

PROUT

A Journal of Proutistic Views and Neo-Humanistic Analysis

Organising Political Defiance to Success

Initial symbolic protest actions have at times aroused major national and international attention as the mass street demonstrations in Burma in 1988 or the student occupation and hunger strike in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989. The high casualties of demonstrators in both of these cases point to the great care strategists must exercise in planning campaigns.



GÁN GEYE JÁI,
NUTANER GÁN GÁI,
RKTHA RIKTA MÁNAVATÁKE,
RDDHA KARITE CÁI,
GÁN GEYE JÁI,
NUTANER GÁN GÁI,

MÁNAVA KE KLESHA DIYECHHE PRACÚR,
ÁÁ
MÁNAVA KE KLESHA DIYECHHE PRACÚR,
MÁNAVER VESHE DÁNAVA ASÚR
TÁDER KARITE HOBE ÁJI CÚR,
TÁI DÁK DIYE JÁI,
GÁN GEYE JÁI,
NUTANER GÁN GÁI,

MÁNUŚER GHARE JATA BHÁI BON,
ÁÁ,
MÁNUŚER GHARE JATA BHÁI BON,
HÁT DHARE SABE KARO ÁJI PANÁ
LÁRE JÁBO MORÁ JIIVAN MARANÍ,
MODER ÚNCU NIICU NÁI
GÁN GEYE JÁI,
NUTANER GÁN GÁI

I just keep on singing
Singing the songs of the New.
To humanity that has been robbed of its wealth
I want to bring true prosperity and happiness.

Those who gave so much suffering to human beings.
Those demons and monsters in human form
Today, in order to crush them completely
I go on sending forth my call (to you all).

(On this earth,) in this home for human beings
Today, every one of you
Raise your hands and promise
“We shall continue to fight all our life, until death
For us, there is no one who is high or who is low.”

(Translated from Bengali original)

Editor

A'ca'rya Santosananda Avadhuta

Contributory Editor

A'ca'rya Maheshvarananda Avadhuta

Editorial Board

A'c Vedaprajnananda Avadhuta

A'c Krsnasevananda Avadhuta

Sohail Inayatullah

Ganga Grace

Sarabjit Prakash

Correspondents

Kanhu Charan Behura

Rajesh Singh

Ravindra Singh

Business Development Manager

Amal Nayan

Layout & Design

Pranav Koul

Suman Kumar Jha

Head Office

Prout Bhawan, JC-48,

Khirk Extension Main Road,

Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

Mobile No. : 09212199658

Email : prout.am@gmail.com

General Manager

Ramkesh Choudhary - 9350860274

Circulation Manager

Rajiv - 09650055058

Rate (INDIA)

Newstand Price	-	₹ 25/-
Annual Subscription	-	₹ 275/-
Two Years Subscription	-	₹ 520/-
Three Years Subscription	-	₹ 730/-
Five Years Subscription	-	₹ 1100/-
Ten Years Subscription	-	₹ 1800/-

Overseas (BY AIRMAIL)

Annual - US\$ 45

Overseas (By Paypal)

US - US\$ 45

Others - US\$ 50

Payments in India may be made
by cheque favouring

Neo-Humanist Education Foundation

mailed to Acarya Santosananda Avadhuta,
JC-48, Khirk Extension, Main Road, Malviya
Nagar, New Delhi 110017

For outstation remittance from non
computerized banks/branches add
Rs 30.00 for bank clearance charges.

Or amounts may be deposited directly
to any branch of the State Bank of India
as per details below:

Neo-Humanist Education Foundation

State Bank of India

Malviya Nagar Branch,

C-30 Malviya Nagar,

New Delhi 110017

A/C No. 30379188250

IFSC SBIN0001493

Overseas remittances may be made by Paypal
using id prout.am@gmail.com

or electronic bank transfer referring above
details and **Swift Code SBININBB382**

Printed, Published and Edited

by A'carya Santosananda Avadhuta

on behalf of Neo Humanist Education Foundation

JC-48, Khirk Extension, Main Road,

Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017

and printed at Cyber Creations,

JE-9, Khirk Extension,

Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-17

Online link <http://www.proutjournal.co.in>

INSIDE

December 2014

27

COVER STORY

RESISTANCE STRATEGIES

Organising Political Defiance to Success

contents

08 SOCIAL DYNAMICS

Satanic Intellect

17 HIDDEN AGENDA

India Surrenders to
US Pharmaceutical Corporations

21 MEDICAL PREDICAMENT

India : Leading the World in Child TB

34 PANDEMIC

Ebola : CIA Project Codename MKNAOMI

37 HUMAN RIGHTS

Administration Hypocrisy in RTE

41 PROUT FUTURES

Neohumanism : The Only Road
into the Future

44 OPPRESSION

Forgotten Asian Labourers of World War II



21



34

regulars

05 EDITORIAL

06 LETTERS

07 INSPIRATIONAL

47 ACTIVITIES

For Enquiries Please Contact

Mob. : 9650055058, 9350860274

Email. : proutcustomercare@gmail.com

Fundamental Principles :

1. No individual should be allowed to accumulate any physical wealth without the clear permission or approval of the collective body.
2. There should be maximum utilization and rational distribution of all mundane, supra mundane and spiritual potentialities of the universe.
3. There should be maximum utilization of the physical, metaphysical and spiritual potentialities of unit and collective body of the human society.
4. There should be a proper adjustment amongst these physical, metaphysical, mundane, supra mundane and spiritual utilizations.
5. The method of utilization should vary in accordance with the changes in time, space and person and the utilization should be of progressive nature.

Democracy is defined as
“government of the people,
by the people and for the people.”

But in fact it is the rule of the
majority. Hence democracy means

“mobocracy” because the
government in a democratic
structure is guided by mob
psychology. The majority of the
society are fools; wise people are
always in minority. Thus, finally

democracy is nothing but
“foolocracy.”

- Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Danavata Ke Din Bhagao Acche Din Lao

(Chase away Demonic Days, bring in Good Days)

The fire of communal violence continues around the Indian body-politic and is being stoked and fanned to seek electoral benefits. During the recent festival of Deepavali (festival of light), Delhi the capital city of India saw for the first time in 30 years communal violence spilling blood on the streets. UP alone has faced more than 600 such incidents in the three months, 60% of them were in areas where local elections were to be held. Both in Delhi and in UP were generally restricted between Dalits and Muslims. Why? Perhaps from a belief that in the coming Delhi assembly elections Dalits could thus be angered and drawn away from the party they voted for during the last election. Police investigations post Delhi riots revealed the role of a former MLA and that small incidents were blown out of proportion to full scale riots, and attempts were made to fan such incidents elsewhere. In this very area of teeming mass of ex slum dwellers 30 years ago the anti Sikh riots took place. In both cases young men out of work were easily swayed to indulge in rioting.

But no one asks the simplest of questions. What kind of a society is it, where political parties murder their own citizens to win votes? What kind of a society is it, where one will murder innocent people because of the crimes of criminals who have the same religion as them? What kind of a society is it, which creates people who are ready to take out swords to kill their fellow citizens? What kind of a society is it, where both sides use the crimes of the other side to justify their own crimes? What kind of a society or democracy is it where political parties are controlled by religious extremists and then these extremists will give a list of demands to ministers and educators? What kind of society is it where people are goaded to kill brothers and rape sisters in the name of God, the Father of our Cosmic Family? Not only do people not ask these questions, there is no heartache in people's hearts when the children of their motherland are killed for no reason except their religion.

All over the world from America to Iraq to India, the latest strategy unfolding is to channelize the simmering rage of the victims of the current Global Economic Crisis into violence against minorities. These capitalistic agents (politicians) remain preoccupied with casteism, nationalism, communism, etc. confining their love to a particular social group or state, and do not feel any qualm of conscience in spitting venom against another social group or state. No one has the courage to name and condemn them, who behind the scenes are the real perpetrators of such heinous crimes against humanity.

Prout's founder Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar saw through all this game of politicians way back in 1958. "Instead of rectifying themselves, politicians want to accomplish everything through their grandiloquence. By identifying the weaknesses in others and by resorting to bombastic language, they incite one section of people against another so that they can usurp the seat of power and cling to it. Politicians want to poke their noses into every aspect of life: social, religious, educational, literary, etc. Human beings will have to remain vigilant against persons of this type".

Let us resolve to chase away such demoniac days of caste and religious ridden violence and bring in the good days of Prout oriented economics honeyed with the universal love of Neo-humanism into society.



RISE OF VIPRAS

Shrii Sarkar's article traces very simply the history of what ails our society today. The Vipras, (the intellectuals) who had the knowledge and power to do good for humanity instead used that for trying to better their own lot. Sadvipras of the future true moralists with pinnacled intellect are the only hope.

Arun Prakash, New Delhi

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

TN Das's article exposes the great economic divide in society. A very well researched and thought provoking article, which will be of interest to all readers of Prout. The graphic on page 18 says it all.

Tyagrajan K, Chennai

UNDERSTANDING REVOLUTION

An extremely crucial article for

today's times. People keep talking that revolution is the only answer to problems of the day, but few know what it actually means. Ravi Logan's piece provides many answers.

Joyce Smith, Oregon by email

EUTHANASIA : TO LEGALIZE OR NOT

Absolutely correct. It should never be legalized. Society must care for the elders and infirm without considering them to be a burden. It is in fact one of the hallmarks of a Proutistic Society.

**Klaus Campbell, Trinity
by email**

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The exhaustive report by WSS is an eye opener. The picture of the Dalit woman on page 33 shows what a woman is — noble and full of character. They must be regarded as

such by the men folk and sooner they give back women the rights they have usurped, the better.

Laxmi Sen, Bankurai

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

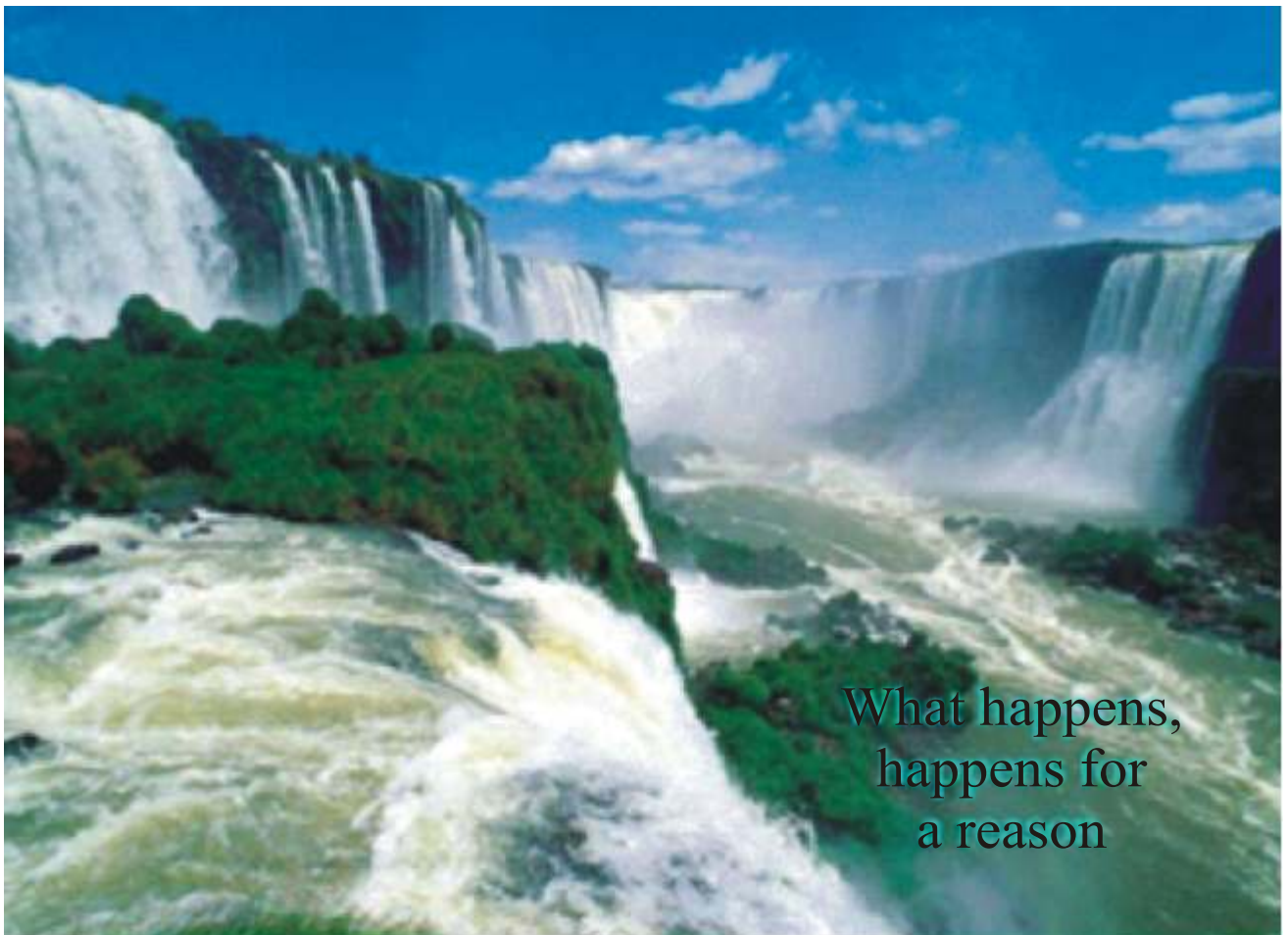
Bill Moyer's second and last installment of the series makes for interesting reading for students and activists of socially related problems. The eye catching image at the bottom of page 44 is very apt.

Rajesh Mathur, Lucknow

PATRIOTISM UNCHAINED

Sankara Narayan has hit the nail on the head. Those who cry foul on subsidies conveniently forget the indirect subsidies they enjoy themselves.

Apoorva Dixit, Khandwa



What happens,
happens for
a reason

Mother's Love

(A real life story in Vietnam)



Women and children take cover in a muddy canal under intense fire during the Vietnam War that lasted from 1955 to 1975

The Vietnam War broke out. Followed the heart, the young husband joined the military and sacrificed his life leaving behind his wife and kids. Life postwar was very hard, often with not enough food to eat. Still young and beautiful, the wife refused to remarry and dedicated her entire life to raise her kids with the best possible care and education.

An opportunity came, the first born son immigrated to America, studied hard and became a NASA Engineer having a good life. The son sent home letters often, together with much money for mom to spend, however, Christmas after Christmas, New Year after New Year, with the many excuses, the son stubbornly refused to travel home to visit mom.

When the mother died, the son returned and organized a big funeral but people did not see him shredding tears. Mother left behind a chest that she always placed at the top of her bed. During the funeral, the son opened the chest and suddenly burst into tears, sobbed, embraced his mother's coffin and screamed hysterically, "Mom! Mom!"

Everyone looked at each other and looked at the chest. It was full of \$100 dollar bills and a piece of paper that read, "*Son, I don't spend too much money. I miss you a lot. Every time I hear a motorcycle passing by, I run out the door but it wasn't my son. I saved this money for you in case when you get sick*".

Satanic Intellect

SHRII PRABHAT RANJAN SARKAR

History does not record the numbers of soldiers who died on the battlefield or how many of them saw their golden dreams fade into darkness under cannon fire. None acknowledge the kṣatriyas (Warriors) whose blood enriched the ground for the harvest of victory.

The development of human society that comes in the wake of the lustrous vitality of the kṣatriyas [warriors] becomes somewhat subdued among the vipras [intellectuals/priests]. That vitality gradually surrenders to intellectuality. The strength and sincerity demonstrated in the practical sphere by the kṣatriyas in their efforts to conquer matter and Consciousness is not matched by the vipras. Vipras certainly do use their intellect to try to acquaint themselves with Consciousness, but they do not try to conquer matter through the application of their own physical strength — that also they try to do using intellect as their capital. Through their intellect they use the strength of the kṣatriyas to conquer matter.

At the slightest sign from the vipras, major wars break out in different countries and states. The vipras themselves do not fight. By whispering of war in the ears of the king, they send kṣatriya generals into battle. Kṣatriya soldiers, running the risks for the vipras, wage war on

land, on sea and in the air. The vipras, understanding their physical and mental weaknesses, entice them with food or money, or inspire them with hollow, idealistic-sounding slogans, and land them in a holocaust.

Thus in the Vipra Age, kṣatriyas fight and die while shrewd vipra ministers receive triumphant ovations. This happens in every country where vipras play a dominant role. The names of vipra ministers are blazoned across the pages of history, but history does not

record the numbers of soldiers who died on the battlefield or how many of them saw their golden dreams fade into darkness under cannon fire.

When a vipra minister dies, the newspapers write it up elaborately. Condolence meetings are held; condolence messages come in by the thousands; flags are flown at half mast; and marble statues are erected at intersections in public parks. But the press will never acknowledge the kṣatriyas



Soldiers killed World War 2, over 60 million 3% of the world population was killed

whose blood enriched the ground for the harvest of victory. And actually, why should they? How can so many names be published in a newspaper anyway!

All the great warmongers, the great politicians of the world, belong to this vipra gang with satanic intellect. At their command, or due to their fiery lectures or diplomatic intrigues, millions of foolish shūdras have lost their lives and thousands of hot-blooded kṣatriyas have served as instruments in the slaughter.

The pages of world history reveal that all the crusades and jihads of the Middle Ages were plotted by these satanic vipras. Caught in their intrigues, the shūdras took the beatings; and the kṣatriyas fought as religious warriors, but never thought deeply about whom they were fighting for.

