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We Fight Ideas with Ideas

COP27 – A COP-OUT BY THE CAPITALIST MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Albert Einstein famously remarked, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them,” and “Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, but expecting different results.” These perfectly sum up the whole point of COP27 – a talk-shop whose fundamental purpose is to save capitalism, not the Earth. Under capitalism, climate-change is seen as a risk to be addressed via *mitigation* measures – “we will innovate our way out of the crisis!” – not as the greatest existential threat to life on the planet.

COP27 is the global ruling class organised as a project team to come up with and implement measures *within* the system to save the system from a danger created by the system, without changing the system.

That system is capitalism – the system that works by insanely enriching a tiny elite at the expense of billions of people across the world, and that does so by plundering Earth’s resources (both human and material) through infinite growth on a finite planet. Is it any wonder that previous COPs have failed? Is it any wonder that COPs notwithstanding, we continue on our collision course with planetary breakdown?

Marx was one of the first thinkers to draw attention to the toxic relationship between capitalism and nature, when, some two hundred years ago, he posited his theory (based on scientific analysis) of *metabolic/ecological rift* – the incompatibility between the capitalist imperative for endless growth even at the cost of life on Earth.

Interest in the power of human agency to alter nature in fundamental and possibly irreversible ways has accelerated in the last seventy-odd years following WWII; it started off with protests led by scientists over atmospheric nuclear testing, and then extended into such areas as pesticides and more general ecological concerns. (John Bellamy Foster, 2016)

In recent years, many terms have emerged to highlight the causal link between climate breakdown and human activity. Perhaps the most well-known is the *Anthropocene*, which means just that – “the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment.” However, still more recently “the Capitalocene” has been used increasingly as a way of locating responsibility specifically to capitalism as the basic cause.

Movements and groupings such as COP27 would prefer a term like Anthropocene, since this implies a more generalised responsibility – “we are *all* culprits, and therefore we *all* have a role to play” in mitigating the effects of climate change. Thus, the solution to global warming lies in individual choices not systemic change – “use more energy efficient light bulbs, increase the air pressure in your car tyres to reduce petrol consumption ...”

As a major producer of coal (the world’s most carbon-intensive source of energy) South Africa was represented by its president in Egypt in November to present details of the ANC-government’s so-called “Just Transition Energy Programme” (JTEP). Ramaphosa’s purpose was to source funding for a long-term mitigation plan. (SA is apparently the world’s thirteenth biggest emitter of greenhouse gases!). Between them, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union – our “partners” in the JTEP – have agreed to put up \$8.5 billion towards the

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cause of a “just transition.” If that is supposed to be good news, how about this:

The grant component [of the funding] is a paltry 2.7%. The rest (98%) will be in the form of loans from these countries and from commercial institutions. (M&G online, 8 November 2022).

When news of this excuse for a partnership was announced in November 2021, President Ramaphosa declared

We look forward to a long term partnership that can serve as an appropriate model of support for climate action from developed to developing countries, recognising the importance of a just transition to a low carbon, climate resilient society that promotes employment and livelihoods.

Words, words, words. The countries which these governments represent are among the wealthiest on earth and the major cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Until they are willing to put their money where their mouth is, we should continue to expect that they will remain a part of the problem, not the solution.

According to an article in the Cape Times on 10 November:

The EU is reported to have imported 40% more coal from South Africa in the first five months of 2022 than in the whole of 2021 – this same EU that is committed to ending its reliance on global-warming coal.

The SA economy (including coal-hungry Eskom) is critically dependent on export revenues from coal. Eskom’s generation division has 15 coal-fired power stations with an installed capacity of 44 013 MW.

Who’s fooling whom?

With the news that SA has a “plan” in place, everyone is saying, “Plan, what plan?” The same Cape Times article quotes NUMSA spokesperson Phakamile Hlubi-Majola as follows:

First of all there is no social plan, not even for the province of Mpumalanga which will be most affected by the closure of coal-fired power stations. Secondly, they claim there will be re-skilling and retraining of workers [but] it is a fact that coal power stations are labour intensive but renewable energy plants are not . . . There might be jobs at the construction phase, but in the long term the plant will not absorb all those workers and it means thousands of them will be displaced.”

So, the prospect over the next five years is that we will end

up with a massive *additional* debt and worsened unemployment.

