

The Era Of White Domination Is Over.

Capitalism Needs Rich Black People.

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The hidden overhang which seems to dominate most developmental experience in South Africa since transformation is background fear of "The Black Peril."

But what does it really mean to have a "Black Peril" anxiety in an African country on the African continent with an overwhelming majority of "black" citizens?

Whose fear is it?

And is that fear, if it is a real fear, consistent with the real meaning of "democracy"?

Can there ever be a genuine democracy in South Africa if the Africans are themselves considered to be "The Black Peril"?

How is that supposed to make them feel? And what are they supposed to do about that fear in a land in which they are by far the most and thus most visible?

South Africa will have to deal directly, however it does so, at some point with this issue in order to move itself forward in an economically healthy way for all.

If "White Anxiety" is really, in a coded way, driving the fevered national discourse and developmental priorities, even if expressed partly through the very different anxieties of other racial minorities, then this should be discussed honestly, even if painfully.

It seems unlikely that other racial minorities in South Africa face a genuine "Black Peril" when they are themselves constitutionally "black" and share, even if to a different degree, the same socio-economic challenges as the majority. In the long run, those minorities have far more to gain than to lose strategically by being themselves part of this so-called "Black Peril." And when that verity is made manifest, it may even be seen by the remainder that this idea of a "black peril" in South Africa is a disingenuous and destructive notion which will be for them a cul-de-sac.

South Africa is a microcosm of the emerging world dynamic. Thus: it matters very, very much to world history what happens in this relatively small country in how it resolves its for now inevitably racialised economic power issue.

This land here is undeniably the indigenous land of the Africans: the First Nations Africans here and their mixed descendants, and the Base Nations Africans who came next and learned their clicks from the originals while leaving them largely undisturbed as and where they were even if there were sometimes skirmishes over common resources. That fact itself gives clues to the future actions of black power in this land. It is not

imperialistic.

If it takes "turn-taking" to wash away the imprint of generations, and I am not suggesting that it does, then is it wrong for the majority to take its turn in its own colours after the tiny minority, as comprehensively backed by the "Western Empire" now falling, has enforced its own turn in its own colour for not decades but centuries?

Should the majority then have to all abjectly apologise for a sense in some that "it's my turn now"?

One answer, of course, and this seems to dominate "respectable" discourse, is that the majority should shut up, be humble, and not parade its majority because we are a "rainbow nation" now and 300 years of gloating on one side need not translate into even one day of gloating on the other side because that is offensive and insensitive to minority fears - even if the fears of that majority were insensitively trampled upon for generations and most are still waiting for their day in the socioeconomic sun.

Is this honest? Is this fair? And is this realistic?

Is a developmental democracy mostly about minority privilege protection or about majority interest promotion when both cannot easily be served equally at the same time?

By most relevant measures, South Africa is unquestionably African, and this includes the mixed descendants of the First Nations Africans whether or not they proudly acknowledge that original African ancestry deep in their blood and culture, even if it also contains significant and deeply flowing currents and ancestors from other continents and places. This country is after all called "South" AFRICA.

This is Africa! This is nowhere else.

We should all feel privileged that we are on this continent and stop wishing it were somewhere else or like somewhere else. We are here. It is the last unpaved continent with the possible exception of South America and it will be our historic challenge to steer it away from becoming yet another fully paved over continental parking lot full of needy consumers.

Transformation 1.0 (Political) is largely in place. Transformation 2.0 (Economic) needs to start now.

South Africa will slowly become an incoherent failed state for everybody in it if it continues to be disproportionately diverted (in all its many implicit, subtle, coded, and more overt forms) by minority privilege protection over majority interest promotion.

"Corruption" should be contextualised to its leading source before it can be resolved in a fair and reasonable way.

It seems superficial, far too easy, and quite a bit off the mark, to talk about "corruption" and excessive displays of "conspicuous consumption" in the nouveau riche when the everyday lives of the old rich throw blatant examples of such luxurious high life in the face of all as examples of the meaning of success.

It is futile to fulsomely attack the crass imitators while the real source walks by in uncriticised splendour. Better to question the system of values itself, and the real source of that system, if "corruption" is to be questioned.

The deeper question is whether or not we should even be playing by the old rules when the real need is to construct a brand new economic system which works better for most people.