Was it only in the Middle Ages that this happened? In today's world also, satanic vipras, the protected agents of the vaeshyas (capitalists), have led and are continuing to lead millions of people along the path of death and destruction. Evil vipras are fanning the flames of the vaeshyas' insatiable, demonic hunger. Neither the shūdra (worker) masses nor the warlike kṣatriyas are responsible for the problem of the millions of refugees in different countries, or for the heart-rending cries of the mothers, wives, sons and daughters of the soldiers who died on the battlefields, or for the blazing flames of communal (religious) riots, or for communalism itself, as well as provincialism, nationalism and casteism. The responsibility lies with a small group of shrewd vipras who, out of petty self-interest, have instigated the shūdras and kṣatriyas to commit



heinous acts.

The meanness and brutality of such vipras enacted on a ghoulis graveyard dance, makes mockery of the vipras' intellectuality. In the Vipra Age the vipras drew power from this type of brutality, and through a staged display of black magic, vipras bestrode society. In the Capitalist Age the vipras commit similar sins in order to shine like fancy shoes on the feet of the vaeshyas.

Have vipras only exploited others? Although they have done more to exploit others than to serve them, and although their service was motivated by the desire to exploit, the list of those services has been considerable. The kṣatriyas conquered the physical world through fight, whereas the vipras wormed their intellect into the wealth won by the kṣatriyas. Whereas the kṣatriyas' intellect was only capable of obtaining objects, the vipras' intellect in the Vipra Age was able to devour them.

But even in the vipras' action of devouring, there is one speciality, and that is, although they demarcated [and limited] everyone's field of activity, they allowed people the scope to express themselves within that demarcated area. Even though the vipras exploited and enslaved the kṣatriyas, they did not curb their martial nature or deny

them the opportunity to display their heroism. And although they were reluctant to recognize the shūdras as human beings, they nevertheless allowed them an opportunity to survive. In the history of human progress and of the effort to establish human superiority over matter, we would be overlooking an important fact if we failed to mention this speciality of the Vipra Age.

The Idea of Supernatural Phenomena

The vipras (priests/intellectuals) were successful due to their intelligence. They not only defeated the kṣatriyas (warriors) in intellectual battles but also filled them with awe. Whatever primitive human weaknesses the kṣatriyas were unable to overcome, the vipras would take advantage of to exploit them and the rest of society that is, the shūdras (workers) and this goes on even today.

Whenever they would intellectually defeat the ordinary people, the vipras would cleverly introduce the idea of supernatural phenomena in order to achieve their objectives. In reply to the question, "Where do people go after they die?" undeveloped people had themselves developed the

concept of ghosts as the answer. Any frightful or distressing events of the everyday world that could not be understood were attributed to ghosts. The vipras capitalized on this fear of ghosts by becoming exorcists and tricking the vaeshyas and ksatriyas out of their money. Did not the intelligent vipras know that if a ghost is a mental creation, "possession by a ghost" must be just a mental disease? Whether we know the causes of paranormal events or not, they certainly have nothing to do with ghosts.

Knowing full well that a person who is possessed by a ghost is suffering from a mental disease and a disease of the nervous system, exorcists generally beat a "possessed" person to reactivate his or her nerves, make him or her inhale the smoke of burnt chillies in order to return him or her to consciousness, or use numerous psychological techniques to cure his or her mental disease, but they never disclose to anybody what they are actually doing. Instead they inarticulately mutter meaningless mantras and even today make people believe that, due to the force of their psychic power or so-called Avidya (estrovartial) Tantra sadhana [black magic], pretasiddhi [power to control ghosts] or pishacasiddhi [power to control evil spirits], the ghosts and demons will be compelled to flee.

Exorcists tell stories about the various supernatural activities of ghosts or about offering food to manes (ancestors) at Gaya to make a patient concentrate his or her mind. The patient's concentrated mind may then break the branch of a tree or crack a parapet of the roof, but the vipra exorcists

claim that such occurrences are caused by the fleeing ghost and are proof of the power of their mantras. Actually ghosts never kill people, only vipras do.

Indeed, vipras earn considerable amounts of money from the public by preaching about the tremendous importance of religiosity and not straying from the path of religiosity.

Visions of gods and goddesses or so-called saints are the same type of phenomena as possession by ghosts. Don't vipra priests really know that those who receive medical guidance or divine revelations by prostrating themselves before a temple or a saint's mausoleum for days together without taking food and water, actually experience nothing more than the workings of their own intuition? Had the vipras not known this, they would not have persistently stressed the importance of faith to their followers. Vipras understand that when through faith, the crude mind reaches the realm of the subtle mind and the subtle mind reaches the realm of the intuition, it is the intuition, the innate repository of infinite knowledge, that enlightens the intellect. But the person who receives the medical guidance or divine revelation believes that it comes from the deity he or she was worshipping. If one's faith is not strong enough there will be a lack of concentration and the intellect will not be able to cross the threshold of the *aham* [ego] and enter the realm of the intuition. Consequently it will not be possible for the person to receive medical guidance or a divine revelation from his or her so-called deity. Vipra



priests understand this and tell those with little faith, "You had better go. Your prayers will not be answered." Had the deity actually been watchful, the question of the presence or absence of faith would not have arisen; everybody would have received medical guidance or a divine revelation.

Deception and Trickery

Intellect controls crude physical force. Therefore ksatriyas (warriors), who have both intellect and physical strength, make the shudras (workers) work according to their will either at the snap of their fingers at bayonet point. And vipras (intellectuals), who are physically weaker but intellectually stronger than the ksatriyas, control the ksatriyas' [trigger] finger and raised bayonet through their sharp intellect.

The vipras' victory is intellectual victory; it would be meaningless without the support of the ksatriyas' swords and the shudras' back-breaking labour. In fact, vipras use their nerve cells almost exclusively in their

fighters; they make very little use of their nerve fibres. The work of the nerve fibres is done by the obedient ksatriyas and shudras.

Many major wars have been fought in the history of the world. Millions of unintelligent shudras and thousands of unintelligent but brave ksatriyas have lost their lives, but the laurels of victory have always gone to the vipra ministers who have never so much as glanced at a battlefield from a distance. Ask any historical analyst, "Who won victory for Great Britain in the Second World War?" and he or she will immediately reply, "The Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Churchill." He or she will never mention the millions of British soldiers who fought for Britain with the last drop of their blood, or the hundreds of thousands of scientists, artisans, technicians, clerks, doctors and military officers who saved the prestige of Britain through their tireless efforts. It was as if the combined endeavours of millions of such people, the movements of their nerves and muscles, became eclipsed by the intellect of Churchill.

On that day in medieval history that the ksatriyas, the rulers of the shudras, laid their bows and arrows at the feet of the vipras and agreed to be their slaves, all the power of their personalities became caught in the net of the cunning vipras. That historic moment was the starting point of the Vipra Age, the era dominated by the vipras.

But did the ksatriyas surrender their vigour and martial skills in a sudden way? No, it took a long time. The vipras gradually used their intellectual power to bring the activities of the comparatively dull-witted ksatriyas under a

kind of psychic control. The ksatriyas surrendered exactly at the point where the intellectual pressure of the vipras had brought their powerful personalities under control.

The vipras (priests) had scientific minds, and when they knew that some type of natural calamity or beneficial natural event was about to occur, they would present those events to the ksatriyas as expressions of their supernatural powers. The ksatriyas (warriors) would be filled with awe and think that if the possessors of such miraculous powers cursed them, a disaster might befall them, but if the vipras blessed them, they might be able to conquer the world. Spellbound by such thoughts, the ksatriyas surrendered all their abilities to the intellectual power of the vipras.

We find in the history of that period that in the event of some conflict between the vipras and the less intelligent members of society, the vipras, who had studied astronomy, might discover that a

solar eclipse was about to occur. They would utilize this knowledge to defeat their opponents, saying, "The world will soon be covered in darkness due to the power of our curse." After some time the eclipse would occur and the world would become dark. Their opponents would believe that it was really the result of the vipras' curse, and would surrender to them in a state of fear and panic.

The vipras deceived the ksatriyas in many such ways; sometimes they made use of ordinary stage magic to achieve their ends, and sometimes they confounded the ksatriyas by psychological means. However, it took the vipras quite some time to learn their tricks; hence they did not gain domination overnight.

The Gotra-Pravar System

In the early stages of ksatriya (warrior) dominance, a group of shudras (workers) would form around an individual ksatriya. Later, when the vipras



(intellectuals/priests) began to become dominant, [at least] one ksatriya group would form in the same way around an individual vipra, or so-called wise man. Needless to say, there would in turn be many shudra groups around each ksatriya group. Each ksatriya group would adopt a *gotra* [clan] name according to the name of the vipra leader around whom the various groups clustered, and also a *pravar* [ancestral lineage] name according to the name of a deputy vipra leader. Thus evolved the *gotra-pravar* system which still prevails in Hindu society. When ksatriya groups adopted vipra names according to the *gotra-pravar* system, that was the beginning of the end of the Ksatriya Age.

With the acceptance of vipra dominance, a new social system evolved centering around the vipras. This social system allowed the exploitation machinery of the vipras to run unrestrained. The administrative machinery remained in the hands of ksatriyas, who were bootlickers of the vipras.

Ksatriya (martial) society in its early stages had been based on the matrilineal order. Later, as mentioned, male dominance developed, bringing with it the patrilineal order. In the course of time, as the vipras became dominant, the *gotra-pravar* system came into being.

Spiritual Advancement

Vipra dominance meant purely and simply intellectual dominance. The vipras made use of every means at their disposal to maintain their dominance while at the same time putting on a show of honesty and spirituality. A fine performance indeed. Through their grandiloquence they could very well exploit the innate weaknesses of the



common people.

Although vipras were proud of their learning and wanted to lead society, their aristocratic status did not result from that desire. Though their aversion to manual labour turned them into a kind of social parasite, they tried to establish themselves socially by performing social service and disseminating knowledge. This redeeming quality of a handful of vipras awakened in the minds of the ksatriyas (warriors) and shudras (workers) a special type of love for vipras. Because of this love, even though they were exploited, they did not bother about it. They thought, "What is the harm if the vipras take a part of what I've earned through my bravery, strength, intellect or physical labour."

The belief that serving vipras (priests) was the stepping-stone to heaven became firmly rooted in their minds. Regardless of whether this belief was good or not, it helped to build and maintain the solidarity of society.

The vipras tried to maintain their dominant position and continue their exploitation by

extolling their own greatness. Although most common people could not understand why, their devotion to the vipras or to the spirituality propagated by the vipras helped them to progress spiritually and to assimilate sublime ideas. It would certainly be inappropriate for people to hold a grudge against the vipras and refuse to recognize this important fact.

The ksatriyas fought to defend themselves, to protect others and to create a social legacy. The vipras utilized all their intellectual power in the intellectual field to protect the mentally undeveloped ksatriyas and shudras, so that with their help they themselves could survive, and their own professional needs, subsistence and security would be taken care of; and so that they could become the supreme rulers of society.

The vipras' total application of intellect made them debaters, logicians and metaphysicians. Such mental expressions addressed neither the spiritual world nor the physical world

particularly. On the one hand the vipras used their logic and verbosity to exploit society and present themselves as righteous, and on the other hand their ideology refuted the humble dogmas of the shūdra masses and encouraged people to move towards the subtler psychic realm.

Those treading the path leading towards the subtlest realm, whether they were shūdras, ksatriyas or vipras, provided spiritual inspiration to the human race and developed spiritual philosophies. It was possible in the past, it is possible today, and it will be possible in the future for sadvipras to emerge from this section of society.

In the process of criticizing the vipras, we must not overlook the fact that human fraternity, universalistic intellect, the [efficient] use of material wealth, and the peak of mental attainment were contributions of the Vipra Age. It should also be remembered that the Ksatriya Age began the process of seeing humans as humans, and the Vipra Age, in assessing the value of humans, gave more importance to intellect than to physical existence.

Social Codes and Religious Scriptures

The onward march of [vipra] intellect -- in order to put the social system built by the ksatriyas on a basis of collective welfare -- many times destroyed and then rebuilt the structure of that system. The vipras would continually write new social codes, basing those new codes on different factors such as environment, social needs, human nature, post-war social reactions, and the blood-mixing of different groups. In order to maintain their control, they had based their machinery of

exploitation on so-called spiritual scriptures which they declared to be superhuman revelations (supposedly given by God alone and not by human beings) and therefore immutable. Nevertheless they did recognize that it was necessary to change the social system in order to meet the needs of the age.

In this regard it is an incontrovertible fact that the vipras (priests/intellectuals) were more broad-minded than the ksatriyas. Time and again in their social system the ksatriyas (martial rulers) had demonstrated a kind of obstinacy characteristic of foolish dictators; whereas the vipras at least did not make this mistake. The reason for this is quite clear. The prestige of the ksatriyas derived from their dictatorship, and so by any means they wanted to maintain this system. But the prestige of the vipras was based purely on intellectual supremacy, and so, after ensuring that they had sufficient scope for intellectual exploitation, they considered it expedient to keep pace with the requirements of the age.

If the vipras had admitted that the scriptures were written by human beings (such as those written by the Hindu lawgiver Manu), they would have lost their scope for

exploitation. So they chose not to do this. But if they had claimed that their social scriptures (or social codes, or *smṛti shastra*) were divine revelations, they would have missed out on the means of exploitation that were available in that era. This is why the vipras accepted that social codes could be changed.

The vipras were inclined towards intellectual exploitation. Regardless of what they constructed or destroyed, they always made sure that they had sufficient scope to exploit people. The intelligent vipras understood that the path of exploitation was not the path of rationality and therefore they never walked that path, leading the ignorant instead down the path of blind faith. So when they set themselves to formulate social scriptures, they did so with an eye to their own convenience. Instead of supporting their views with rational arguments, they propagated high-sounding religious injunctions. That is why the degree of genuine humanity found in the ksatriya social and matrimonial systems did not increase in the social and



matrimonial systems of the vipras. The vipras merely covered what genuine humanity was already there with a veneer of religious fanaticism.

Cultural and Religious Exploitation

The vipras' culture included music, dance, arts and crafts. It emphasized the sharpness of the vipra intellect rather than the sentiments of the human mind, so the down-to-earth sentiments of ksatriya (martial) culture were substantially lost.

The vipras' culture was not for the common mass. No doubt it stimulated the nerves of a small handful of people, but it could not move in step with the general masses. Vipra artists wished, through their intellectual brilliance, to conquer the world. Through their poems, dramas, writings and drawings they induced common people to pay homage to the superiority of the intellectuals. But the ignorant people could not understand these big things. The common people thought, "What we cannot understand must be something great," and with this mentality fell obediently at the vipras' feet.

At times when the intellectual art and literature of the vipras failed to convince the common people of their greatness, the vipras (priests) composed countless fanciful Puranas [mythological tales], stories about gods and goddesses that satisfied their own standards, and colourful mythological tales, all designed to dazzle people's eyes and confound their intellects. They also warned the masses that if they failed to follow the teachings of these stories, or doubted their veracity, they would most certainly go to the

"When the white man came, he had the Bible and we had the land. Then he said, 'Let us close our eyes and pray.' When we opened our eyes, we had the Bible and he had the land."

- Jomo Kenyatta

deepest level of hell.

Everything in the practical world has some value as well as some defects. The ksatriyas, as an expression of their *svabhava dharma* [natural characteristics], had thought deeply about how to increase their numerical strength, and as a result — quickening the pace of human beings' struggle against Nature — had not only laid the foundation of the vast edifice of human civilization, but had also flung themselves into the task of constructing the walls. Similarly, the vipras' expression of their natural characteristics induced them as well to increase their numbers, and for that reason increasing the number of their followers became one criterion of their vipra-hood. Of course in order to succeed in swelling the ranks of their followers, the vipras had to develop a due amount of proficiency; and their efforts to develop it served to build the roof on the edifice of human civilization.

Phallus worship had been invented by the primitive, uncultured ksatriyas (warriors) as a symbol of increasing their population. The cultured vipras (priests) now interpreted it in a new way. They contended that the *linga* was a symbol for Parama Purusa [Supreme Consciousness] and the *piitha* [vulva] a symbol for Prakrti [Supreme Operative Principle]. The interpretation the vipras gave was, *Liungate gamyate yasmad talliungam* ["The entity from which everything originates (and towards which everything is moving) is called *liunga*"] or *Yasmin sarvani*

liiyante talliungam ["The entity in which everything merges is called *liunga*"]. When examining the history of phallus worship one should not only consider the mentality of the ksatriyas, but also give due consideration to the mentality of the vipras. However, the vipra interpretation has no relation to reality. Phallus worship belonged to primitive ksatriya society.

And not only phallus worship; most of the gods and goddesses described in the mythologies of different countries were representations of actual ksatriya leaders. People in the Ksatriya Age worshipped these gods and goddesses out of fear and devotion. Indra, Agni, Varuna, etc., of the Vedas had been mighty ksatriya leaders. In the Vipra Age they came to function as gods after winning the support of various scriptures.

The undeveloped ksatriyas would worship all those leaders, or "gods", by offering them their (the ksatriyas') favourite foods in order to propitiate them. After those leaders' deaths, all such food would be burnt in a fire, thereby going to waste, for the supposed satisfaction of their souls in heaven. Even in the Vipra Age, good-quality food and drink was destroyed by offering it to an imaginary god in a sacrificial fire. Moreover, the vipras received a commission for doing this.

Later, after the vipras had

fully established their dominance in society, they began to receive more than a mere commission. A sizeable part of the offerings intended for the sacrificial fires was not burnt, but found its way into their storerooms. That is, the shúdras (workers) and ksatriyas had become totally subservient to the vipras. Taking advantage of their tyrannical power and superior intellect, the vipras used every means to consolidate their system of exploitation. Regardless of whether a ceremony was concerned with religious practices, charitable activities, the first step in a child's pursuit of knowledge, harvesting crops, marriage, a baby's first solid food, commemoration of the dead, or anything else, a share in the [anticipated] benefits had to be offered to the vipras, otherwise the ceremony would not conclude in *karmasiddhi* [attainment of one's desires]. And the vipras themselves had to be feasted and paid, otherwise the ceremony would not produce any result.

