

MANKIND OCCASIONAL PAPER 10

**GROWTH OF FISHERIES,
EXPANSION OF SEA POWER,
AND RISE OF EUROPE :
1098 - 1975**

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AN ERA OF DARKNESS : 1098 - 2007
FROM CRUSADES, COLUMBUS AND
COLONIALISM TO HOLOCAUST, HIROSHIMA
AND OZONE-HOLE

**GROWTH OF FISHERIES,
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Vinayak Purohit

1. MARX, WITTFOGEL TOYNBEE AND HISTORY OF
MODES OF PRODUCTION

Karl Marx (1818-83) and Frederick Engels (1822-95) were superior journalists. Nothing more! Karl Marx, in particular, suffered from acute delusions of grandeur; promoted by acolytes, especially Engels, and White Christian sycophants, who secretly admired his conversion from Judaism to Protestant Christianity. Actually, of the two, Frederick Engels had the broader vision and the deeper scholarship.

Engels not only edited and rewrote Marx's second and third volumes of *Capital* (Progress Publishers, Hamburg/Moscow editions of 1893/1956, 1894/1956)¹, but also jointly authored with Marx, the famous *Communist Manifesto* (1848) as well as *The German Ideology* (1846); and wrote individually *The Housing Question* (1873), *Anti-Duhring* (1878), *Socialism Utopian and Scientific* (1880), *The Dialectics of Nature* (1873-83) and *The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State* (1884). (See Appendix to the *Grundrisse*, Penguin Books, pp.896-98).

In spite of the thousands of pages of *Capital*, Vols. 1 to 4, Marx could not work out the sectoral Circulation of Values. He proceeded to divide the economy in two sectors, ultimately raising the number of sectors to five. (*Capital*, Vol.2, p.93, Vol.3, pp.155-7, Vol.4, p.164, etc.)

1. *Theories of Surplus Value*, Parts 1, 2 and 3 were published as Volume IV of *Capital* by the Institute of Marxism Leninism in Moscow in 1863, 1968 and 1971 for the first time.

Marx created the insoluble sectoral problem for himself by proceeding from the abstract to the concrete instead of taking the route the other way round. We search in vain for a clear-cut statement on the commencement of capitalism in Marx's tomes. He goes round and round without spelling out the defining criteria. He posits the centrality of commodity as a concept, whereas the only sensible contribution that he ever made was that of Mode of Production.

Commodities circulate and give rise to values differentially within each Mode of Production : Slave, Feudal, Capitalist or some other.

Further, Marx vitiated the debate by inserting illegitimate geographical categories in the purely economic sphere. He considered the Asiatic Mode of Production as typical for India, which had an enormous perennial favourable export balance. Gold and silver from the whole world ended up in India till 1765. How can such an economy be termed stagnant and self sufficient?

He went into rhapsodies about its backwardness, barbarity, its worship of false gods, stagnation, self-sufficiency of village communities, blending of domestic industry and agriculture, and so on. Karl Wittfogel picked up this erroneous notion of the Marxian Asiatic Mode and exaggerated the concept into a generalised one of Hydraulic Civilisations projecting Oriental Despotisms. The whole farrago of nonsense was set in motion by Marx's insertion of geographical categories into the economic sphere.

He never asked himself how village self-sufficiency jibed with millions of soldiers marching in Oriental armies, and with enormous annual export surpluses till 1765!

Marx's *Capital* is an unreadable mass of endless quibbling and overuse of paradoxical juxtapositions. Even the first volume by itself has to be read backwards from part VIII dealing with Primitive Accumulation, to part I dealing with Commodities, if one is not to fall asleep out of sheer boredom!

Marx considered himself to be a polymath and a philosopher. This is possibly an occupational disease of all good journalists. An excellent non-sycophantic study of Marx has been produced by Paul Johnson, *Intellectuals* (Johnson was editor of the *New Statesman* for 20 years. Harper & Row, New York, 1988, pp.52-81). Engels' ambitions lay in another direction : that of being a grand military strategist, which obviously he was not. He was fond of riding on horesback, splendidly attired, not only in his German homelands, but also in Manchester, England, where he owned a textile factory. This textile factory not only provided a comfortable living to Engels, but indirectly through him sustenance to Marx. The Manchester Liverpool

region was the centre of the first Industrial Revolution led by England from 1765 to 1860, which causally coincided with the Indian Famines of the same era. It was also the centre of the Trans-Atlantic Triangular Slave Trade of the 18th and 19th centuries; as well as the main cause behind the ruination of Indian textile manufacturing industry, which resulted in the words of Marx "in the bones of the Indian cotton weavers of Bengal bleaching the Indian plains" (*Capital*, Vol.1, p.406)

Marx and Engels wrote in a facile manner in *the German Ideology* that "We know only a single science, the science of history" (*Collected Works*, Vol.5, Progress Publishers, Moscow, p.28, fn.); but they knew very little world history outside Europe and they never could define history as a discipline. Their views of the country with the oldest known history in the world, i.e. India, were not only perfunctory and hide-bound, but also reactionary and patently imperialistic. Marx had the temerity to adduce pre-destination in his defense: "India could not escape the fate of being conquered. *Indian Society has no history at all*. What we call its history is but the history of the successive intruders who founded their empires on the *passive basis of India's unresisting and unchanging society*. The question, therefore, is not whether the English had the right to conquer India, but whether we are to prefer India conquered by the Turk, by the Persian, by the Russian to India conquered by the Briton." (Marx and Engels, *The First Indian War of Independence*, Progress Publishers 1975 Moscow, p.29. The lines were first published in July 22, 1853, in *New York Daily Tribune*) But the real questions were : Why did India attract so many invaders over so many centuries? Why did it have such a high population density?

As a matter of fact, as we have noted in this series of *Occasional Papers*, at the time, in early 19th century, India was economically far more advanced than Japan, USA, or Russia, not to speak of Persia and Turkey, to which Marx has referred in the above quotation as possible conquerors. If political freedom had been vouchsafed to India, it would have proceeded on an independent path of development and made the breakthrough to that level of self sustained growth as was achieved by Japan, Russia and USA. (See Mankind Occasional Papers No.2: *A Non-Compradar Account of the Loot of India*, 2004) Marx and Engels considered themselves to be atheists, but in actuality were White, Christian Racialists, who considered Indians, and Afro-Asians in general, to be low heathens, barbarians and savages. They considered them as those who worshipped false gods and sustained a low degree of culture and civilisation. This has been the European, White, Christian Capitalist LIE underlying all their writings as exemplified by Arnold Toynbee, the Cambridge historians of India; the civil servants who wrote

hundreds of volumes of the Indian Gazetteers, led by W.W.Hunter, James and John Stuart Mill, all three employees of the East India Company, C-H Philips, Philip Woodruff, L. D. Stamp, T. H. Holdich, O.H.K. Spate and A.T.A. Learmonth. The last two were descendents of Penal Colony Australians, who carried on the legacy of Anglian Sub-imperialism.

The most obnoxious and vituperative pseudo was probably Arnold Toynbee who was a British imperialist master-spy and head of their secret service from 1915 for sixty years, either directly or as lynchpin of their strategic think-tanks.

As I wrote in "Toynbee, British Secret Service and Agent Nehru" in *Mankind*, Vol.9, Dec.1999-Jan. 2000, pp-36-40: "Arnold Toynbee's *Study of History* (Single volume, illustrated abridgement with June Caplan, 1972) is largely non-history. It is more often than not literary criticism, rhapsodic mythography, and irritatingly boring Christian didacticism and religious fundamentalism."

From the time of Vico (1668-1744), the White Christian Europeans have advanced a cyclical theory of history, whereby history moves in a circle, repeating itself endlessly, without any breakthroughs. Rammanohar Lohia attacked this cyclical theory, which was absorbed by Marx, to posit the point of view that the most advanced capitalist country, i.e. England, must provide the basis for the next revolution in the mode of production towards a socialist society. In other words, English and European supremacy in world affairs would continue into the next epoch, that of Socialism!

In reviewing Lohia's seminal contribution, *The Wheel of History* (Navhind Prakashan, Hyderabad, 1955), I pointed out that whilst Lohia had attacked and rejected the theory of cyclical eternal English and European historical supremacy, he had failed to project (a) the ever expansive Spiral Movements of the Wheel; (b) the matter of Speed, and of Acceleration or Retardation, or the Rate of Change; (c) the Direction and Tilt of the Wheel.

