the prosperous few and those who had connections with the government, as is normal in capitalism. The CEO of United, one of the country's top communications companies, for example, Isabel Dos Santos, who just happens to be the daughter of President Jose Dos Santos, in power since 1979, became Africa's first woman billionaire. She was appointed to head of the state oil company recently. Activists are asking how Luanda could have a thriving Porsche dealership and apartments renting for \$20,000 a month and so much poverty. Our response is, of course, that it is the normal operation of the capitalist mode of operation.

Meanwhile, Mongolia's robust \$12 billion economy is in serious trouble due to low world commodity prices. The bank rate has risen to fifteen per cent to prop up the world's worst currency, the Tugrik. The country's mineral wealth, mainly gold, copper, and coal, is estimated at \$3 trillion, but all this is meaningless until needed once again by the world economy. After a decade-long GDP growth rate averaging 8% and attracting investment, the bottom has dropped out. Some state workers are facing a sixty per cent cut in wages. The capitalists can sit on their wealth and weather the storm until the next recovery and boom. The lesson is that, for the worker, there is no security as the market will dictate what goes up or down and who can work. For humans to be controlled by a thing called *capital* is the height of absurdity and high time we put an end to it.

BOONDOGGLE ELECTION IN THE U.S.A.

Let's not mess around with words; the Americans have elected a raving jackass as president.

How was it possible? This man Trump is a racist, liar, sexist and has no experience in government, nor did he get the majority vote; in fact Clinton won by 2.5 million.



"10-year-old calls Donald Trump a moron"

nydailynews.com

Trump won by appealing to the fears and prejudices of many members of the working class – such as the Muslims may take over the country, illegal immigration must be stopped, (like putting a wall up on the Mexican border, and expecting the Mexicans to pay for it), and bringing jobs which have been outsourced overseas back to the U.S. He also did his so called cause some good by allegations of Hillary's illegal use of emails.

The most understandable thing about the election is the tantrum Clinton threw when she realized Trump would win. In the words of one aide, "she has a foul moth and a good throwing arm".

Had she won, there could have been no doubt she would have been in Wall Street's pocket. They didn't pour millions into her campaign fund without wanting something in return. Nor did she at any time appeal to the popular prejudices Trump did.

Would it have made a difference if Clinton had won? In small ways yes, but small ways don't cut it pal. If both candidates stand for a continuation of capitalism then the changes they make will be within the context of capitalism, which leaves untouched the cause of all the problems facing the working class. Choosing between these two capitalist stooges was simply getting Tweedledee or Tweedledum – they both were set to run the system in the interests of their class, not any U.S. workers.

The only votes worth casting are votes for socialism, which will strip the class that Trump and Clinton represent from their property ownership of the means of life and bring in a life of peace, plenty and prosperity. So to our U.S. worker friends to the south we say, next time fire the capitalist class from their positions of power and run society in your own interests – not the likes of a Trump or a Clinton.



Credit libertymaniacs.com

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT – *A mantra anathema to the capitalist mode of production*

As oil replaced steam in the process of industrialization, it became the most sought after commodity on the planet. The competitive nature of capitalism ensured that conflict and war would be the means of obtaining the rights to extract this liquid gold. Many corporations and individuals have made, and continue to make, vast fortunes at the expenses of the people and workers unfortunate enough to find oil beneath their feet. Oil has produced a cornucopia of products vital to our modern capitalist lifestyle. Yet, it is not vital to life on Earth for humans, animals and ecosystems. Water is. About seventy per cent of our planet is made up of water and every animal and plant relies on it for survival. Long after oil has ceased to become a viable commercial commodity, water will remain vital to life on Earth.

The capitalist mode of production has treated water simply as something necessary to production and has so misused and polluted it that today many of our waterways, seas, and underground sources are unusable. The growth of the need for water and the diminished amounts of clean water will ensure that wars will be fought over this necessary resource, if we continue in our current economic system. It behoves us, then, to see that we have a system in place that will reverse this trend and ensure that water is recognized as the important resource that it is and managed in a way that sufficient amounts will be available to all.