The vipras (priests) also adopted the different gods and goddesses that had been born out of the fear complex of the masses

in the Shúdra and Ksatriyas Ages. (For example, they adopted Daksínarāya, the crocodile-god or tiger-god of South Bengal; Visahari or Manasá, the snake goddess of snake-infested areas; Shiitalá, the goddess of smallpox; and Olái Candii, the goddess of cholera.) They also composed various types of dhyana mantra for such gods and goddesses; prescribed according to their own needs the specific materials that should be used for different kinds of worship of those deities; and, conveying strange commands from the deities at odd times, took to fleecing people out of donations, *daksíná* [sacerdotal fees], *sidhá* [uncooked food given in exchange for a priest's services] and various types of materials to be used for worship.

Another interesting thing about this is that in referring to the gods and goddesses created out of their fear complex, the shúdras (workers) and ksatriyas (warriors) used colloquial language, while the vipras, in order to establish their supremacy and prove their intelligence, erudition and close relationship with God, used ancient languages. They always tried to make the masses believe that they, the masses, did not have the right of

access to God, but had to go through the vipras (priests). In other words, the vipras had a monopoly as agents in such matters.

The vipras (priests) have invented and are still inventing new ways of exploiting different communities of people in different parts of the world. In some places they have lured people with the prospect of eternal heaven, injecting into them at the same time the fear of eternal hell. By claiming the doctrine of some particular vipra leader to be the word of God, they have blocked the natural expression of the human intellect and made people intellectually bankrupt. With the intention of permanently securing for themselves, an exalted position in the eyes of the ordinary people, some vipra leaders have proclaimed themselves to be the incarnation (avatára) or the appointed prophet of God. Through their own so-called scriptures, they have indirectly let the common people know that no one can achieve the same proximity to God as they — so that an inferiority complex will remain forever in the minds of the masses, and due to this inferiority complex, the masses will always follow their teachings, either out of fear or out of devotion. That is why even intellectual people have fallen into their trap and have been compelled to say, *Vishváse miláy vastu, tarke vahu dúr* ["The goal is achieved not by reason but by faith"] or *Majhab mein aql ka dakhil nahii haen* ["There is no room for reason in religion"].

Even today there is a group of vipra (religious intellectuals) who keep shouting about "religious education", or rend



the air with their calls for a "religious state", but what they really want is to entangle the minds of children, which are naturally inclined towards rationality, in a net of religious superstition, so that later they will become puppets in the exploitative hands of the vipras.

If God is considered to be the perfect ideal, it will have to be accepted that God is always just. Even though God loves everyone, He punishes sinners. But it can be said that when He punishes sinners, His aim is not to give them pain but to rectify their behaviour. In my opinion, this concept of God is the highest concept. If God is considered to be the Universal

"To counteract the malevolent effect of dogma-centred philosophies, the two most important factors are the development of rationality and the spread of education."

-Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Father, He should not have any racial, national or communal feeling, or any other type of limited feeling. If this is true, how can the vipras contract that the soul of a certain dead person will reach heaven?

I have heard that in some communities vipras claim to have the key to heaven. People even say that for the donation of a sum of money, vipras will sing akhaṇḍa kiirtana [constant chanting of the name of God] on behalf of the donor to ensure his or her passage to heaven. It is said that if others sing spiritual songs and kiirtana in the donor's name, the donor will receive the benefit and go to heaven. What a wonderful philosophy for condoning sin!

Anyway, we can see that vipras never have missed an opportunity to exploit human weaknesses, nor do they miss such opportunities today.



India Surrenders to US Pharmaceutical Corporations

The decision to set up the joint committee with the US is a complete sell out to the US interests because India had decided not to cooperate with an earlier investigation by the US International Trade Commission (USITC) into India's IP issues.

✳ G. Pramod Kumar & Mike Ludwig

With the hype of his Madison Square Garden show overshadowing everything else, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit was dubbed as a great bilateral victory for India. As the popular consensus went, Modi wowed both the Indian Americans and American politicians and even managed to get a joint op-ed article with President Barack Obama in the *Washington Post* stressing the importance of the partnership between the two countries.

Was it really a huge socio-economic and political success for India? There can be two opinions about it, however at least in one extraordinarily crucial sector, India is going to terribly lose. The agreement with the US in this sector will threaten India's sovereignty and the lives of its present and future generations. The sector in question is Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Take a look at the **following text from the joint statement** by the US and India after Modi met with Obama:

"The leaders discussed their concerns about the current impasse



in the World Trade Organization and its effect on the multilateral trading system, and directed their officials to consult urgently along with other WTO members on the next steps. The leaders committed to work through the Trade Policy Forum to promote a business environment attractive for companies to invest and manufacture in India and in the United States. *Agreeing on the need to foster innovation in a manner that promotes economic growth and job creation, the leaders committed to*

establish an annual high-level Intellectual Property (IP) Working Group with appropriate decision-making and technical-level meetings as part of the Trade Policy Forum."

The devil is in the detail. It talks about a high level bilateral working group on intellectual property. While India has been proud of its intellectual property regime, that abides by multilateral agreements such as those at WTO, and TRIPS flexibilities, why should it have a

committee to discuss it with the US? Moreover, the decision comes at a time when activists in India have been demanding more robust action on intellectual property rights, particularly in the pharma sector so that more people can access life-saving medication.

The decision to set up the committee is a complete sell out to the US interests because India had decided not to cooperate with an earlier investigation by the US International Trade Commission (USITC) into India's IP issues. The investigation was titled 'leave apace Trade, Investment and Industrial Policies in India: Effects on the US Economy', and the USITC had even conducted a public hearing. The investigation was necessitated by a joint letter by the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means in August 2013. In their Joint Letter, these Committees requested USITC to prepare a fact-finding investigation report on India by 30 November 2014.

On IP protection and enforcement, the letter, said: "India has not yet taken action to fully and effectively protect and enforce copyrights, including in the digital environment and has applied its patent law in a discriminatory manner, particularly against innovative US pharmaceutical companies, so as to advantage its domestic industries". It also said that "Beyond any particular action India has taken, the Government has enunciated a broader policy objective to develop and support Indian domestic industry by forcing foreign firms to use local facilities and suppliers and to transfer their intellectual property to Indian entities."

In 2000, the cost of treating one person with anti-retroviral drugs was about \$10,000 a year, posing a significant challenge for humanitarian groups fighting HIV/AIDS in developing countries. Then, in 2001, the price of HIV/AIDS treatments suddenly dropped by 96 percent, as generic

drug manufacturers in India began competing in the anti-retroviral drug market. At the time, India's patent law excluded patents for life-saving drugs, ensuring that market competition would keep the prices down for Indian consumers.

"These generics have been a game changer in terms of being able to provide medical care in developing countries," said Judit Ruis, the US policy advisor for the Doctors Without Borders' Access Campaign.

"It's an issue of survival for us and an issue of survival for our patients," said Ruis, who told Truthout that 90 percent of the 11 million people living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries are on generic drugs, most of which come from India.

"In the US you can get a patent for just about anything, but then if you change the drug a little bit, you can get a whole new patent," said Matthew Kavanagh, a senior analyst for the Health Global Access Project (Health GAP).

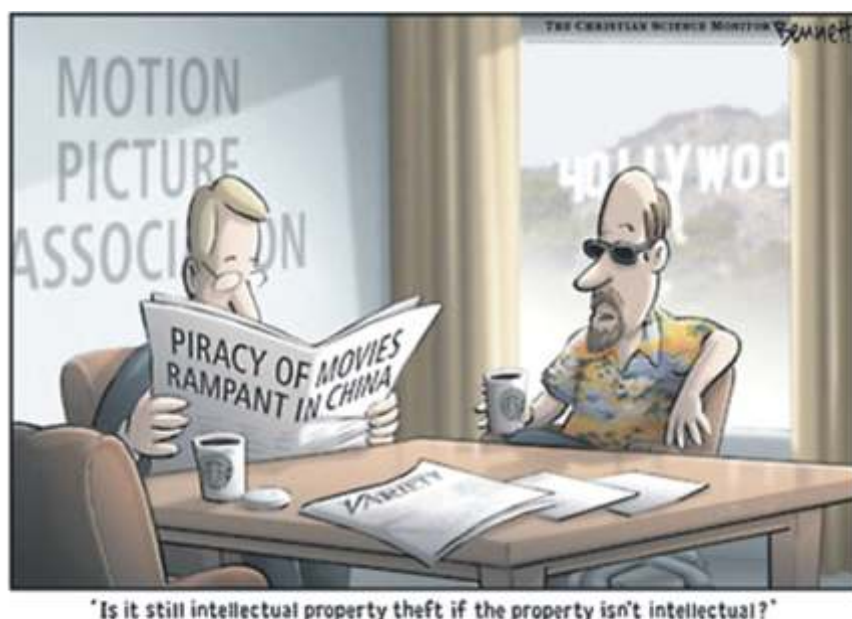
Kavanagh noted that US drug

companies could maintain a market monopoly on a drug for years after the original patent expires by patenting a "long-lasting" version, for example, or by simply changing the delivery method from a pill to a dissolvable capsule. Health GAP estimates that India produces about 40 percent of the generic drugs sold in the United States, and ironically much of US-funded aid to HIV/AIDS efforts in Africa and across the developing world is spent on generic drugs from India.

PhRMA, the leading lobbying group for the drug makers in the United States, has spent nearly \$132 million lobbying Congress since 2008 and ranks fifth among the top spenders in Washington, according to the MapLight campaign finance database. A Truthout review of the group's lobbying records confirmed that "intellectual property" and "market access" issues related to trade with India have been among the organization's top issues when lobbying Congress, the White House and the Department of Commerce.



"Your problem is in the gene that makes antibodies, but since the Biophase Corp. now has a patent on that gene, I can't do anything for you."



The latest push from PhRMA and its allies came in late September, as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his first visit to the United States to meet with President Obama and prominent business leaders.

PhRMA is a member of the Alliance for Free Trade with India (AFTI), a coalition of manufacturers ranging from the music recording industry to agrichemical companies that also have gripes with India's intellectual property laws. In the days before Modi's visit, AFTI sent a letter to Obama urging the president to push Modi on economic and intellectual property reforms, including changes to "guidelines that present a clear bias against the granting of biopharmaceutical patents."

AFTI has spent a total of \$240,000 on lobbying Congress and the State Department in 2013 and 2014, according to campaign data from MapLight. The group exclusively hired lobbyists with the firm Akin Gump, which provides lobbying and legal services on international trade, intellectual property and other issues.

Akin Gump and its employees top the list of 2014 contributors to Sen. Ron Wyden's (D-Oregon) campaign committee, with \$61,533 in total donations, according to the

Center for Responsive Politics (CRP). Akin Gump also donated nearly \$20,000 during the 2012 election cycle, and the drug company Amgen Inc. and its employees donated \$26,000 in 2014.

Wyden is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, and is one of four members of Congress who helped put mounting diplomatic pressure on India by requesting that the International Trade Commission launch a special investigation into India's trade policies in 2013. As Prime Minister Modi arrived in Washington in late September, Wyden and his allies filed another request to the commission demanding a second investigation into "India's trade policies that discriminate against US trade and investment" to build on the first.

Joining Wyden in the request is Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who has received \$341,600 in campaign contributions from pharmaceutical manufacturers since 2008 - more than any other member of Congress. Since 2012, Hatch's campaign war chest has received more than \$105,800 from Merck corporation and its employees, \$117,000 from Amgen and \$44,000 from Pfizer.

The out-of-cycle review of India's trade policy comes only

months after the US Trade Representative once again placed India on its "priority watch list" of countries of concern in its annual Special 301 Report on the intellectual property regimes of US trading partners. Both moves amount to the threat of economic sanctions, according to Health GAP and Doctors Without Borders.

"We are strongly concerned," Kavanaugh said. "The 301 watch list is basically a threat of trade sanctions. With the USITC investigation and the pressure from domestic lobbies - both political and economic - it was very clear that the US wanted Indian IP policies to change in such a way that it benefited the most. For the Americans, it has been a thorn in the flesh that obstructed their free-wheeling trade practices. The most dangerous aspect of the proposed committee that India has agreed to is the empowerment for decision-making. Why should the US be allowed a role on India's decision-making responsibilities in IP?"

One of the worst hit areas, if this committee moves forward and makes decisions that tinker with the existing IP policy, will be the pharma industry. In the recent past, the country has seen how a conducive IP policy, that doesn't violate international conventions, has greatly helped millions of people who are in need for urgent modern medical care. The compulsory licensing (in simple terms, breaking the patent of an MNC company because of domestic medical needs) of a couple of drugs have brought down their prices manifold and there is demand for more such decisions from healthcare activists. The US pharma lobby has been wrongfully going to town against such decisions saying that India doesn't respect patent and innovation.

It was the existing IP policy that helped build India's pharma industry, which now is the lifeline for not only the country's healthcare needs, but also that of most of the developing world. This regime is extremely crucial for ensuring an



enabling environment for the pharma industry because it is still not capable of developing new drugs on its own given the poor resources at its disposal.

For the manufacturing sector, the present Patent Act is important to access technology, particularly the climate friendly technologies that the joint agreement is talking about. Regarding agriculture, India's existing regime is important by denying patent to seeds that otherwise would tie farmers to the

stranglehold of MNC companies. The existing regime is also favourable to Indian biotech companies.

Ever since the Indian Supreme Court dismissed Swiss pharma company Novartis patent plea for its cancer drug Glivec last year, there has been intense pressure on India from the US pharma companies. The US industry and trade bodies have tried to depict India as an IP-rogue whereas the reality was that India always complied with multilateral

agreements that it was party to.

The Supreme Court order that rejected the Novartis plea was remarkable for its vision, when it said: "We certainly do not wish the law of patent in this country to develop on the lines where there may be a vast gap between the coverage and the disclosure under the patent; where the scope of the patent is determined not on the intrinsic worth of the invention but by the artful drafting of its claims by skillful lawyers, and where patents are traded as a commodity not for production and marketing of the patented products but to search for someone who may be sued for infringement of the patent."

The ITC investigation was a result of the pressure from the US lobbies and the Indian government (under Manmohan Singh) rightfully refused to cooperate with it. Now, by agreeing to a joint committee that will oversee Indian patent policy, India has dangerously opened its policy space to the Americans.

It certainly augurs to be a tragedy for India, Indians and the world.

I believe it would be right for common sense to revolt against the extreme claims made today on behalf of intellectual property. What the law demands today is increasingly as silly as a sheriff arresting an airplane for trespass. But the consequences of this silliness will be much more profound.



(Lawrence Lessig)



INDIA

Leading the World in Child TB

TB has a straight linkage with poverty and working conditions. With the discontinuity in regularly getting adequate nutritious diet, the immune system in the human body weakens and the TB bacteria proliferate and disease ensues.

✱ Sachin Kumar Jain

The annual report released by the Central Government year-on-year on situation of tuberculosis or TB in India is invariably titled as *TB India*, (with year as the subscript). The one for the current year is titled as *TB India 2014 : Situation of TB in India and Tuberculosis INDIA*: In fact, these two connotations meant to define and express the title, completely alter the context and the seriousness that the subject entails. When we look at the situation of TB and its prevalence, we find the title given in the government reports is quite apt. Tuberculosis is no longer a disease afflicted only with poverty. Now its genesis is traced to a deprived/distorted lifestyle and that it thrives on the wastelands of the so-called newer arena of development that the country witnesses today. In India, as many as 3.3 million persons are suffering from one or the other type of TB and that annually 276,000 lives are lost due to tuberculosis. As many as 9.4 million cases of TB are detected worldwide every year. India accounts for more than one-fifth of the same at about 1.98 million. Two

to three per cent of the newly detected cases are also found to be drug-resistant and when the patients abandon the course of treatment midway, this proportion of non-resistant cases rises to the range of 14-17%.

The Lancet, which is the world's oldest and leading medical journal and publishes original research articles on health and medicines, has published an extensive research paper focusing on the spread of infectious diseases like malaria, HIV and TB in the world, in its latest edition on 22 July 2014. It was reported that these three diseases had remained the world's biggest health challenges in 2013. TB has been the most widespread amongst the three. In the same year, the number of deaths reported in India were 1,16,322 due to malaria and 78,662 due to HIV while



A 9-year-old TB patient in New Delhi

Tuberculosis engulfed 5,45,516 people to the death. The research clearly states that early identification of people suffering from such a disease is still being overlooked!

TB is no less than a silent contagion one sees its devastating impact on life. Generally, we refer to those persons as TB patients who are infected with it and have visible signs of its symptoms. However, the World Health Organisation informs that one-third population of the world or about 2000 million people carry the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, defined as Latent TB.



A 6-year-old TB patient in Kolkata

If the people have a strong resistance to disease, these bacteria remain dormant and do not manifest as infection of TB. The WHO apprehends that the bacteria may become active in 20 million of these people at any time and cause a widespread tuberculosis infection. According to the TB India Report 2012, 40% of its population carries the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (the TB bacteria) in the passive form. Malnutrition plays an important role in activating this latent and passive TB bacteria. This poses a real threat to the 65 million underweight children in the country. The bacteria becomes active in the wake of lowered immunity which is caused by lack of nutritious food intake. The probability of developing tuberculosis amongst the younger children is very high. It thus becomes crucial that a strong action plan is put in place for addressing the occurrence of this disease amongst children under 6 years of age and that the community is engaged in monitoring the same.

It appears that a major change has come about in detection and treatment of tuberculosis cases over the years during the period 1990 to 2012. It is believed that the incidence of tuberculosis has reduced from 216 per 100,000 per year in 1990 to 176 per 100,000 per

year in the year 2012 in India^[1], the tuberculosis mortality per 100,000 population having been reduced from 38 in year 1990 to 22 in 2012. In absolute numbers, mortality due to TB has scaled down from 330,000 to 270,000 annually. Now the moot question is whether we have really brought the tuberculosis under control. The answer is in the negative. The World Health Organisation says that the incidence of active TB has reduced due to detection and treatment.