We can look at the subject from a tangential angle. If as Clausewitz (1780-1831) and Jomini (1779-1869) have stated that "*War is a continuation of politics by other means*", we must understand that "*Politics itself is nothing but concentrated economics*" and that "*economics, in turn is born out of the natural and human resources provided by geography.*"

Thus history becomes an enmeshed chronicle of the geographical base, the political economic framework, and the socio-cultural superstructure of mankind's affairs, in which war, art, industry and other activities, play their subsidiary roles. (See accompanying Schematic Graphical Representation of the Human Condition)

**SCHEMATIC CONE OF AN
EVER EXPANSIVE SPIRAL:
GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION
OF HUMAN CONDITION**

HISTORY

CHRONICLES GEOGRAPHY,
ECONOMICS, POLITICS,
SOCIOLOGY & IDEOLOGICAL
CONTROL OF A PEOPLE

**SOCIETY AND
CULTURE :**

IDEOLOGY, ART, RELIGION,
SPORTS, EDUCATION, S&T,
R&D, MASS MEDIA, ETC
ON POLITICAL BASE

**POLITICS & WAR
OR CONCENTRATED
ECONOMICS**

**ECONOMICS OR
MODE OF PRODUCTION
BASED ON HUMAN &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**GEOGRAPHY OR
NATURAL & HUMAN
RESOURCES**

2. GROWTH OF FISHERIES ALONG THE NORTH SEA SHORES

We will approach the problem tangentially and first consider the variations of map projections, in which all must compromise with the global reality in order to represent a sphere like the planet Earth on a flat two dimensional surface of the paper (See various encyclopaedias, in particular the Macmillan Encyclopaedia, 1994 edition, p.777)

Mercator's Projection became the most popular representation promoted by the imperialist powers who had edited and divided the world amongst themselves by the 19th century. Mercator's Projection diminished the size visually of the countries and nations near the equator, and exaggerated comparatively the dimensions of the countries and nations located in the higher latitudes. Thus Russian Siberia, Scandinavia, Scotland, Iceland, Greenland, Canada and Alaska became enormously large, whilst India, South-East Asia, Central Africa (Congo.etc.), Central Latin America, Brazil, etc. appeared small and puny. But Mercator's Projection provided true navigational direction, and was very useful for the predatory captains of sea vessels traversing the oceans.

The 19th Century, we can say, was the century of Mercator's Projection. The British empire on which the sun never set at one time covered one fourth of the world. The Russian empire extended upto the Canadian border, till Alaska was sold to the United States in 1867. The Russian Empire under the czars covered one-seventh of the world. Canada was the scene of Viking settlements led by Eric the Red in c.1000 A.D. making Columbus' Journey in 1492 to the Caribbean a purely piratical and genocidal enterprise! Nova Scotia i.e. New Scotland and New Foundland (literally) were, by the Great Circle route, only about a 1000 miles from Scandinavia and England-Holland, though they appeared by Mercator's Projection to be many times that distance. Greenland was bloated up by Mercator's Projection to a gigantic size. Iceland became the premier whaling station of the world till the White Europeans almost hunted the giant vegetarians of the sea to extinction.

Let us now consider the situation of the planetary fisheries in the recent historical period :

"As nations organised large fishing fleets, they became sea powers. The once powerful Hanseatic League (1250-1669), for example, traced its beginning to the herring fisheries. The rise of the Dutch

as sea power in the 17th Century grew out of its dominance of the fisheries of the North Sea. As early as the days of the Tudors (1485-1603), the English were fishing not only in the North Sea and other home waters, but also off Iceland and off Newfoundland in the West and as far as Vardo, Norway (70.23N, 30.43E) to the East." (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1973 Edition Vol.9, p.362, hereafter referred to as *EB73*. Its 1983 edition, will be referred to as *EB83*.)

"The oceans and inshore coastal waters of the world provide most of the catch of fish and shell fish totalling about 60 million metric tonnes annually in the late 1960s". (*Ibid*, p.363)

"The fisheries in the cold and temperate waters of the Northern Hemisphere yielded about 75 per cent of the world catch, which totalled over 60 million metric tonnes in the late 1960s. Asia excluding the USSR produced approximately 37 per cent of the world catch; South America and Europe, excluding the USSR, each about 20 percent; USSR 10 percent; North America 7 percent; Africa 6 percent; and Oceania less than 1 percent. About 33 percent of the world catch was reduced into meal and oil; nearly 31 per cent was marketed fresh, over 13 percent was cured; about 12 percent was frozen, 9 percent was canned; and 2 percent was used for miscellaneous purposes... Peru led all countries in volume of catch, producing a sixth of the world catch. Other major fish producers were Japan, Communist China, USSR, Norway, United States, Spain, India, Canada, Indonesia, Denmark, Chile and the United Kingdom. These 13 countries together produced nearly 75 percent of the world harvest of fish and shell fish." (*ibid*, p.365)

"United Kingdom - for many centuries, British deep sea fisheries have been the most highly organised in the world. Fishing is conducted in three distinct areas comprising (1) 'distant water', off Iceland, off east and west coasts of Greenland, in the Barents Sea, on the banks of Newfoundland and Labrador; (2) 'middle water' (around Faeroe Islands) and 'near water' (Fishing grounds in the North and Irish Seas); and (3) 'inshore water' which also yields considerable quantities of shellfish. The British fleet of distant water' trawlers is one of the largest in the world... More than 75 percent of British catch consisted of white fish (fish with white, non-oily flesh). Cod and related species made up more than 80 percent and flounders about 10 percent of the white fish caught. Herring accounted for about 15 percent of the total landings. Because of the nearness of the fishing ports to consuming centres, most of the catch is marketed fresh." (*ibid*, p.367).

3. FISHERIES, SEA POWER AND WORLD WARS

Let us now turn to sea power. A large merchant marine is invariably the base for a large navy, i.e. of sea power. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* contends that the possession of a large merchant marine does not necessarily imply notable sea power (*EB 73*, Vol.20, p.132) and cites the examples of Norway, Greece and the US before 1860.

But a little thought will show that Greece was created by UK, in the 1820s and 1830s, in order to prevent Russia from reaching the Mediterranean, and the Thrace was made part of Greece in order to hold off Russia. Actually, modern Greece has ethnically and by religion nothing to do with the so-called Ancient Greece, which was pagan, and largely under the occupation of Macedonia. Ancient Greek-speaking lands were located across the Aegean Sea on the Asiatic coast of Anatolia, which was then known as Ionia, with its capital at Troy on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. The Greek population of Anatolia was *en masse* expelled by the Islamic Turks as recently as in 1921-22. The present day Greece was a part of the Ottoman Empire from the 14th century to 1832, and had been disputed amongst the successors to short-lived empire of the Macedonian Alexander III in 4th century BC. It was repeatedly invaded by Slavic tribes from the 6th century AD onwards. Its present day Church is Orthodox but auto-cephalous.

Norway was a part of the Scandinavian United Kingdom with Denmark, Sweden and Finland under the Union of Kalmar (1397 AD). Whilst it was united to Denmark, it extended its rule to Iceland and Greenland. Denmark also had colonies in the Far East, including Serampore in India. (For the possessions of various East India Companies sponsored by European powers, See W.W.Hunter, *The Indian Empire*, 1886, pp.356-77)

United States before 1860 also does not form an exception to the rule of large fishing fleets leading to powerful merchant shipping and great sea power. as alleged because (1) it engaged in the Mexican War from 1848 itself and annexed Texas, the federation's second largest state; (2) the Monroe Doctrine was enunciated in 1823 and enforced increasingly forcefully in the succeeding decades, to exclude all European powers from any attempt at intervention in the Americas.

The example of Japan, on the contrary, proves that large fishing fleet does lead to powerful merchant marine and enhancement of sea power. (From 1931, Japan challenged Euro-American might until its defeat at the end of the Second World War in 1945)

Clausewitz and Jomini outlined war strategy mainly for land armies. Comparable studies of sea power were summed up by the American Captain and Rear Admiral A.T. Mahan in a treatise published in 1890: *The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783*. This work influenced the German Kaiser to engage in the great Anglo - German naval race that preceded World War I (*EB 73, Vol-20, p.134*)

As an aside, we may note that the British naval supremacy began in Tudor times when English pirates, buccaneers and privateers partnered Queen Elizabeth I to share the loot they obtained from plundering the returning treasure galleons belonging to Spain and Portugal, as they re-crossed the Atlantic along the Great Circle routes which carried them near the British Isles. Sir Francis Drake, Sir William Hawkins, Sir Martin Frobisher, Sir Walter Raleigh were the leaders of this gang of sea-rovers who even crossed the Isthmus of Central America to raid, bombard and burn Spanish settlements on the Eastern Coast of Latin America from Columbia to Chile. It was with the bullion looted from the Iberian treasure fleets that the East India Company of England was able to trade with India, which enjoyed a perpetual favourable balance of trade. India accepted nothing except gold and silver for its manufactures, which it supplied to England and the European Continent.