A *Toronto Star* article (August 27, 2016) gave us an insight into how we are doing now. In Ontario, and probably thousands of other places, governments have allowed large and small companies to extract large amounts of our water with the intent of bottling it and selling it back to the public. Since the idea of bottled water has been pushed into public consciousness as a 'must have' commodity, companies like the international giant, Nestle, have been allowed access to the Ontario's aquifers and draw as much as they please, and it pleases them to draw lots. And no wonder! Nestle's permits alone currently allow it to suck up twenty million litres

per day at a cost of \$3.71 per million litres, or \$74.20 per day. Each bottle sells for a dollar or two depending on size and location, making the water worth about \$30 million a day. Not a bad return for \$74.20! Of course, there are transportation and bottling costs but this must be one of the best returns you can get anywhere.

The money is just one part of the problem. What effect this will have on the water tables is quite obvious. A valuable resource is being wasted and, as water becomes more and more important, the enormity of this action for the sake of the vast profit of the few is just sheer madness. Then, nobody ever said the capitalist system is sane. It is typical of capitalist production to use up resources until they are no longer useful or gone, usually leaving local people in the area to clean up any mess left behind. In spite of capitalism, though, at least we can say that most extractions under it are turned into reasonably useful commodities. Bottled water, however, is a totally unnecessary commodity with the exception of emergency situations, and in its short lifespan has polluted our oceans and waterways with plastic bottles. It would be hard to justify the sale of bottled water. If sanity does not come to bear in the near future, many aquifers that farmers rely on to grow our food will disappear. That does not register in the corporate boardrooms of the world nor in the dividends received by investors but, in reality, it is just one more reason to get rid of an insane system.

CAPITALISM: A FETTER ON SOCIAL PRODUCTION

Today, Capitalism is so productive (indeed, overly productive) that it ends up producing more than it can possibly sell at a profit, i.e. overproduction. This results in much unnecessary waste and excess supply which capital is unable to absorb and sell at a profit. Yet it simultaneously restricts its abundant supply that it has already produced according to whether or not one is capable of affording it. Thus, real needs are neglected due to one's lack of money while capital produces many superfluous goods with no real demand, thus leading to excess waste that it cannot possibly sell since no one

wants or can afford to buy its goods. So while we make enough food and homes to feed and house the world, much of humanity must go without either since they are neither capable of affording these vital goods nor have any access to them.

By effectively restricting access based on one's purchasing power and income, capitalism ensures that our needs are not met. Needs are only met under capitalism when there is a profit to be made in it. Otherwise, they are neglected. The problem is not that we don't produce enough to meet our needs – we do. It's simply that our needs can never be met within a capitalist system!

Maybe it's time we get rid of a system that cannot and never will work in our interests!

In a world of universal free access and production for use, where the profit motive and money no longer holds, we can directly produce the goods we need and distribute them accordingly, i.e. socialism.

If capitalism restricts access to goods and service according to the criteria of money, and how much you have and are willing to pay determines whether or not you can meet your needs, socialism will ensure free and open access to all goods and services. Rather than the profit motive driving production, production will be driven solely for use-value, distributed freely according to need.

All goods and services will be freely accessible simply because as humans in a socialist society we would have equal access to that what we need and will produce ONLY what we need. No waste will be produced because everything we make will be consumed within a reasonable amount of time. Nothing would go to waste. Thus what we consume is a direct consequence of producing exactly what we needed in the first place. This is unlike today, where consumption and production are separate processes.

Under socialism, we will be producing AND consuming what we have produced and nothing else. We won't produce for profit and our consumption won't be restricted by the lack of money or scarcity of goods. We will also learn to conserve and use our resources in the most environmentally friendly manner.

Production and consumption will no longer be separate processes but integrated as a social activity whereby we reproduce our lives and overcome the dichotomy between production vs consumption. Humans will no longer be producing nor consuming beings but CREATIVE beings, recreating their lives each and everyday and without needing to worry again about economic, physical or social insecurity.

Creativity will finally take centre-place in our lives rather than the productivity for productivity's sake that today drives the busy neurotic lives of the average worker-bee in capitalist society.

“THE TRUE MEANING OF WEALTH”

Real poverty is spending a lifetime accumulating money and material goods and then calling this "richness".

Real *richness* is spending a lifetime accumulating a series of unforgettable human experiences and social relationships with other people and one's self.

Stop condemning yourself to the narrow fraud of wealth that capitalism suggests you already have for the expansive wealth of *life* that you COULD have if you were shrewd enough to exchange capitalism's fake wealth for the genuine thing.

All the wealth in the world is already here for us to take, in the air we breathe, the food we eat and in the relationships we enter freely with other people.

