

Circle: The spiders web of Capitalism

Allah (swt) says:

“The parable of those who take protectors other than Allah is that of the Spider who builds (to itself) a house; but truly the flimsiest of houses is the Spider's house if they but knew.” [TMQ 29. Ankaboot: 41]

- ◆ The violence that flared in European capitals as anti-globalisation protesters clashed with police at May Day rallies demonstrates that people are beginning to realise the true reality of Capitalism.
- ◆ Capitalism is inherently exploitative. The Capitalist nations colonise others in order to reap the benefits for themselves.
- ◆ Their only consideration is that it achieves a material value for them, i.e. it achieves benefit, regardless of whether it agrees or disagrees with the spiritual, moral, or humanitarian values. These values are not a criterion for action in their view and they have no consideration in their actions, and their only criterion is the materialistic value, which is manifested by achieving benefit.
- ◆ This Western view of life has brought great disasters to the world. The two World Wars were a product of this view of life, because they were started to extend their influence, to colonise, to achieve benefits and to steal the wealth of other people. Other wars, e.g. Sierra Leone, etc are also a result of their contest to dominate the world.

“And those who disbelieve, their actions are like a mirage in a desert. The thirsty one thinks it to be water, until he comes up to it, he finds it to be nothing, but he finds Allah with him, Who will pay him his full due (hell). And Allah is swift in taking account.” [TMQ Surat an Nour: 39]

- ◆ People are beginning to realise the holes and problems that arise from Capitalism and its globalised colonialism. They feel the economic exploitation and social deprivation. This is in a world where there is no ideological challenge.
- ◆ When the Khilafah returns it will provide an ideological challenge which will lead to the spiders web of Capitalism to fall apart. People will practically see an alternative and a way out of the misery that they face under Capitalism. The disgruntled citizens of the West won't demonstrate with sticks and stones, rather they will embrace Islam and join the Khilafah's campaign to take the world from the darkness into the light.

Reference

May Day protests spark violence

May 1, 2001

Web posted at: 1:57 PM EDT (1757 GMT)

LONDON, England -- Violence has flared in European capitals as anti-globalisation protesters clashed with police at May Day rallies.

Police in London came under fire from a hail of makeshift weapons as they charged at demonstrators who had brought the centre of the city to a standstill.

In Berlin, around 6,000 people confronted police, who arrested scores of people and used water cannon to break up blazing barricades set by demonstrators.

In France, thousands of workers took part in traditionally peaceful May 1 marches in protest at recent job cuts by large companies.

Violence erupted in London after several thousand demonstrators were surrounded by police in riot gear on London's Oxford Street -- one of the city's major shopping areas containing many multi-national companies.

After hours of largely peaceful protest, in which police kept separated differing groups of demonstrators, the mood turned ugly.

Police charged demonstrators forcing them back only for the protesters to counter-charge as makeshift weapons rained down on police lines and masked demonstrators wrecked traffic lights.

Around 6,000 police officers had been ordered onto the streets to keep the crowds under control.

CNN's Paul Sussman said from the scene of the clashes: "Bottles, sticks and debris was hurled at police as they baton-charged protesters who had lit a fire on Oxford Street.

"People were driven to the floor as police charged the crowds. Several protesters lay with blood pouring from wounds.

"One group of protesters were penned in at Oxford Circus, and police told them they were being detained. Whenever someone was arrested, they were handcuffed and their faces photographed by police.

"Drums pounded, whistles were blown and shouts of 'bash them' rose from the crowd around the city, as the mood became increasingly angry.

"Punches were thrown and some officers retaliated by lashed out with their batons at protesters to drive them back."

Britons were outraged last year when a statue of Winston Churchill was daubed with graffiti and a piece of green turf placed on his head.

On Tuesday, barricades were erected round Parliament Square where workmen boarded up statues of Churchill and Abraham Lincoln.

London's Mayor Ken Livingstone was reported to have been placed under police guard as protesters gathered for the demonstration and some businesses in the capital had closed in anticipation of trouble.

Demonstrators had dubbed the UK protests May Day Monopoly after the famous board game.

One of the protesters' Web sites said: "Using the symbolism of the Monopoly game, diverse groups will perform autonomous actions throughout London relating to squares on the Monopoly board."

Water cannon fired in Berlin

In Berlin, Germany, police had turned water cannon on demonstrators before dawn on Tuesday in a prelude to feared May Day mayhem.

The demonstration had been banned by the authorities, but during the night about 500 protesters erected barricades, set fires and threw stones and bottles at police, who responded with water cannon.