The depredations of the infamous quartered patronised by the English Queen. provoked a war with Spain. The British Isles were sought to be invaded by the Spanish Armada in 1588 and as luck would have it, the weather helped the English to inflict a defeat upon the Armada, and Drake and Company claimed a great victory with their galleons and armed merchant ships of about 300 tons burden. Perhaps, the English tactics of not allowing the Spaniards to hove alongside and attempt boarding the English vessels and bombarding the Spaniards with fore and aft cannons may have played a part in the English victory too. Anyhow, from the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 till the 1930s, when Germany, Italy and Japan united as the Axis powers, Britain dominated the world. Japan in 1942 challenged British dominance of the waters and captured Hong Kong, Singapore and Rangoon. Mountbatten in full retreat had to make Colombo his headquarters, till hired Indian troops helped him to recapture Arakan, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and Vietnam. To the eternal shame of Jawaharlal Nehru's pretensions to be a leader of the underdeveloped non-aligned world, Indian troops continued to serve British imperial interests till French and Dutch colonialists could return to their possessions in S.E.Asia (Nehru had really come

to power from September 1946, when he formed the so-called transitional Interim Government.)

The tide actually turned in favour of the Allies in early 1945: It was the acquisition of Mariana Islands, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, that finally enabled Allied air and naval power to hurl the blows that brought Japan to its knees" (*ibid*, p.134. Allied capture of Iwo Jima was in February-March 1945). The *coup de grace* was delivered by the hurling of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 by USA.

4. NATURE OF SEA POWER

"The instruments of sea power have always meant the sum total of weapons, institutions, installations, and geographical circumstances that enable a nation to exercise military power at sea" (*ibid.*, p.132)

As we have seen above, in around 1588, at the time of the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the standard fighting ship of the English navy was the galleon, with two or three decks, carrying its main batteries in the broadside, and lighter pieces fore and aft. Armed merchant ships of 300 tons burden were called 'great ships' and supplemented the galleons. During the 17th and 18th centuries, the warship evolved into two major types: The ship-of-the-line or line-of-battleship and the cruiser to pursue and capture enemy merchant vessels.

The aircraft carriers appeared at the very close of World War I, and dominated the waters till the 1960s and 1990s, when the nuclear submarine became the single most important instrument of sea power (*ibid.*, pp.132, 133)

Apart from the battleships and cruisers, and the aircraft carriers and submarines, the other vessels employed by navies, were destroyers (designed to destroy with their guns the torpedo boats that menaced the battle fleet); the mine-sweepers; repair ships; storeships, oilers, fleet tugs; transports; hospital ships and so on.

5. INDIA AS SEA TRADER

We may conclude this section with a reference to the outstanding Indian achievements in the areas of merchant marine and ship-building. The Indian Vedic civilisation was settled on the banks of the Saraswati River, which flowed between the Sutlaj and the

Jamuna, before a tectonic disturbance in remote times, led to its capture by either the Sutlaj or the Jamuna. It survives today as the dried-up bed, with scattered pools, of the Ghaggar, as it is known in India, or the Hakra as it is called in Pakistan. The flow of the Saraswati was detected by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute of Jodhpur, Rajasthan by satellite aerial mapping (*D.Frawley. The Myth of the Aryan Invasion of India, p.20 and Manorama Yearbook, 1993, p.408*, which gives a complete map of the Thar desert of Rajasthan-Pakistan through which the Saraswati flowed in Vedic times and it ended up in the Rann of Kutch at its eastern end.) Saraswati Culture was the largest ancient civilisation known to archaeology and was spread over more than 1.5 million sq. kms. extending from Shortughai on the Amu-Darya (Oxus) on the Uzbekistan-Afghan border in the North; to Lothal at the head of the Bay of Cambay, and Bhagatrav at the mouth of the river Narmada, and Daimabad in Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra (on the banks of the Godavari), all three in the South; and from Sutkagen Dor on the Makran Coast on the Indo-Iranian border to the west; and to Alamgirpur across the Jamuna in Western UP, and Louradeva in Gorakhpur District in UP in the East. (*Mankind, Vol.3, Sept.1998, p.23*)

The extent of this Sapta-Sindhu or Saraswati/Indus culture is larger than all the riparian civilisations known to mankind outside the historic, sub-continental India, centred upon the river Nile, the river Jordan, the rivers Euphrates-Tigris, and rivers Huang-ho Yangtze, all put together.

As for as Indian trade is concerned, India was a highly developed manufacturing country prior to British conquest and commencement of drain of wealth from 1765. An enormous loot was taken away from India of more than Rs.100 crore per year from the 1765 Acquisition of Diwani of Bengal, to 1947, when a Transfer of Power to the comprador brown elite took place under a law passed by the British House of Commons. (*See Mankind Occasional Paper No.2 : A Non-comprador Account of the British Loot of India, 2004*)

The extent of Indian dominance in world trade has been statistically presented in Brij Narain, *Indian Economic Life*, (Uttamchand Kapur & Sons, Lahore, 1929); Bal Krishna, *Commercial Relations between India and England: 1601-1757*, (George Routledge & Sons, London, 1924) and Tara Chand, *History of Freedom Movement in India* (Vol.1. Publication Division, Delhi-1961

Ch-4; 'Economic Conditions in the 18th century', pp.149-70)

Ship-building used to be an Indian speciality, particularly as Indian teak was far superior to British oak, and hundred year old India-built ships were used as training ships for British seamen till recently. (R.A. Wadia, *Bombay Dockyard and the Wadia Master Builders* R.A. Wadia, Bombay, 1956) More than 400 ships were built in the period upto the advent of iron and steam, by the Surat and Bombay Dockyards, and these vessels were pierced for upto 90 guns. (See tables in the work of Wadia)

6. CRUSADES, CIVIL WARS AND THE TRIUMPH OF CAPITALISM IN EUROPE : 1098-1492/98

The breakaway from feudalism and the breakthrough to capitalism, was achieved by White Christian Europeans in this period. A direct assault by land armies through the Middle East was a commercial enterprise disguised as crusades, and had been beaten back by powerful Asiatic feudalisms led by Saladin, a Kurd of Turko - Egyptian provenance. In fact, the nine Crusades (1096 - 1365) as well as the two Children's Crusades of 1212 and a Shepherd's Crusade of 1251, making it a round dozen, actually provoked a three - pronged counter - attack by the Arab - Berber Al Moravid (1056-1147) and Al-Mohad (1130 - 1289) Empires; the Turkic Seljuk (1055 - 1243) and the Ottoman (1330 - 1919) Empires; and finally, the Mongol (1220 - 1533) Empire.

The three - pronged backlash resulted in the occupation of the Iberian Peninsula by the Islamic forces of Al Moravids and Al Mohads. Islamic occupation was exemplified by the Caliphate of Cordoba (920 - 1031) and the Genoese pirate, Columbus' genocidal raid reached the Caribbean in the same year 1492, as the last Islamic kingdom of Granada, folded up.

The Turks remained in occupation of the entire Balkans area, including the present day Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and the six Yugoslov republics till the end of the First World War in 1919, and effectively thwarted the Byzantine empire (330 - 1453), which the Romans had planted in Byzantium / Constantinople / Istanbul on the Bosphorus, in order to pursue more effectively their wars against the Persians of the Parthian (171 BC-227AD) and Sassanian (224-651AD) periods. (After an interval formed by the Turkic Seljuks, a mixed Turko-Mongol regime had taken over, represented by the Il khans (1256-1353) and the Timurids (1360-1779).

(see Richard N. Frye, *Persia*, George Allen and Unwin, London, 1968, especially chronological appendices at the end)

Europe faced two major barriers in its quest to rival and overtake Asia. The first barrier was politico-geographical. As compared to gigantic, powerful Asiatic feudalisms, European feudal states were petty, divided, poverty-stricken and eternally warring amongst themselves. As we wrote on p.16 of our Occasional Paper No.3: *Emergence of Tri-Polar World after 1975*, p.16, the division of Europe into feudal principalities had reached absurd limits. A single country like Germany was divided into some 900 sovereign feudal states: "The Treaty of Westphalia of 1648, for instance, reduced the number of sovereign states of which the German empire was composed from 900 to 355. The Diet of Regensberg of 1803 eliminated 200 more. When the German Confederation was founded in 1815, only 36 sovereign states were left to join. Germany in 1871 eliminated 31 additional sovereign states. At the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, only five nations of the first rank were left in Europe—Austria, France, Great Britain, Russia and Prussia." (*EB 73*, Vol.12, pp-437-8).

7. TWO BARRIERS : GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

We have already outlined the three-pronged backlash mounted by Asiatic feudalisms which resulted in the occupation of the Iberian Peninsula in the South-West, consisting of Spain and Portugal, by the Arab-Berber armies of Al-Moravids and Al-Mohads; the occupation of the entire Balkan Peninsula in the South-East of Europe by the Seljuq and Ottoman Turkish forces; and, thirdly, the invasion of the entire region of East Europe from Ukraine to the Baltic Sea by the Mongol armies in the 13th to 19th centuries.

The first geographical-political barrier could not be overcome, till Bartholomew Diaz de Novaes rounded the Cape and sailed up the eastern coast of Africa in 1487; and till Vasco da Gama crossed the Arabian Sea arm of the Indian Ocean from Mombasa, with the help of a Gujarati pilot, to Cochin, in 1498. (Vincent Smith *Oxford History of India*, 1922, p.331.)