You waste your time trying to be "rich" as defined by capitalism when you already are rich in so many ways. You're rich in yourself, your unique experiences of the world, in the fact that you are a person with stories to share. And yet all too often you deny yourself your self-worth.

You look up to people who despise you and you look down at those who are "less" than you. You admire those who have what you want, and you hate yourself for not having them. By doing so, you overlook that you already have what you need, the most important thing in the world: to be one's self in the company of the society you live – Not the fake and abstract self of

capitalism's property-based fashion fool game, but the genuine self, a concrete self with real desires for life to share with all people.

And this is the one thing that no one can take away from you!

So frankly, I don't want to spend a lifetime miserably slaving away for people I hate, for values I despise, and working as a wage slave for a system of control I detest.

As Ruskin, a 19th century critic of capitalism well said it – ***“There is No Wealth but Life!”***

FORWARD TOWARDS A NEW COMMONS!

“We have reached a new milestone as a human family. With seven billion of us now inhabiting our planet, it is time to ask some fundamental questions. How can we provide a dignified life for ourselves and future generations while preserving and protecting the global commons - the atmosphere, the oceans and the ecosystems that support us?” - Ban Ki Moon

Every now and then we hear the doomsayers reminding us that the earth's resources are limited and that we must stop consuming so much or we will face extinction or worse. Socialists have never denied that the earth's resources are limited and that we cannot keep on infinitely consuming it with no end in sight. Given the terrifying proportions that climate change has taken in recent years and the inevitable shortages of resources we will face because of it (from water, food, trees, to arable land and so on) as well as the increasing intensities of natural disasters, (torrential floods, heat-waves and droughts and so on), it would be silly of us to deny that the earth has a limited carrying capacity and that this crazy situation we have unduly inflicted upon the earth cannot continue on forever. We face an absolute, natural limit to how much the earth can take before either we all go extinct or we advance to a higher stage of human development, world socialism.

Never before has the choice between socialism and barbarism of capitalism been so stark as it is now in today's completely insane world!

Instead, what we find disagreeable are those who tell us that the earth's resources can only be conserved by limiting everyone's consumption. Unlike some moralists, we socialists have always insisted that we can both protect and preserve our environment by ensuring a world where everyone is capable of meeting their own needs. Thus, we see no conflict between a world of material super-abundance and one that takes great care to make sure that those resources will always be freely available for everyone to use and enjoy while preserving and maintaining them for future generations by making sure that the Earth's environment will be protected and advanced.

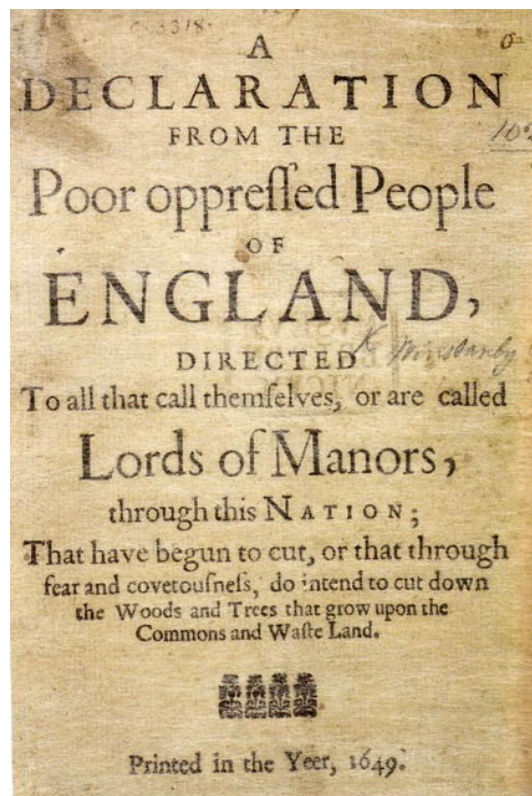
It is not human consumption but the system of capitalism that is at fault for worsening the problem of climate change and its ensuing effects. This system of exploitation with profit as its ultimate motive can do nothing but exploit to more obscene proportions our labour and our common world for its insatiable desire to accumulate more and more capital even as the world is brought to the brink of a completely human-made disaster. The Earth suffers and we suffer. Who gains in the end but the capitalists?

