

Opportunities and Adversities

The current crisis is much more than an economic or financial one. It is the over all crisis of a model of civilisation that is economically unsustainable because it increasingly exercises violence on the world's peoples, environmentally unsustainable too, given the destruction, in almost all cases irreversible, of the environment, and socially unsustainable because it degrades the human condition to unimaginable limits, and destroys the very fabric of civilised social life.

Thus the solution to the crisis cannot only be economic or financial. But the people who are responsible in the first place to create the crisis are simply trying to project it as an economic one. The persistent invocation of the governments at the core of the capitalist system to the "wisdom and expertise" of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the World Trade Organisation to solve the crisis send clear signals about their goals : to restore the status quo ante by calling the ideological, political (and in some cases, material) culprits of the crisis to fix it. The much publicised summits of G8 (or G20) cannot resolve this crisis.

For one thing the unprecedented, rather suffocating crisis has offered new opportunities for struggle and mass mobilisation, opened the possibility to achieve if not a revolutionary victory, at least a revolutionary step forward which will substantially tilt the scale in favour of radical change.

But this situation could also revert and give way to crushing defeat on the people's side. It would be too naive to think that the die is cast for capitalism just because it is in crisis. Among the possibilities ahead of the current situation, one is a more reactionary backlash.

Until now, both the tensions and suffering stemmed from the crisis have given way to a quick escalation of xenophobia and racism in the developed world, creating a total helplessness for migrant workers.

Even if back in the '30s—during the previous great depression—the absorption of its mere negative impacts was possible through a process of substitutive industrialisation—such a perspective is nowadays out of the question or its probabilities of success are at best very low.

True, neo-liberalism is on the retreat but it will simply bounce back if progressives across the world fail to launch unified struggle against it. 'Market magic' is gone but market continues to dominate the major aspects of civic society. Capitalism is the problem, not the solution. A non-market, non-profit driven alternative is the only way out of this crisis.

But the left, both here and abroad has lost direction in the middle. In the absence of a sustained campaign against the evils of the present system what people can expect in the coming days is more sufferings and mere ruthlessness of the market. □□□