The second barrier, that of socio-economic nature, was even more formidable; and this forced European feudal states to transcend the limits of the feudal mode of production, and break out towards a capitalist re-arrangement of the economic forces and relations, through a series of civil wars and internecine conflicts. Thus, Europe

had to overcome, simultaneously, the two barriers of geography and sociology or political economy. The best evidence of this transition has been provided by two studies : (1) H. A. Davies, *An Outline History of the World*, (OUP, 1954) and (2) J. H. Breasted & J. H. Robinson, *Outlines of European History*, (Ginn & Co, Boston, 1914).

We will first take up Breasted and Robinson (Ch.XXI, pp.497-509) "One of the chief peculiarities of the early Middle Ages from the break-up of the Roman Empire (330 AD) to the time of William the Conqueror (1066 AD), was absence of large and flourishing towns in Western Europe." (p.497)

"During the long period from Theodoric (454-526 AD) to Frederick Barbarosa (1123-90 AD), by far the greater population of England, Germany, and Northern and Central France, were living in the country; on the great estates belonging to the feudal lords, abbots and bishops." (p.498)

"All towns outside of Italy were small in the 11th and 12th centuries, and, like the manors on which they had grown up, they had little commerce as yet with the outside world. They produced almost all that their inhabitants needed except the farm products which came from the neighbouring countryside... The townspeople were scarcely more than serfs, inspite of the fact that they lived within a wall, and were traders and artisans instead of farmers. They had to pay irritating dues to their lord, just as if they still formed a farming community" (p.499)

Thus, Marx's famous self-sufficient village community uniting domestically industry and agriculture, was located in the heart of Europe, and was not Asiatic at all, gestating any kind of Oriental Despotism.

"When new and attractive commodities began to be brought from the East and the South, the people of the towns were encouraged to make things which they could exchange at some neighbouring fair for the products of these distant lands. They became conscious that they were subject to exactions and restrictions which rendered progress impossible. Consequently, during the 12th ccentury, there were many insurrections of the towns against their lords and a general demand that the lords should grant the townsmen *charters*, in which the rights of both parties could be definitely stated. These *charters* were written contracts between the lord and the town governments, which served at once as the certificate of birth of the town, and as its constitution. The old dues and services which the townspeople owed as serfs were either abolished or changed into

money payments." (p.500)

"The tradesmen in medieval towns were at once manufacturers and merchants; i.e., they made, as well as offered for sale, the articles which they kept in their shops. Those who belonged to a particular trade—the bakers, the butchers, the sword makers, the armourers, etc.—formed unions or guilds to protect their special interests. The oldest statutes of a guild in Paris are those of the candle-makers, which go back to 1061." (p.502)

"A young man had to spend several years in learning his trade. During this time, he lived in the house of a 'master workman' as 'an apprentice' but received no remuneration. He then became a 'journeyman', and could earn wages, although he was still allowed to work only for master workmen and not directly for the public. A simple trade might be learned in three years, but to become a gold smith one must be an apprentice for ten years." (p.502)

"The chief reason for the growth of towns and their increasing prosperity was a great development of trade throughout Western Europe. In the early Middle Ages, there was no one to mend the ancient Roman roads. The great network of highways from Persia to Britain fell apart... In Italy, however, trade does not seem to have altogether ceased. Venice, Genoa, Amalfi, and other towns appear to have developed a considerable Mediterranean commerce... Their merchants supplied the destitute crusaders with the material necessary for the conquest of Jerusalem. The passion for pilgrimages, offered inducements to the Italian merchants, for expeditions to the Orient, whither they transported the pilgrims, and returned with the products of the East. The Italian cities established trading stations in the East, and carried on a direct traffic with the caravans which brought to the shores of the Mediterranean, the products of Arabia, Persia, India and the Spice Islands. The Southern French towns and Barcelona entered also into commercial relations with the Mohammedans in northern Africa." (p.503)

"When commerce began to revive, it encouraged a revolution in industry. The romances of the 12th century indicate that the West was astonished and delighted by the luxuries of the East—the rich fabrics, oriental carpets, precious stones, perfumes, drugs, silks, and porcelains from China, spices from India.... Venice introduced the silk industry from the East and the manufacture of those glass articles which the traveller may still buy in the Venetian shops. The West learned how to make silk and velvet as light and gauzy as cotton and linen fabrics. The Eastern-dyes were introduced and Paris was soon

imitating the tapestries of Saracens. The Northern merchants dealt mainly with Venice... By the 13th century, important centres of trade had come into being. Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen carried on active trade with the countries of the Baltic and with England and with Augsburg and Nuremberg, Bruges and Ghent... England's commerce was relatively unimportant as yet compared with that of the great ports of the Mediterranean." (p.504)

"It was very difficult indeed to carry on business on a large scale in the Middle Ages, for various reasons. In the first place, there was little money... There were few gold and silver mines in Western Europe." (p.504)

That was why we shall show from Brooks Adams who will be quoted further below, it was necessary for Europe to enrich itself with gold and silver from the Americas, genocide of Red Indians, misappropriation of their mines and forests, and the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, before they could trade with India and the Orient.

"Akin to prejudices against wholesale business was that against interest. Money was believed to be dead and sterile. Interest was considered wicked. Usury, as the taking of even the most moderate and reasonable rate of interest was called such, and was strenuously forbidden by the laws of the Church" (p.506)

Islam still forbids interest and Islamic banks still have to camouflage their operations under the cloak of share of profit in diverse ways.

"So money lending, which is necessary to all great commercial and industrial undertakings was left to the Jews" (p.506)

The Jews were not allowed to own farm land additionally. In fact, all the three religions of the Middle East, Judaism (born c.1400BC), Christianity (born c.300 AD) and Islam (born 620AD) arose out of the identical middlemen role followed by followers of the three in the intercontinental transactions of India and Asia with the West. Each succeeding religion began as a Reform Movement out of the older *dalalgiri*. John the Baptist was the prophet whose follower was Jesus Christ, and Islam considers all three religions to be derived from the teachings of Abraham, of which Mohammad is the last Paigambar or Divine Messenger. All the major Christian saints are also acceptable as teachers by Islam.

"The active persecution of the Jews did not, however, become common before the 13th century." (p.506)

The Jews were expelled first from England in 1290, from France in 1306, and from Spain in 1492, the same year as the fall

of Granada, the Last Islamic Kingdom, and of the journey of Columbus, the pirate to the Caribbean.

"With the first Crusade (1096), there took place in Rhineland the first of a series of massacres that made the Middle Ages one long martyrdom for the Jews, and ultimately had the effect of driving them back toward the East." (*EB 73*, Vol.12, p.1069)

"As the Jews were expelled from the guilds, they not unnaturally, turned to moneylending, which no Christian might practise." Cp.506)

Jesus is supposed to have expelled the moneylenders from the Temple. This was not a particularly anti-capitalist act, but merely an anti-usury act undertaken by a leader of a pastoralist caravan band. Since basically all three religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, were ideological emanations of the middleman brokering trade between India and the West. Beginning with Byzantium, Venice and Genoa, they often centred their activities upon the seven important islands of the Mediterranean: Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Crete, Rhodes and Cyprus. These, in turn, became the headquarters of the three religious orders of the Hospitallers (founded 11th century, later retreated to Rhodes, Cyprus and Malta, and was extinguished by Napoleon in 1798); the Templars (born 1119 and destroyed in early 1300s); and the Teutonic Knights (founded c.1190, shifted from Middle East to Eastern Europe in 1211, and actively protected the Merchant Cities of the Hanseatic League. It was dissolved by Napoleon in 1809). The crusaders were forced out of their land beachheads of Antioch (1098-1268), Edessa (1098-1144), Jerusalem (1099-1244), and Tripoli (1102-1289). (See Occasional Paper No.2 for the world context of those events in the charts at the end.)

"The kings permitted the Jews to make loans often at the most exorbitant rates. Philip Augustus allowed them to exact 46 per cent. In England the usual rate was a penny a pound per week, or 21.66 per cent per year." (p.506)

"Besides this, the great variety of coinage which existed in feudal Europe, caused infinite perplexity and delay... Pirates were numerous in the North Sea. They were often organised and led by men of high rank, who regarded the business as no disgrace." (p.507)

As we have noted, Eligabeth I (ruled 1558-1603), was the moll, who led the gang of Drake, Hawkins, Raleigh and Company.

"With a view to mitigating the manifold perils, the towns began to form unions for mutual defence. The most famous of these

was that of the German cities, called the Hanseatic League. Lubeck was always the leader, but among the 70 towns, which were at one time or another included in the Confederation, we find Cologne, Brunswick and Steelyard near London Bridge, and the far off Novgorod in Russia. They managed to monopolise nearly the whole trade on the Baltic and the North Seas. For 200 years before the discovery of America, the League played a great part in the commercial affairs of Western Europe. It should be observed that, during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries, trade was not being carried on between *nations* but by the various *towns* like Venice, Lubeck, Ghent, Bruges, Cologne. A merchant did not act or trade as an independent individual but as a member of a particular guild. ...Only gradually did the towns merge into nations, to which their people belonged... The rise of the business class alongside the older orders of the clergy and the nobility, is one of the most momentous changes of the 13th century." (pp.508-9)

Thus was the sociological barrier to Europe's advancement overcome.