A police spokesman said up to 40 demonstrators were arrested and several officers were injured.

CNN's Bettina Luscher said police and rioters clashed in two separate incidents in the east of the city.

She said in one a crowd of 6,000 people confronted police, while elsewhere another 500 were involved in clashes. At least 40 people were arrested and several police officers were injured.

In France, staff recently laid off from British-based retailer Marks & Spencer and French food giant Groupe Danone were given the pride of place at the head of marches throughout the country.

In Greece, flights were curtailed and shipping and rail services disrupted as public transport workers joined in May Day protests against government plans for pension changes.

Tens of thousands of protesters, many carrying banners and shouting slogans, turned the traditional May Day march through the streets of Athens into a strong assault on the government's proposed reforms of the pension system.

The demonstration followed a general strike last week that brought 100,000 people onto the streets, shutting down schools, hospitals and state services and bringing transport to a standstill.

In Russia, the news agency Interfax said more than 50,000 people took part in May Day rallies across Siberia and the Far East.

It said they were demanding higher wages, better working conditions, improved pensions, price controls and abolition of a single social tax introduced at the beginning of the year.

Protesters carried banners proclaiming "We need a second Stalin" and "No to the anti-national policy of the government."

In Italy, a scuffle broke out in the northern city of Turin after a small group of activists backing centre-right leader Silvio Berlusconi tried to join a leftist May Day rally.

Meanwhile, some 5,000 mostly elderly supporters of Bulgaria's main opposition Socialist Party marched in central Sofia to protest against poverty, rising crime and corruption.

Free Trade – U.S. Made

atmosphere of fear and uncertainty loomed in the streets of Quebec, Canada. Manholes were sealed up, vehicles taken off the streets, shop windows covered with plywood or metal screens. Residents stayed home and avoided the streets, shopping outlets closed for days. One may question, what was this in preparation of, an expected whirlwind? Or perhaps a wild thunderstorm? When considering that over 6000 specially trained police officers had gathered in the city, a security perimeter overlooking several streets made of up a concrete wall with barbed wire, and a fence was constructed stretching between 2 to 3 miles, one may conclude that this was in preparation of a civil war or a political coup.

Not true, all of this was in preparation for the expected 25,000 to 35,000 protestors, made up of organised labour, human rights and environmental groups. The skyline was filled with rocks, bottles and parts of the fence.

Some demonstrators wore goggles, gas masks and bulletproof vests. Some carried shields, chains, hammers, helmets and even small explosives. A small battle between demonstrators and the police ensued. Demonstrators protested against Capitalism at the third Summit of the Americas held in Quebec, Canada, where leaders of 34 countries arrived. The first two had been in Miami, USA in 1994 and the second in Santiago, Chile in 1998.

BACKGROUND TO THE SUMMIT

The agenda includes a discussion on improving access to education, the alleviation of poverty, strengthening human rights and democracy and the integration of economies. High on the agenda was a discussion on free trade, including a movement towards the establishment of a hemisphere-wide free trade zone across the Americas, known as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). The FTAA would be the world's largest free trade area. More than 783 million people produced more than \$11.4 trillion in goods and services in 1999, generating about \$2.7 trillion in cross-border trade. The concept of free trade suggests that trade between countries should take place without restrictions, customs duties or any barriers to imports. Accordingly, the state has no role in exports or imports and it is the market forces that set the rules according to this view. Moreover, according to this view a natural and automatic form of equilibrium would occur between imports and exports.

US INCENTIVES

The US does not hide its enthusiasm towards the FTAA, the question is why is the US more eager than its colleagues in the Western hemisphere?

"The single most important thing, this summit is a gathering of, by and for democracies and only democracies".

President Bush's vision, like his predecessors, is to see Democratic Capitalism reign, with the US leading the world. Hence, this vision is ideological, one that seeks to weed out non-Democratic Capitalist nations such as Cuba, the only country in the region not invited to the summit.

Bush went on say,

"We have a great vision before us: a fully democratic hemisphere bound together by goodwill and free trade."

The push for free trade brings about many benefits for US firms. One clear reason is the fact that it encourages trade between the nations in the zone, by reducing obstacles put in place by the various governments and hence allows for huge profits for the successful. However, as many demonstrators

would argue, this is pretty much one sided, since US firms have superior products, greater marketing and Advertising budgets. They are more likely to succeed in the markets of others. Firms, particularly smaller ones, belonging to weaker economies fear such increase in competition because of the limited resources available to them to fight back with, and because of their weaker currency in comparison to the dollar. Hence greater competition would exist in the weaker economies rather than that of the stronger economies, such as the US.