In her 2015 book *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*, Naomi Klein considers that we will need a Marshall Plan for the Earth, and that

This plan must mobilize financing and technology transfer on scales never seen before. It must get technology onto the ground in every country to ensure we reduce emissions while raising people’s quality of life. We have only a decade.”

She adds that “of course a Marshall Plan for the Earth would be very costly – hundreds of billions if not trillions of dollars.”

Will this solve the problem, or will it simply buy time?

Every analysis bold enough to honestly and scientifically examine the role and nature of capitalism comes to the conclusion that there can be no permanent, sustainable solution without the defeat of the capitalist system.

It becomes a matter of “System Change, not Climate Change,” a choice between socialism or extinction.

COP27 RENAMED CON27

The language of Cop27 is the same language used when devising the elite global coup that came behind the Covid-19 wave. EU president Ursula von der Leyen spoke about ‘flattening the energy curve’ in a September speech in the EU parliament on the energy crises.¹ Similar to the shutdown of open and free discourse on the ‘science’ of Covid-19, the global elites have now claimed ownership of the science on climate change,² forcing tech giants to shut down any debate that contradicts the consensus views of the ruling elites.

The Covid-19 pandemic was merely a testing ground for innovative population control measures, that extended the cold hand of totalitarian rule right into the homes of ordinary people. In an unprecedented move, the healthy were locked up in their homes alongside the sick, in the face of a deadly disease that has killed 1% of those it infected.³ The greater impact of course, was to follow the lockdowns – the job losses, deepening unemployment, increased power leveraged to the elites, and greater dependence on handouts. Ultimately, psychotic ‘humanitarians’ such as Bill Gates, who drove the pandemic narrative,⁴ have become the voice of the future for the entire planet.⁵ The same Bill Gates is now a booming voice in the new green technology race – or as Vandana Shiva describes it the ‘green gold rush’.⁶ Fossil fuel-based agriculture, according to Shiva, contributes 50% to greenhouse gases, and is being used by Gates and his investors to launch new ‘rogue ventures’ technology infused and driven agriculture,⁷ which would in effect make those who depend on food to sustain themselves, wholly dependent on newer forms of industrialised food manufacturing for life.

The same language of hysteria and the catastrophising of the narrative of the environment, is being used by the technological elites to terrify the global populace, as they did during the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools in Europe and Canada, are introducing school children to insect snacks, as the elites prepare to wean society off traditional farm produce.⁸ Climate activists are wild-eyed with rage and fear as they march into supermarkets, pouring out dairy products,⁹ and throwing meat onto the floor – contributing to the 1-billion tons of food that go to waste every year.¹⁰

Cop27 is an extension of the broader plan to control every aspect of human life by the globalist elites. Many people were shut down and vilified during the Covid-19 pandemic for suggesting that it was a ‘plandemic’, but history has given credence to those ‘conspiracy theories’. The move to so-called ‘online learning’ and detached, digital ‘meeting rooms’, has further alienated human beings from each other as ‘social distancing’ became part of the new lexicon of ‘othering’. There were now the vaxxed and the unvaxxed.

There is no denying that an environmental crisis looms, but as Bjorn Lombard suggests, hysteria and panic are not part of the solution.¹¹ The drive to increase dependence on technology for improving life on earth only benefits the new techno-feudal lords such as Bill Gates, who Vandana Shiva describes as a ‘philanthroimperialist’.¹² Shiva’s book ‘Oneness vs the 1%’ is compulsory reading in this age of alienation and the worship of the gods of technology. The primary god of technology, Bill Gates showed a TED Talk audience an image of the coronavirus in March 2015 and warned the audi-

ence that it would be ‘the greatest catastrophe of our time’.¹³ The same Bill Gates who invested heavily in pushing Covid vaccines, is now pushing GMOs and technology infused foods for human consumption¹⁴ – a drive that wrests eating sovereignty, away from the individual, in the same way that his control over Covid-19 and governmental responses to the pandemic, wrested control away from human beings over their rights to making medical decisions over their own bodies.

The South African government, a shady bunch to be sure, is greedily and enthusiastically sucking at the teat of global finance, as the green agenda is shoved down the throat of the Global South. Make no mistake, the starving masses will soon be joining the insect eating school children of Europe as farms in South Africa fall under the control of people of the ilk of Gates and company. Already Bill Gates is the largest agricultural landowner in the US.¹⁵ A country that has steadily crippled traditional farming and destroyed natural, non-GMO grown crops. It is these industrialised farms that destroy the environment,¹⁶ not traditional farming,¹⁷ and the idea, as stated earlier in this piece, that the system that created the problem will be the source of the solution, is pure madness.

