

GLOBALIZATION OFFERS NO SOLUTIONS

The marriage between representative democracy and Capitalism continues to deteriorate. While the bones of those who sacrificed crumble, the proficiency of global capital exponentially increases. Yet, as the only game in town, the globalization of neoliberal ideology presents contemporary implications towards cataclysmic problems facing humanity.

The European philosopher Slavoj Žižek portrays these problems as the “*problems of the commons*”. Amongst them are *ecology, finance, intellectual property, countering resistant disease, biogenetics, and apartheid*. Therefore, this nation’s development as the *preemptive beneficiary* of two greatest wars of the twentieth century denotes the paradox and hypocrisy of neoliberal capitalism. The United States of America can control and regulate the lives of its global citizens under the guise of free will; “*unfreedom*” experienced and contended by the masses as *liberty*.

We all exist in the same outer environment, and thus it should not be privatized. Ecology is thus the primary problem of the commons. Ruling class ideology of the neoliberal capitalist system has capitulated the collective individuals as responsible for ultimate ecological responsibility. Alas, I can sleep at night knowing two percent my purchase will go towards saving the rainforest. The collective cannot contend with legitimate ecological disaster in this function. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

Knowledge is communist by essence; therefore intellectual property is another imposition that must be countered. Via the virtues of the first amendment’s potential, the circulation of truth transmitted through



speech and literature cannot be trumped. Capitalism has not succeeded in completely denationalizing the metaphysical ideals of intellectuals. Yet, if the constriction and degradation of our rights continue this domain will also be subject to privatization. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

Relationships between the outside world and the brain can now be manipulated by technology. Bio genetics and digital consciousness thrust humanity into yet another problem. These means are already being deployed to serve neoliberalism’s globalized end. How will such a potentially liberating evolutionary abstract be used for mental enslavement and social control in our current developmental location? We need new means of global control regulation. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

History illuminates the necessity of financial regulation. Rugged individualists abound, their ideals shatter in the face of recession and depression. Modern markets persistent deregulation will undoubtedly create traditional busts of the 1870s, 1920s, and early 21st century. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

The sequestering of profiteering within the pharmaceutical industry will self evidently liquidate the potentials of life-saving treatments in favor of market incentives. Therefore, countering global pandemics resulting from resistant disease presents a critical problem to the commons within the neoliberal paradigm. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

Apartheid of race and class evidences an attack against the commons of social and spatial locations. Examples are countless and beyond realms of individual understanding. Two prominent contemporary examples come to mind. The first example is US-Mexican border complications on an international domain. The second example being racial segregation predicated by a lack of execution in the so-called Fair Housing and Civil Rights Acts in the domestic realm. Herein lies yet another paradox: global free flow of capital with global constriction of humans across borders. The current socio-political-economic system offers no solutions.

This neoliberal capitalist experiment is not an ingenious universal model, nor is it a project of historical progression. A response by citizens of the commons is necessary, and a reorganization of contentions should be directed towards new modes of realization. Teleology waits for no individual, for evolution is eventual revolution.

-Graham Peralta

VIETNAMESE SPRING?

It’s being called an Arab Spring for Vietnam, the first large popular demonstrations since 1975. In early June, tens of thousands of Vietnamese took to the streets across the country to protest a bill on cyber security and the creation of new special economic zones. The call urging people to rally circulated on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. Over 60 million Vietnamese people are online, and Facebook — with more than 40 millions users in Vietnam — is the most popular social network in the country. Alternative, open source social media site minds.com reports; “Over the past few days (early July) we have witnessed a massive surge of new channels from Vietnam fleeing Facebook and Google over censorship and personal privacy violations... We are hard at work in the lab to release global translation tools, as well as geo-filtering for trending content.”

The protest began with the participation of around 50,000 footwear factory workers in Ho Chi Minh City. Thousands of people gathered in a slew of cities across Vietnam, chanting and carrying banners that read “Cyber security law means silencing people,” and “No land lease to China even for one day.”

The bill on cyber security will give sweeping new powers to the Vietnamese authorities, allowing them to force technology companies to hand over vast amounts of data, including personal information, and to censor internet users’ posts. According to activists, the law aims to silence government critics and could lead to internet users being criminally charged for exercising their basic right to freedom of expression. As a result, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have called on Hanoi to not approve the bill.

A central concern with the bill on establishing new special economic zones, is how it will affect the country’s sovereignty in the East Sea. Vietnam and China have a long history of disputes. China has sent their armies to attack Vietnam 22 times over the last thousand years. In 1979, China sent around 60,000 soldiers to invade the six northernmost provinces of Vietnam, killing tens of thousands of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians and destroying the entire infrastructure there. The protests showed how widespread the dissatisfaction is the government’s weak response to China’s violations of Vietnam’s sovereignty in the resource-rich sea. In 1988, China

also invaded several islands and reefs, known as the Spratly Islands, controlled by Vietnam. In recent years, China has turned these reefs and islands into artificial structures and deployed modern missiles and other military equipment there in a bid to turn the East Sea into its own lake. Hanoi has verbally protested China’s violations instead of taking stronger actions, such as bringing the case to international tribunal court, as the Philippines has done.

Vietnam’s security forces responded aggressively to the call for peaceful demonstrations. Authorities sent plainclothes agents and militia to private residences of local activists to prevent them from participating in the protests. Many activists said they had to leave their houses before the weekend and go into hiding to avoid being locked in by security forces. Police in Ho Chi Minh City deployed Long Range Acoustic Devices purchased from the United States to equip patrol ships of the Vietnam Coast Guard, which generates intense sound that can cause extreme physical pain and permanently damage hearing. In cities of Vietnam’s central province, police used tear gas and water cannons on local residents. After one protester was knocked unconscious by police, protesters attacked the police’s special units with stones and bricks, and occupied government buildings. Police surrendered and took off their equipment and went home. However, the government was able to take full control there the next day.

The police have detained over 500 protesters, according to state media and leaked information from police. Protesters were interrogated for hours. During their time in detention they were beaten and their cell phones and other belongings were confiscated. Police released many detainees but still keep dozens of others, threatening to prosecute them on allegations of violating national security rules and “causing public disorders.” There have been no recorded deaths at the hands of security.

Vietnam’s government said it would postpone the discussion and approval of the bill on special economic zones to the next session of the parliament scheduled in October. The cyber security was approved on June 12, and the law will become effective on January 1, 2019. Despite government repression, protests against the approval of the law and parliament’s plan to resume working on the bill on special economic zones in October are expected to continue.

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