

## THE WEST IS LEAST WORST

People on the right like to remind us that the "west is best". You would have to agree that it is better than all the other messes. It has democracy, rule of law, civil liberties, higher living standards and less lingering nonsense from past times.

Although we should keep in mind that being best is only because the alternatives are really appalling. We still require a good old proletarian revolution to thoroughly sort things out and create a decent

## THE REVOLUTION IS GOING TO BE QUITE A BUSINESS

On a number of occasions Marx made clear that we have quite a task ahead of us, as we can see from these quotes.

"Between capitalist and communist society there lies the period of the revolutionary transformation of the one into the other." *Critique of the Gotha Program* (1875)

"Both for the production on a mass scale of this communist consciousness, and for the success of the cause itself, the alteration of men on a mass scale is, necessary, an alteration which can only take place in a practical movement, a revolution; this revolution is necessary, therefore, not only because the ruling class cannot be overthrown in any other way, but also because the class overthrowing it can only in a revolution succeed in ridding itself of all the muck of ages and become fitted to found society anew." *The German Ideology* 1846 (Part I, section D)

"The revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that its development involves the most radical rupture with traditional ideas." *The Class Struggles in France, 1848-1850*

We really will need to turn everything upside down and totally reshape ourselves and society. Otherwise the forces of conservatism and reaction will make a successful comeback.

It is not enough simply to introduce state ownership or even "workers' democracy". There has to be a total change in the relations between people in production and in the superstructure (i.e., culture and politics). We have to become new people. This will encounter resistance. So we can look forward to an unstable transition phase during which both regression and progression are possible. The more unfavorable the underlying objective and subjective conditions, the more chance of regression, and hence the rocky road travelled in the 20th century where revolutionary regimes turned into their opposites while still waving the red flag.

classless society. So let's hold back a bit on the bragging.

We certainly need everyone else to get their fair dose of western civilization. It shouldn't just be "us". Indeed spreading it around is the only way to defend it particularly when you consider that western countries are home to a declining share of the world's population and the "rest" are bound to become economically and militarily stronger.

Defending the west at the moment means first and foremost defending Ukraine from eastern marauders. Where people stand on this question is the big test of who are the true defenders. A lot of people on both the right and pseudo left fail badly in this department.

On the right there are some people for whom defending the west means defending the Middle Ages and keeping out the Saracens and Ottomans. Putin is seen as an ally in that endeavor. The pseudo left of course blames NATO for Putin's aggression but couldn't create an "anti-war" movement on such thin gruel. However, when the Gaza war came along they jumped at the opportunity to help to drown out Ukraine by joining endless rallies while not doing much to really help the Palestinians. "Free Palestine" and "Ceasefire Now" are thoroughly inadequate slogans. People should be demanding external intervention in the West Bank and Gaza in preparation for a Palestinian state.

Coincidentally, getting the Palestine train onto well laid tracks could do wonders in helping to westernize the MENA region and cool down jihadism. However, the noise makers are not interested. For the right, Israel is an outpost of Fortress Europe fending off the incorrigible Muslim hordes. And a Palestinian state would be rewarding terrorism. For the pseudo left Palestine is meant to remain a festering sore that can feed into their "anti-imperialist" west is worst narrative.

### David's Political Substack [mcmullend.substack.com](https://mcmullend.substack.com)

There is a post every 10 days, mainly covering revolutionary Marxism and geopolitics. See the About page for an overview. Posts generally do not date so it is worth clicking on the TOPICS or ARCHIVE link and reading previous material.



## CAPITALISM WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS

The Beijing regime wants us to believe that China is socialist and the CCP is Marxist.

They describe their present system as a primary stage of socialism with a socialist market economy. And by socialism they mean an early stage in the transition to communism, not the Bernie Sanders variety. This is a rather remarkable claim.

They are saying that the reliance on markets, capitalists and small private business will end when the economy and society are sufficiently developed and they will return to social ownership, and to transforming the relations of production and superstructure. For this to happen the system, indeed the whole of society, would have to completely change tack. The bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie would not object. Workers would cease to be alienated, semi-functional, low spirited wage slaves and make good progress in transforming themselves and their relations in production and society generally. At the same time, everyone with positions of authority in the CCP and government would do everything they could to assist and would abandon their power and high salaries. In other words the present regime would not need to be overthrown. Unless you believe in magic this is obvious tosh.

Xi Jinping is trying to dress things up a bit by claiming that they are already beginning to move beyond this primary stage where economic growth was virtually the sole concern and let distribution go hang. We now have the "common prosperity" agenda and a lot more support is going into propping up the state owned enterprises (SOEs).

He is also keen for people to make more "Marxism" noises. If you claim to be socialist you obviously also have to put on some sort of show of being a Marxist.

Xi's "left turn" is going down well with some of the pseudo left. And his regime is even pandering to the western academic marxians and martians. Chinese academics say they are taking great interest in all the usual suspects - Foucault, Derrida, Adorno, Habermas etc. And to keep up to date, John Bellamy Foster with his eco-Marxism is also getting a look-in.

What's more there seems to be a Chinese gravy train that is attracting some Western academics, particularly those into "multipolarity".

"Socialism" and "Marxism" is important for the regime's survival. It is part of narrative that justifies the system, and rule

*continued overleaf*

# THE TWO TYRANNIES ARE THE BIGGEST ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION

Working class revolution down the track is best served by recognizing that the primary problem at the moment is the presence in the world of the two tyrannies, China and Russia. Geopolitically, this is mainly manifested in the contradiction between these two powers and the Western bourgeois democracies. And generally, the whole thing can be best dubbed the battle for democracy.