However, the latent TB stands unabated (490 million people of the country continue to carry the dormant bacteria with them. As soon as the immunity drops (due to increases malnutrition in an economic depression for example, it can lead to the activation of the disease) and that we have not been able to bring its determinants under control. Risk factors^[2] including biomedical (such as HIV infection, diabetes, tobacco, malnutrition, silicosis, tumor or malignancy etc.), environmental (indoor air pollution, lack of ventilation etc.) or socio-economic (crowding, urbanization, migration, poverty etc.) lead to progression of latent TB to active disease. World Health Organisation believes that enough work has not yet been done in India to address the linkage between the prevalence of

TB and these risk factors.

In the meantime, the International Diabetes Federation has released the estimates of the global burden of diabetes mellitus (DM) vide its 2011 Diabetes Atlas. A study in South India shows that diabetes is an independent risk factor for tuberculosis. Modeling from the study suggests that diabetes accounts for 14.8% of all tuberculosis whereas 20.8% of smear-positive TB cases are traced to diabetes. In the context of health, it is now strongly believed that consequent upon the rapid urbanization and socio-economic development, diabetes mellitus (DM) has been assuming the proportion of an epidemic. Now 61.3 million people in India suffer from this incurable disease. Widespread prevalence of TB is largely owed to person-to-person transmission of infection. Whilst its diagnosis and treatment are underway, it is the other factor of the parallel progression of latent TB to active disease which is also of serious concern. Accordingly, it is not necessary that a person shall contract TB from another TB-infected person. A research paper^[3] informs that HIV and malnutrition are major population attributable risk factors in progression of latent TB to active disease. The study reveals that population attributable fraction for adults would stand at 16% due to HIV, 27% due to malnutrition, 10% due to diabetes, 13% due to alcohol use (>40g/day), 21% due to active smoking and 22% due to indoor air pollution. It thus brings out clearly that mere diagnosis and treatment would not be able to contain the prevalence of TB. We need to review our life style and have a relook in to the policies of distorted development.

TB has a straight linkage with poverty and working conditions. With the discontinuity in regularly getting adequate nutritious diet, the immune system in the human body weakens and the TB bacteria proliferate their effect. When the bacillus *Mycobacterium*

tuberculosis (the TB bacteria) are inhaled by the host into the lungs, they start multiplying and invade the hilar lymph nodes through the lymphatics. Subsequently, it reaches the kidneys, brain and bones through the blood flow and begins causing its adverse effect on them.

India may take a cue from China, where TB prevalence declined by half as the government invested heavily in systemic improvements, modernisation and changing approaches to diagnosis and treatment. This revitalisation of TB services led to millions being able to access timely, high-quality TB treatment which considerably reducing the number of new TB cases.

Although the immunisation programme of India includes BCG (*Bacillus Calmette-Guérin*) vaccination for prevention of TB, there are many issues with regard to the quality of programme implementation. It was claimed that 87% children were administered the BCG vaccination in year 2007. However, since then and over the years until year 2013, the claim status continues to be at 87%! The population wing of the United Nations too has raised questions on these claims. Probably, the problem is that we have reposed so much of faith in BCG vaccination that the attention to diagnosis of TB in children and their treatment has been relegated in terms of importance and priority.

Presently, these days all of us seem to measuring up ourselves in terms of economic indicators (value of money). The TB India Report 2014 informs that the family loses its income in the range of 20 to 30% because of this illness and that the country as a whole suffers huge loss to the tune of Rs.1422, 000 million judging from the kind of government resources that are being pumped into so-called development, it is apparent that policy making is in fact is apparently oblivious to the twin price that is being extracted from the public, namely, economic insecurity and death. Accordingly,

whenever next the government seeks to review the status of TB in the country, it should rather examine as to how it would combat the TB arising due to urbanization, malnutrition and air pollution! One should no longer hide the epidemic in the guise of data pertaining to diagnosis centres and number of patients treated.

Child Malnutrition and TB

Specialists at the department of Paediatrics, Shyam Shah Medical College (Gandhi Memorial Hospital), Rewa in Madhya Pradesh had taken up a descriptive study (August 2013, Indian Paediatrics) on children between six to sixty months of age with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). The study revealed that out of 104 SAM children admitted in the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center at the hospital, 23 (22.1%) were suffering from tuberculosis. It is an irony that 14 (61%) of the TB affected Severe Acute Malnourished children were under 12 months age. Likewise, 22 of the 23 children were anaemic. Evidently, TB is now spreading rapidly amongst the younger children and is becoming fatal in 'collusion' with malnutrition.

India has been found to have the highest number of children infected with the deadly

tuberculosis, accounting for 27% of the total burden in 22 high burden countries. The actual number of children infected with the deadly airborne tuberculosis (TB) is actually 25% higher than what is estimated by the World Health Organization.

New estimates made public on Wednesday indicates that over 6.5 lakh children develop (TB every year in the 22 countries with a high burden of the disease (HBCs) like India, almost 25% higher than the total number of new cases worldwide estimated by WHO in 2012 (530000).

Research published in Lancet suggests that about 15 million children are exposed to TB every year, and roughly 53 million are living with latent TB infection, which can progress to infectious active TB at any time.

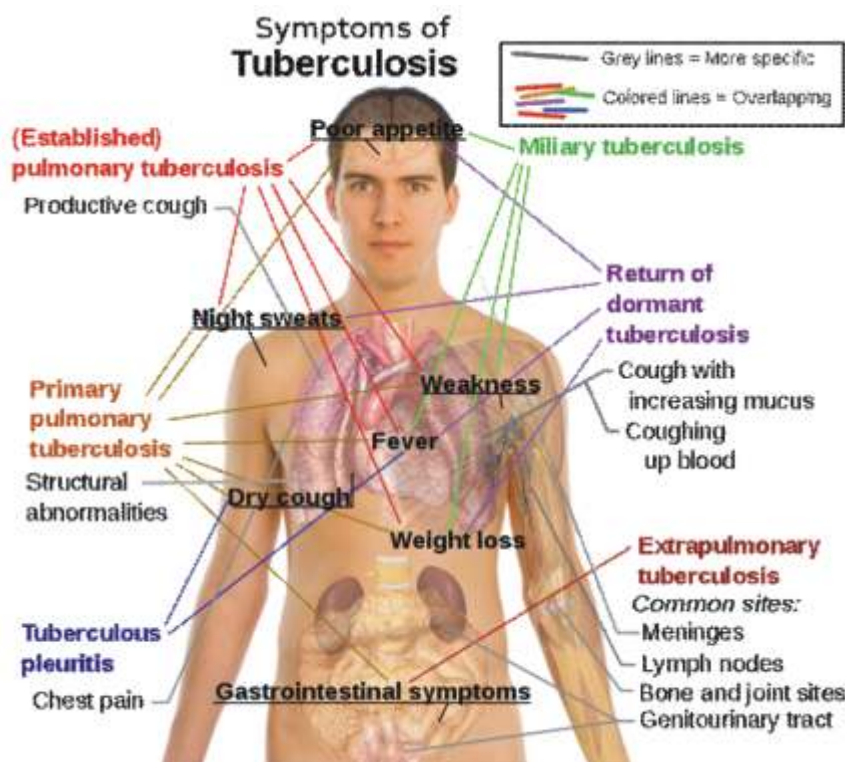
What is worse is that the overall estimated case detection rate was 35% meaning that 65% of active TB cases in children are missed every year by national TB programmes.

This case detection rate is substantially lower than the WHO estimate of 66% in adults.

"Our findings highlight an enormous opportunity for preventive antibiotic treatment



A boy takes medicine for TB while another patient looks on at a hospital in New Delhi



among the 15 million children younger than 15 years of age who are living in the same household as an adult with infectious TB", explains lead author Dr Peter Dodd from the University of Sheffield in the UK. "Wider use of isoniazid therapy for these children as a preventative measure would probably substantially reduce the numbers of children who go on to develop the disease".

In contrast with standard estimates that are reliant on paediatric case reporting, which varies widely between countries, the researchers took a complementary approach, using mathematical modelling to estimate rates of infection and disease in children based on country-specific data on household and population structure, and the prevalence of TB in adults. The findings show that about 7.6 million children younger than 15 years in the 22 HBCs became infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in 2010 and of those, roughly 650,000 developed TB.

According to Dr Dodd, "Children are an often ignored but important part of TB control efforts.

In high-burden settings, childhood TB makes up a substantial fraction of the total TB burden. The estimated incidence is higher than the number of notifications, with under-reporting more common in younger children. Quantifying the burden of TB in children is important because without good numbers, there can be no targets for improvement, no monitoring of trends and there is a lack of evidence to encourage industry to invest in developing medicines or diagnostics that are more appropriate for children than those available today".

Tuberculosis or TB is one of the 10 major factors for children's deaths the world over. According to a research published in July 2013 in the International Journal of Scientific & Research Publication, 1 million children are infected with TB every year resulting in the death of 100,000 children amongst them. Generally, the children contract the infection from those near and dear ones within the family/household who are already affected with the TB. As many as 620,000 children were diagnosed in India to be suffering from tuberculosis during

the period 2006 to 2013. Every year, 75,000 children are added to this disturbing statistics. It is estimated that the children constitute 5% to 7% of all TB patients in India.

Whilst at one end of the spectrum, we are witnessing a heightened discourse on the crisis of malnutrition, there is very little attention being given to the dyadic relationship between tuberculosis and malnutrition. Presently, malnutrition is sought to be traced as one of the constituent factors up to a certain limit in a tuberculosis-affected person. Diagnosis of tuberculosis amongst the children afflicted with malnutrition has not yet been seen as a significant strategic need. The reality, however, is that we cannot ignore the impact of tuberculosis when there is such a widespread prevalence of TB amongst the children. Let's first settle it out whether we recognise TB as a disease for children or not?

According to a study^[4] by DT Nga Quynh, childhood tuberculosis is most common in children in the age 1 to 4 years because its diagnosis with the sputum smear-positive test is rarely conclusive for them. In addition, it is this age when the child needs special attention with regard to its nutritious diet for growth and development which if not met with makes the child vulnerable to contract the infection. Probability of progression from infection to TB disease is higher up to 20% in the under 5 years age children. The study also shows that untidy surroundings marking the poor housing, crowded conditions, poorly ventilated spaces, low income, lack of access to basic medical care services, lack of knowledge of tuberculosis prevention and non-availability of timely diagnostic services have led to the widespread prevalence of the infection. We know that antigens and antibodies protect us against the diseases. In fact it is the proteins which put up a defense shield against the invasion of diseases. Severe Acute Malnutrition uses up the protein reserve in the children

resulting in their impaired immunity. Thus, whilst the children already have lesser protein in view of poverty and poor dietary practice, TB infection further diminishes their protein and fat reserves.

Despite the very high prevalence of malnutrition in children, the programmes aimed at combating malnutrition do not have any worthwhile arrangements for diagnosis and treatment of TB. There are as many as 240 Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) being run in Madhya Pradesh. These centres provide treatment to about 40, 000 children every year. Whilst the guidelines stipulate that the children admitted in the NRC will be subjected to Mantoux screening test, the ground reality is that not even basic facilities for conducting the test have been provided for. The Anganwadi Workers and the Health Workers have not been oriented to trace the symptoms of TB in the family members/relatives of the children registered with the Anganwadi Centre, particularly in respect of those children who are underweight and severely underweight. These family members could be the potential source for the child to get infected. TB also inhibits child growth and retards their weight gain. Accordingly, it becomes vital to associate TB prevention and treatment with the community management of malnutrition.

It is well known that cells in our body also protect us from bacteriological illnesses. Cell Mediated Immunity (CMI) is the principal shield of defense against tuberculosis. Severe Acute Malnutrition affects this CMI. It is thus clearly established that severe malnutrition is rather directly associated with the prevalence of tuberculosis among the children.

We are aware that when the children do not get adequate nutrition, their body cells and tissues start getting broken or damaged. The TB bacteria also make way through the damaged cells and tissues. According to the National Family

Health Survey 3 (NFHS 3), 16.4% of under-5 children in India are severely underweight. It means that about 20 million children are highly vulnerable to acquire the TB infection. However, our malnutrition management programme does not give any precedence to this aspect.

An initiative has been taken up for diagnosing children with tuberculosis from the perspective of health. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in association with Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) has set criteria and strategy for diagnosis and treatment of TB amongst children, both pulmonary peripheral TB lymphadenitis. Under this, TB diagnosis is based on clinical features, smear examination of sputum where this is available, positive family history, tuberculin skin testing, chest radiography and histo-pathological examination as appropriate.

As for the adults, treatment for children is also proposed in three stages diagnosis, classification. The entire endeavour emphasizes only the medicine and nothing but medicine! Whilst the commonsense points towards the lack of nutrition as a factor for TB and highlights the need for nutritious diet during the course of treatment as well as post-treatment, the arrangements in place today appear to be wanting in

integrating the malnutrition and TB aspects in regard to children.

Under RNTCP^[5], all children less than 6 years of age, in corrected with a family member suffering with active TB are screened for TB and provided INH (Isoniazid) chemoprophylaxis once active TB has been ruled out. The implementation is through General Health System, which varies from place to place and the adherence to guideline is less than satisfactory. On analyzing last 10 Central Internal Evaluations conducted in year 2012, it was noted that 35% of children less than 6 years did not receive chemoprophylaxis.

Generally, sputum smear microscopy is used to confirm the bacterial infection. However, it is difficult to do so in case of the children. Less than 15% of TB cases being sputum acid-fast bacilli smear positive and mycobacterial culture rendering yields at best at 30%-40% in case of children are reported^[6].

Where tuberculosis is not endemic, the diagnosis follows three approaches first - if the child is having continuing cough which is not getting cured with normal course of treatment, second child's weight is falling, and third close contact of the child with an infectious person within the family. In the event of such a situation, chest radiograph is taken to look for suggestive lung abnormalities and then tuberculin



skin test or Mantoux test is carried out. In this test, a small amount of TB antigens (called Purified Protein Derivative - PPD -) in a shot is put under the top layer of skin on the forearm using a syringe. In case the child shows swelling on the arm after 2 or 3 days, it is indicative of the presence of TB infection. This test is necessitated because even if the child has TB, the chest radiography may not be able to show the abnormalities in the lungs. Further, carrying out the sputum smear test becomes a challenge because it becomes very difficult for the child to expectorate the sputum from the depth of its lungs which is essential for smear examination.

Therefore, in order to do a proper diagnosis and reach a valid conclusion, another method that is used is known as Gastric lavage test in which samples of respiratory secretions is collected by aspirating the contents of the stomach. It can be performed only by trained nurses in hospitals. The yield of M. Tuberculosis in culture is in the range of 40% to 92%^[7] by this test, though it is a difficult and invasive procedure. Likewise, Bronchoalveolar lavage is another method in which water is extracted from the lungs. This test is extremely invasive which can be done only with tertiary care facilities. Despite the widespread

prevalence of paediatric tuberculosis, simpler and easier techniques of investigations are not available for diagnosis and detection of TB in children. Despite the recent emergence of 8 newer diagnostic tests for tuberculosis, none of them have been validated for children.

A National Technical Working Group (NTWG) on Paediatric TB has been constituted to work on the status of TB amongst the children. Its first meeting took place in July 2013. It has recommended developing for enhanced capacity for collection and processing of samples, standardising the method of sample collection and conduct of trainings and has called for ensuring that complete regimen of treatment is rendered. This group too has also ignored the need to enhance children's immunity by way of effectively meeting their nutritional requirements and putting in place a comprehensive malnutrition programme management.

The writer is a development journalist and researcher who is associated with the Right to Food Campaign in India and works with Vikas Samvad, AHRC's partner organisation in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The author may be reached at sachin.vikassamvad@gmail.com

References

- [1] 'TB India 2014', Annual Status Report, Government of India
- [2] TB India 2012, Government of India, Central TB Division, March 2012
- [3] Tuberculosis control 2010-2050: cure, care and social change. Lancet 2010 DOI:10. 1016/s0140-6736 (10)60483-7 by Lonnoroth K, Castro K, Chakaya JM, Chauhan LS, Floyd K, Glaziou P, Ravigliione M.
- [4] Quynh Nga DT, Risk factors for tuberculosis infection among child contacts of pulmonary tuberculosis cases [Dissertation], (Oslo), University of Oslo, May 2009
- [5] TB India, 2014, Central TB Division, Government of India
- [6] Soumya Swaminathan and Banu Rekha, Paediatric Tuberculosis: Global Overview and Challenges, Clinical Infectious Diseases, 2010:50(S3):S184-S194
- [7] Soumya Swaminathan and Banu Rekha, Paediatric Tuberculosis: Global Overview and Challenges, Clinical Infectious Diseases, 2010:50(S3):S184-S194

When a plant's leaves are turning brown you don't paint the leaves green. You look at the cause of the problem.

If only we treated our bodies the same way.

- Dr. Frank Lipman

Organising

Political Defiance to Success

Initial symbolic protest actions have at times aroused major national and international attention as the mass street demonstrations in Burma in 1988 or the student occupation and hunger strike in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989. The high casualties of demonstrators in both of these cases point to the great care strategists must exercise in planning campaigns.

✱ **Gene Sharp**

In situations in which the population feels powerless and frightened, it is important that initial tasks for the public be low-risk, confidence-building actions. These types of actions — such as wearing one's clothes in an unusual way — may publicly register a dissenting opinion and provide an opportunity for the public to participate significantly in acts of dissent. In other cases a relatively minor (on the surface) nonpolitical issue (such as securing a safe water supply) might be made the focus for group action. Strategists should choose an issue, the merits of which will be widely recognized and difficult to reject.