Another fear is that free trade comes with baggage. With the increase of openness in the markets, privatisation is another part of the package. Many fear that such resources would probably go to the US. This is because utilities are normally put out for bidding, the US with its stronger currency, and greater wealth is the natural candidate. The US is fully aware of the consequences of such policies. Developing nations will remain under the economic grip of wealthy nations and this will prevent them from building their economies on strong foundations. Such subordinate nations will only be useful as consumer markets for the goods of the wealthy nations.

US firms will also benefit from the exploitation of labour, particularly in those countries, which are lax about labour laws and hold no set minimum wage levels. The shift of employment to such countries will cause unemployment to rise in countries where labour costs more, however, this is not a fear for president Bush since pleasing Business Contributors are his main concern. Some may argue that at least this is creating employment for the poorer nations. To some extent this is true but the reality is that the 'research & development' and the 'know-how' will remain with the wealthy nations, only the labour will be passed over. Such a policy maintains US firms as innovators and investors, who reap huge amounts of profit, whilst poor countries only work for them and never learn from them. Had they been allowed to learn from them, poorer nations would have a chance of standing on their own two feet.

The reality of this association is to spread the Capitalist ideals to a point that they are enacted by all nations of the world, second to encourage trade for US firms, third to rival other trade zones such as European Union, fourth to establish a strong economic block that

can rival future potential nations and blocks, such as the Islamic State that will stretch from Malaysia to Africa, and rule over all the Muslim lands.

ISLAM REJECTS FREE TRADE

Islam categorically forbids free trade. According to the Islamic view, foreign trade is one of the relations between the State and other states, peoples and nations. Such dealings are all managed by the State and it is the State who would coordinate and administer such affairs, regardless of these being relations between individuals, or economic or trade relations. The Islamic State would permit the export of certain merchandise while preventing others. She would also supervise the issue of the belligerent traders and the covenanters, though she would only supervise her citizens in their foreign trading the same way as in their local trading.

The notion of 'free trade' stems from the concept of 'freedom of ownership', which is contradictory to Islam. Moreover, if the Khilafah allows such policies to take place in her lands, then it is inevitable that the Islamic economy will be overtaken by Western power, a matter which Allah (swt) has made haram.

“Allah will not accept for the Kafirren to have authority over the believers.” (TMQ 4:141)

The Islamic System encourages the state to be independent by transforming the economy into a production economy that depends on heavy industry, allowing the economy to develop. The Shar'a is not concerned about traded objects nor to its place of source, but to the trader, for the reason that the rules concerning wealth follow the owner of wealth, accordingly they apply to both. For that reason, any rule which relates to the owner would automatically relate to the wealth he owns.

Therefore, levies imposed on the trading commodities would depend on the traders themselves, regardless of the origin of goods and regardless of their type. Consequently, citizens of the Khilafah, whether Muslim or non-Muslims, are exempt from any form of customs. As for those with whom we have treaties with, the treaty will define the amount they have to pay, if the treaty stated exceptions for traders, then exemptions for them would take place.

As for the traders belonging to the belligerent nation, the Shari'ah rule is to impose upon him the same tax forced by his country upon the State's traders. When traders from such a country entered the Islamic State's land, the State would impose upon him what is imposed upon the traders of the Islamic State; however, such a policy is optional from the Shariah, not obligatory. In reference to the belligerent nation which is actually waging war against the State, no trade is to take place with them, even if that trade would not have helped support their war effort.

For a fuller explanation of the Economic policy of the Islamic State please read the book entitled 'The Economic System' by Taqiddin an-Nabhani, available from Khilafah Publications.

CONCLUSION

The push for the FTAA and other free trade movements is nothing more than a push for Capitalism and a means for the wealthy nations to exploit weaker nations. The US champions such causes only because a benefit is sought, not for the betterment of society as posed by the current and previous presidents. The cry of the demonstrators is a cry for their basic rights to be met, a cry for equality and justice.

Approximately 25,000 people gathered outside the summit in protest against Capitalism, some made up of labour groups, others from human rights groups and yet others from human rights groups, this is because all sections of peoples, from all backgrounds realise the falsehood of Capitalism and its failure to look after the affairs of mankind in a correct way. When the Khilafah is established, it will be people like these who will migrate to Islamic State, who will call for Khilafah in the Americas, and who will work for the spread of the Khilafah State in the Americas, just as previous nations did. It was indeed the unbelieving Buddhist of Western India (Pakistan) who fought along side the Muslims of the Khilafah against the Hindu's for the spread of Islam, but this was only after they saw the justice of the Khilafah.