So we reject the arguments of the moralists who tell us that we, the human species, are at fault for climate change. Instead, the blame can be directly pinned at capitalism's feet and its desire for greater and greater profits and NOT on the average worker who is just trying to make ends meet to feed himself and his family. Surely, we cannot blame workers for simply doing what all humans are required and must do in order to meet their need to survive! Such is the far cry from the capitalist, however, that engages in senseless levels of acquisitive, and entirely useless, accumulation of property and money.

Some doomsayers tell us we need to cut our own consumption in order to conserve our resources. We socialists believe otherwise. We believe that in a world of common ownership where the world's resources are shared and owned in common by society as a whole, we would collectively make the right decisions to conserve our resources instead of driving them to the ground like capitalism today. We can do all of this, while still being able to meet all of our needs, by ensuring free and open access to all services and goods. No one will have to pay a single dime to get what they need.

Further, the average worker consumes very little today in relation to the amount he produces from his own labour. Many workers go hungry or are unable to pay for rising rents and healthcare costs even as the capitalists gain more and more profit, so much so that they have no clue what to do with their excess profits but to hide it in offshore banks and other secret tax havens around the world.

With socialism, none of this would be a problem because why on Earth would we be so idiotic as to bring the source of our very own wealth, the world as our common heritage, to the brink of exhaustion? This would be incredibly stupid and downright suicidal. But with democratic decision making, we can and must collectively come to a wise decision: that the only way that we can meet our needs in a greater and greater scale is if we decide to carefully conserve and maintain the very source of our wealth, the Earth itself so that we will have more and more of it for future use.



So what we're aiming for is a new commons, like the commons of old, these are the resources that are shared and accessible to all (such as water, land and clean air but also housing, food and the means of production and

distribution). Indeed, there is even talk of a digital commons where knowledge and information is openly and freely available to anyone who has access to the internet and which anyone can use and re-use for their own purposes. Unfortunately, these digital commons remain within a capitalist framework, and while free and open to anyone to use, it is unfortunately reserved only to the those who know how to use it. Furthermore, there is still no social commons since housing, food and other material resources continue to have a price attached them – as commodities which are exchanged for profit, not use-values produced in order to meet our own needs. Clearly, these basic material resources must also come under the definition of the commons under socialism.

A new commons will include both the natural and the digital commons and together would form a new world commonwealth whereupon all of our common human heritage will be owned collectively by us as a whole, eliminating the need for exchange as all will have access to the means of life and no one will be denied their basic needs simply due to not having money. So a socialist commons will expand the definition of the commons to include all the world's resources, all of our wealth put together to form a truly global commonwealth where every person will contribute to the enrichment of everyone and where no one will ever again have to make do with nothing simply because their needs are denied to them by the fetters of money and property.

Only we, the majority of workers around the world, can collectively make the wise decision to create a commons that will meet the welfare of everyone, because this future lies within our hands. So why not seize the day now so we can live a future brighter and better society than the one we have now?

GET THEM TO WORK ON TIME - AND CHEAPLY

On October 2 The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) said two things that do not bode well for the future, but what does? It's going ahead with plans to eliminate guards on its subway trains despite claims from the Amalgamated Transit Union that it would be unsafe.

The TTC plans to spend \$62.3 million on modifications to platforms and trains that will allow drivers to operate the doors and monitor them via CCTV cameras.

They claim the investment will pay off quickly because cutting the number of workers on line 4 from 30 to 19 and on line 1 from 359 to 190 will save them \$18.6 annually. The Guards are there for safety, to deal with medical emergencies and stop fights which endanger passengers. Though the top brass at the TTC are not capitalists in the accepted sense of the word, nevertheless they are part of its administration and therefore behave like capitalists, meaning "If we can save a buck and make a buck, piss on the passengers". It should be borne in mind that the capitalist class need a mass transit system so they can get workers to their places of exploitation. The fact that it has other uses is merely incidental.

The TTC laid another nice surprise on us by announcing that next July the collector booths at the stations will be empty and the TTC's collectors will be allowed to roam free in their new role as Customer Service Agents or CSA's. Each CSA will have a tablet computer and Apps ready to deal with the riders' needs. When not helping them they will be inspecting stations, doing light cleaning work and first line maintenance. It sounds a lot like getting two workers to do the work of three, which a lot of government departments and private companies have done.

Most passengers will buy the Presto cards from the machines. Brad Ross, the TTC's main mouth said, "This is all about modernization. It's all about the customer being at the core of all we do". Sure Brad and the fact the TTC will save \$5 million a year has got nothing to do with it. He added that no workers will be fired, but positions will be eliminated through attrition – if someone dies, quits or retires they will not be replaced. The only thing that needs replacing is capitalism, but since we live under it expect more of the above in other areas of work.



WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

Anyone can clearly see the World is in one hell of a mess.

Global Warming continues unabated causing havoc to the weather. One only needs to switch on the weather channel to hear about floods in places separated by thousands of miles.

War continues in the middle east as workers who have no stake in the matter fight for the capitalist class's need for oil and natural gas.

In Asia young girls are being forced into sex slavery. Thousands of Women are being raped in Asia and Africa.

Almost every day there is a civilian bombing somewhere, the one in New York on September 16th being a typical example, while other Religious fanatics freak out into violence such as the stabbing in Minnesota also in September.

The war in Syria, which has caused 30,000 deaths, continues and the refugee crisis gets worse. More than one million refugees have fled South Sudan's ongoing civil war, overwhelming Aid Agencies and creating one of the World's worst humanitarian disasters. South Sudan joins Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia as countries that have produced over one million refugees. It is impossible for the countries they try to gain admittance to find them jobs and homes.



Credit bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868

Disease is rampant and some viruses have become resistant to modern medicines. On the rise again is Black Fever which is transmitted by Sand Flies and

afflicts the poor in India, South America and Africa. If untreated, and many won't be, the death rate is 95 per cent.

Hunger, homelessness, lack of sanitation, lack of water and lack of medicine are World wide and not just in third World countries. On September 15th, Hector Macmillan, the Mayor of Trent Mills, Ontario, attacked the provincial government because he couldn't get treatment for Pancreatic Cancer. All one need do is to go to an emergency ward in Ontario to see how the Health System doesn't work.

ISIS continues with their violent program of war on the "Evil West", while they enslave indigenous populations.

In Britain the Brexit Vote caused Trillions of dollars to be lost on the stock exchange in three days, just because workers can't decide who they want to exploit them, a British capitalist or a Continental European one, some choice.

The authorities all over the World continue to fight a losing battle against drugs. Between 2000 and 2008 the U.S. spent \$4.3 billion to combat Colombian drugs. It costs \$940,000 (US) to eliminate a single kilogram of cocaine from the U.S. market via pesticide crop spraying.

Racism is not merely continuing but becoming a World wide epidemic, especially considering the upsurge of Anti-Semitism. Anyone who doubts that should study Daniel Goldhagen's book, *The Devil That Never Dies – The Rise And Threat Of Global Anti-Semitism*. It's always an indication the economy is in a shambles when the Jews are blamed.

Human rights are being trampled on everywhere. There is not a country on this planet where the people's democratic rights haven't been violated to one extent or another. The racist connection is obviously there when many scream blue murder at the Israeli government, but remain silent at human right abuses in other countries. As for Israel - when Jews leave it saying it's too dangerous a place for a Jew to be, it's a clear indication that the concept of a Jewish State hasn't worked.

Civil unrest continues: the recent events in Turkey, where a democratically elected Prime Minister is

behaving like a dictator, is a typical example. The companion parties of Socialism are the only ones who point out that elected governments are sometimes as brutal as Dictatorships.

Bankruptcies continue and sometimes they cause the ridiculous situations only a cock-eyed system like Capitalism can cause. On September 7th The Hanjin Shipping Company went broke leaving \$14 billion (US) worth of goods adrift on their ships, while suppliers to the companies like Nike and Hugo Boss were frantic to get T-shirts and sneakers from the ships in time to profit from the fall market.

Outsourcing of manufacture to third World countries so the capitalists can hire cheaper labour and not be bound by stringent health and safety regulations continues. Not only does this create unemployment at home but weakens the unions.

Technology increases at a fantastic pace which in a sane society would be wonderful. The trouble is capitalism and sanity are scarcely on nodding terms. It is now possible, through 3-D Printing, to make your own shoes at home. Just think of the unemployment that will cause. Think also of the civil unrest there will be all over the World when there are more people unemployed than employed.

Someone recently handed me a leaflet in which the Chinese government is accused of killing political prisoners for their organs. To quote David Matyas, an international human rights lawyer, "China is not the only country with human organ transplant abuse. What's different about China is it's institutionalized, it's state run, it's party directed. It's not a few criminals in back alleys trying to make a fast buck. If that's true, it proves how low the political upholders of Capitalism are prepared to sink.