Success in such limited campaigns will not only correct specific grievances but also convince the population that it indeed has power potential. Most of the strategies of campaigns in the long-term struggle should not aim for the immediate complete downfall of an economic or political



dictatorial regime, but instead for gaining limited objectives. Nor does every campaign require the participation of all sections of the population. In contemplating a series of specific campaigns to implement the grand strategy, the defiance strategists need to consider how the campaigns at the beginning, the middle, and near the conclusion of the long-term struggle will differ from each other.

Selective Resistance

In the initial stages of the struggle, separate campaigns with different specific objectives can be very useful. Such selective campaigns may follow one after the other. Occasionally, two or three might overlap in time. In planning a strategy for “selective resistance” it is necessary to identify specific limited issues or grievances that symbolize the general oppression of



the repressive or exploitative regime. Such issues may be the appropriate targets for conducting campaigns to gain intermediary strategic objectives within the overall grand strategy. These intermediary strategic objectives need to be attainable by the current or projected power capacity of the resistance forces. This helps to ensure a series of victories, which are good for morale, and also contribute to advantageous incremental shifts in power relations for the long-term struggle.

Selective resistance strategies should concentrate primarily on specific social, economic, or political issues. These may be chosen in order to keep some part of the social, economic and political system out of the elites' control, to regain control of some part currently controlled by the ruling regime, or to deny the exploiters a particular objective. If possible, the campaign of selective resistance should also strike at one weakness or more of the dictatorship, as already discussed. Thereby, democrats can make the greatest possible impact with their available power capacity.

Very early the strategists need to plan at least the strategy for the first campaign. What are to be its limited objectives? How will it help fulfill the chosen grand strategy? If

possible, it is wise to formulate at least the general outlines of strategies for a second and possibly a third campaign. All such strategies will need to implement the chosen grand strategy and operate within its general guidelines.

Symbolic Challenge

At the beginning of a new campaign to undermine the regime, the first more specifically political actions may be limited in scope. They should be designed in part to test and influence the mood of the population, and to prepare them for continuing struggle through non-cooperation and political defiance.

The initial action is likely to take the form of symbolic protest or may be a symbolic act of limited or temporary non-cooperation. If the number of persons willing to act is small, then the initial act might, for example, involve placing flowers at a place of symbolic importance.

On the other hand, if the number of persons willing to act is very large, then a five minute halt to all activities or several minutes of silence might be used. In other situations, a few individuals might undertake a hunger strike, a vigil at a place of symbolic importance, a brief student boycott of classes, or a temporary sit-in at an important office. Under an oppressive regime these more aggressive actions would

most likely be met with harsh repression. Certain symbolic acts, such as a physical occupation in front of the dictator's palace or political police headquarters may involve high risk and are therefore not advisable for initiating a campaign.

Initial symbolic protest actions have at times aroused major national and international attention as the mass street demonstrations in Burma in 1988 or the student occupation and hunger strike in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989. The high casualties of demonstrators in both of these cases points to the great care strategists must exercise in planning campaigns. Although having a tremendous moral and psychological impact, such actions by themselves are unlikely to bring down a dictatorship, for they remain largely symbolic and do not alter the power position of the dictatorship.

It usually is not possible to sever the availability of the sources of power to the exploiters completely and rapidly at the beginning of a struggle. That would require virtually the whole population and almost all the institutions of the society which had previously been largely submissive to reject absolutely the regime and suddenly defy it by massive and strong noncooperation. That has not yet occurred and would be most difficult to achieve. In most cases, therefore, a quick campaign of full non-cooperation and defiance is an unrealistic strategy for an early campaign against the dictatorship.

Spreading Responsibility

During a selective resistance campaign the brunt of the struggle is for a time usually borne by one section or more of the population. In a later campaign with a different objective, the burden of the struggle would be shifted to other population groups. For example, students might conduct strikes on an educational issue, religious leaders and believers might concentrate on a freedom of religion issue, rail workers might meticulously obey

safety regulations so as to slow down the rail transport system, journalists might challenge censorship by publishing papers with blank spaces in which prohibited articles would have appeared, or police might repeatedly fail to locate and arrest wanted members of the democratic opposition. Phasing resistance campaigns by issue and population group will allow certain segments of the population to rest while resistance continues.

Selective resistance is especially important to defend the existence and autonomy of independent social, economic, and political groups and institutions outside the control of the regime. These centers of power provide the institutional bases from which the population can exert pressure or can resist dictatorial controls. In the struggle, they are likely to be among the first targets of the dictatorship.

Aiming at the Exploiters' Power

As the long-term struggle develops beyond the initial strategies into more ambitious and advanced phases, the strategists will need to calculate how the dictators' sources of power can be further restricted.

The aim would be to use popular non-cooperation to create a new more advantageous strategic situation for the forces for economic and political democracy. As the resistance forces gained strength, strategists would plot more ambitious non-cooperation and defiance to sever the regime's sources of power, with the goal of producing in-creasing political paralysis, and in the end the disintegration of the dictatorship itself.

It will be necessary to plan carefully how the resistance forces can weaken the support that people and groups have previously offered to the rulers. Will their support be weakened by revelations of the brutalities perpetrated by the regime, by exposure of the disastrous economic consequences of the dictators' policies, or by a new

understanding that the dictatorship can be ended? The exploiters' supporters should at least be induced to become "neutral" in their activities ("fence sitters") or preferably to become active supporters of the movement for democracy.

During the planning and implementation of political defiance and noncooperation, it is highly important to pay close attention to all of the rulers' main supporters and aides, including their inner clique, political party, police, and bureaucrats, but especially their army. The degree of loyalty of the military forces, both soldiers and officers, to the regime needs to be carefully assessed and a determination should be made as to whether the military is open to influence by the resistance forces. Might many of the ordinary soldiers be unhappy and frightened conscripts? Might many of the soldiers and officers be alienated from the regime for personal, family, or political reasons? What other factors might make soldiers and officers vulnerable to subversion?

Early in the liberation struggle a special strategy should be developed to communicate with the dictators' troops and functionaries. By words, symbols, and actions, the resistance workers can inform the troops that the liberation struggle

will be vigorous, determined, and persistent. Troops should learn that the struggle will be of a special character, designed to undermine the ruling regime but not to threaten their lives. Such efforts would aim ultimately to undermine the morale of the exploiters' troops and finally to subvert their loyalty and obedience in favor of the democratic movement. Similar strategies could be aimed at the police and civil servants.

The attempt to garner sympathy from and, eventually, induce disobedience among the ranks of the forces of the regime ought not to be interpreted, however, to mean encouragement of the military forces to make a quick end to the current repressive regime through military action. Such a scenario is not likely to install a working economic and political democracy, for a coup d'état does little to redress the imbalance of power relations between the populace and the rulers. Therefore, it will be necessary to plan how sympathetic military officers can be brought to understand that neither a military coup nor a civil war against the dictatorship is required or desirable

Sympathetic officers can play vital roles in the democratic struggle, such as spreading disaffection and noncooperation in



the military forces, encouraging deliberate inefficiencies and the quiet ignoring of orders, and supporting the refusal to carry out repression. Military personnel may also offer various modes of positive nonviolent assistance to the democracy movement, including safe passage, information, food, medical supplies, and the like. The army is one of the most important sources of the power of economic and political dictators because it can use its disciplined military units and weaponry directly to attack and to punish the disobedient population.

Defiance strategists should remember that it will be exceptionally difficult, or impossible, to disintegrate the dictatorship if the police, bureaucrats, and military forces remain fully supportive of the dictatorship and obedient in carrying out its commands. Strategies aimed at subverting the loyalty of the exploiters' forces should therefore be given a high priority by resistance strategists.

The workers for economic and political freedom should remember that disaffection and disobedience among the military forces and police can be highly dangerous for the members of those groups. Soldiers and police could expect severe penalties for any act of disobedience and execution for acts of mutiny. The democratic forces should not ask the soldiers and officers that they immediately mutiny. Instead, where communication is possible, it should be made clear that there are a multitude of relatively safe forms of "disguised disobedience" that they can take initially. For example, police and troops can carry out instructions for repression inefficiently, fail to locate wanted persons, warn resisters of impending repression, arrests, or deportations, and fail to report important information to their superior officers. Disaffected officers in turn can neglect to relay commands for repression down the chain of command. Soldiers may shoot over the heads of demonstrators.

Similarly, for their part, civil servants can lose files and instructions, work inefficiently, and become "ill" so that they need to stay home until they "recover."

Shifts in Strategy

The political defiance strategists will need constantly to assess how the grand strategy and the specific campaign strategies are being implemented. It is possible for example that the struggle may not go as well as expected. In that case it will be necessary to calculate what shifts in strategy might be required. What can be done to increase the movement's strength and regain the initiative? In such a situation, it will be necessary to identify the problem, make a strategic reassessment, possibly shift struggle responsibilities to a different population group, mobilize additional sources of power, and develop alternative courses of action. When that is done, the new plan should be implemented immediately.

The cumulative effect of well-conducted and successful political defiance campaigns is to strengthen the resistance and to establish and expand areas of the society where the dictatorship faces limits on its effective control. These campaigns also provide important experience in

how to refuse cooperation and how to offer political defiance. That experience will be of great assistance when the time comes for noncooperation and defiance on a mass scale. Obedience, cooperation, and submission are essential if dictators are to be powerful. Without access to the sources of political power, the dictators' power weakens and finally dissolves. Withdrawal of support is therefore the major required action to disintegrate a dictatorship. It may be useful to review how the sources of power can be affected by political defiance.

Acts of symbolic repudiation and defiance are among the available means to undermine the regime's moral and political authority its legitimacy. The greater the regime's authority, the greater and more reliable is the obedience and cooperation which it will receive. Moral disapproval needs to be expressed in action in order to seriously threaten the existence of the dictatorship. Withdrawal of cooperation and obedience are needed to sever the availability of other sources of the regime's power.

A second important such source of power is human resources, the number and importance of the persons and groups that obey, cooperate with, or assist the rulers. If non-cooperation is practiced by



large parts of the population, the regime will be in serious trouble. For example, if the civil servants no longer function with their normal efficiency or even stay at home, the administrative apparatus will be gravely affected.

Similarly, if the non-cooperating persons and groups include those that have previously supplied specialized skills and knowledge, then the regime will see its capacity to implement its will gravely weakened. Even its ability to make well-informed decisions and develop effective policies may be seriously reduced. If psychological and ideological influences called intangible factors that usually induce people to obey and assist the rulers are weakened or reversed, the population will be more inclined to disobey and to non-cooperate.

The exploiters' access to material resources also directly affects their power. With control of financial resources, the economic system, property, natural resources, transportation, and means of communication in the hands of actual or potential opponents of the regime, another major source of their power is vulnerable or removed. Strikes, boycotts, and increasing autonomy in the economy, communications, and transportation will weaken the regime.

As previously discussed, the rulers' ability to threaten or apply sanctions punishments against the restive, disobedient, and Non-cooperative sections of the population is a central source of the power of dictators. This source of power can be weakened in two ways. First, if the population is prepared, as in a war, to risk serious consequences as the price of defiance, the effectiveness of the available sanctions will be drastically reduced (that is, the dictators' repression will not secure the desired submission). Second, if the police and the military forces themselves become disaffected, they may on an individual or mass



Lech Wałęsa, the leader of Solidarity in Poland late 1980s

basis evade or outright defy orders to arrest, beat, or shoot resisters. If the dictators can no longer rely on the police and military forces to carry out repression, the dictatorship is gravely threatened.

In summary, success against an entrenched dictatorship requires that noncooperation and defiance reduce and remove the sources of the regime's power. Without constant replenishment of the necessary sources of power the dictatorship will weaken and finally disintegrate. Competent strategic planning of political defiance against dictatorships therefore needs to target the dictators' most important sources of power.

Escalating Freedom

Combined with political defiance during the phase of selective resistance, the growth of autonomous social, economic, cultural, and political institutions progressively expands the "democratic space" of the society and shrinks the control of the economic or political dictatorship. As the civil institutions of the society become stronger vis-à-vis the regime, then, whatever the dictators may wish, the population is incrementally building an independent society outside of their control. If and when the exploiters intervene to halt this "escalating freedom," nonviolent struggle can

be applied in defense of this newly won space and the dictatorship will be faced with yet another "front" in the struggle. In time, this combination of resistance and institution building can lead to de facto freedom, making the collapse of the regime of exploitation and oppression and the formal installation of an economically democratic system undeniable because the power relationships within the society have been fundamentally altered.

Poland in the 1970s and 1980s provides a clear example of the progressive reclaiming of a society's functions and institutions by the resistance. The Catholic Church had been persecuted but never brought under full Communist control. In 1976 certain intellectuals and workers formed small groups such as K.O.R. (Workers Defense Committee) to advance their political ideas. The organization of the Solidarity trade union with its power to wield effective strikes forced its own legalization in 1980. Peasants, students, and many other groups also formed their own independent organizations. When the Communists realized that these groups had changed the power realities, Solidarity was again banned and the Communists resorted to military rule.

Even under martial law, with



many imprisonments and harsh persecution, the new independent institutions of the society continued to function. For example, dozens of illegal newspapers and magazines continued to be published. Illegal publishing houses annually issued hundreds of books, while well-known writers boycotted Communist publications and government publishing houses. Similar activities continued in other parts of the society. Under the Jaruselski military regime, the military-Communist government was at one point described as bouncing around on the top of the society. The officials still occupied government offices and buildings. The regime could still strike down into the society, with punishments, arrests, imprisonment, seizure of printing presses, and the like. The dictatorship, however, could not control the society. From that point, it was only a matter of time until the society was able to bring down the regime completely. Even while a group of elites still occupies government positions it is sometimes possible to organize an

economically and politically democratic “parallel government.” This would increasingly operate as a rival government to which loyalty, compliance, and cooperation are given by the population and the society's institutions. The regime would then consequently, on an increasing basis, be deprived of these characteristics of government. Eventually, the parallel government may fully replace the exploitative regime as part of the transition to a democratic system. In due course then a constitution would be adopted and elections held as part of the transition.

Disintegrating the Regime

While the institutional transformation of the society is taking place, the defiance and noncooperation movement may escalate. Strategists of the liberatory forces should contemplate early that there will come a time when the democratic forces can move beyond selective resistance and launch mass defiance. In most cases, time will be required for creating, building, or expanding resistance capacities, and the development of mass defiance may occur only after several years. During this interim period campaigns of selective resistance should be launched with increasingly important political objectives.

Larger parts of the population at all levels of the society should become involved. Given determined and disciplined political defiance during this escalation of activities, the internal weaknesses of the regime are likely to become increasingly obvious.

The combination of strong political defiance and the building of

independent institutions is likely in time to produce widespread international attention favorable to the democratic forces. It may also produce international diplomatic condemnations, boycotts, and embargoes in support of the resistance (as it did for Poland). Strategists should be aware that in some situations the collapse of the regime may occur extremely rapidly, as in East Germany in 1989. This can happen when the sources of power are massively severed as a result of the whole population's revulsion against the rulers. This pattern is not usual, however, and it is better to plan for a long-term struggle (but to be prepared for a short one).

During the course of the liberation struggle, victories, even on limited issues, should be celebrated. Those who have earned the victory should be recognized. Celebrations with vigilance should also help to keep up the morale needed for future stages of the struggle.

Handling Success Responsibly

Planners of the grand strategy should calculate in advance the possible and preferred ways in which a successful struggle might best be concluded in order to prevent the rise of a new dictatorship and to ensure the gradual establishment of a durable economical, political and culturally democratic system. The democrats should calculate how the transition from the dictatorship to the interim government shall be handled at the end of the struggle. It is desirable at that time, to establish quickly a new functioning government. However, it must not be merely the old one with new personnel. It is necessary to calculate what sections of the old governmental structure (as the political police) are to be completely abolished because of their inherent repressive character and which sections retained to be subjected to later democratization efforts. A complete governmental void could

open the way to chaos or a new dictatorship.

Thought should be given in advance to determine what is to be the policy toward high officials of the regime when its power disintegrates. For example, are the ruling elites to be brought to trial in a court? Are they to be permitted to leave the country permanently? What other options may there be that are consistent with political defiance, the need for reconstructing the country, and building a democracy following the victory? A blood bath must be avoided which could have drastic consequences on the possibility of a future democratic system.

Specific plans for the transition to democracy should be ready for application when the dictatorship is weakening or collapses. Such plans will help to prevent another group from seizing state power through a coup d'état. Plans for the institution of democratic constitutional government with full political, economic, community and personal liberties will also be required. The changes won at a great price should not be lost through lack of planning.

When confronted with the increasingly empowered population and the growth of independent groups working for economic freedom and institutions both of which the exploiters are unable to control, the rulers will find that their whole venture is unraveling. Massive shut-downs of the society,

general strikes, mass stay-at-homes, defiant marches, or other activities will increasingly undermine the dictators' own organization and related institutions. As a consequence of such defiance and noncooperation, executed wisely and with mass participation over time, the dictators will become powerless and the democratic defenders would, without violence, triumph. The autocratic regime will disintegrate before the defiant population.

Not every such effort will succeed, especially not easily, and rarely quickly. It should be remembered that as many military wars are lost as are won. However, political defiance offers a real possibility of victory. As stated earlier, that possibility can be greatly increased through the development of a wise grand strategy, careful strategic planning, hard work, and disciplined courageous struggle.

Even before the collapse of the rule of the elites, members of the old regime may attempt to cut short the defiance struggle for democracy by staging a coup d'état designed to preempt victory by the popular resistance. It may claim to oust the dictatorship, but in fact seek only to impose a new refurbished model of the old one.

Blocking Coups

There are ways in which coups against newly liberated societies can be defeated. Advance knowledge of that defense capacity may at times

be sufficient to deter the attempt. Preparation can produce prevention. Immediately after a coup is started, the coup leaders (putschists) require legitimacy, that is, acceptance of their moral and political right to rule.

