

Global Politics and the Sri Lankan Trajectory.

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It would be wise to situate the future direction of Sri Lanka within the context of the movements and changes in the global political economy. Every country, state and nation must adapt to its global environment, if it is to survive. The imperatives and the options of the Sri Lankan regime have to be identified within the logic of motion of the global political economy.

The present regime is trying to optimise the range of its policy options within the context of dramatic changes in the global political-economic-strategic order. The undisputed hegemony exercised by the US, as the sole super power, has entered into a new spiral of crisis. The US economy is in deep crisis. Even the trillions of dollars injected into the circuits of finance capital to keep the sinking pirate ship afloat, only serves to prolong and deepen the economic-financial crisis. Inflation and unemployment are rising, while factories are closing down. Militarily and strategically, the US is losing control and losing ground. The wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and of course, Palestine, led and fed by the US, are aimed at exercising strategic control over the vital energy resources of the Middle-East and the Caspian region, which is key to exercising global hegemony. However, all these raging conflicts cannot any longer be managed and controlled by the US and the NATO military alliance, as designed by them. Even while the US is attempting to dominate the whole region, including by provoking Iran to war, it is running up against insuperable limits and constraints which serve to deepen and intensify the crisis.

US hegemony is being challenged by new and rising global alliances and floating coalitions, particularly the Shanghai Cooperation, which links Russia with China, along with a host of countries. Sri Lanka enjoys observer status within this global configuration. There is an emerging global polarization between a bloc of powers led by the US countered by Russia, where China and India play a decisive role. These movements are in constant motion and change, and they have not coalesced into hardened rival blocs. There is both contention and collusion, both unity and struggle between all these powers in their effort to gain decisive strategic advantage over all others. Yet, the broad contours of the global political landscape and trajectory should be outlined.

The Sri Lankan regime is trying to optimize its strategic options by exploiting this rivalry and contention between the various emerging power centers and blocs. Even as it bends towards Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela and Brazil, it conforms to the needs and dictates of the US, Japan and the West- to the World Bank, the IMF and the ADB. Even as it leans heavily on China, it takes great care to placate India by offering it also a juicy slice of the of strategic pie. Even as it takes a pro-Iran stance, it enters into a military agreement with the US. Even as it declares solidarity with Palestine, it relies on Israel and MOSSAD for military and strategic assistance. The regime exploits the growing strategic importance of the island with respect to accessing and controlling the vital sea lanes of the Indian Ocean.

The US and the European Union, along with the UN in the forefront, are trying to cajole the Sri Lankan regime by raising the issue of war crimes as a way of exerting pressure on the regime to link up more solidly with their own structures of global strategic design and political economy. The issue of war crimes have been taken up not for the love of humanity, but to mainly seize a stranglehold on the regime and to placate the Tamil Diaspora, and appear as defenders of human rights. The whole issue will be elegantly dropped, once H.E. Mahinda Rajapakse falls in line.

At the same time, in spite of the incredulous balancing act carried out by the regime, it is moving steadily into a strategic dilemma. Whom to rely on? Which way to turn? The intensifying crisis of global Capitalism, along with its consequent intensification of rivalry and contention among all the various imperialist and rising global powers, will eventually compel the regime to make its irrevocable choice- as to whom to capitulate to save your skin.

Not a healthy, nor viable, trajectory. For the sake of its survival, the regime must generate an accelerated flow of foreign investment in order to demonstrate some semblance of development, and, primarily, to rake in some profits. For this, it must exercise undisputed political-ideological hegemony over all of society in order to consolidate ‘absolute’ political stability. For this reason, it must continuously mobilize dominant nation chauvinism in the name of PATRIOTISM. It must advance the banner of the undisputed supremacy of the Sinhala-Buddhist nation, in order to harness the hearts and minds of the oppressed Sinhala masses. It must suppress and control all thought, feeling and action of the masses, lest they see the light of day. They must come up with lucrative mega projects that will allow the multi-national predators to make a fulfilling kill. The regime must conjure dreams and fantasies of mega cities carved from out of the sea, while it lets the masses of dispossessed victims of war suffer in hell. It must insist and command that the people shall endure all suffering, all indignities, all atrocities, all evil violations for the sake of perpetuating the REGIME.

We are indeed facing the “Winter of our Discontent”. We shall remain a pawn in a deadly game of chess played out by global powers. Ultimately, they will try to carve out the island politically and strategically. The regime of parasitic, crony commission capitalists will plunder the country to satisfy their insatiable craving for accumulation and aggrandizement. . The masses of people – those who sweat and toil to provide us all with life sustenance- they shall be ground to dust, even as predators sink their fangs into our lifelines that much more. Those who resist shall be silenced. The future of democracy and freedom is at stake.

We need to communicate. We need to connect. We need to share our disbelief and horror over the state of affairs in our cherished Land. We need to unite, organize and mobilize the people, so they may rupture with all forms of deception and illusion, to resist and overcome the evil that has engulfed us, and which violates us all by robbing us of our shared humanity. We should look to the future and see the new world of freedom shining on the distant horizon. We should think, decide and ACT to advance humanity beyond the era of barbarism and war towards a new age of universal FREEDOM.