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Corona crisis, states, and alternative globalization

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★**1** Given its nature, Corona pandemic requires implementation of a global strategy, but not only is such absent, but also there is no authorized actor entitled to carry out such, if any. The United Nations proved utterly powerless though WTO played a minimal role to meet the global crisis. Instead, the pandemic invoked the powers of nation states as the rescue boats, and what has resulted is the partition of the globe by state barriers. Worse still, some state leaders are said using this opportunity to establish their autocratic powers.

★**2** The partition of the world cutting and paralyzing commodity chains has stranded neoliberal capitalist globalization and neo-liberal model of development. If the status quo ante returns after this wave of pandemic has subsided is still to be seen. But it is unlikely that the exact capitalist system that has triumphed will come back intact. We may be able to find new leverage to discredit and intervene in it.

★**3** This discrepancy between the nature of the matter and the inadequate available remedy points to the crying need for a global agency capable of coping with the new situation.

Pandemic affects all people about equally in the physical sense but precisely because of this equalization effect it lays bare the already social, economic, and institutional gaps in dramatic ways; e.g. mortality is higher for the blacks than for whites, for the rich than for the poor, and so on as all available statistics show.

★**4** So, the pandemic situation stimulates and ushers in struggles for the rectification of historically preserved and reinforced injustices, particularly those rooted in colonialism and imperialism; the struggle to undo racial, anti-human practices whose legacies are there in present societies are targeted for removal – a perspective to follow up the Durban process with mass action.

★**5** Pandemic is seen as the result of human society’s global exploitative activities intruding into the ecological soundness of the planet and so if not Cov-9, another may, or even likely to, emerge and hit us anytime in the future. That prospect puts the kind of neo-liberal capitalist globalization so far pursued on a shaky ground, and for survival it has to switch to some new line of thought and practice, but that would be extremely difficult for them.

★**6** Pandemic cannot be treated as a single issue as it is part of the consequence of hundreds of years of human activities that have exploited this globe’s nature to a point of saturation and now of undermining of the basis of survival of human civilization. Climate change is the most tangible of the results of this exploitation. We need to address the issue of pandemic as part of anthropocene phenomena.

★**7** How can we react to this whole situation? States and inter-state agencies have roles to play, but not enough. In mid-term (30-50 years), the people should emerge as the driving force through inter-community alliance building processes. In the current pandemic fighting process, we hear medical and other scholars are collaborating very closely totally ignoring state and other barriers, exchanging research outcome on time.

★**8** As a broader perspective, we need people’s alliances beyond national borders with substantive power to implement their agreed decisions. Where to begin to form such alliances is the task we face now, and in the ongoing practice we can find many early examples.

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