

Why From Internationalist Democratic Viewpoint To Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint

1. From this issue, (i.e., the issue number 179, January 2003), the Internationalist Democratic Viewpoint transforms itself into Nature- Human Centric Viewpoint. This transformation comes from its present perception that Nature- Human Centric Viewpoint is the appropriate answer to the existing world fundamental reality. Which is that, while an extremely serious environmental-biological (including human race) crisis is posing an existential threat to the entire bio-species, all sorts of vested interests and their henchmen, fundamentalist trends, free style thinkers, etc., are creating ideological confusion, dividing the people into various factions.

2. The prevailing ideological confusion is obvious from the fact that, while the whole human community is in general agreement on the deadly nature of the above-stated life and death crisis, it is bitterly divided on its cause of origin. And, obviously, no solution of any problem is possible without identifying its cause. This sharp division on the proper diagnose of our most serious issue among different ideological formations has made the former (i.e., the fatal problem of enviro-bio crisis) more dangerous, on the one hand, and generated various types of new conflicts (political, economic and cultural) within the human community, on the other.

3. The various vested interests (denoting all those governments, organisations and personalities who uphold the ongoing world corporate system, now a standard model for all existing nation-states) are putting forth one set of theories: different fundamentalists (i.e., extremist adherents of free market philosophy and state-led development theory and fanatic devotees of different religious and spiritual faiths) are advancing their respective deterministic doctrines and the free style thinkers and activists are presenting their own thinking as the course of action instead of answering to the existing ground reality and its starting point. This position is further worse-confounded by the fact that the people, even if they know that something is going wrong, are unable to sort out its reason.

4. Among the various vested interests, the present US administration, standing at the head of the world corporate system, constitutes the principal trouble-shooter of the world. Today, it has become the self- assumed policeman of the world and wants the world to follow its way of life—i.e., its thinking, doing and organising of different things. Contrary to the interests of the world people and defying all international laws and traditions, it is pressurising one and all to agree with its propositions that all world problems today can be tackled through the military solution, that Kyoto agreement on reduction off GHGs be not ratified by world governments because it affects the generation of thermal energy in the US and thus adversely affects the lavish living-style of the American people, that the American citizens be exempted from the purview of the UN approved international criminal court, that all past non-proliferation treaties on nuclear weapons be abrogated so that the US may have the right to build its own anti-missile system and that the security council support the US demand to remove Saddam Hussain from power.

5. The reason behind the above-stated US assumptions lies in the US corporate philosophy of hegemonism or superpowerism. Which, firstly, holds that the theory of free market economy represents the natural order of human society and hence the US-led western corporate development model represents the acme of natural justice and is the most appropriate model for the emerging global order. Secondly, it maintains that the self-interest is the motive force in human society and hence the money and money owners, political power and its wielders and military force and its commanders hold the key to development, progress and prosperity, while people are nobodies and of little consequence. Thirdly, it considers that the emerging global order out of present day inter-dependent nation states needs an international super cop to lord over them. Fourthly, it believes that, given the present weak economic and military state of the UN, the US, having been the

invincible military and economic super power of the present day world, has the natural right to lead the world to maintain the normal order of things. Fifthly, it regards that this is the most opportune time to consolidate the US military and economic power and stabilise the US global leadership when the emerging regional superpowers, like the EU, China, Russia, Japan, etc., are relatively weak and unable to halt the US advance.

6. However, the myth of US military and economic invincibility is exploded by the emerging new realities. These, in brief, are: psychologically, the US today is the most disturbed state of the world where the fear of nuclear, chemical and biological attacks by the terrorists has become a nightmare for the entire US people; politically, a witch-hunt is going on against the people in general and the minorities in particular in the whole of America for tracing out the terrorists; economically, the US economy is sinking day by day, its growth rate goes on declining, unemployment continues rising to new heights, exports are falling, the international value of dollar in relation to major world currencies, like Euro, is decreasing and the state of stock and money markets remains dismal. Culturally, the targeting of certain particular ethnic communities has weakened the US social cohesion.

7. The regional superpowers are, despite their acceptance of terrorism as the main international threat, opposed to US unilateral world hegemonism. Having their respective concerns, they stand for a multilateral, like the UN, management of the newly-emerging global order.

8. Though the international corporate political chieftains stand divided. They are one in the general preservation and working of their common system.

9. The medium and small nation state managements, with a few exceptions prefer to remain on the safer side.

10. For the time being, it is the corporate agenda whose writ runs throughout the world. The reason is that there is no alternative agenda in the field, while the state-run model has already reconciled to its secondary role within the present dispensation.