We would do better to train our energies on the big work, and it is very difficult work, of constructing a practically working new system of values within which we can all live more satisfying lives and not be disheartened when in the meantime people play by the old rules.

It is disingenuous and dishonest, and far beyond conceit, to use an ostentatious few as an obsessive proxy beating bag for a great and mainly unheard many who have unilaterally extended their hands far more than halfway to forgive. The other hands have not come anywhere near halfway yet -- but their complaints are by far the loudest in the land. Their self-indulgent whingeing is an unattractive self-reflection which is annoying to the dignified and quiet majority too polite to tell them to pause and sincerely examine the mirror in a genuinely thoughtful way.

We owe the majority in this country our gratitude in too many truly profound ways to even start counting. The majority literally built this country with their own physical labour in very hard and mostly unrewarded work - and they still do.

It is right and legitimate for the Africans, the First Nations and their mixed descendents and the Base Nations, to be encouraged to make their stumbles as they learn to rule, as they should, a complex society which today is shaped largely by a haughty non-indigenous civilisation whose values should be tempered and fused with homegrown wisdom for the sake of us all. This is neither an easy nor a simple task and it will be the next generation that will stride with full facility. The time now is for respectful yielding on one side since its time is done, and determined and focused learning and self-confidence building on the other side whose time has come.

The work ahead is long and tricky but that does not mean it has to be unpleasant and conflictive. The oils to smooth those gears are mostly attitude: empathy, respect, and humility from the thoughtful and sympathetic appreciation of the enormous inner and outer challenges on all sides of the now common toil.

Dominant African financial and socio-economic power is inevitable in these lands and we may as well all start peacefully preparing for this by accepting its historic rightness.

Doing otherwise is simply howling into the slowly approaching but very large wind.

The majority here is where the sustainable market here is, if anywhere, even within the logic of the capitalism built here by the minority. And that market will not be a sustainably profitable market of sufficient purchasing power, even for the minority, if it remains undercapitalised and impoverished.

The logic of capitalism will eventually force African enrichment and real African economic power if for no other reason than its own profitable survival. Capitalism needs rich black people far more than black people need capitalism, just as white capital needs Africa far more than Africa needs it.

Africa has everything it needs for itself: population, culture, creativity, energy, fortitude, diversity, low density, demographic advantages, and still abundant natural resources. All it lacks is a cooperative decolonised continental politico-economic structure with a self-affirming black population, an independent financial system, self-confident mentally decolonised leadership, and a genuine and self-developed indigenous vision for its future. So what frustrates this?

White capital, mostly, and a derivative African colonial lack of self-belief because too many "educated" and "leading" Africans are a mentally conquered elite "proudly" operating the self-defeating paradigms fed to them. And far too many Africans are seduced by branded consumables made elsewhere and not by themselves thus leaving themselves unskilled in disadvantaging ways.

This is a subtly sprung trap but it is also a consensual colonialism.

The "West," and its agents here, and probably even some emerging powers, want a mentally colonised, materially lustful, weak, confused, colluding, deluded, divided, and stumbling Africa to plunder even more. And, so far, they are winning this game with the active collusion of the Africans they encourage and enrich with fake praise and fool's gold.

Many honestly aspirant Africans, befuddled by their colluding media, do not even seem to realise that they are being slyly recolonised for direct rule yet again, and shamelessly and contemptuously robbed in broad daylight. And it is Africans who themselves helped in the desperate new intrusion on their continent as if they felt they needed to be saved from themselves by those who robbed them blindly previously. We should all be ashamed.

The era of white power supremacy is over. It just does not know that yet, and so it keeps on fighting its own hallucinations in a sad spectacle of futile long wars against its own dissolving shadow.

White power supremacism lacks the long-range moral insight and the common humble human sharing wisdom to lead this world from here. And we don't want it to. Five hundred years of unrestrained psycho-cultural narcissism and racial hubris is long enough. We need new energy, fresh ideas, and different values from other peoples in our world: the previously dispossessed. So: serious economic power concessions, well beyond “window dressing,” will have to be made. There is no way around this.

Africa is the next battleground of world history. Our continent is cursed, for it is still blessed, with far too many riches for it not to be so. Old predators from the “West” and new predators from the “East” want those riches for themselves. But if we see through their guiles and now obsolete modes, Africa will be the mother continent, because it is still mostly unpaved, of the new modes of civilisations this world and all in it so desperately need now.

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