The first basic principle of anti-coup defense is therefore to deny legitimacy to the putschists. The putschists also require that the civilian leaders and population be supportive, confused, or just passive. The putschists require the cooperation of specialists and advisors, bureaucrats and civil servants, administrators and judges in order to consolidate their control over the affected society. The putschists also require that the multitude of people who operate the political system, the society's institutions, the economy, the police, and the military forces will passively submit and carry out their usual functions as modified by the putschists' orders and policies.

The second basic principle of anti-coup defense is to resist the putschists with non-cooperation and defiance. The needed cooperation and assistance must be denied. Essentially the same means of struggle that was used against the dictatorship can be used against the new threat, but applied immediately. If both legitimacy and cooperation are denied, the coup may die of political starvation and the chance to build a society based on political and economic democracy will be restored.



As nightfall does not come all at once, neither does oppression. In both instances, there is a twilight when everything remains seemingly unchanged. And it is in such twilight that we all must be most aware of change in the air — however slight — lest we become unwitting victims of the darkness.

(William O. Douglas)

EBOLA

CIA Project Codename **MKNAOMI**

Kissinger ordered the Army's Chief of Staff to requisition \$10 million from Congress for the development and testing of EBOLA & AIDS-like viruses. Within ten years, the AIDS and Ebola epidemics erupted coincidentally in the regions of Africa ravaged by CIA military covert operations also ordered by Kissinger.

✶ Shelley Kasl & G. Raja Sekhar

In 1975 for nearly nine months the congressional investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency had been conducted behind closed doors. In the old Senate caucus room the ten members of the select Senate committee were questioning CIA officials, including Director William Colby and the deputy director for science and technology, Sayre Stevens, about 11 gm. of shellfish toxin and 8 mg. of cobra venom discovered in May in a CIA storeroom. Colby revealed that the agency in 1952 began a *supersecret research program, code-named M.K. Naomi*, partly to find countermeasures to chemical and biological weapons that might be used by the Russian KGB. CIA researchers came up with an array of James Bond weaponry that could use the shellfish toxin and other poisons as ammunition. To illustrate his testimony, Colby handed a pistol to Committee Chairman Frank Church. Resembling a Colt .45 equipped with a fat telescopic sight, the gun fires a toxin-tipped dart, almost silently and accurately up to 250 ft. Moreover, the dart is so tiny—the width of a human hair and



a quarter of an inch long—as to be almost undetectable, and the poison leaves no trace in a victim's body. Charles Senseney, an engineer for the Defense Department, told the Senators that he had devised dart launchers that were disguised as walking canes and umbrellas.

Project MKNAOMI

In 1948, Henry Kissinger, a 23-year-old American intelligence officer, recruited Nazi expatriates to serve in top positions in American military,

aerospace, and biological science and medicine. Twenty years later, he left Harvard's esteemed faculty and resigned a lucrative position as Nelson Rockefeller's foreign policy attache' to become President Nixon's closest advisor and director of the National Security Council. Seeking alternatives to tactical nuclear weapons to bolster America's "diplomacy" abroad, the paranoid and egomaniacal Kissinger quickly ordered the



Army's Chief of Staff to requisition \$10 million from Congress for the development and testing of EBOLA & AIDS-like viruses. Within ten years, the AIDS and Ebola epidemics erupted coincidentally in the regions of Africa ravaged by CIA military covert operations also ordered by Kissinger.

In 1984, Dr. Robert Gallo, of

the National Cancer Institute, claimed credit for discovering the AIDS virus. He announced it most likely originated from a monkey virus which spontaneously mutated and naturally jumped species. Dr. Gallo was a biological weapons contractor for the CIA's top secret "Project: MKNAOMI," and was paid to produce and test EBOLA, AIDS-like viruses as early as 1970.

Dr. Leonard Horowitz in his book titled Emerging Viruses: AIDS and Ebola – Nature, Accident or Intentional followed an incriminating paper trail leading from Dr. Kissinger to Dr. Gallo and a network of scientists, to 'Merck, Sharp & Dohm', the world's largest pharmaceutical company to the CIA, NATO and OTRAG – a West German Nazi-linked company in Zaire – with ties to Litton Industries, a leading American military contractor, and to Black African and

homosexual American genocide.

There are 7 pdf files and about 5000 pages. MKNAOMI was the code name for a joint Department of Defense/CIA research program lasting from the 1950s through the 1970s. Unclassified information about the MKNAOMI program and the related Special Operations Division is scarce. It is generally reported to be a successor to the MKDELTA project and to have focused on biological projects including biological warfare agents—specifically, to store materials that could either incapacitate or kill a test subject and to develop devices for the diffusion of such materials.

This 17-page document, "Experimentation Programs conducted by the Department of Defense That Had CIA Sponsorship or Participation and That Involved the Administration to Human

House of Representatives, Department Of Defense Appropriations 1970 December 3, 1969

Here's some evidence which dates back to 1969. Dr. Robert MacMahan of the Department of Defense requests from congress \$10 million to develop, within 5 to 10 years, a synthetic biological agent to which no natural immunity exists.

1970: Funding for the synthetic biological agent was obtained under H.B. 15090. The project, under the supervision of the CIA, was carried out by the Special Operations Division at Fort Detrick, the army's top secret biological weapons facility.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1970

UNITED STATES SENATE LIBRARY

HEARINGS

SENATE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-FIRST CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
GEORGE M. MARION, Illinois, Chairman

ROBERT L. F. BENT, Florida
JAMES E. WHITE, Missouri
GEORGE M. MARION, Illinois
BENJAMIN J. FIDELL, Pennsylvania
JOHN M. BLAKE, West Virginia
JOSEPH W. BARNETT, New York
FRANK C. EVANS, Kentucky

H. J. HENNING, South Carolina, Member Emeritus, Senate Committee
RICHARD F. SMITH, Staff Secretary

Temporarily assigned

H.B. 15090

PART 5

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION
Department of the Army
Statement of Director, Advanced Research Project Agency
Statement of Director, Defense Research and Engineering

Printed for the use of the Committee on Appropriations



U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1969

Funding for development of the AIDS virus

The development of the AIDS virus was funded in 1968 (three years before the request for development by the World Health Organization) through funds obtained by the United States Defense Department. The Defense Department requested and received \$10 million via House Bill 15090, which was enacted in 1969. This bill refers the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives during the Ninety-first Congress to review of the Defense Appropriations for 1970.

Part Five of H.B. 15090 was entitled RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, sponsored by the Department of the Army, the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA), and Defense Research and Engineering.

The feasibility program and laboratory work to have been completed by 1974-1975 and the virus between 1974-1975. The work started to inject AIDS-like smallpox vaccine (Vaccinia) into over 100 million Africans in 1972. Over 2000 young white male homosexuals (Operation Trojan Horse) were injected with AIDS-like vaccine in 1972 through the Centers for Disease Control and the New York Blood Center. The development of the virus apparently has a dual purpose: (1) As a political/ethnic weapon to be used against black individuals and (2) One of the programmed efforts at depopulation.

The session of the Subcommittee that took place on July 1, 1969, involved discussions about synthetic biological agents. Part of the Congressional hearing (from H.B. 15090) is detailed below:

There are two things about the biological agent field I would like to mention. One is the possibility of technological surprises. Molecular biology is a field that is advancing very rapidly and may witness breakthroughs between that within a period of 2 to 10 years. It could be possible to produce a synthetic biological agent, one which does not naturally exist and for which no natural immunity could have been acquired.

Mr. STAGG: Are we doing any work in that field?

Dr. MACMAHAN: We are not.

Mr. STAGG: Why not? Lack of money or lack of interest?

Dr. MACMAHAN: Certainly not lack of interest.

Mr. STAGG: Would you provide for our records information on what would be required, what the advantages of such a program would be, the time and the cost involved?

334C

CIA in 1952 began a supersecret research program, code-named **M.K. Naomi**, partly to find countermeasures to chemical and biological weapons that might be used by the **Russian KGB**.



Funding for the synthetic biological agent was obtained under **H.B. 15090**. The project, under the supervision of the CIA, was carried out by the **Special Operations Division** at **Fort Detrick**, the army's top secret biological weapons facility.

Dr. Gallo a biological weapons contractor for the CIA's top secret "**Project: MKNAOMI**," was paid to produce and test **EBOLA & AIDS-like viruses** as early as 1970.



EBOLA CIA Project
Codename **MKNAOMI**

www.greatgameindia.com



Subjects of Drugs Intended for Mind-Control or Behavior-Modification Purposes," was prepared in 1977 by the General Counsel of the Department of Defense and released after a Freedom of Information Act request.

During the first twenty years of its establishment, the CIA engaged in various projects designed to increase U.S. biological and chemical warfare capabilities. Project MKNAOMI was initiated to provide the CIA with a covert support base to meet its top-secret operational requirements. The purpose was to establish a robust arsenal within the CIA's Technical Services Division (TSD) and of which was to consist of various lethal and incapacitating materials. This would enable the TSD to serve as a highly maintained center for the circulation of biological and chemical materials.

Surveillance, testing, upgrading, and the evaluation of special materials and items were also provided by MKNAOMI so as to ensure that no defects and unwanted contingencies emerged during operational conditions. For these purposes the U.S. Army's Special Operations Command

(SOC) was assigned to assist the CIA in the development, testing, and maintenance procedures for the biological agents and delivery systems (1952). Both the CIA and SOC also modified guns that fired special darts coated with biological agents and various poisonous pills. The darts would serve to incapacitate guard dogs, infiltrate the area that the dogs were guarding, and then awaken the dogs upon exiting the facility. In addition, the SOC was also designated to research the potentials for using biological agents against other animals and crops.

A 1967 CIA memo which was uncovered by the Church Committee was confirmed to give evidence of at least three covert techniques for attacking and poisoning crops that have been examined under field conditions. On November 25, 1969, President Richard Nixon abolished any military practice involving biological weapons and Project MKNAOMI was dissolved. On February 14, 1970, a presidential order was given to outlaw all stockpiles of bacteriological weapons and nonliving toxins. However, despite this presidential

order, a CIA scientist was able to acquire an estimated 11 grams of deadly shellfish toxin from SOC personnel at Fort Detrick. The toxin was then stored in a CIA laboratory where it remained undetected for over five years.

This silent, lethal dart gun causes what looks like a natural heart attack. If this sophisticated assassination technology was available back in 1975, what kind of secret weapons do you think they have now?

The CIA's longtime Technical Services Director, Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, who came up with various ways to infect CIA targets like Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, Cuba's Fidel Castro, and Iraqi leader General Abdel Karim Kassem with lethal toxins, admitted to a congressional hearing that as early as 1960 he disposed in the Congo River a large quantity of viruses to contaminate anyone who used the river for drinking water.

In 1976, while the CIA was experimenting with Ebola and HIV in Zaire as part of its illegal covert war against the Marxist government of Angola, Orbital Transport und Raketen AG (OTRAG), or Orbital Transport and Rockets, Inc., a

Stuttgart-based West German corporation closely linked to West Germany's Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) intelligence service and the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), helped establish a huge 100,000-square mile rocket base in the Shaba (Katanga) province of Zaire. The first Ebola outbreak in Zaire in 1976 coincides with the start of operations at the OTRAG base.

Gutting of West African Public Health Systems

Since the 1980s, western financial institutions have given loans to third world governments on the condition those states impose austere domestic reforms and roll back public services. This approach is encapsulated in the 1981 World Bank report 'Accelerated Development in Sub-Saharan Africa', which presses for "structural adjustments," including rapid privatization, shrinking of public services and subsidies, and a shift towards export dependency as a solution to "slow economic growth."

"In West Africa, the resulting neoliberal economic policies sought to promote growth and prosperity through structural adjustment programs (SAPs) that generally involved contraction of government services, renewed export orientation on crops or goods deemed to have a comparative advantage, privatization of parastatal organizations, removal or reduction of many subsidies and tariffs, and currency devaluations," explain Macalester College Professor William Moseley and colleagues in a paper for the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*.

"What you had was a shift of public expenditures from health care, school, and essential services to a model of economic development driven by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which said that public service provision was not helpful to development, and services should be

privatized," said Woods. "There was this notion that poor people can pay, and services are better provided by the private sector."

While years of war played a role in weakening public systems, it is the "war against people, driven by international financial institutions" that is largely responsible for decimating the public health care system, eroding wages and conditions for health care workers, and fueling the crisis sweeping West Africa today, says Woods. "Over the past six months to a year there have been rolling health care worker strikes in country after country—Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Liberia," said Woods. "Nurses and doctors are risking and losing their lives but don't have protective gear needed to serve patients and save their own lives. They are on the front lines and have not had their voices heard."

Even the World Health Organization, which is tasked by the United Nations with directing international responses to epidemics, acknowledges the detrimental impact these policies have had on public health systems. "In health, SAPs affect both the supply of health services (by insisting on cuts in health spending) and the demand for health services (by reducing household income, thus leaving people with less money for health)," states the organization. "Studies have shown that SAPs policies have slowed down improvements in, or worsened, the health status of people in countries implementing them. The results reported include worse nutritional status of children, increased incidence of infectious diseases, and higher infant and maternal mortality rates."

If, as evidence continues to mount, the Ebola outbreak's origin was in Sierra Leone, and deliberate, that would have insidious benefits for corrupt and influential corporations in West Africa. As the world's largest supplier of diamonds, Sierra Leone is on strike, refusing to provide diamonds due to

horrible working conditions and slave pay.

The Western slave masters refuse to pay a fair wage for the resources. The idea is to keep the workers remaining a source of cheap slave labor forever. Corporations control military agendas, and the diamond cartels are some of the historically most entrenched. Hence, it is highly plausible that Ebola is the new "reason" for getting troops on the ground in Sierra Leone to end the Diamond Miners' strikes.

Instead of the 2,000 trained doctors already sent by Cuba, 3,000 additional US troops have been sent to West Africa to combine with thousands already doing the work of the empire in at least a dozen African countries.

Man-made Pandemic?

This economic terrorism has led to the current Ebola crisis. Many disturbing stories have emerged about US involvement in the current crisis. One chilling account shows the enthusiasm of mad, malevolent scientists for mass death of innocent human beings by Ebola.

In 2006 at the 109th meeting of the Texas Academy of Science at Lamar University (Beaumont, Texas), Dr Eric R Pianka from the University of Texas was felicitated as the 2006 Distinguished Texas Scientist. Forest M. Mim III, a popular science journalist for the journal 'The Citizen Scientist' was present during the speech.

Pianka began his speech by condemning anthropocentrism, or the idea that the human race occupies a privileged position in Nature. He exclaimed, "We're no better than bacteria!" He argued that the sharp increase in the human population since the onset of industrialisation was destroying the planet. He warned that the Earth would not survive unless its human population was reduced to a tenth of its present number. He then offered drastic solutions, accompanying his remarks with a slide depicting the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

War and famine were insufficient for solving global

overpopulation, he explained. Instead, disease was far more efficient and swift. At this point, Pianka displayed a slide showing rows of human skulls.

AIDS took too long to kill people off, he explained. His preferred method of exterminating over five billion human beings was via airborne Ebola (*Ebola Reston*), because it is both highly lethal and kills its victims in days rather than years. However, as Mim observed: "Professor Pianka did not mention that Ebola victims die a slow and torturous death, as the virus initiates a cascade of biological calamities inside the victim that eventually liquefy the internal organs.

"After praising the Ebola virus for its efficiency at killing, Pianka paused, leaned over the lectern, looked at us and carefully said, 'We've got airborne 90 percent mortality in humans. Killing humans. Think about that.'"

After he finished his address, the audience burst into applause.

Mim reported: "It wasn't merely a smattering of polite clapping that audiences diplomatically reserve for poor or boring speakers. It was a loud, vigorous and enthusiastic applause. ..."

Another 2008 cable from the U.S. embassy in Manila describes how the U.S. Centers for Disease Control assisted the Philippines in examining the outbreak of the milder form of Reston Ebola in the Philippines swine stock. The Reston strain gets its name from a 1989 outbreak of Ebola at the Reston Primate Quarantine Unit in Virginia, near Washington, DC that killed a number of primates. The facility was linked to Ebola and Marburg virus research at Fort Detrick. Viral outbreaks in Southeast Asia, such as that Ebola Reston swine outbreak in the Philippines, also involved researchers from the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit (NAMRU-2) in Jakarta, Indonesia. Several Indonesian health officials and politicians have charged that the U.S. Navy facility is not only

involved in bio-warfare research but also directly assisting U.S. Big Pharma companies in research of airborne influenza, such as H5N1 avian flu, as well as anthrax, infectious bursal disease, and other pathogens.

Indonesian Health Minister, Siti Fadilah Supari, charged that NAMRU-2 was illegally sending biological specimens out of the country. Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Warijuda demanded to know why NAMRU-2 personnel enjoyed diplomatic immunity. Soeripto, the Deputy Chair of Parliamentary Commission III on Law and Human Rights, claimed that NAMRUs were a front for intelligence activities and called for NAMRU-2's immediate closure. In 2010, the Indonesian government ordered NAMRU-2 to close and it was relocated to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. NAMRU-2 maintains a detachment in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Evidence has recently surfaced of 2009 U.S. embassy Berlin cable to the U.S. State and Defense Departments that German authorities hesitated to send hemorrhagic fever cultures to the suspected biological warfare laboratory at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) in Fort Detrick, Maryland because the Germans feared the Army might "weaponize" the cultures.

A Scientific American article on April 16, 2013, "How the CIA's Fake Vaccination Campaign Endangers Us All," documents the US Military's involvement in WHO style vaccine programs in Pakistan and Nigeria to conduct tests despite overwhelming public opposition.

