

## *It's About Corporation*

With economic globalisation getting stronger day after day, many on the Left continue to wander in ideological wilderness as they are caught between a dilemma—either to work to reinforce the sovereignty of nation-states or to strive towards a non-national alternative to the present form of globalisation and that is equally global. Transnational corporations are trying to leap over nation states but political forces opposing corporate power, domestic and foreign, are in no position even to talk about ignoring national barriers, not to speak of bringing people together globally across national lines in opposition to globalisation of market and production assemblies. Anti-globalisation movement that flares up here and there every now and then, somewhat spontaneously is very much national in character. And any attempt to make it global fizzles out before it takes off. It faces massive repression even in a democracy, advanced or backward. But whatever remains of democracy in the well publicised showcases of democracies is threatened by transnational corporations. In essence it is a rule of a tiny minority representing the corporate world in the name of majority.

Among all the outrageous and inhuman crimes that plague the world today, there are two all-consuming current disasters which tie into all the other dictatorial abuses of power, from the executive to the lobbies that have bought up the government in all its forms.

There is first of all world hunger and, on the same level of emergency, the phenomenon of global warming – both those enormous problems having to be seen as the disasters that must be dealt with in the most urgent way possible. And today, there is virtually no urgency displayed in the way those disasters are dealt with—or not dealt with.

And yet, those two huge problems have to be solved if the world is going to continue in a shape even vaguely like the world as people know it.

There is the planetary inequality which has caused the world hunger that finally seems to have attracted wide-spread attention. It is obviously not a recent phenomenon, but it has been enhanced by the rise in food prices, which have multiple causes—the use of food for biofuel, the rise in the price of oil for transport, the droughts in Australia and in Africa, the enormous sham of GMOs that were made out to be capable of saving the world from hunger, but instead are doing the opposite. Also the role the speculators and the hedge funds are playing in their roulette game with heavily loaded dice is no less intriguing.

The second enormous disaster is climate change, which governments don't seem to be able to do anything much about. Or rather, governments are, at their own peril, disregarding the imminent danger of inaction in the face of global warming. 'A one metre rise in sea level could inundate 1700 sq km prime agricultural land in Orissa and West Bengal'. Instead of dealing with the problem of over-consumption of oil in a rational way in order to save the lives and the life of the planet, governments are forging ahead in the same old way of splurging on oil consumption as if there was no tomorrow.

Transnational corporations have stole the governments, democratically elected or otherwise, because they are more interested in making big bucks than saving

the planet or saving people from starvation. Once again, it's that short-term profit that outplays all true concern for realism and sound planning. Speculators drive up the prices of commodities without a second thought for the consequences of their short-sighted game of quick profit which produces nothing and benefits nobody.

So the real rulers of the world, the Transnational Corporations, are condemning people to a life of increased poverty and hunger in third-world countries, a general increase in insecurity and joblessness for middle class people in the western world and increased pollution in the emerging economies in Asia, where the standard of living is actually rising—for the rich only. The Corporations see to it that the so-called governments, their obedient front men, cut back the taxes on the top levels of income, on capital gains and on inheritance.

There is big talk and lots of activity for the production of ethanol, which is exactly the way people should NOT be going in the campaign to lower the rate of release of CO<sub>2</sub> gas into the atmosphere. This use of corn, sugar cane and soybeans for biofuel makes for less food for the hungry in the third world and also in Brazil, which is now considered an emerging nation rather than a developing one, increasing food prices in the entire world. It does not make for less emission of CO<sub>2</sub> gas since the production of ethanol gives off more CO<sub>2</sub> than it saves as an alternative fuel.

The Corporations and their men in government make money off ethanol production, even though it increases world hunger and does absolutely nothing to save the world from global warming.

In other words, the two problems of poverty and hunger and the problem of climate change are deeply intertwined. Both problems could be dealt with rationally, certainly to a somewhat satisfactory extent. But the corporations are not making money off a policy of improving the situation for the starving people in the world or on the urgent need to limit global warming and the disastrous consequences the planet will be undergoing in a near future.

There are several ways of producing renewable energy, but who cares? There is no money in it.

As long as wildfire corporations are ruling the world, people are doomed. They have opted for the destruction of the planet.

Leftists, not to speak of rightists who are hand-in-hand with big corporations and mainstream media, have no future unless they confront corporations with all seriousness. It's already late. Whether they will realise it before it is too late, is another matter. □□□ *[contributed]*