Crime is increasing to a point where it cannot be stopped or even held at bay. One only needs to see the rates in any big City to be aware of it. The rates of crime in Toronto years ago was such people called it, "Toronto The Good," no one would say that now.

Those who have read this far will have noticed how frequently this writer used the word "continues". This is because Capitalism does continue in its insane drive

toward environmental destruction and the breakdown of civil order. You may ask what can be done to prevent it within present day society and the answer is nothing of any major and lasting benefit.

At the time of writing World leaders are meeting at the United Nations in an attempt to deal with the above issues, particularly the war in Syria. It is safe to say they will achieve minimal success. Whatever the problems may be, first and foremost the heads of governments responsibilities will be to the interests of Capitalism in the countries they represent. So expect nothing from them and you won't be disappointed.

Soon there will be an election in the U.S. The choice between a guy who is hell bent on making a fool out of himself and a mature woman is no choice at all since they both stand for a continuation of Capitalism, the very system that has created the above problems, and since it has, it's pointless to expect they can be solved within it.

This doesn't mean they can't be solved. A system of society where the tools of production are commonly owned and administered, where wealth is produced for use not profit, is the only answer.

It is to be hoped that when the Working class of the whole planet realize they must co-operate in order to survive they will establish Socialism.

If they do not it will mean the end of the human race.

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PROSPERITY TODAY - POVERTY TOMORROW

Our indefatigable friends at the *Toronto Star* never quit in their desire to expose the social ills Capitalism creates, showing clearly its contradictions and absurdities, but stop short of drawing the logical conclusions. Probably, the most logical thing about Capitalism would be its abolition.

The '*Star's*' heading of September 19th was a "Report Shows the Aging Face of Hunger in Toronto." The article focuses on - "Who's Hungry", the Food Banks' Annual Report.

It states that adults over 45 years old, made up over one quarter of Food Bank users ten years ago, but today they account for 35% of those relying on Food Bank hampers. The over 45's made up one-third of the 905,970 visits in 2015-16, according to The Daily Bread Food Bank.

"Stagnant welfare rates mean, those who have lost their jobs, or have become disabled, are struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food in the city," said the report's author, Richard Matern.

Seventy per cent of the older adult food bank users, had some serious disability or illness. They were working within the last ten years, but lost their jobs and were forced to rely on social assistance.



Credit secondnexus.com/social/food-banks-and-diabetes/

The composition of Food Bank users destroys the myth of "If you want to get ahead, get a good education." Twenty-two percent of users have a post-secondary education, while 36% have university degrees.

One user ran a business selling Christmas trees. After it went belly-up, he developed spinal stenosis and is unable to walk. The \$770 he receives monthly from the Ontario Disability Program doesn't leave much after he has paid for rent and utilities.

Not all food bank users come from low income areas. Since 2008 food banks visits have spiked 48% in Etobicoke, North York and Scarborough. This writer's wife works at one in Mississauga, a relatively prosperous part of Canada. Though figures are not available, the lady has spoken to many who once had businesses and well-paid jobs. These folk, without exception, feel the pain and humiliation of having to ask for help.

Across Canada more than 850,000 adults and children rely on Food Banks every month, including 360,000 in Ontario and 45,000 in Toronto, according to Food Banks Canada.

The fact that most users once had no need of food banks, proves that there is no security within Capitalism - another good reason to abolish it.

CANADA THE LAND OF PLENTY

A survey conducted recently by the Canadian Payroll Association found that 48 per cent of respondents said it would be difficult to make ends meet if their paycheck was delayed a week. Forty per cent said they spend all or more of their take-home pay, while 9 in 10 carry some form of debt. One in ten said they don't think they will ever be debt free.

Fifty per cent of all Canadians are draining their bank accounts between pay periods and many are adding to the debt levels to cover expenses as they grapple to survive in an uncertain economy. Twenty-five per cent said they wouldn't be able to get \$2,000 together in an emergency.

Patrick Culhane, the C.P.A's President, said a significant percentage of working Canadians carry debt, have a gloomy view of the economy, are fearful of rising interest rates, inflation, and the cost of living.

The most common type of debt cited by respondents was their mortgage - 26 per cent, followed by credit card debt - 18 per cent; car loans - 17 per cent and a line of credit - 16 per cent.

Ontarians seemed to be more pessimistic than people in other provinces; 42 per cent said they feel overwhelmed by their level of debt, which is higher than the national average of 36 per cent.