Adding further credibility to Ebola being a manufactured event is a report showing that the DOD gave a contract worth USD 140 million dollars to Tekmira, a Canadian pharmaceutical company, to conduct Ebola research involving the injection and infusing of healthy humans with Ebola. The DOD is listed as a collaborator in a "First in Human" Ebola clinical trial

(NCT02041715), which started in January 2014 shortly before an Ebola epidemic was declared in West Africa in March.

More recently stories are emerging about how the Ebola crisis is a man-made one. Dr. Cyril Broderick, Professor of Plant Pathology in Liberia has summarized these reports saying,

"Reports narrate stories of the US Department of Defense (DoD) funding Ebola trials on humans, trials which started just weeks before the Ebola outbreak in Guinea and Sierra Leone. The reports continue and state that the DoD gave a contract worth \$140 million dollars to Tekmira, a Canadian pharmaceutical company, to conduct Ebola research. This research work involved injecting and infusing healthy humans with the deadly Ebola virus. Hence, the DoD is listed as a collaborator in a "First in Human" Ebola clinical trial (NCT02041715, which started in January 2014 shortly before an Ebola epidemic was declared in West Africa in March. Disturbingly, many reports also conclude that the US government has a viral fever bio-terrorism research laboratory in Kenema, a town at the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The only relevant positive and ethical olive-branch seen in all of my reading is that The Guardian.com reported,

"The US government funding of Ebola trials on healthy humans comes amid warnings by top scientists in Harvard and Yale that such virus experiments risk triggering a worldwide pandemic." That threat still persists."

Either this is a case of criminal negligence or a genocidal programme for population control. The past legacy of these malevolent rulers of our planet itself demands action, whatever the answer to this question might be.

The writers are Post Graduate Research Scholars, Dept. of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal University

Government Hypocrisy in RTE

Government surrendering assets to private players in educational field, alleges national RTE forum; plans to start nationwide campaign for last 150 days till final deadline for implementation of RTE Act on March 31, 2015



✴ Jasleen Kaur

About 1 lakh schools have been closed down across the country since the enactment of the Right to Education (RTE) Act in April 2010, according to data compiled by a civil society organisation tracking the big-ticket legislation carried out by the former UPA government. In the last five years, merger and closure of various government primary schools have taken place in different states in large number, says the national RTE forum, a civil society coalition of 10,000 grassroots organisations, educationists, national networks and teacher's organisations. Addressing the media on Tuesday (October 28),

the forum's representatives said that as per information collected from various state government websites, 17,129 schools have been merged in Rajasthan, of which 4,000 have been completely shut. In Telangana, 2,000 schools have been closed, while the figure is 5,000 schools in Odisha, and 1,200 in Uttarakhand. Ambarish Rai, national convener of the forum, claimed that the government is surrendering assets to the private players. He said that unregulated mushrooming of low-budget private schools and PPP public private partnership model-based schools are other mechanisms diluting the spirit of the legal

mandate.

The Act, which came into effect on April 1, 2009, provides, among others, "right of children to free and compulsory education till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school". It also guarantees that "every child has a right to full-time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards". Rai said in all, India lacks 1.2 million teachers including regular, trained and qualified tutors in government schools across the country. "Ten percent schools are still run by a

single teacher, and millions of children continue to remain out of school,” he said. “Resource is still a big challenge. Despite the RTE Act prohibiting appointment of teachers on contract, states continue to appoint new teachers on contract basis.

“Instead of strengthening the RTE Act and restructuring government schools, the government is handing over schools to private entities in the name of quality improvement.” Rai said this shows that states are ready to give up the responsibility of providing universalised education for all. The last deadline for implementation of the Act is March 31, 2015. It was set for the regularisation of all teachers on contract and simultaneously training them to improve the overall quality of education imparted at government schools. Launching a national campaign 'Claiming Education for Every Child' for the last 150 days till the final deadline for implementation of the RTE Act, Rai said the national RTE forum will demand the fulfillment of the constitutional obligation of the government within the stipulated time. The campaign starts from November 1, he announced.

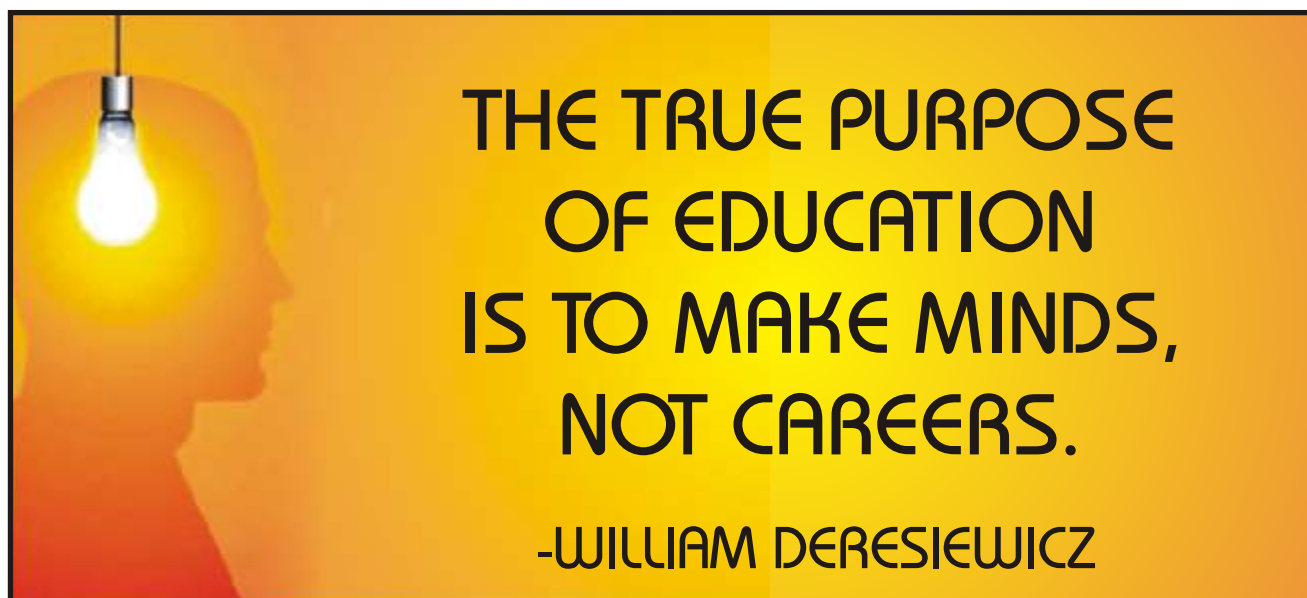
Annie Namala, director at Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion and a former member of NAC, emphasised the need for



inclusion of disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including dalits, tribals, disabled and minorities, while implementing the Act. Highlighting the state of government schools in the national capital, RC Dabbas, vice-president of all-India primary teachers federation (AIPTF), said there has been no recruitment in these institutions in the last six years while there is a vacancy of 10,000 teachers. Besides, around 150 schools have been merged and the number of students taking admission in MCD schools has decreased by 1 lakh, he said. “People who can afford to pay even Rs 200 as monthly fee are sending their children to low-budget private schools, but the child hardly learns

anything in such schools,” Dabbas said. “Once they complete education till class 4, they return to take admission in a government school.”

The RTE forum's representatives said that as part of the campaign around 10 lakh grievances and cases of violation will be collected from different parts of the country. These grievances will then be submitted to the national commission for protection of child rights (NCPCR) and state commission for protection of child rights (SCPCRs) for immediate action. The forum, they said, also plans to move the court against them. A memorandum will also be submitted to the prime minister with a charter of demands.



Neohumanism

The Only Open Road into the Future

For a unified society to be established, there must be the integration of certain fundamental values within the society at large so that there is a base, a broad universal base, for the development of a cooperative, integrative human alliance.

✱ Ravi Logan

Without a moral base that expresses certain cardinal values which enhance human life and development it is very difficult to have a healthy and well-functioning society. Today the world has become very small. Technology and communications have increased to the point where there is an interwoven relationship between all people in all cultures. But, even so, there is no unity among people in terms of their values and their society. They remain divergent and thus prone to conflicts with each other.

In order for humanity to bridge the gap and become one world society — yet without the loss of independence and autonomy within the local societies and cultures — there will need to be the incorporation of a universal approach which is inclusive and serves the needs of all peoples. An approach will be required which is integrative, rather than based upon dominance and submission.

This is a new concept in human development, for it has been the historical approach within human

society to have one group impose its superiority upon another, be it due to geo-identities such as nationality or territory, or due to political, economic, social or cultural groupings. It has been the history of human beings to identify with a particular group and then utilize that group identity to distinguish themselves from others and attempt to create dominance over those in other social, political, religious, economic, cultural or geographic groupings. This has been the human tendency. Never in the human history has there been a society which is fully integrative of all groups of people and based upon universal sentiment, rather than upon the superiority of one group over another.

For such a unified society to be established there must be the



integration of certain fundamental values within the society at large so that there is a base, a broad universal base, for the development of a cooperative, integrative human

alliance. There is only one base that is sufficiently large to integrate all of the different cultural, social, political, and economic groupings within the human experience, and that is the sentiment of *universalism*. When individuals adopt as their primary group identity the universal life force which expresses in all beings they can then find a base which is sufficiently expansive to integrate all the different groups and types of living beings. With this as a base, a society can be developed which is for the welfare of all beings not only human beings, but all beings, because human life cannot be separated from that of other living beings.

In so many ways through the food chain, through the ecosystem human society is intricately involved with other life upon the planet. We cannot separate the welfare of human beings and the welfare of plants and animals. They are all together. And if we would build a healthy human society that truly brings well-being to human life, we will have to consider the welfare of the plants and animals within the natural world, because our welfare is intimately associated with theirs. The entire planet must be brought into a harmonious relationship in order to build a healthy and forward moving human society that meets the needs of its members and allows for their growth and development. In such a society the welfare of all is attended to.

A Universal Base for a Harmonious Society

It is not the point of a universal society to make all people clones with the same culture, the same opinions, the same life styles. The point is to find a common outlook based in a sentiment of universalism and in certain cardinal values that support human development in a universal fashion. This fundamental base becomes a platform from which all of the diverse groupings of human beings may lodge themselves within their own cultural context and geographical situation



to live up to their maximum potentiality and live in a harmonious fashion with their natural environment.

So the concept of a universal base for the human society does not oppress individuality by requiring uniformity. Rather it is an appreciation of the diversity of human experience within the context of a broad, universal base.

One may ask, "What is this universal base upon which human society must be built in order to establish a productive society which meets the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the people, and which creates a harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world?" The base for such a society must be expansive. And it can only be adopted when there is a common agreement to move beyond differences and to come together with mutual respect for the diversity within all groupings to find a universal base in the very essence of life, adopting a respect for all life and an integration of spiritual values into daily life.

This does not mean the dominance of one religious form or another religious form, of one spiritual belief or another spiritual belief. We are not speaking of the dominance of one belief system, or of one grouping of people over another. Instead we are speaking of finding a common denominator, a universal base which is fundamental to life and utilize that universal base through mutual agreement as a moral foundation upon which to build a healthy, universal society. That base can only be the fundamental reverence and appreciation of life itself and a respect for all living beings. In this, there is a commitment to the welfare of all beings.

Neohumanism

This is a new approach in which reverence for life, care for the welfare of all, and integration and unity in the human society are afforded utmost priority. Never has a society existed based on these priorities, though some have come close.

Humanity stands upon the brink of a new beginning, a new dawn. In this new era human beings will have the opportunity to evolve past their petty differences and self-centered groupisms into a universal outlook in which compassion and reverence for life dominate not only individual sentiments but social sentiments as well, and in which human beings seek to integrate, rather than dominate, one another.

So this approach is called *neohumanism*—new humanism. And why is it new? Because it includes not only the welfare of human beings but the welfare of all beings. And it presents a new paradigm in which reverence for life is considered foremost, above the needs of any particular grouping of people. Human beings will have to expand their view of themselves and their identity. Rather than thinking, “I am identified with the welfare of my clan, of my country, my culture, my race,” they will have to think, “My welfare, my identity is associated with the welfare of all living beings, and I will do best when all beings live together in harmony and none lag behind.”

It is only through this universal identity that humanity will come to realize that the dominance of one group over another is not a solution to human suffering, and that their welfare lies in the integration of life and the appreciation of the essential beauty within all beings.

So universalism is a base, a rock upon which a healthy human society may be built. Upon this rock many things may stand. A reverence for all beings means there will be ecological harmony, rather than exploitation. It also means that the dominance of one people over another will be minimized and humans will instead take a new approach toward each other, one of negotiation, cooperation, and integration. It also means that care for the welfare of all beings, great and small, will be given by the collective society. And it means an end to war which has been the blight of humanity.

The Emergence of a True Human Society

The adoption of cardinal universal values and the implementation of those values through the establishment of a collective global forum for human society will mean a revolution in human experience. From this base a new society may be built, a universal society which takes into account the welfare of all of the diverse living beings upon this planet and attempts to mediate a balanced relationship between all of those different groupings and their wants and needs.

With such a base, no group would dominate and bring harm to another group, and all people would be given the opportunity to advance in all spheres by the guarantee of basic necessities in the physical sphere, of education in the mental sphere, and opportunity for growth in the spiritual sphere. In such a society people would advance a great deal within in a very short time.

No true human society has yet existed upon this planet, for human beings in their development thus far have been highly quarrelsome and prone to cruelty and harshness that cannot be brooked in a true, integrated society. While the fundamental values necessary to promote a true human society have not as yet been fully developed on a mass scale, humanity is changing. It is on the brink of an evolutionary

leap, and it is quickly moving to acknowledge these cardinal human values. We cannot say that these values have not been recognized in society up to this time, for they have. But they have not been adopted on a large scale by those who have power and authority. That will soon change.

A new day comes. Humanity is evolving and the need to bring an integrated, universal society into existence grows. Awareness is increasing that if human beings are harmed and large numbers suffer while a few elites prosper, the society will eventually go down. And awareness also grows that if the natural environment is destroyed, human beings will be destroyed with it.

So humanity is being pushed to adopt a new level of awareness. Already there are changes; already a kind of universal knowledge, a universal understanding is developing within the human society around the globe. The fruit of this change has not ripened as yet, but in the near future we will see the results.

A new day is dawning, a new society is emerging. The fundamental basis of this new society must be a universal outlook, not the dominance of one group over another. And there must be care for the welfare of all beings. *This is the only open road into the future. All other roads have dead-endings ahead.*





Forgotten Asian Labourers of World War II

The month of October marked the 70th anniversary of the completion of the notorious 'Death Railway' linking Thailand and Burma which the Japanese army constructed with forced labour during the Second World War. While the privations of the Allied soldiers used for the construction have been highlighted in Western historiography, the unspeakable plight of the numberless Asian workers who were involved has generally been ignored

- David Boggett



✱ Arun Prakash

Article 2 of the Forced Labour Convention held at Geneva in 1930 stipulates that “Forced or compulsory labour shall mean all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”. In November 2001, following the publication of the first Global Report on forced labour, the ILO Governing Body created a Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL), as part of broader efforts to promote the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up. This feature focuses on the forced civilian labour who were ordinary people picked up at random and forced to leave their homes against their will in the army trucks, and sent to work at the railway track in the Siam/Burma border during the Second World War. They were promised pay; none was given for the entire period they worked. Most died at the construction site and never returned. Some returned after the war, but were so sick and ill nourished that many died after they came home. For them there has been little or no follow up.

After the conquest of Burma

the Japanese constructed a 415 kilometres railway between Bangkok, Thailand, and Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar), to support its forces in the Burma campaign. This came to be known as the Death Railway. Forced labour was used in its construction, as per Australian Government figures about 250,000 Asian labourers and 61,000 Allied prisoners of war (POWs).

Of these, around 90,000 Asian laborers and 16,000 Allied POWs died as a direct result of the project. The dead POWs included 6,318 British personnel, 2,815 Australians, 2,490 Dutch, about 356 Americans and a smaller number of Canadians and New Zealanders. They all deservedly got a lot of attention and sympathy and have been suitably commemorated by their Governments; the graves of the deceased Allied soldiers are carefully preserved in two war cemeteries in Kanchanaburi in Thailand and one near Thanbyuzayat in Burma. The plight of these POWs got world attention in the poignant fictional English



Map drawn by Bob Kelsley one of the POWs

movie, “Bridge on the River Kwai”. This movie, however, does not show any Asian civilian labourers either who were picked up by the Japanese soldiers (ignoring the Geneva convention - Japan was not a signatory to it) in droves from villages and towns. The preoccupation with the Allied

prisoners' accounts has tended to overshadow, and even conceal, a perhaps even greater tragedy - the plight of the enormous numbers of Asian workers mobilised by the Japanese from their new colonies, who suffered untold misery, starvation, disease and death. They have been forgotten practically by everyone save for a few NGOs?

Unlike the Allied prisoners who remained concentrated in camps run by their own military, the Asian workers, disorganized and distressed, were straggled along the entire course of the Railway. Before the surrender, the Japanese had two weeks in which to burn documents related to the Railway's construction before the Allied forces occupied Thailand. Thai witnesses stated that smoke from the burning of documents could be seen all along the Railway camps. The Japanese openly admitted to the Allied soldiers that they had destroyed all documents related to the Asian workers. So no one till this day knows how many labourers were involved in the "Death Railway". Scattered testimonies of Asian survivors suggest that possibly more than half a million workers were involved, of whom probably more than 100,000 perished.

Plight of Asian workers

For all these Asian workers, the situation was much worse than that of the Allied prisoners. They had to work in hot and damp weather conditions ten hours a day seven days a week with little to eat. Epidemics of malaria and cholera were rampant among them, and there was not enough medicine to go round. Under such extremely harsh conditions, almost half of the men had perished when the construction of the railway and the bridge was rushed to finish in 13 months. Many Asian workers were barely literate and unable to speak English or Japanese. They could not record their experiences. The military camp structure of the prisoners enabled their leaders to record the circumstances of nearly every single prisoner's death and place of burial.



