

In praise of socialism

By M. J. Audi

With the nervous break-down of Russian leadership followed by disintegration of the Soviet Union, world has fallen in the lap of Americans. Intellectual weathercocks are crowing that Socialism has failed and Capitalism has no alternative. Is that true? Truth can be known only by knowing essence of Socialism and how far its essence has been implemented anywhere in the world.

True Socialism means: (1) A human fellowship which rejects class distinctions. (2) A social order in which none is richer or poorer than his neighbour. (3) A social ownership of all means of production, distribution and exchange and (4) Total abolition of all privileges and perquisites based upon birth, wealth and office.

Mankind's experience convinces that the worst Tyranny is economic tyranny. The roots of all social and political conflicts are invariably found in economic relationships. Without economic equality, social and political equalities are illusions. Hence, Socialism insists upon equality of income between person and person regardless of their station in life, their abilities and talents, their profession, occupation and trade.

Under Socialism, production, distribution and exchange concentrate on providing common comforts to all. They never pamper the greed of the few. Hence, there is always complete social control over the resources of the State. Wealth is the product of resources and labour of the entire society. Under Capitalism it is pocketed by the few in the name of so-called natural right to private property. Capitalism glorifies competition organised on the principle of survival of the fittest. Who are the fittest? Who else but the exploiters! Socialism replaces such brute competition by gentle cooperation. Capitalism always creates social discord. Socialism always creates social harmony.

Why Socialism? Answer is for better social order, nobler life and enrichment of cultural treasure of mankind. Food, clothes, shelter and culture are main elements of human life. Only Socialism guarantees them to all. Consequently parasites are never found in socialist socie-

ties and sinecures are never found in the socialist states. Socialism alone gives each and every person a right to explore the beauties of life and the joys of living.

The contrast

In contrast, Capitalism worships wealth. To be precise personal possession of wealth. Personal wealth cannot be multiplied without profit and profit is offspring of exploitation. Exploitation is the corner-stone of Capitalism. In capitalist society all good things of life are grabbed by the few and millions are made to suffer degradation and misery. Money is the sole incentive for the capitalists. When incentive is identified with money, human beings become money-making machines. When making money becomes the goal of life, human beings become markettable commodities. As Karl Marx put it Callous "Cash nexus" governs all social relationships. How wise Oliver Goldsmith was when he sang: "When wealth accumulates men decay. When commerce prevails honour sinks". How forthright Jesus was when he quipped: "It is easier for Camel to pass through the eye of the needle than for the rich man to enter the kingdom of God".

Capitalism categorises functions as superior and inferior. Socialism rejects the division outright because all functions have exactly identical value in a cultured society. Absolute equality of functions is one of basic tenets of Gandhism. Barrister and Bhangi, Barber and Doctor, Butcher and Builder, Professor and Peon, Mochi and Mantri, Chaprasi and Cabinet Secretary, Inn-Keeper and Industrialist are absolutely equal. Complexes, snobbery, status and vanity are the diseases of Capitalism. They are never found in a truly cultured society and socialist society is a truly cultured society.

In the capitalist culture beauties are statistical and values are commercial. Aesthetic values of the highest order, Pure Knowledge and Sublime Ideals never grow on the capitalist soil, because all must obediently subserve the cause of capital. As Vyas Maharshi put it: *Arthasya Purusho Das*—all are the slaves of the Money Power. In capitalist societies "success" is not judged by what people are but by

what people have. Not by their "real" achievements but by their bank-balances, by the size of their cars and by the cost of their furniture. No wonder, capitalist societies breed only the mediocrities and are dominated by pedestrian and run-of-the-mill professionals within the parameters fixed by the capitalists. The geniuses are always known by their creative contributions and their conquest of the highest peaks of Excellence. The mediocrities are always known by the prizes they bag and the prizes are donated by the moneybags. None disputes that like charity, philanthropy covers multitude of sins. Can there be any "prestige" in the prestigious prizes awarded by the philanthropists and the governments controlled by the industrialists?

A superstition is planted and propagated that public sector is incompetent and private sector is competent. All concerned must grasp that while the crimes of public sector become known, corporate crimes are methodically suppressed because captains of industries control all levers of power and publicity. Famous phrase: "From Bedroom to Boardroom" eloquently explains and illuminates shady sides of private enterprises of the capitalist countries.

Economic exploitation is a global phenomenon. Today, wherever one may be, one lives in the world of exploitation. Different forms of Government prevailing in different societies are only different forms of exploitation. From time to time exploitation changes its shape but never its nature. It is as difficult for the exploiters to change their hearts as it is for the leopard to change his spots. Without Socialism there could be neither Democracy nor liberty in true sense of term. A society in which poor outnumber the rich is built upon the foundations of sand. Long ago, Rousseau mocked at the British who flatter themselves as the world's oldest democrats merely because after every five years they decide whose "slaves" they will be. How fake is British democracy in our times is explained excellently in the writings of Anthony Wedgwood Benn. According to Rousseau only that is a democracy where "no citizen is wealthy enough to buy another and

none poor enough to be forced to sell himself." To believe that democracy exists to-day in England, Europe and United States of America is to live in Fools Paradise.