The University of Cape Town is in partnership with the Gates Foundation in promoting online learning and introducing new technologies to education, yet this same Bill Gates, according to Vandana Shiva, has been hammering away at the foundations of the American educational system for more than two decades. It is the vision of Bill gates to do away with physical classrooms and educate children via the virtual space.¹⁸ This digital purgatory, already has willing and enthusiastic participants in the youth, who walk around, heads bowed as they swipe through their ‘social media’ applications.

Shosana Zuboff describes this new age as ‘A new economic order that claims human experience as free raw material for hidden commercial practices of extraction, prediction, and sales; A parasitic economic logic in which the production of goods and services is subordinated to a new global architecture of behaviour modification’.¹⁹ This chilling quote then returns us to Shiva’s book in which she reveals that on the 26th of March 2020, Microsoft was granted a patent by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) – Patent WO 060606, which declares that Human Body Activity associated with a task provided to a user may be used in a mining process of a cryptocurrency system. This means that Microsoft owns energy radiated by the human body – it is in essence an intellectual property claim over human bodies and minds.²⁰

Somehow, we need to facilitate the seeding of a resistance movement. It is time for less technology – not more. It is time to turn to repurposing of older technologies, and stem the worship of newer, more addictive technologies. The drive to get humans addicted to insects and vaccines is in turn part of the larger plan to totally control human populations, and kill off any and all forms of dissent. Already travel is limited as travellers have to remain up-to-date with their vaccines in order to get a green tick at international airports.²¹

Pandora's box of surveillance and control has been opened, and only those who are off grid can resist.

Cop27 should be renamed Con27.

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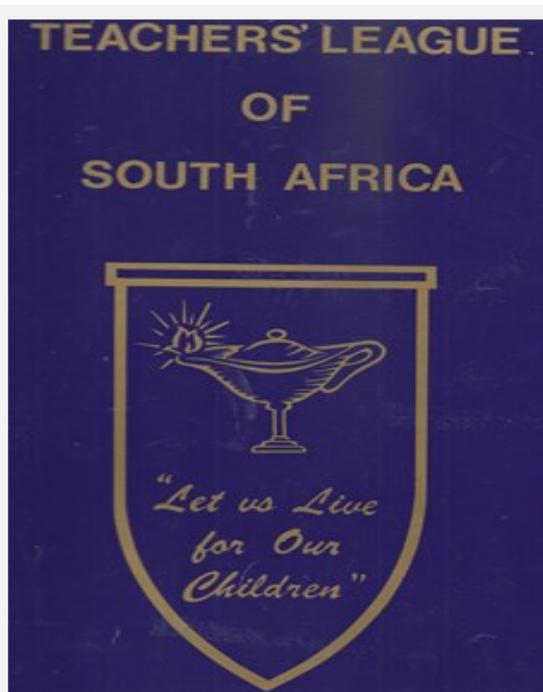
REALITY AND OUR VISION OF A FUTURE EDUCATION

The April 1994 Conference of the Teachers' League of South Africa was crucial in several significant ways. The decision to spell out clearly our vision of education in a future South Africa was more than necessary. So much has been written by all manner of educational reformers that the essence of basic problems has been obscured in a lot of jargon and musing over what has always been a serious matter. The transformation of a racist, divisive, discriminatory schooling system to an unsegregated, non-racial democratic order strikes at the very root of the political economy. It was thus both timely and doubly significant that the Conference was held on the eve of the phoney elections for what has been styled a government of national unity.

It was in relation to the years of wheeling and dealing in preparation for these elections that education plans of all types were churned out by the governing National Party and its new-found partners and rivals for a place in the new governing structures. It was possible to assess the many plans that were invented for that purpose (electioneering) against our view of what is needed in this country to lock education securely into the struggle for non-racial democracy in a united non-racial state and nation.