Japanese Memorial constructed in 1944

However, there are no graves for the deceased Asian workers; they were just buried where they died and forgotten. The Asian workers had no support system on which they could fall back. They had no doctors, no medicines, no sense of how to organise their living quarters in the inhospitable jungles then lying beyond Kanchanaburi; they were separated from their fellow villagers and often mixed together with people whose languages they could not understand; and they had no means of recourse when the Japanese soldiers mistreated them. As they were unfamiliar with the foreign Thai countryside, it was difficult for them to escape. Thai villagers were given financial rewards if they reported any escaped workers to the Japanese. Besides the natural deaths from disease, ill-treatment and overwork, it is believed that the Asian workers faced such appalling conditions that suicides were not uncommon.

Not only are there no graves but - with a single exception - there are no monuments to the Asian workers in the Kanchanaburi area either. The exception, paradoxically, is the monument erected by the Japanese military itself on completion of the Railway in March 1944. It is located near the bridge made famous by the movie. It is not particularly attractive in design, being made out of rough concrete, but it is an important memorial, as the Japanese did at least admit that deaths had occurred. The central pillar of the monument is surrounded at the four corners of the outer wall with smaller structures, each bearing an inscription in a different language: English, Thai, Chinese, Bahasa Malaysia

/Indonesia, Tamil and Vietnamese. These inscriptions are a clear indication that labourers from the language groups represented worked and died on the construction of the Railway. Today this memorial is visited by the odd tourist from Thailand!

Widespread Barbarities

David Boggett an Emeritus Professor of Kyoto Seika University in Japan who researched these details says, "In 1990, a mass grave of Asian labourers was discovered in a sugarcane field in Kanchanaburi. By the time I visited the site, the skeletons of some 400 workers had already been removed. This was not the first such excavation of 'Asian workers' bones', nor was it the last. The most recent was in 2008, probably on land near to the 1990 excavations. The exposure of this latter grave was, however, of great importance. Many Thai residents in the area came forward to recount what they had seen. They described how camp workers would come to bury between five and 10 workers every day; how bodies of women and children were also interred; and even how some, probably afflicted with cholera, had been thrown into the grave while still alive. One skeleton was that of a child less than 10 years of age. The child must have been Tamil and still had bangles on its lower legs. Not only Tamils were involved - Thais remember other Malaysians, Javanese and even Burmese also being thrown into the graves".

"Some of the Allied prisoners were aware that the Asian labourers were suffering even more dreadfully than themselves. We can find many descriptions in the prisoners' diaries, such as the following by British

doctor Robert Hardie: 'A lot of Tamil, Chinese and Malay labourers from Malaya have been brought up forcibly to work on the railway. There must be many thousands of these unfortunates all along the railway course. There is a big camp a few kilometres below here, and another 2 or 3 kilometres up. We hear of the frightful casualties from cholera and other diseases among these people and of the brutality with which they are treated by the Japanese. People who have been near the camps speak with bated breath of the state of affairs - corpses rotting unburied in the jungle, almost complete lack of sanitation, frightful stench, overcrowding, swarms of flies. There is no medical attention in these camps' Dr Hardie also adds: 'When one hears of these widespread barbarities, one can only feel that we prisoners of war, in spite of all the deaths and permanent disabilities which result, are being treated with comparative consideration'".

Yu Chalawankumphi, one of the Malayan 'Death Railway' survivors recalls, "I was brought from Kota Baru in [the Malayan state of] Kelantan when I was 15 years old. I was picked out at random by the Japanese. It wasn't voluntary; they simply took one out of three males. Perhaps out of every five or six young men, three would be picked out. We had to work every day, regardless of the weather; in the monsoon rains or the fierce sunlight. There was no medicine available in those days. Even when sick, we were forced to work. So many people died, especially of dysentery and cholera. Many also died of malaria. The dead bodies were just thrown into huge holes. That was all!"

Japanese General Labour Mobilisation

The Japanese mobilisation in Java Indonesia was of staggering proportions. So great was the recruitment of labour on Java that the Japanese word for a worker, *romusha*, has become part of Bahasa Indonesia and can be found in all Indonesian language dictionaries

today. Labour was also recruited in large numbers from other Indonesian islands, notably Sumatra. MC Ricklefs, a historian of Indonesia, states that between 200,000 and 500,000 Javanese were drafted for labour work. Japanese historian Sato Shigeru claims that, if 'temporary' workers are included, the total number of people affected at some time by this labour mobilisation may have been as many as 10,000,000. A smaller number of the Javanese labourers were sent to work on the Death Railway. Lin Yone Thit Lwin of Burma who escaped from the Death Railway became a well-known writer recording his escape from the Railway and the terrible conditions faced by the other Burmese workers in a diary entitled *The Thai-Myanmar Railway: A Personal Memoir*, published in Rangoon in 1968. In his book, Lin Yone Thit Lwin states that 170,000 Burmese workers were originally recruited. But as many Burmese, being familiar with their own countryside, frequently escaped (despite the serious penalties if caught), the Japanese were continually finding fresh recruits to fill the place of missing workers. Most published works estimate the number of Tamil workers at between 80,000 and 100,000. Historian Michael Stenson estimates that the population of the Indian community in Malaya during the war period actually decreased by around 100,000 or nearly 7%. This indicates the seriousness of the Indian labour mobilisation. After the war the Indian Congress Party sent a

delegation to Malaya and Thailand, headed by VS Srinivasa Sastri, to investigate the conditions experienced by the Tamils on the Railway. In a letter to Nehru, Sastri mentions a lakh (100,000) of Tamil workers.

Sasidaran, a Malayan Tamil and the West Coast and Negri Sembilan chairman of the Association for Forced Labour to Siam-Burma Death Railway, is making all out efforts to get compensation for survivors from the Japanese Government. His father KN Sellappah a survivor of the Death Railway died last year and was never compensated. Sasidaran is keeping alive his father's mission to register other survivors and their next of kin for getting compensation from the Japanese government. Save for these few well meaning persons everyone seems to have forgotten about these Asian labourers who were forced out of their homes into hostile environment and put into slave labour and live during the Second World War under appalling conditions at the hands of their Asian brethren, with very little food, no medical facilities and without any pay. This was a war crime - an 'Asian Holocaust'. In the centenary year of the First World War it is essential to honour these departed souls whose lives were cut short at a young age, whose voice silenced forever in the jungles of Burma and Thailand. the best way to honour then is to end the growing scourge of slavery worldwide.



Presentation on Amiri Rekha (Ceiling on wealth)

Some office-bearers and many members of Proutist Bloc India (PBI) participated in an open discussion on 'Poverty Alleviation and Economic Democracy' organized by Renaissance Universal (Delhi Chapter) at Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi on 9 Nov. 2014 . The programme was attended by a number of teachers, lawyers, students and people from other walks of life.

The vice-chancellor of Hamdard University, Dr. G N Qazi, who is an academician and a scientist, was the Chief Guest. In his address, he said that PROUT is a revolutionary theory that deserves our attention. He said that he would like the students of his university to do a comparative study of PROUT and see how it can solve the problems of the world.

In his powerpoint presentation, Ravindra Singh, PRS (PBI), focused on how Ameerikha i.e. ceiling on wealth accumulation (as advocated by the first fundamental principle of PROUT) has the potential to solve all the burning problems like poverty, unemployment, economic depression, inflation, corruption, population explosion, increasing crime, crime against women, pseudo-culture etc.

Speaking on Economic Democracy, Acharya Kisan Sood elaborated the principles of economic democracy as suggested by PROUT and explained how they can be applied to bring about true freedom for everybody. His sonorous and lucid exposition of Proutistic principles was music to ears and kept the audience rapt in silence.





In the second half, an open Q&A session was held. A panel consisting Ajayji, Rajesh Singh, Ravindra Singh and Acharya Kishan Sood answered a number of questions raised by the audience, who clearly seemed to have been stirred by PROUT. Most questions were about the practical Proutistic solutions to the existing problems.

The theme of the programme was presented by Sana Siddiqui, a social worker and legal rights activist at the beginning of the programme. She explained how the basic principles of PROUT are in consonance with the Indian constitution and can fulfil its objectives as envisaged by its directive principles.

The programme was concluded by Dr. Alok Lakhanpal, a lecturer in Delhi University, who told that like the land ceiling, Ameerikha is the need of the hour and can be made a reality with all the legal and constitutional sanctions.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Md. Sabir Khan, who was instrumental in organizing this programme successfully.

The success of the programme has inspired everybody, and it should come as no surprise if we soon witness a lot of similar and more impressive activities by Proutists in Delhi.

PBI Works to Give Land to the Landless



Road show at Kantamal: Aditya Pradhan and Kedar Nath Sahu

Koshal is an ancient society where the original inhabitants have been suffering from severe poverty for more than a century. Boudh district has a rich cultural heritage but has suffered severe exploitation by outside settlers. A large percentage of the original people have been driven off their ancestral lands by mining industries. Paddy production is also in the hands of outside exploiters who also have seized land. 11,000 people were landless in 2004.



Demonstrating outside Tehsil Office with the applicants

In response to the urgent needs of the landless people, a Mass Rally was organized by Proutist Bloc India (PBI) in Boudh district unit in three Tehsil offices of Boudh district. In Harabhanga Tehsil on 14th November under the leadership of Rajanikant Sahu, Suresh Pradhan and Nimai Sahu with 380 people, submitted demands for land.

365 Landless people have applied under Boudh Tehsil on 15th November under the leadership of Dharanidhar Lauria, Arun Kumar Pradhan, Santosh Kumar Sahoo.

217 Landless people have applied under Kantamal Tehsil on 17th November under the leadership of Sumanta Bagha, Jayanta Meher, Aditya Pradhan, Satyaban Bagarty and other dedicated activists. Out of them one old blind family in hope of some land

Kantamal Additional Tehsildar received the memorandum and Lease Forms of 217 persons and while addressing the public, assured land for these landless persons. PBI organized this programme to bring relief to the suffering people. They have taken the following oath (SAM'KALPA):

“Not a single person will remain landless and nobody will die out of hunger”

The Tehsildars of all Tehsils supported the activities of PBI volunteers due to their hard work and sincere activities in remote areas.

The procession marched to the Tehsil offices. The leaders delivered speech in the road show. PBI will continue such programmes till the last landless person receives two acres of land for basic food needs. This is however not enough to make them self-sufficient, therefore PBI will be working with them to enable them to develop cooperatives for the development of local economy.

Further plans include organizing of collective planning for each of the three blocks of the district. In December near about 1000 landless persons of three Tehsils will apply for lease of government lands. The entire programme was coordinated by Kedarnath Sahoo, PBI General Secretary State Unit, Odisha.

Protesting Government Attack on Workers' Rights

Following the Lok Sabha elections of 2014, the new Government that has come to power in India is carrying forward the agenda of privatisation and neo-liberalisation, in continuity with the previous government. Further, the way the new government has decided to attack progressive Acts, which were made or amended in favour of common people in the last decade, is an indicator that this new Government is also pushing a clear pro-corporate agenda. Given this situation, to bring into focus people's issues and highlight the need for an alternative development model, Bihar workers of unorganised sector are planning to meet in Delhi on 30th November and 1st December in a People's assembly of about 300 to 500 people. This would be followed by a mass rally on 2nd December, in which over 20,000 people are expected to participate.

Today it's an uphill task for people to even submit a job application under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Many other entitlements provided by the state do not reach people and cause millions to live under abject poverty. It is the need of the hour to struggle to get paid for works done by the workers. The Central Government has decided to fundamentally change NREGA. Talks of changes in the Land Acquisition Act and Forest Rights Act and changes already done in labour laws in Rajasthan threaten the existence of many hard-won entitlements won by people's movements and pro-people's politics of the country in last decade.

It is in this context that a nation-wide mobilisation has been planned in Delhi for 2nd December. Incidentally Parliament will be in session during the period.

Dispelling the Darkness of Divisions

Shrii Shrii Ānandamūrti

As soon as mental darkness is dispelled, one will see everything as effulgent in the light of knowledge. The entire universe will appear as an unbroken, infinite, radiant entity. There will be no difference between night and day, between real and unreal. Diversity will merge into singularity. All finite expressions will merge in the integral Macrocosmic Entity.

This Supreme Conscious Entity beyond the veil of cimmerian darkness is called Akṣara Puruṣa (the immutable Entity). He is the One to be adored by all. He is the Universal Father. Out of His Infinite Cognition emerges everything.

To realize the all-pervasive Supreme Entity, the static darkness has got to be dispelled from one's mind – there is no other way. Those who grope in the darkness of staticity are bound to differentiate between various objects, and will certainly be goaded to worship various finite objects. When one develops real love for the Supreme through unflinching sincerity and intense spiritual practice, the bondages of inertness gradually loosen and finally snap open. Those who take the finite to be the infinite, and ascribe Brahmahood (Consciousness) to finite objects, ultimately degenerate into inert matter. They are psychologically unable to transcend the bondages of lineage, caste, community and state. They may deliver noble-sounding speeches, but in reality they look upon this world through the spectacles of meanness. To fulfill their selfish group interests they utilize their intellectual power and physical energy for internecine feuds and battles, mutual slandering and jealousy, and thereby vitiate the atmosphere of the entire universe.

Some intellectuals are in favour of respecting all religions. I say that such people cannot do anything to promote the solidarity of the human race, for most religions demand blind faith rather than rationality from their followers. "Don't argue," they proclaim. "Accept the teachings of the scriptures for they are the direct word of God." The cunning intellectuals of the past imposed the importance of blind faith on the minds of their gullible followers. They told them to obey the teachings, rational or irrational, otherwise there would be no respite from the endless suffering of human life, no other path to take them to the eternal bliss of heaven.

In most cases religions took advantage of human weaknesses, crippled the people's rationality, and sapped their strength, thus facilitating their exploitation by the religious traders. When the vitality and strength of the masses remains unexpressed, the exploiters will be able to exploit them in the economic and other spheres of life for a long time with relative ease. In the annals of human history it can be seen in all ages that the various exploiters were the patrons and the preachers of religion.

Dharma (righteousness) is altogether different from religion for it teaches human beings to advance while mercilessly smashing all obstacles that thwart human progress. Its inherent qualities are subtle analysis, ideological strength and the brilliance of valour. That's why the vested interests cannot tolerate it and use all their strength and machinery to oppose it. They claim they are protecting religion. The greater the conflict between person and person, between community and community, between state and state, the greater is their advantage. But when many people form a collective mind through sincere sacrifice and ardent practice while advancing towards the realization of oneness with the Supreme, it will be difficult to continue exploiting people on any pretext.

In fact the ignorance of Brahmapada (intuitional science) and Dharma has done enormous harm to the human race. In the modern civilized society the same thing should not be allowed to be repeated. By accepting the all pervasive and all-permeating Brahma (Consciousness) as the primordial factor for the crude, subtle and causal worlds; by realizing Brahma as the nucleus of the enjoyer, the enjoyed and the enjoyment; and by keeping the Supreme Cognition fixed before the mind, human life should be rebuilt on a strong foundation. All spheres of life should be completely restructured. All feelings of differentiation his god, her god, the Hindu's Hari and the Muslim's Allah should be abandoned and that Supreme Entity accepted from the core of one's heart. That Supreme Imperishable Entity is the final desideratum, the culminating point of all entities. We should not bother the least who addresses Him as Hari or who addresses Him as Allah.

Those whose existence is filled with cosmic ideation do not and cannot support any discrimination regarding Parama Puruṣa and His creation. But those who have not properly understood the concept of the Absolute Entity confine Him within the bonds of limitation by petty squabbling (over such insignificant arguments as to whether Hari is greater than Allah, or Allah greater than Hari), or claiming that He resides in certain holy places of pilgrimage. Some of them raise their hands and proclaim, "God is listening to everything from above." Others believe that the Supreme Entity remains within the confines of temples, mosques and churches and hands out His favours to all. Now can you ever keep that Infinite Entity confined to a limited place or idea? Leave aside the temples, mosques and churches; even a continent, a solar system or the entire universe cannot confine Him. Dimwitted people, due to the influence of the static principle, wrongly ascribe Brahmahood to finite objects, and worship them.

STAY HEALTHY STAY FIT

An integrated approach to health — natural life-style way



- Mahesh Prasad

Stay Healthy Stay Fit

**An Integrated approach to health
natural life-style way**

Indian Price : Rs. 100/- only

For your copy, contact
Mahesh Prasad

Contact No. : 09897722584 Email : meerutyogi@gmail.com

Sadvipra Revolution

Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar

Proutist Bloc, India
New Delhi

Sadvipra Revolution

Indian Price : Rs. 80/- only

Overseas Price : USD \$12 only

(Shipping and Handling Charges Extra)

**The key to solution
of all the problems of the world.**

Read the epoch making concept of leadership by
Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar
in the book.

Payment Options

Money or cheque to be deposited directly in
any branch of State Bank of India in the name of
Neo-Humanist Education Foundation,
Saving A/c No. 30379188250

Pay online through
Paypal using mail ID : prout.am@gmail.com

For your copy, contact
A'ca'ya Santosananda Avadhuta
Editor - PROUT

Contact No. : 09212199658 Email : prout.am@gmail.com

Attention! Consumers

Fight for your right

Consumer Courts

will lend you the might

As a consumer, your rights are well protected under the laws of India. Stay alert and keep abreast of your rights. But if you still find yourself being cheated, report the matter to a Consumer Court. Justice will be served.



dapv 08101/13/0014/1415

National Consumer Helpline No. 1800-11-4000 (Toll Free)

SMS your name & city to 8130009809 from your mobile

You can also log in your complaints at www.nationalconsumerhelpline.in
and www.core.nic.in (Toll Free No. 1800-180-4566)



Issued in Public Interest by:

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 Website: www.fcamin.nic.in