We may now take up the second book, *An Outline History of the World* by H - A. Davies :

"Thus a certain Marozia, a woman of noble birth in 928, deposed Pope John the tenth and replaced him by her own illegitimate son. Her grandson, John the Twelfth 6th also became Pope. His vices seem to have been as lurid and shameless as the Popes of the Renaissance period, e.g. Alexander VI, father of Cesare Borgia." (p.306)

"Thus great bishops and abbots were feudal nobles who held extensive fiefs for which they did homage and swore fealty just like other vassals... The kings and nobles really chose both bishops and abbots. If such nominees were not chosen, the older holders would refuse to hand over the lands attached to the bishopric or abbey ...The feudal lord was often a rough soldier to whom religion was merely a matter of convenience... Hence, when the clergy put forward their claims for immunity from secular control, there followed a long and bitter struggle, which could only end in a compromise. This is generally known as the Investiture struggle. The law forbidding the clergy to marry seems to have been widely disregarded in England, France, Germany and Italy. Kings and nobles sold bishoprics and abbasies. Bishops recouped themselves at the expense of the priests, whom it was their duty to appoint, and the priests got their money back by charging exorbitant fees for baptising, marrying or

burying their parishioners. (p.308)

"The popes had much to do if the church was to be made a great international organisation, greater than any monarchy. The first important step was taken by Pope Nicholas II who in 1059 issued a decree taking the election of the Pope out of the hands of the emperor and the people of Rome, and transferring it to a college of cardinals representing the Roman clergy... Moreover, the Church of which he is the head upon earth is infallible : It has never erred, and it will never err to all eternity." (p.309)

This absurd claim was proved by the case of Formosus, who was Pope from 891 to 96, and whose posthumous trial took place many years later. The trial was conducted by Pope Steven VI. His corpse was exhumed, propped up on a throne and subjected to a posthumous trial, during which a deacon answered for the corpse. His election was declared invalid, his acts were quashed, his fingers of consecration were cut off and his corpse was thrown in the Tiber River. This horrible comedy is described in *EB 83 Micro*, Vol.IV, p.234.

So much for the doctrine of infallibility!

"Frederick I also called Barbarosa, reigned 1152-90. The German Emperor did not ask for papal approval like his predecessors. He was brought up against an opposition of the towns: Milan, Cremona, Montua, Ferrara, Verona, Padua, Parma, Bologna and Venice. Some of these towns were practically independent states. They were constantly fighting amongst themselves, but still they contrived to become very wealthy... The towns in their opposition to the Emperor would always rely on the approval if not the active support of the papacy. (pp.312-13)

"Frederick II (reigned 1220-50) was one of the most enlightened of the medieval emperors. He was a patron of learning and welcomed Jewish and Mohammedan as well as Christian philosophers to his Sicilian court. *He was responsible for the introduction of Arabic numerals and algebra amongst Christians and students.*" (p.314)

The honour of introducing Arabic i.e. Hindu, numbers, and *beejganüt* or algebra, to Europe has been claimed also on behalf of "Roger II of Sicily (reigned 1101-54), first Norman king of Sicily, whose court at Palermo was one of the most magnificent in Europe, a meeting place for Christian and Arab scholars. He commissioned *The Book of Roger*, a medieval book of maps." (*Timelines of World History*, ed. J. B. Teeple. D.K. Publishing, London, 2002, p.613)

"Throughout the Middle Ages, pilgrimages to shrines of saints were regarded as the most effectual ways of atoning for past misdeeds, and pilgrimages to the Holy Land (Palestine, Jordan and Syria of today) were considered to be particularly effectual. With the breakup of the Caliphate, however, the lot of pilgrims became a dangerous one, especially after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Seljuq Turks in 1076". (p.315)

"But the stories of the pilgrims, although they did much to rouse European indignation against the Turks, were not the real cause of the Crusades. It was hoped that they would also be the means whereby an end would be put to the divisions amongst the Catholic princes of Europe, so that the powers and influence of the papacy would be increased. Accordingly when the Eastern emperor Alexius (1081-1118) appealed to Urban II for help against the Turks whose advance threatened the security of his throne... Urban II promised all those who responded to his appeal, remission of their sins, and with his own hands he distributed crosses, which were henceforward to be the badges of the warriors, and which gave them their name of crusaders" (p.316)

"The First Crusade was the most successful of them all, despite much conduct which was distinctly un-Christian. They had to pass through Hungary, and as they had nothing to give in exchange for food, they began to plunder the inhabitants and killed many of them. Many faced with the alternative of death, or conversion to Mohammedanism, chose the latter. Jerusalem, a Christian state, was at once established. There dependent states were also established : Tripoli, Edessa and Antioch. In 1144, Edessa was re-captured by Turks, an event which led to the Second Crusade (1147), which accomplished nothing. In 1187, Jerusalem fell once more into Mohammedan hands, when it was conquered by the Saracens under Saladin. A Third Crusade followed. Emperor Frederick Barbarosa encountered the Saracens with the most disastrous consequences... for years afterwards, German slaves are said to have been very plentiful and very cheap in the markets of Syria. The Fourth Crusade (1202-4) was a particularly mean and sordid affair. Instead of fighting Mohammedans, they turned their arms, first against their Christian brethren of Hungary, whose port of Zara the Venetians coveted, and then turned against Constantinople, which they conquered and subjected to three days of plunder and rapine. Even the churches were pillaged. and many priceless art treasures were ruthlessly destroyed." (p.320)

"There were four more Crusades, in addition to a singular movement known as the Children's Crusade (1212) (This is sometime counted as two crusades-V.P.), a large number of boys, peasants and women, assembled in France under the leadership of a youth named Stephen, marched to Marseilles, and were there embarked by two rascally merchants on ships which took them not to Syria, but the slave markets of Northern Africa." (p.322)

"In 1244, Jerusalem was lost again, and the subsequent attempts to recover it by the Seventh and Eighth Crusades, also failed" (p.322)

"Even in Acre, the one important town held by the Crusaders. so much fighting went on between the Christian inhabitants that a considerable part of the city was destroyed. In 1291, it was conquered by Saracens, who thus took possession of the last remnant of the kingdom of Jerusalem. (P.323)

Steven Runciman, the great authority on Crusades, has written a 3-volume history of the Crusades, (Cambridge Uni. Press, 1951, 1952, 1954) in which he was compelled to sum up : "Seen in the perspective of history, the whole crusading movement was a vast fiasco". (Vol.3, p.469)

"The failure of the Crusades was due chiefly to their own shortcomings. In that countless multitude, you will find a few except the utterly wicked and impious, the sacrilegious homicides and perjurers... They helped to destroy feudalism, because the lords often sold their lands and feudal rights in order to get money to go on a Crusade; they diminished the number of feudal subjects of the lower class and so created a demand for labourers which helped to bring about the emancipation of the serfs; and they gave a tremendous impetus to trade and commerce. They created a demand for ships and so stimulated the ship-building industry. The Crusades created and supplied a large demand in the West for wines, sugar, cotton, silk, all kinds of textile fabrics, rugs, pottery, glassware, spices, medicines, perfumes, colouring substances, incense, various kinds of oil, mastic, dates, grain and many other things. It would not be too much to say that the Crusades made Europe rich. The cities, particularly those of Northern Italy, such as Venice, Genoa, and Piza, benefitted greatly from this commerce, and it is not surprising that merchants provided the financial backing for more than one of the Crusades. They gave Christians the opportunity of travelling in foreign lands which had finer civilisations than their own and so they took the place of a liberal education. Life in the West was still

very rude. In the Eastern houses, he found many new objects of comfort and luxury, such as divans, sofas, alcoves, mattresses, carafes, jars and precious stones. Talisman, amulet, carat and the names of many stones are Arabic. The geographical knowledge of the West was very limited. But the Crusades brought great interest in the study of geography. One of the most famous travellers of the Middle Ages was Marco Polo, who reached the Pacific. Without the Crusades, the Renaissance could not have been what it was. Towns were increasing in importance, universities were being founded, and the East was helping to mould the civilisation of the West." (pp.324-5)

In our Occasional Paper No.2, especially in the chronological charts at the end, we have outlined the entire process of civilising the West by the East. We will not repeat here our conclusion that Europe was entirely marginal to world history till the Crusades, which were a land-oriented effort. Religion was only a disguise for crass commerce. The land army effort was a total failure and Europe had to wait

(a) till the Spanish and the Portuguese robbers and criminals assaulted the Latin Americans to genocidally massacre them and appropriate their lands, mines and wealth;

(b) till the Dutch, the English and the French followed the Iberians and re-looted their treasure fleets returning to Europe with gold, silver and precious stones;

(c) till the same genocidal operations were carried out by the Dutch, the French and the English in the Caribbean, Mexico, USA and Canada upto Alaska;

(d) till all the European powers had largely depopulated the New World, till negro slaves had been captured through raids and transported across the Atlantic, suffering great mortality in transit, and had been enslaved buried in mines, and worked to death in the plantations in the Americas;

(e) till the European colonial powers had exchanged the loot of the Americas for the commodities and manufactures of the East which they coveted; and

(f) till they had de-industrialised, ruralised and pauperised India in the period 1765-1860, coincidentally with the First Industrial Revolution of England (also 1765-1860), which simultaneously saw the slaughter of 85 million poor peasants and craftsmen of India (see Wadia & Merchant, *Our Economic Problem*, Vora & Co., Bombay, 1956, pp87-88, and our *Occasional Paper No.2 British*

Loot of India, pp.14, 20)

Let us return to H.A. Davies as the standard academic authority on the history of the world written from the Euro-centric point of view.