Marxism and Gandhism are the best programmes for implementation of essence of Socialism. Establishment of Classless Society with governance of men would be replaced by administration of things is the heart of Marxism. It is the heart of Gandhism. What he calls Classless Society, Mahatma names *Sarvodaya*. The socialist states appeared, on world state at the end of First World War. What is the balance-sheet of their performance between 1917 and 1991? Instead of a Classless Society, a *New Class* emerged in socialist states from Beijing to grade. Party bosses, their families and their favourites amassed enormous wealth in cash and kind. They become richer and poor poorer. A system that legitimises ill-gotten wealth and gives the strongest protection to corruption is known as "Market-Economy". No wonder, *New Class* everywhere is eager to embrace Market Economy.

A socialist society is not only a Classless Society but also a Leaderless Society. The greatest defect of Karl Marx was his absolute trust in the Communist Party as the vanguard of Classless society. English poet Pope showed accurate understanding of political parties. According to Pope "A political party is an organised madness of many for the benefit of the few". History tells of every political party becomes a breeding ground of selfish opportunists. Every political leader becomes the collaborator of the exploiters. Performance audit of the Communist and Socialist Parties of the world confirms this. True socialist society does not have any leaders. There can never be a greater curse on mankind than the "leaders" guiding their political, economic and social affairs. According to Mahatma Gandhi, in a true socialist society all persons participate in the decision-making process. Every person is thus leader and follower at one and the same time.

Is Socialism an utopia? As Oscar Wilde: "a map of the world that does not include utopia is like a map that even glancing at, for it leaves out one country at which Humanity is always landing." Has Socialist Movement failed? Can anything fail without being tried? Is there any country, is there any State on the face of earth which has implemented the essence of Socialism? So far there is none. Capitalist culture is a sinking ship. Exploitation keeps it floating. For every ship there is an end and Exploitation cannot be an exception. The mission of the Exploited is to hasten the end of Exploitation in a disciplined non-violent manner. However, violence cannot be forever ruled out by the exploiters continue to be inhuman, irrational, obstinate and snobbish. Even the best apostle of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi says: "a violent and bloody revolution is a certainty one day unless there is a voluntary abdication of riches and the power that riches give".

Therefore, whether Socialism has any future is not at all the main point. Point is that Mankind has no future without Socialism.

Be a little Outrageous

By Sanjeev Khalap

Have you ever woken up and said to yourself, "Oh my god, what an excessively boring life I lead," or something to that effect? Well chances are that unless you're an astronaut or a lion tamer, and even those jobs have their boring moments too, that there'll be a time when you crave for a little excitement.

But when you get the chance, at say the Seafood Festival or the numerous balls and dances, what do you do? You probably either 'Chicken out' or else you sit in a corner like a cold baked potato feeling totally out of place.

Well it's in your hands to make that change, from Mr./Ms. Boring into a dynamic awe-inspiring, unpredictable, bundle of nervous energy, erupting from time to time earning the attention of family and friends.

room. Glue a piece of glass on top of your stuffed animals, and ta da, you've got a coffee table.

Now what about your food? Try putting green colouring on your chicken pieces and eating takeaway Afghanistan food. That should keep you away from zzzz land.

Another famous routine to avoid is Issues. God it's fashionable these days to say your green, environmentally friendly, pro-Amnesty, pro-Greenpeace, anti-Bush and an ardent AIDS awareness campaigner. Take up the lesser known causes. Go to your nearest screen printing buiz., an order T-shirts with messages like *Save the Hermaphrodite Wild Donkey* instead of *Save the boring old routine*. Whale, speak ardently for a hitherto unknown tribe of Drug-crazed Nazi Eskimos and organise mass rallies of mob-

ilise support for Saddam Hussein as this year's hot-tip for Nobel Peace Prize.

And when your friends start talking about *Guns N' Roses* and *Metallica*, you tell them instead about *Tommy Page's* latest release. At concerts when guys start yelling "play November Rain", "play Sweet child of mine" or "play Roadhouse Blues", you stand up and shout for Jim Reeves' Greatest hits instead!

Don't let fashion and trends fool you into conforming, no matter how cool or trendy you think you are. Don't be a predictable old nut, break away from routine and be a little outrageous and spontaneous.

Some of you might be wondering where I fit in, in all of this. Well you 'won't find me practising what I'm preaching' because as you all must be knowing "Those who can, do. Those who can't, write about it."

The new age 'defence' and 'education'