

NOTE

The Empire is Crumbling

Martin Khor writes :

The global crisis has entered the phase of recession in the real economy, at least in the economies of the United States and many European countries. Recent actions of Western countries to counter both the financial crisis and the strong recessionary trends have in many cases gone against their own predominant free-market non-interventionist ideology.

Even more interestingly, their recent policies contrast sharply with the advice that they and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that they control gave to Asian countries during their financial crisis a decade ago, revealing clear double standards. In the past fortnight, Western leaders announced one remarkable policy after another, aimed at saving their financial institutions and system from ruin.

The measures have to some extent stemmed the hemorrhage in the financial sector in the US and some major Western European countries, giving some breathing space to their banks and other institutions.

Few were the politicians who gave voice to this immense social suffering. Fewer still used their power to try to assuage their pain, for they too were drunk on the wine of globalism.

But when the ripples spread upwards, from the foreclosed homes to the foreclosing banks - and from the banks to investment houses, US Congress stirred from their drunken stupor, and rang alarm bells loudest.

"It's an economic 9/11!", some bellowed; "It's a financial tsunami!", said others.

When US citizens were hoodwinked into ruinous sub-prime loans, and millions were faced with foreclosures, where was the alarm?

More importantly, where was the help for those who were endangered?

Nowhere. Nowhere.

If they helped them the present economic crisis would have been mitigated.

Instead, the people are in a situation where a scam artist sets up shop in a street-corner, playing a fraudulent 3-card monty hustle, and along comes a cop.

The cop, instead of rousting the scam artist, goes into the pockets of every passerby, and delivers the stolen loot to the scammer.

The scam artist, of course, is the financial investment houses; the cop, of course, is US Congress—and the common man is hustled and robbed by both of them.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote, 160 years ago, that the state was but the executive for capitalism. Who can doubt it now? □□□