Meanwhile the survey found one-third of Canadians expect the economy to improve in the coming year. This could be a case of wishful thinking as there is no sign it will, especially as the Canadian economy shrank by 1.6 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

Though many economists try to paint a proverbial rosy picture that things will improve soon, now some view it as pointless. They are worried that non-energy exports are not rebounding as expected when the Canadian dollar started its recent decline against the American one.

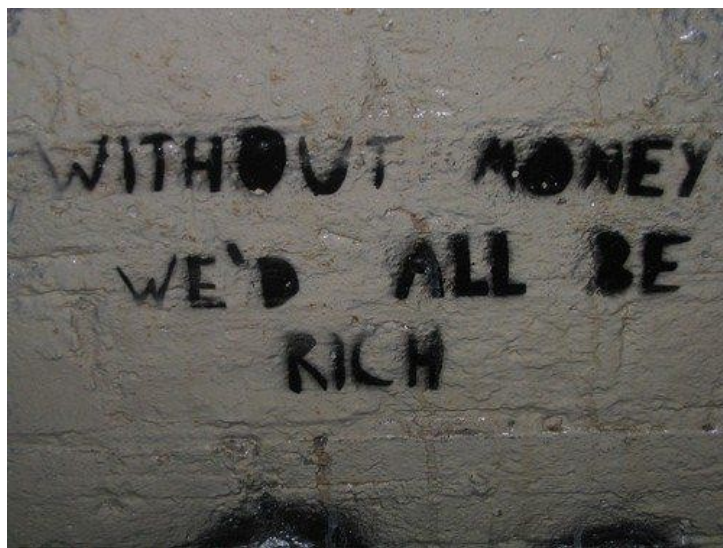
The Bank Of Canada, on September 7th maintained its near historic low overnight lending rate of 0.5 per cent, but was not optimistic the economy would improve during the rest of the year. It warned against households taking on too much debt, considering the large mortgages folks in Vancouver and Toronto are taking on. This is a housing bubble that will soon burst. According to "Your Real Estate Market In Review" for August and September, "This is a bubble, a very big bubble and it's going to end in tears." It further states, "There are nine markets considered at risk from rising prices, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Montreal and Victoria. This is a clear indication that things will get worse before they get better.

The emotional strain of being in debt is bound to cause additional problems. Some turn to drink to soothe their nerves which only compounds the problem by the money spent on it - a real vicious circle. No one knows

the exact figures of marriages that break down through debt, which has a devastating effect on the children. The plain fact that the economy is unlikely to improve soon exacerbates the pressures that debt holders are in. No one wants to live in a state of constant anxiety, but that is what many do.

There is one way to remove the tension so many in Canada and everywhere else feel and that very simply is the abolition of money. Yes you read that right; why don't we just get rid of the stuff? Many will think that anyone advocating its abolition should be seeing a shrink, but most of those on a shrink's couch would never consider a world without it. For most of the time our species has been on this planet we haven't had money. It came into use in Lydia c. 610-550 BC, because the production of goods and trade in the development of property based society needed something to facilitate the exchange of wealth. It has spread all over the world in the last 200 years as Capitalism extended its dirty tentacles everywhere. Even today there are isolated communities that don't have money and survive without it.

Some may argue that present day society is so complex that it needs a means to facilitate exchange, but what they really mean is Capitalist society needs it. Certainly a society where a propertied minority owns the means of life, and a property-less majority are forced to sell their labour power for wages to buy necessities, needs money.



Credit <http://radicalartinitiative.com/?author=2>

Many will read the above and say, "But who would go to work if they are not getting paid? -- society would crumble". Nearly everyone would work in a socialist society. Human beings are social animals who feel they want to be productive members of society. It is the madness and pressure of life under Capitalism that destroys mans' social feelings and fosters as desire for most to duck and weave from a brutalizing mode of economic swindling.

Imagine a world where one can work at whatever gives one pleasure, not at a job one hates – a world where money, mortgages and misery will not exist. It can come as soon as enough people desire it and organize politically to establish it.

OBSCENE AND HEARD

In the Greater Toronto Area in September chaos reigned galore on school buses as the new drivers couldn't adjust to new routes, screaming kids and irate parents. Many quit after two days saying they could get better paying jobs and with less aggravation at Tim Horton's or Walmart – just imagine that! – someone pays less than them. The bus companies who kept wages down so they could enter low bids to the Board of Education and get the routes, were left high and dry. Many routes had no drivers and the board are considering suing the bus companies. So here we have an instance of workers screwing their bosses - naughty naughty. It may be amusing to some, but it would be better if we had a world where nobody, economically, screwed anybody.

