

Global Competition and Exploitation

The world as we have come to know it, has within the last quarter of a century, taken on a new face, as economic recessions have continued to reap havoc. The rich countries of the world have had to reposition themselves as they attempt to maintain their economic dominance. There can be no disputing of the fact that the poorer nations of the world have suffered the indignity of becoming even poorer. The struggles of exploitation continue apace, and with this, the disadvantaged are basically the ones who have continued to feel the preverbal pinch of the shoe.

As a consequence of global financial meltdown, the large economies of the world have taken a hit. This has since been followed by the global pandemic known as COVID19. These two disasters have caused the superpowers of the world to stop, look, think and listen; or so it would appear. Whilst this may only be a temporary state, the reality is that they have been forced to go back to the drawing board, and to re-examine their outlook and strategies going forward. It is hardly unlikely that this would change their way of thinking or modus operandi.

The control which countries have exercised as the producers and distributors of the COVID 19 vaccine, speaks volumes to the how they are able to manipulate the market. It would seem that there are hell bent on profiteering. To a large measure, the poorer countries of the world are required to pay excessively for supplies of the needed vaccines. The inability to either source high volumes of the vaccines and at reasonable prices, places increase strain on governments' responses to combat the transmission of the COVID 19 virus; which is now the most dangerous threat to man's existence.

Should this come as a surprise to most? Those who followed the reggae legend, the great Robert Lester 'Bob' Marley, would come to understand the visionary that he was. He reminded the world that "Man to man is so unjust." If the world is to accept that 'man is his brother's keeper,' then it unacceptable that in a global pandemic, there would be claims made of the hoarding of COVID 19 vaccines and of price gouging. Reflecting on lyrics sung by Bob Marley, could this be a case that "Some will hate you, pretend they love you now, then behind they try to eliminate you." Using what may be seen as an act of injustice which is being perpetrated against third world countries by the metropolitan countries, this gives credence to the continued cries of exploitation and suppression.

Looking at the world as it stands, the imperialist powers take pride in sending signals that they are supportive of addressing the needs of the oppressed people of the world. Many of their political manoeuvrings would suggest that they are well intended and looking to bring comfort

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to the world. The political rhetoric would suggest that they are supporting changes in the world where colour prejudice and religious tolerance are denounced, and that political, economic and social enfranchisement are being pursued. Somehow, much of this appears to only to be cosmetic, as things remain in a state where the dominant world powers continue to dictate, control and pursue policies in which elements of marginalization and suppression are indirectly reflected. Moreover, what is politically intriguing, is that whereas the super powers of the world give with one hand, they willingly take back with the other.

The approach taken by the powerful industrialized nations, is one that is camouflaged more than anything else. The world's poorer countries are left in a quagmire, as they are virtually forced by their dependency on foreign aid, access to foreign borrowing and the acquisition of other logistical and geographical support, backed into a corner of having to tow the line and remain compliant. With the fear of being marginalized by way of being black listed or flagged as countries on the no fly list, the end result is a high level of insecurity and discomfort. This plays a significant part in reducing the possibility that dependent colonies and even sovereign nation states, would contemplate introducing any hard ball measures in an effort to counteract prevailing circumstances.

This is a part of the extended problem colonies of the British Empire and those transitioning into republican status continue to face. The inability to compete on the world market in a new globalized, industrialized and technological age, is simply problematic. As COVID 19 has dealt a severe blow globally, the industrialized countries of the world find that they are having to compete fiercely amongst themselves. As a consequence of being outpaced, undercapitalized and under resourced, third world countries and small island developing states are left as victims in a world of economic terror. The building out of vibrant economies that are not mono culture in nature, is urgently needed. The ability to compete in a globalized market will mean that rapid advancement is made in the areas of industrial and technological development.

In accentuating the progress to be made, a link ought to be made regarding the capacity of countries to reduce the potential brain drain. The human resource must be seen as the resource which is need to help make a difference to economic development and prosperity. Since labour is important and it matters, the time is more than ripe for a higher value to be placed on labour, and for clear signs that worker empowerment is on the cards.

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