11. Coming to the various fundamentalist trends, the principal free market philosophical protagonist today has been the Bush administration whose extremist jerks can be seen from the USA's terror-vanquishing policy of perpetual war against several so-called terrorist (as defined by the present US defence minister) countries one after the other; its theory of economic revival through the initiative of tax-cut exemptions amounting to billions of dollars (whose first instalment proposes a remission of more than \$6 billion) to the MNCs and its claim of a clean political conduct by enhancing the amount of donations to political parties by MNCs. While the free market philosophy occupies the central place in the world agenda today, its fundamentalist faction (like Bush administration) does not enjoy much support.

12. As to the adherents of the state-led development theory, they had already suffered an unsustainable loss in the collapse of the communist bloc (particularly in the former Soviet Union and China). Now, a few die-hards are, contrary to the world realities, wasting their valuable lives in the guerrilla wars in a few pockets within Nepal, India, Peru, Columbia, etc. Despite many sacrifices, the state-led theory carries no weight in the present world agenda.

13. With regard to the advocates of the religious and spiritual faiths, three brands stand out as the most notorious, i.e., the Hindutva in India, Muslim militancy in some Islamic countries and Zionism in Israel. Hindutva stands out for its dubious role which says one thing and does the other. This is, because the Hindutva agenda carries little weight in India and absolutely nil abroad. Muslim militancy holds its influence at several places, but it is not the dominant tendency anywhere in the Muslim world. Zionism is confined to Israel and has no influence outside. On the whole, the fundamentalist trends do not command much influence over the world agenda.

14. Turning to the free style thinkers, their pet topics incorporate a jumble of incoherent themes. Their common stand comprises only opposition to globalisation without defining its cause or its alternative.

15. Many of these gentlemen have left leanings, while a sizeable number has been under the western liberal influence. Some take a middle route, reconciling the positions of the two sides. There is no single lead here.

16. Organisationally they comprise various sects—political, economic, cultural, environmental, human developmental, voluntary and NGOs.

17. As a whole, they attract enough mass audience, but they are a divided house with each part having its own concerns.

18. Their agenda is a mix-up of various strands—like, debt and development, patent rights, foreign investment, human rights, poverty eradication, women empowerment, impact of globalisation on labour, peace and security, negative impact of globalisation on education, proper legislation for unorganised labour, environmental issues like water, climatic change, forestation, etc., action against the US-led global war on terrorism, trafficking of women and children, sustainable development, dalit empowerment, etc.

19. Obviously, such diffuse topics which can be managed within the ongoing system and do not reveal any of its fundamental defects, are not often excluded from the corporate agenda.

20. What response the afore-mentioned view of human world demands of this journal. It asks for clarifying the issue of right and wrong in our present context.

21. To judge the right and wrong in anything, science and logic suggest to observe whether its subjective perception is in agreement with the objective reality and its theory (i.e., its ends) corresponds with its practice (i.e., its means) and vice-versa; whether it is fair under all circumstances; adopts democratic style, peaceful means and consensus as the main forms of decision-making; regular elections, rotational office-bearers, free and frank discussion, involvement of all members in the formulation and implementation of the general line, etc., as the functional norms of organisation. All this helps in one's proper ego management and generating modesty in any organisation.

22. Going by the afore-mentioned general principles, it regards that its understanding of the existing fundamental world reality (i.e., the prevalence of a highly serious enviro-bio crisis) and its appropriate response (i.e., Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint) calls for its adoption of a goal that restructures (or updates) the current corporate system on the basis of Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint as the social truth of our times. This means that environment and humankind constitute its two top priorities and that it views all matters from the environmental-human angle.

23. The Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint lays particular stress on 5 issues: (a) Environmental sustainability, which means not only to conserve environment, but also to promote it; (b) Equity, which denotes fair equality and is insured by taking 3 steps—firstly, maximum income differences to be kept at 1:5 level, secondly, ensuring of social security as a fundamental right to all deprived, poor, unemployed persons, etc., and thirdly, all incomes in excess of 1:5 level to be deposited with a UN-controlled global fund which will lend it to appropriate ventures for economic development; (c) Productivity, which expresses growth rate or rate of wealth production and will be double as compared to the corporate productivity due to the greatly developed human and environmental resources, made possible by equitable incomes and social security for every one as a fundamental right, global peace and security, politics of peoples empowerment (particularly of women, workers and scientists-technologists) from the village to the UN level and all other economic, financial and trading global institutions, realistic and rational economics and culture of human and environmental values; (d) Democracy, which will make certain the maximum possible democratic structure by the empowerment of people and by restructuring politics on humanistic and environmental values; (e) Transparency, which will be established by making it a fundamental principle of governance.

24. Lastly, Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint demands the fulfilment of its main task by focusing on spreading its awareness among the people, then raising the level of public awareness to public motivation and further changing the public motivation into public rational thinking—thus resulting in the development of a rational human being and a reasonable and sensitive human community. It impels this paper to take the first step in this direction by transforming itself from Internationalist Democratic Viewpoint into Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint. 01-01-2003