In Zimbabwe the A.T.M.s have run out of cash. Even the police and the army, agents of government control are not getting paid on time. Economic protests have increased and the capital had to be shut down. Yet Vice-President Phelekezela Mphko, whose family is a major shareholder in a chain of grocery stores, spends his nights in a \$1,000 a night hotel suite. Now we can't have the poor guy being homeless can we? His two million dollar mansion is not ready for him to move into. It doesn't change folks - a minority lives well at the expense of the majority. If you don't like it you CAN do something about it.

A lady wrote a letter to a Toronto paper complaining that since e-mail came into use she is working 24/7. When she returns home after a day at the office she gets a whole flood of them which she has to act upon. This just goes to show how the intensity of exploitation has increased. The reply from the "expert" was about how she could deal with it on a personal level. We socialists know better.

In September Warren Buffet took a one day loss of \$1.4 billion (U.S.) on his ten per cent stake in U.S. banking giant Wells Fargo and Co. after the bank was fined for allegedly creating a staggering \$2 million fake account to meet an internal quota. What is more staggering is the thought that his loss is loose change to Buffet while most people live in poverty. Isn't there something wrong in a society where such contradictions exist?

On August 24 Regal Gifts Corp., the direct marketing company known for its gift-wrap and gadgets, suddenly closed the day before the Christmas season was to begin. Sales reps. for the Barrie, Ontario based catalogue business, say they have not had any communication from the company. They claim Regal owes them thousands of dollars in commissions. All the staff were laid off within hours of reporting for work. These days workers don't get two weeks notice or the money owing them - things are getting worse.

The Toronto Transit Commission announced on September 18th, that in mid-2017 it intends to stop accepting all fares except those of the Presto card on which users put whatever money they want. This will mean big changes for dozens of drop in centres, homeless shelters and other social service agencies that distribute thousands of T.T.C. tokens to poverty stricken people each year. After support payment programs and disability pensions run out they don't have much left and rely on the tokens they get from drop-ins. To put it bluntly, those who are already screwed by capitalism will get screwed some more. Is there a better reason to get rid of it.

Early in September a 63 acre estate in Connecticut went on sale, the asking price being a mere \$175 million. The estate, once the property of the Ziegler family, which made a fortune in baking powder, has

been unoccupied for years. Think of the contradiction guys: people are homeless - a mansion is empty. Sanity doesn't come in anywhere, but why should it? We are talking about Capitalism.

The screenshot shows the top of The Wall Street Journal website. The main headline is "Connecticut's Great Island Seeks a Record \$175 Million". Below the headline is a large aerial photograph of a lush green island surrounded by water. To the right of the photo is a smaller image of a modern interior. The article is by Candace Taylor, dated Sept. 15, 2016. The page also features various navigation links and social media icons.

Source <http://darienite.com/63-acre-darien-waterfront-estate-now-up-for-sale-will-town-buy-it-14372>

Tough Times is a journal produced by the Peel Poverty Action Group in Peel County, Ontario (www.ppag.wordpress.com). The very name says what they stand for. In their issue of July - August we find the following, " Currently affordable housing costs Canadian taxpayers \$1.60 a week. Suppose that went up to \$2.10 a week. Do we, the Canadian taxpayers, believe this is a reasonable amount to contribute to affordable housing and a realistic solution to homelessness? I do."

The question isn't asked, " What happens when the Capitalist class, whose interests all levels of government represent, and which pays the bulk of all taxes, want them spent on something else, like weapons of war for instance. The author of the above gem, Michelle Bilek, is a member of the N.D.P. and therefore seeks a solution in the worse possible way, within Capitalism.



Socialist Party of Canada

Object

The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole.

Declaration of Principles

The Socialist Party of Canada holds:

1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labour alone wealth is produced.
2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle between those who possess but do not produce and those who produce but do not possess.
3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind, without distinction of race or sex.
5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.
6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into an agent of emancipation and the overthrow of plutocratic privilege.
7. That as political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interest of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.
8. The Socialist Party of Canada, therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and calls upon the members of the working class of this country to support these principles to the end that a termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

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