“Probably the Roman Church reached the height of its power under Innocent III (1198-1216). The Church at this time was something far more than a religious body. It was a State, a great international monarchy with an elaborate system of law and courts of its own, where cases were tried, which are now settled in the ordinary civil courts, such as matters relating to wills, contracts, usury, and blasphemy. Murderers who would show that they were clerks (clergyman) frequently escaped with very light penalties - and ability to read a single line was taken as sufficient proof that an offender was a clergyman.” (p.326)

Such was the low level of culture in Europe that only the clergy would read and write! Like the Brahmins in India, murders by the clergy in Europe went unpunished ! Sentences were horrific. The poor when guilty, were quartered, i. e. slowly strangled and cut in four parts! Public hangings and torture was commonplace!

“This was the so-called Holy Inquisition which existed to ferret out cases of unbelief ...A heretic was to be burnt alive without any trial” (p.328)

There were three Inquisitions, Medieval, Roman and Spanish. The Medieval lasted from 1236 to 1542. “The use of torture to obtain confessions was authorised in 1252 by Innocent IV” (EB 83, Micro, Vol.V, p.366)

The Roman Inquisition was established in 1542 by Pope Paul III to combat Protestantism and was renamed in 1908 as the Holy Office. It was once again renamed in 1965 by Pope Paul VI as Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and it continues to this day. Galileo was condemned under this Roman Inquisition.

The Spanish Inquisition was instituted in 1478 to combat Jews and Muslims, who were accused of witchcraft and sorcery. (EB 83, Micro, Vol.V, p.367) The Spanish Inquisitors were so severe that Pope Sixtus IV had to restrain them. “The first Grand Inquisitor was the Dominican Tomas de Torquemada who has become the symbol of the Inquisitor who uses torture and confession to terrorise his victims. The number of burnings at the stake during his tenure were probably around 2000. The *auto de de*, the public ceremony at which sentences were pronounced, became an elaborate celebration. In 1492. Spanish Jews were given the choice of exile or baptism. In

1542, Islam, in its turn, was proscribed. The Spanish Protestants were also eliminated by the Inquisition. Under the Inquisitor General and his supreme council, there were 14 local tribunals in Spain and in the colonies, particularly in Mexico and Peru. The Inquisition was suppressed finally in 1834" (*ibid.*, p.367)

It is only the ignorant who consider the White Europeans to be civilised. They are the most barbaric people that the world has ever known. It was probably due to the admixture of *Homo neanderthalensis* and *Homo sapiens* in Europe, that this specially cruel strain, including occasional cannibalism, developed in Europe amongst the White Christians.

"The gross unfairness of the Inquisition trials, their use of torture, and attempts to make accused persons implicate others, have made the very word Inquisition, into a synonym for intolerance and cruelty. The two great orders of friars, the Dominicans and the Franciscans, were founded in the early part of 13th century... Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican and Roger Bacon, a Franciscan" (Davis, *op.cit.*, p.382)

"The English priest, John Wycliffe (1320-89) condemned the sale of pardons for sins. Amongst Wycliffe's disciples was John Hus who was burnt as a heretic (1415). Wycliffe was the precursor of Luther.: (*ibid.*, p.338)

"One of the most striking characteristics of the five or six centuries following the downfall of the Roman Empire, was the absence of large towns in Western Europe. The gradual revival of townlife from the tenth century onwards, is symbolical of the gradual emergence of society from the confusion of the Dark Ages." (*ibid.* p.339)

"The townpeople were not much better off than serfs, with many irksome payments to make to the lords, such as passage, payment on goods passing through a manor; stallage, payments for setting up a stall in a market place; and pontage, payment for taking goods across a bridge. As trade grew, wealth grew, and the towns had opportunities of buying their freedom, kings, lords and prelates obtained money by selling their rights over towns. Before the end of the 11th century, merchant guilds had become a feature of town life. These guilds controlled all the buying and selling within the town... The merchant guild looked after the general trade of the town; The craft guild protected the interests of the workers in a particular industry.:"(pp.340-42)

"The twelfth and thirteenth centuries witnessed a tremendous

development of trade throughout Western Europe. The Italian cities established trading stations in the East itself and carried on a direct traffic with the caravans which brought to Syria and Palestine, the products of Arabia, Persia, India, and the Spice Islands. The two great centres of the Eastern trade in Europe were Venice and Genoa. At one time, Genoa had practically the monopoly of Black Sea trade. By the fifteenth century, however, Venice had become the chief centre of the Eastern trade. The riches of the East – cottons, silks, metals, precious stones, pearls, gold, frankincense and myrrh, ivory, cloves, pepper, ginger and aromatic spices poured into Venice” (*ibid*, p.245)

“The towns were obliged to form associations for mutual defense. The most famous of these unions was that of the cities of North Germany, known as Hanseatic League (German: *hansa*, a union), which at the height of its influence included more than 60 cities... Novgorod in Russia was the eastern, and London, the Western limit of its influence. It practically monopolised the trade of the Baltic and North Seas.” (*ibid*, p.246)

“The gradual rise of the trading and commercial classes to a position not inferior to that of the older order of clergy and nobility, is one of the most remarkable features of history from the thirteenth century onwards. No modern buildings can compare in beauty and grandeur with the cathedral and town halls, of England and France, Italy, Spain and Germany during the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.” (*ibid*, p. 348)

“Still more remarkable were the wealth and culture of the cities of Italy during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.” (*ibid*, p.352)

We may summarise the findings of Robinson and Davies as follows :

1) After the fall of the Roman Slave Empire in the 4th and 5th centuries AD, a complete darkness descended upon Europe from which it emerged only in the 11th century AD when the towns began to finance the Crusades.

2) The so-called Asiatic Mode of Production wherein economic stagnation was ensured by the domestic union of industry and agriculture, and by village self-sufficiency, was in reality the European Mode of Production, where the local people produced all that they needed and there was very little commerce.

3) As trade with the East developed and new commodities and luxuries – cotton, spices, silks, drugs, precious stones, pearls,

perfumes, wines, incenses, ivory, porcelain and ceramics – arrived from the East, the feudal lords sold their rights and privileges to townsmen who organised themselves in craftsmen's and merchants', guilds, who in turn organised themselves into associations like the Hanseatic League. These guilds took over the administration of towns, and arranged fairs and market days, and generally for movement of goods with the fewest feudal imposts.

4) As the merchants and craftsmen and their guilds became wealthy, they financed the Crusades to establish direct links with Oriental commerce. In order to defend this commerce from pirates and rivals, military-religious orders like the Hospitallers, the Templars and the Teutonic Knights were organised.

5) The Hanseatic League established a near monopoly in the Baltic and the North Seas. The Hansa extended from London in the West to Novgorod, Russia, in the East. Venice and Genoa became the leaders of the North Italian cities.

6) On the whole the Crusades totally failed, and merely propelled the transformation of European feudal society, into a capitalist one.

We may as well notice here the elaborate ideological mobilisation carried out by the rising European bourgeoisie in order to further its long term interests. This mobilisation was carried out initially through the Roman Catholic Church and its dissidents.

The most prominent among the dissidents was John Wycliffe (1330-84), an English dissident patronised by John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III and father of Henry IV, and (ii) Jan Hus (1369-1415), a Bohemian from Central Europe who was excommunicated in 1411, and burned at the stake as a heretic.

Later the dissident movement was formalised as Reformation and was led by Martin Luther (1483-1546). Luther's great contributions were that salvation could not be achieved by good works but was a free gift of god's grace; and that the bread and wine used in the prayer called Mass, were truly cannibalistic repast of Christ's body and blood. Whatever such hair splitting Christian doctrines may have meant, in practice, Luther opposed the sale of Indulgences which were signed Forgivances for sins committed. (The Reformation Movement is also known as Protestantism.)