Russia could be knocked off this list if the Western powers were to be "aggressive imperialists". It could be decisively defeated. Both Belarus and Ukraine would be free and Europe safe. Russia would be surrounded and blockaded while negotiations proceeded for the handover of its nuclear weapons. And the Ruscists would be politically weakened by their decisive defeat. This would be a major

## NO LIMITS TO GROWTH

While a future global communist society will require a considerable level of abundance, there are many who think this is unachievable because of "limits to growth" or "planetary carrying capacity". However, prosperity for all is not difficult to imagine with scientific and technological advances. Where land is a constraint, we can build higher into the sky and tunnel deeper into the ground. Precision farming, biotechnology and other innovations will provide far more food while using less land and water, an already established trend that is gathering pace in spite of opposition from greens. There will be limitless supplies of clean energy from a range of resources. We can already be sure that future generations of nuclear power technology will be able to rely on virtually inexhaustible fuel resources. Then there are future technologies we can presently only guess at. For example, biotechnology may open up new ways of harnessing the sun. The mineral resources we rely on are more than sufficient, even without considering our ability to devise ways to substitute one resource for another. We will protect the biosphere with more advanced and better funded waste and conservation management. Indeed, in many respects we have seen capitalist countries get cleaner as they get richer, and not just because they have moved the dirty industries to the "South".

History quite clearly shows the political implications of poverty. For example, as the Middle Ages illustrate it only requires a small band of thugs who would prefer to live off everybody else's hard work and you end up with a very nasty class society. Also when assessing the experience of the Soviet Union, and the various regimes derived from it, it is important to keep in mind their backward economic conditions as a factor in determining how things turned out there. With high levels of material prosperity, the benefits of having more than everyone else are far outweighed by the benefits of living in a society based on mutual regard rather than mutual antagonism — in other words communism rather than capitalism.

victory against fascism. However, I think it is unlikely to happen unless the Ruscists launch an attack on Europe and galvanize it into a full blown response, a bit like Pearl Harbor. And if it lacked U.S. support it would not be a picnic.

However, even if by some magic that all happened, then there would still be the bigger enemy, China. Indeed, China could annex bits of weakened Russia and reduce its resource dependence. It is a regime that deprives its own people of political freedom and endeavors to undermine it elsewhere. And as long as China remains a well organized tyranny, there is no hope of a revolutionary communist movement emerging in that country. And as long as it remains a very well armed tyranny, it poses a serious threat to the prospects of a successful revolutionary bid for power in the rest of the world. A revolutionary movement that emerges under the favorable conditions of bourgeois democracy would have to take on not only local reactionary forces in a bid for power but also those headquartered in Beijing. The victory of future revolutionary wars will depend on the balance of forces. So, the less heavily armed tyrannies pumped up on fascist, ethno-nationalist ideology there are the better.

As well as the threats from without there is the fifth columnist one from within. All oppose the West aiding Ukraine and rearming to deter or defeat the tyrannies. Some also work to white ant political freedom, often aided by the external foe. So, we need to unite with everyone who can be united with in defense of bourgeois democracy and with every government willing to stand up to the predator tyrannies. So, lots of "class collaboration" are in order.

Some people claim that the western powers are just as bad. They are denounced as hypocrites. We are then presented with a list of Western aggression over the last 35 years: expelling Iraq from Kuwait; interrupting Serbia's genocidal plans for Kosovo; taking out a regime in Afghanistan that was harboring Al Qaeda forces and refusing to leave the Middle Ages; and removing Saddam Hussein from Iraq and installing a regime that was no longer a tyranny nor threat to its neighbors. However, none of these inter-

ventions aimed to take the world to a darker place. Indeed, I think the main problem with the West over the last 35 years is its insufficient action. It should have sent a far larger force to Iraq to ensure control of the country and suppress ISIS and Baathist insurgencies, and internecine conflicts. The failure to do so led to considerable bloodshed. And the death and destruction reaped by ISIS and Assad could have been prevented by sufficient and timely Western intervention.

Support for Israel in its war against the Palestinians, especially its present annihilation of Gaza, has pretty much runs its course. A two state solution is in the interest of Europe and even the U.S. However, it is only going to happen with the European intervention discussed in the May 24 Substack post. If radicals and progressives care about Palestine they should demand such a course. If the West were to clean up its act in this way it would greatly gain geopolitically.

*Chinese Characteristics cont'd*

by the CCP. We are on the right side of history, not that decadent bourgeois democracy nonsense. Although, it is not their only ideological prop. They also talk in chauvinistic terms about how they are the means to China's increasing greatness and reversal of past humiliations. And they can also rely on the devil you know point of view which is particularly strong as long as people feel they can get by with the present arrangements.

Former Australian prime minister and present ambassador to the US, Kevin Rudd refers to a speech given by Ji to upper echelons not long after coming to power reminding them that the increasing emergence of dissident views were what ultimately lead to the demise of the Soviet Union and the eastern bloc. So the "correct ideology" must be upheld and dissent nipped in the bud.

Anyone who dissents from the tyranny can be cast as an enemy of socialism, agent of western imperialism and promoter of instability.

**Ecosocialism and Degrowth are Great Ways to Become Irrelevant**  
*Platypus Review 167*



Back issues of *Red Speck* are available as PDFs at the Substack.

**Suggested reading at David's Political Substack:**

- A Palestinian state now, not in some misty future
- European far right are Russian Quislings
- Ecosocialism and degrowth folly
- Hal Draper is not particularly interesting
- We need housing abundance
- Saito misreading Marx on degrowth
- China and orthodox Trotskyism