It was inevitable that the standpoint of the Teachers' League had to be sharpened and closely measured against the political and economic changes which the likely partners in the new government claimed as their policies. Thus the

political and economic framework of a progressive education system was clearly staked out. It was more than just proved that liberation and expansion of education from the shackles of the past depended upon the creation of a new economic base. The existing system of exploitation and the under-development of human and natural resources in typical colonial fashion had to be rooted out. But the plans that had been worked out in the notorious "Education Renewal Strategy" - the ERS - which was also underwritten by the Tripartite Alliance of the ANC, the Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions were both unacceptable and downright reactionary; they assumed the continued existence of the present economic order and sought to patch up the glaring evils that are an ongoing product of that order.



Conference reviewed the work done by progressive teachers over the past few decades to negate the effects of debased tribalised education. Very correctly it examined the very many programmes and general efforts of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) aimed not merely at repairing the widespread damage being done in schools, or at providing Adult Basic Education (ABE); but also at advancing alternative methods and syllabuses to promote education outside the establishment school arena. What was significant was the assessment that the vast efforts in this arena could make only a limited impression upon the decaying tribal school systems.

The Conference strongly confirmed the view that education had as central purpose the erasing of racism, cultural chauvinism and sectarianism in the process of building one South African nation. But the Kempton Park cabal had contrived a system of nine federal provincial units with powers to promote the very evils that needed to be expunged from our at present divided society. This they had effected by a whole series of concessions to accommodate patently racist groups in our society. It thus behoves all serious educationists to understand just what these provincial units hold for the future. The fight against the worst consequences of this kind of "reform" will in future make up an inseparable part of the integrated approach of educators to their tasks in the schools, colleges and universities.

To complement this critical approach to what is being contrived for “the new South Africa”, Conference sought to examine new or updated practical methods that need to be pursued in the classrooms and lecture halls. A two-pronged approach was spelt out in earnest debate. From one angle the teaching corps had to upgrade their own capacity to locate teaching practice in an informed critical understanding of aims and methods. From another, the need to be more than just alert to seemingly “erudite” Commissions Reports was highlighted in a most profitable examination of proposals such as those of the National Education Policy Investigations (NEPI). These proposals clearly convey an acceptance of the present economic order and then seek to graft onto an anti-democratic, anti-educational social order a system that must merely patch up the inadequacies in the education set-up. They ignore the fact the such inadequacies are the combined product of economic and educational policies hostile to serious progress in education,

A discussion of the linking of the broad, acceptable social and individual human needs with the need to create a foundation for the full and fulfilling participation of all persons in the economic, political and cultural life of society was not regarded by Conference as a mere academic exercise. It enabled the Conference to piece together a total, all-encompassing approach to the whole issue of reconstruction in education as an integral part of economic and social rebuilding of a society that has been corrupted and distorted in fundamental ways. Thus the link between South African society and the world capitalist order was examined. This was very necessary. It enabled teachers to dissect the serious question of the funding developments in education as Conference perceived them. And thus, at the same time, this examination provided the means to test the shallow notions of the Kempton Park constitution-makers. Their notion that equal education facilities could be funded from within the existing budget by some financial sleight-of-hand was exposed as mindless, dangerous and misleading in the extreme.

One of the most fruitful sessions of Conference emerged in a re-examination of the “culture of citizenship” as workers, taxpayers, voters and parents. This, combined with the duty of teachers to develop pupils’ full capacities and to re-establish both a culture of learning and a culture of teaching, led naturally to an examination of the role of Parent-Teacher-Student Associations in welding together the insights and creative energies of the triad Parent-Teacher-Pupil - in raising the effectiveness of educational institutions and community participation to the greatest possible constructive levels. Recent experience cannot but underline heavily the need for this approach.

It was the address of the TLSA President that provided a prudent historical analysis and backdrop for the Conference sessions. This, in the whole process of working out our vision for education in a future South Africa the education reforms emanating from the negotiations that led up to the elections of April 1994 were rejected as totally inadequate for the realisation of a non-racial, democratic, unsegregated education system in a democratic society.

It will therefore be of the greatest urgency for the entire teaching profession to combine the defence of education in school, college and university with a concerted effort to expose the fraudulent reforms emanating from Kempton Park and its inputs like the ERS and the NEPI reports. It will be equally urgent to pursue honestly the attainment of the economic and political aims that must cradle a truly non-racial democratic order in our society. April 27-28, 1994 will not yield that order. This is the message of our 1994 Conference and our considered statement on the April elections and what might ensue from them.

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