European sociologists and historians have retrospectively tried to make out that European capitalism began or triumphed under the banner of Protestantism (See R. H. Tawney, *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*, 1926 and Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and*

the Spirit of Capitalism, 1904). Actually, as we have seen, capitalism commences with Crusades, the Communes, the Militarised Religious Orders and the Civil Wars in Europe from roughly the twelfth century onwards. (See above for extensive quotations from Davies, Breasted and Robinson and Runciman, Brooks Adams, etc.)

Nevertheless, we must note the formidable ideological mobilisation carried out by the rising European capitalist class. Many orders of mendicant friars came into being just about that time, as evidenced by the foundation of the order of Dominicans in 1216, Franciscans in 1209, Augustineans in 1256, Carmelites in 1247, Trinitarians in 1298, Mercedarians in 1218 and the Servites in 1233, along with those of the famous three militarised bodies known as Hospitallers, Templars and Teutonic Knights (fd.1190).

The crusades failed but capitalism triumphed, thanks amongst other things to the above-mentioned ideological mobilisation of society which attempted to convince all Whites holding Christian beliefs that they were something special, the chosen folk destined to proselytise the world with their genocidal, enslaving, pillaging, deindustrialising and brutalising ways.

The agents of social change in Europe were certainly unusual. They were exceptionally blood-thirsty and swinish. The world had to pay an enormous price for the rise of European capitalism. It is still counting the cost.

8. CAPITALISM CLIMAXES AS IMPERIALISM

We may now take up two more contributions that take the story forward to include the latest imperialist period.

The first is Brooks Adams' *Law of Civilisation and Decay* which was first published in 1895. However, the Vintage Books edition (New York, 1955) which carries a 61 page introduction by Charles A Beard (dated 1942) is our choice as the better source.

Brooks Adams (1848-1927) was the great grandson of the first Vice-president and the second President of the United States, John Adams; and the grandson of the Sixth President John Quincy Adams (1767-1848). Brooks was the brother of Henry Adams (1838-1918) also a historian, who provides valuable insight into our subject.

All the criticism that we have made of the capitalist system is not only admitted in Brooks' work, but actually proclaimed with

pride and bombast. He justifies all the bourgeois atrocities, the genocide of Red Indians, the slave trade, the piracy on high seas, the merciless loot of India, the reckless misappropriation of Indian technical innovations by English entrepreneurs, and so on, on the grounds that all these activities promoted "centralization", "acceleration of movement", "increase in force and energy", "development of velocity", "energy of the race" and such other highly nebulous, undefined concepts.

According to Brooks, Fear and Greed are the great ultimate stimulants of human energy, thought and imagination, which provide the basis for all civilization. (Brooks Adams, Preface, *Ibid* 6)

Brooks considers the Crusades as the great watershed, and devotes chapters 3 to 8 to their impact and aftermath. In chapters 10, 11 and 12, he sums up his findings.

The most amazing admissions are made by Brooks :

"On the ruins of Spain rose the purely economic centralization of Great Britain. Like the Venetians, the British laid the basis of their high fortune by piracy and slaving, and their advantage over Spain lay not in mass, but in superior energy, which gave them more rapid movement. Drake's squadron when he sailed round the world, numbered five ships, the largest measuring only 120 tons, the smallest 12, but with these, he succeeded because of their speed". (*Ibid*, p. 235)

It is a strange confusion of ideas. Energy, movement, speed and mass are used literally as elements of sea power. Their figurative meaning is known only to Brooks.

"They ravaged the Spanish colonies... For nearly a generation, they wallowed in gold, silver and gems, and in the plunder of the American towns. Amongst these men, Sir Francis Drake stood foremost. In 1585, Drake sailed on his raid against the West Indies, he held no commission, the crews of his 25 ships served without pay, they went as buccaneers to fatten on the commerce of the Spaniards." (p. 236)

"Drake could bribe Elizabeth with a diamond cross and a coronet set with splendid emeralds. What he gave in secret to her he alone knew. As Francis Drake was the ideal English corsair, so John Hawkins was the ideal slaver, both men were kinsmen. Both Drake and Hawkins possessed the predatory temperament." (*Ibid*)

"When the Spaniards had, by hard usage partially exterminated the natives, a fresh supply of field hands became necessary, and these could be had easily and cheaply on the coast

of Africa. Wherever Hawkins went, he went prepared to fight, and if prevented from trading peacefully, he used force. At that time (1562) an able Negro appears to have been worth about £ 600 in the West Indies, the cost of kidnapping was trifling". (*ibid*, p. 238)

"Both slavers and pirates brought bullion to England, and presently this flow of silver began to stimulate at London a certain amount of exchange between the East and West. The Orientals always preferred payment in specie, and as silver usually offered more profit than gold, the Europeans with a surplus of silver had the advantage... England and Holland began to send their silver to Asia, the Dutch organizing one East India Co. in 1595, and the British another in 1600. In 1545 the Spaniards discovered Potosi... Prior to 1545, specie had been scarce in London, but when the buccaneers had been scuttling treasure galleons for a generation, they found themselves possessed of enough species to set them dreaming of India, and thus piracy laid the foundation of the British Empire in India". (p. 239)

"From the organization of the E. I. Co., the mercantile interest controlled England". (p. 239)

"Sir Josiah Child was the ablest merchant of the 17th century... capital accumulated and as it accumulated, the men adapted to be its instrument, grew to be the governing class. Sir Josiah Child is the most interesting figure of this period... for years, he absolutely ruled the East India Company and used its revenues to corrupt parliament." (p. 240.)

"When the capital had accumulated to a certain point, the men who gave it an outlet (Glorious Revolution) laid their grasp upon the state. In 1688 the commercial adventurers conquered the kingdom" (p.242.)

"Nothing so portentous overhangs humanity as this mysterious and relentless accelerations of movement, which changes methods of competition and alters paths of trade.... for by it countless millions of men and women are foredoomed to happiness or misery as certainly as the beasts and trees, which have flourished in the wilderness, are destined to vanish when the soil is subdued by man" (p.243).

What this wretched Brooks means by "accelerations of movement" is only known to his woolly head. It sounds like the neo-conservatives of today of the Bush brand As they were attacking the non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, and where American casualties have reached 3000, and the figure of Iraqis

killed in 2006 alone, is over 34,000 "The acceleration of movement" is the free fall of missiles and bombs from Iraqi skies ! **Whatever is disgusting and barbaric to the world, is wonderful and exhilarating to Brooks, Bush Senior and Junior, and their bretheren !**

"The Romans amassed the treasure by which they administered their empire, through plunder and enslavement of the world. The empire carried the bullion of Italy to the shores of the Bosphorus As Constantinople fell, the Italian cities rose : Venice and Genoa. As the Arabic civilization shrivelled, Portugal established direct communication with Hindustan. The opening of the ocean as a high road precipitated the Reformation, and built up Antwerp, while in the end, it ruined Spain; and finally the last great quickening of the age of steam, which centralized the world at London, bathed the earth in blood from the Mississippi to the Ganges. In 1688, Great Britain rose as no people had risen since the Punic Wars (246-146 B.C.) Almost instantly Britain entered on a career of conquest unparalleled in modern history. Of the 125 years between the Boyne (1690) and Waterloo (1815) she passed some 70 in waging ferocious wars, from which she emerged victorious on land and sea, the mistress of a mightiy empire, the owner of incalculable wealth and the center of the world's exchanges. Then she glided subtly, and almost imperceptibly, into the period of contraction as Rome went before her under the Caesars." (p. 244)

But why did this happen ? Brooks is reluctant to mention the obvious : The wars of liberation in Latin America; the self-propelled economic movement archived by Japan in 1868 and by Russia in c 1880; the loss of the American colonies in 1765, the liberation movements in Asia (1945 onwards) and Africa (1960 onwards); and related events. *NATIONAL LIBERATION HAS BEEN THE ENEMY OF IMPERIALISM AND HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPERIALISM'S DECLINE* (see our Occasional paper no. 3: *Emergence of the Tri-Polar World*)

"Cromwell (ruled-1653-58) understood his situation perfectly, and laid plans to cut the evil at the root by conquering Spanish America, and robbing Spain of her mines." (p. 245)

This was exactly like the attempt made by Napoleon to cut Britain off its source of prosperity i.e. India, by invading Egypt in 1798 and by trying to reach India via the Red and Arabian Seas. Napoleon failed, as Cromwell had failed earlier, and as Hitler was to fail later.

"For the decade from 1711 to 1720, the annual export of bullion by the East India company averaged £434,000" (p.247)

We have repeatedly noted that 1765 was the critical year from which E.I. Co. assumed the Diwani, or revenue collection rights, of Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Northern Circars, and utilizing the land revenues of the country, instituted the Drain of Wealth from India which hitherto had been receiving English bullion.

