

Imperialism Destroyed the Productive Forces of the Southern Countries

Social Tsunami: Capitalism and the Third World

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The crisis of capitalism causes great destruction. For the majority of the world's poor, almost all aspects of their life experience deterioration. Economic crisis creates serious implications in welfare, politics, culture, and even personal. Statistic records on the high number of unemployment, criminality, maternal birth death rate, and lay-offs can't give a complete picture of the burdens carried by the poor. Moreover, the crisis of capitalism gradually creates a "sick", frustrated, "incapacitated" and corrupted society. The crisis, and the failure of the bourgeois government in overcoming it, is a great tsunami for humanity and the civilization of the 21st century.

At the other side, the gap between the imperialist countries and the poorest countries is widening. The total of assets owned by the three richest people in the world exceeds the GDP of poor countries with total population of 600 million. The total population of imperialist OECD countries is only 19% of the total world population; however, they enjoy 71% trade share, 58% direct foreign investment; and 91% of them are internet consumers.

The gap is a direct effect of the work productivity gap between the imperialist countries and the poorest countries. Colonialism has destroyed all possibilities for poor countries to develop themselves into a "normal" capitalist country. Poor countries are pressured by debts, technological dependency and capital, and the market. In many cases, the exploitation of natural resource is a solution taken by poor countries to put up with limited domestic capital. However, in Indonesia, almost all mines, oil, gas, coal, and gold deposit are controlled by the imperialist. Their desire to secure the continuity of imperialist domination on the southern countries' economy made them collaborate with the indigenous comprador force that is corrupted and militaristic (the New Order). Almost none of the natural resource extracted from the capitalist southern countries can be developed or further processed in their own countries. It is mostly exported as raw or half-processed.

Indonesia is an example: 90% of its control over oil production and 30-40% of its processing, as well as its distribution lies in the hand of world's oil imperialists. Since its independence, Indonesia has never been able to exploit its own oil resource. It can only refine it, and most of the technology for that process must be imported. Most of the oil produce is exported as crude oil, to be later imported in processed oil products. The low national productivity cause skyrocketing importing fee that has to be paid by the national budget. The ruling class does not have any intention to break the chain of acute dependency on the imperialist, in terms of oil exploration, exploitation, and other refinery technology. The same applies in other sector of industry such as: gas, electricity, coal. The impact is

unbelievable: Indonesia, as one of world's biggest gas producer, have to experience energy crisis to supply its fertilizer industry because of the lack of gas fuel.

Low national productivity level is a big problem of the poor countries today. Natural resource of the countries cannot be used for the national economic progress. Millions of people become unemployed and have to survive in the informal economy, of which productivity is very low so that the contribution to the national economic value is minimal. A corrupt, repressive, and comprador government becomes a parasite to the Poor's economic activities. It is hardly surprising to find that the majority of Indonesian people only engage themselves in economic activities merely for their subsistence - to survive.

With US\$ 2 daily income per day as the definition for poverty, according to the World Bank, the number of Indonesian people whose income less than US\$ 2 per day is 43.4% of the population; while those whose income less than US\$1 is 7,4% of the total 220 million population. Compare the livelihood of Indonesian workers with agriculture subsidy in the European Union countries which subsidize a single cow with US\$ 2.2 a day.

The majority of pro-neoliberal economist thinks that the rate of wage is too high, considering that Indonesian labour productivity is the lowest in South East Asia. Therefore, there was a pressure to the government to freeze the wage increase. The main cause of the low productivity among Indonesian workers is obviously the outdated technology being used. Other cause is the low quality of human capital due to the expensive cost of education and health. 56.7% of Indonesian workers do not have education more than the elementary level. Only 4.6% are university or college graduates. The number of illiterate women is 19%; while for men, 9%. The average wage for women is 2/3 of men's wage for the same job. Meanwhile, only 18.3% citizens have access to clean water.

It is impossible to demand maximum labour productivity amidst all these shortcomings. The crisis of capitalism has brought about regression in all aspects of life to the Indonesian people.

The other impact of low productivity is the high level of corruption. Indonesia is the sixth most corrupted country in the world. Corruption is actually the heritage of feudalism remnants nurtured by colonialism; it is still ongoing. It is however clear that the root of corruption is the nation's low productivity level. Corruption is about the leadership, and bureaucracy; and about the people whose capacity to become a productive human being is not facilitated so that they don't have the spirit and respect in productive work, and have minimal work ethic. Corruption is the character of a nation with low productivity, but rampant consumerism.

In the situation of globalization, when the imperialists vigorously and thoroughly expand consumerism, where Indonesia is being used as the market for their over-produced goods, corrupted attitude is finding its root.

The struggle to liberate ourselves from colonialism has not ended. We, as one of the third world countries in the south, feel that our declaration of independence made since 50-60 years ago has not purged colonialism from our soil. We, the third world, believe that our national liberation revolution against the Dutch, British, Japanese, Spanish, French, and US imperialism must be repeated—using different method of course. Our declaration of independence has not brought about social welfare and justice. It has only become a formal declaration proclaiming our territories, citizenships, languages and national identities. But it is not protecting our riches, our oil, gas, sea, forest, mountain, land, and water from the plunder of imperialists.

We started our life as a nation from the scratch; and now, 60 years after, we still have nothing. We, the Indonesian people, the people of third world countries, become the rabble amidst the glittering

free market. Let us look at Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam, and Laos, and Bangladesh and Indonesia. The governments of these countries are selling out their water resource to ADB and WB. Look at the tragedy of Mexico and Argentina, where all their state's companies were sold out to pay the debts, but still it has not resolved anything. How about the women of Egypt, who were forced by the state to return to their dwelling, after their government sold out the national assets? How about the destruction of forest in Kalimantan, Papua, and Aceh, where thousands cubic of its timber are exported illegally to other countries; so massively done that the domestic timber industry lack raw material and its workers became victims of lay-offs?

This is the reason why People's Democratic Party, PRD, our party, put our program of "a sovereign government" as a solution to this injustice. This is not a nationalist project, sung when the domestic bourgeoisie are threatened by foreign attack. This is a socialist project of entirely anti-imperialist character, which seeks to contradict socialist programs with the ruling class' characters in front of the people. This will become a powerful agitation and propaganda to make the people fully aware of the rotten collaboration between the domestic ruling class and imperialism; and to make the people believe that the taking over of state power by the people is the only solution for a nation that is fully independent of imperialism.

Sovereign also means able to mobilize the entire potential within the people, the entire domestic productivity; and able to move the hands, feet, bones and muscles of the people to the entirety, and to their own will, according to the need of the nation.

Sovereign is in the sense of making economic policies without being subjected to the instruction of any Letter of Intent. We all fully believe that state power is the key to the progress and welfare - or the regression - of the people. ***