"As Jevons has aptly observed, Asia is the great reservoir and sink of the precious metals. From time immemorial the Oriental custom has been to hoard... every Hindoo had, in former days a treasure trove stored against a day of trouble. Year by year since Pizarro had murdered the Inca Atahualpa for his gold, a stream of bullion had flowed from America to Europe, and from Europe to the East : There it had vanished as completely as though once more buried in the bowels of the mine... The treasure that had flowed to Europe through the extermination of the Peruvians was returned again to England from the hoards of the conquered Hindoos". (p.248, 254)

"What the value of the Hindoo hoard was, no man can estimate, but it must have been many millions of pounds. Some faint idea of the booty may be drawn from Macaulay's is description of the treasure seized by Clive : There was no limit to his acquisitions but his own moderation (sic!) ! Robert Clive was of the same stock as Drake, Hawkins, Raleigh, Blake and Cromwell." (p. 249)

We have mentioned these gangsters and their moll, Elizabeth I, earlier.

"Dupleix first saw the possibility of constructing a European empire in Hindustan by controlling native princes. His example was followed by Clive and Hastings." (p. 250)

As we have shown, Albuquerque pioneered in this field of using native agents which was later copied by Dupleix and Clive.

"Plassey was fought in 1757 and probably **nothing has ever equalled the change which followed the arrival of the Bengal plunder in London...** Nothing reveals the magnitude of the social revolution wrought by Plassey than the manner in which the wastes were enclosed. Between 1710 and 1760 only 335,000 acres of commons were enclosed. Between 1760 and 1843 nearly 7,000,000." (p. 258)

"In April 1819, Bolivar obtained control at Caracas, and with the outbreak of the South American revolutions. the gigantic but imaginative empire of Spain passed into the acute stage of disintegration." (p. 264)

What is remarkable about the "neo-conservatives" of the type of Charles A Beard, Henry Adams and Brooks Adams, is their collective failure to recognise the value and essentiality of bourgeois hypocrisy. Historical truth has to be camouflaged in hypocritical terms in order to be widely accepted by the academicians and the politicians. Therefore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States (1858-1919) reviewed Brooks' book (Beard's introduction on p. LI) in 1897 and was attacked for having dealt too gently with Brooks.

Henry Adams was more forthright. He clearly told Brooks that the "publication of *the Law of Civilization and Decay* would be a deathblow to any political or other ambitions that Brooks might have."

The capitalist system cannot stand much scrutiny. It abhors truth, for exploitation and oppression, pillage and murder are essential elements of the system. As John Newsinger has written in *The Blood Never Dried : A People's History of the British Empire*. British colonial rule was never a gentlemanly affair.

In recent times, Tony Blair has openly apologised for the British leadership in the Slave Trade of African Negroes. Queen Elizabeth II, on a visit to New Zealand, had to apologise for the atrocities committed against the Maoris, though she did not express regrets during a visit to India for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The Australian government has officially begged pardon for the policy of the 'lost generation' wherein aboriginal children were forcibly separated from their parents and brought up as juvenile labor by the White settlers. Newsinger has written a painstaking critique of Labour Party's collusion with imperialism and rejected the path suggested by Gandhi (Review of the book published in *Times of India*, Pune, 14-1-07)

9. CONCLUSION

Geographically, Europe lacked diversity of flora and fauna, though it had ample natural resources of the mineral sort, i.e. coal, iron, copper, tin, nickel, manganese, mercury etc. On the other hand it had excellent fishing waters, as the warm Gulf Stream from the Caribbean flowed diagonally across the Atlantic sea. This mixing of warm and cold currents produced a rich planktonic life on which the fish fed easily and profusely to make the waters between Norway, Scotland, Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland amongst the finest fishing grounds in the world, perhaps comparable only to the

Peruvian shores, where the cold Antarctic Humbolt current mingled with the warm Equatorial waters to produce rich marine life.

Herring fisheries formed the basis of the Hanseatic League as well as of the extremely extensive British and Dutch fishing flotillas. Eric the Red reached North America about five centuries before Columbus the Genoese pirate in Spanish service plundered and massacred the Red Indians of the Caribbean in 1492.

Mercator's Projection made the lands of the higher latitudes relatively larger than the countries located on or near the Equator. Arctic Ocean was the smallest of the Earth's oceans, almost completely surrounded by Russian Siberia, Scandinavia, Greenland and Canada-Alaska.

In Mercator's Projection, its size was exaggerated to stretch the entire gamut from West to East, as though it could rival the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, which are in reality and geographically, the only three principal oceans of the world. All the rest are merely large or small seas, often frozen over; and in summer, breaking away at the edges in the form of icebergs.

Amongst the three principal oceans of the planet Earth, the Indian Ocean was the only one that was blocked, at its landward northern limits near the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian sea, by the gigantic, multiple ranges of mountains of the Himalaya and its spurs. This set up an extraordinary regime of the mingling of temperate and tropical floras and faunas in and near the Indian sub-continent, gestating extraordinary demographic densities based upon endless bio-diversity of domesticable plants and animals.

These natural advantages of Asiatic feudalisms based upon population concentrations led to a marginalisation of Europe in world history prior to the Industrial Revolution.

Europe first tried to overcome the disadvantages of geography and the handicap of fewer domesticable plants and animals, with the help of the only natural advantage that they possessed; that, in the form of rich fishing grounds of herring, cod, mackerel and flat fishes, as well as crustaceans. Their fishing fleets grew into large merchant marine flotillas, which, in turn, induced them to search for a seaway to the rich civilisation of India and the Orient.

The pan-European effort to engross Eastern commerce through the Crusades totally failed, and, in fact resulted in a triple Arab-Berber, Turkic and Mongol backlash which, in turn caused a

multiple Islamic occupation of South-West, Sout-East and East Europe.

The search for a land route to India, and its fabulous wealth, carried Columbus to the Caribbean in 1492, the same year in which the last Islamic bastion in Spain viz., Granada, fell to the Christian Reconquista forces. Very soon thereafter, Vasco da Gama, using the same Atlantic Ocean to travel south, instead of west, rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and crossed the Arabian Sea from Mombasa to Cochin in 1498.

First the European East India Companies (Dutch, English, French, Danish, etc.) engrossed the entrepot trade of India, creating almost a monopoly in the commerce from the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and the East African coast towards India, and the trade from Burma, Thailand, Malaya and Indonesia from the East across the Bay of Bengal. All the traditional commerce of India had been with the coastlands of the Arabian Sea and its arms and with the Bay of Bengal and its feeders. This was taken over by the European East India Companies, as they had very little to sell of their own making, except the gold and silver re-looted from the Spanish and Portuguese treasure ships carrying this bullion across the Atlantic. The trans-Atlantic slave trade led by Britain, and participated in by Portuguese, Dutch and French slave-traders, produced enormous profits.

Initially almost all the wealth of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies in Latin America was swallowed up by India. This drain into India continued till 1765 when the land revenues of the country could be utilised to defray the administrative expenses of the new imperialist rulers.

After the acquisition of the Diwani of 1765, i.e. the land revenue collection rights, of Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and the Northern Circars, the Drain of Wealth from India began, calculated at over a hundred million pound sterling per annum. (Montgomery Martin, William Digby, R. C. Dutt and Dadabhai Naoroji have written extensively on the Drain of Wealth from India.)

The Drain of Wealth caused De-Industrialisation, Ruralisation and Pauperisation of India which took a toll of over 85 million landless labourers and dispossessed craftsmen, which helped England to make the first Industrial Revolution of 1765 to 1860. This in turn, led to British Supremacy in international affairs from 1765 to 1931; Axis supremacy from 1931 to 1945; American dominance from

1945 to 1975, feebly challenged by Soviet Russia during the Cold War from 1945 to 1985.

Whilst nationalism remains the only effective antidote to imperialism, it is obvious that neo-colonialism is not as efficacious in controlling and curbing the developing countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. We need nationalism to defeat world imperialism, which is today led by USA and its agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This trio is responsible for the Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation Programme which has plunged the world into its deepest economic crisis.

Thus we need nationalism to defeat world imperialism, and socialism to beat the basic capitalist crisis. In the context of a collapsing US economic power (US has now only about 20 per cent against 50 per cent of annual world GDP-PPP in 1945), the inability of imperialism to prevent the growth of rival centres of power in Asia and Latin America; has become obvious. At present we are faced with an era of populist governments following a range of policies from :

1) state capitalist strategies like China, Nepal and some of the former constituent republics of USSR and its erstwhile Russian satellites:

2) more or less complete surrender to US and or European Neo-colonialism like Mexico, India, Pakistan, Israel, South Africa, Nigeria. etc.

3) those following genuine democratic socialist programmes like Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua, etc.

In the last decade or so, it has become clear that the American policy of propping up dictatorships in the less industrialised countries in order to sustain the super-profits of the multinational corporations, especially with the help of an artificially depressed exchange rate regime, is no longer viable. Direct introduction of White-controlled military forces has become essential whether by USA itself in Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Liberia etc. or by NATO in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Rwanda, Congo, Sierra Leone, etc.

Ultimately, there is no way out for humanity but to defeat imperialism by nationalism and to beat capitalist oppression and exploitation by socialism. A combination of the two is the only answer.

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