



APOCALYPSE IN PROSPECT

You could be forgiven if you think that humanity has hit the self-destruct button so often and so hard that it has become jammed, and it's no longer a matter of if, but when we face certain erasure as a species on this planet.

Just look at some of the indicators:

- Climate catastrophe. What meteorologists have been warning about for decades is now happening in real-time, and at an accelerated tempo. Unprecedented heat waves and lakes of fire across entire continents, accompanied by simultaneous flooding also across large swathes of the Earth.
- Runaway capitalist profit-making, currently driven by the latest craze, AI. Trillions of dollars are being invested by the major tech companies, in the (forlorn?) hope of a return-on-investment at some stage. Meanwhile these companies are running massive losses which they are hoping (by some miracle?) they'll recoup in some unspecified future. More ominously, AI is not set to benefit humanity in general, but to satisfy the needs – especially mass surveillance – of an increasingly fascist global ruling class. It has now become normal to talk about “trillions” of dollars, and before long, if the trend continues we'll be talking about “quadrillions” of dollars, not spent to benefit humankind, but to benefit the insatiable hunger for profits of the global business elite and their hangers-on.
- Out-of-control warmongering. Donald Trump just admitted that nuclear weapons had been used on an attack on Iran. Right now the Middle East is in flames; Russia and the EU's proxy, Ukraine, are exchanging deadly drone attacks on each other's cities and installations. India and Pakistan are baring their teeth at each other – so, too

Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Africa, DRC and Sudan remain hotspots exacting a horrendous toll on civilian life, and America's rulers are making no secret of their modern-day imperialist plans for the western hemisphere, while NATO is re-arming as if a third world war is imminent, which, maybe it is.



Runaway Capitalism

- Everywhere fascism is on the rise, everywhere the mask of liberalism and democracy has been ripped off, revealing the stark authoritarianism at the root of all capitalist governments the world over. Decent people have been appalled at the extent to which American and European governments, with few exceptions, have resorted to plain, crude repression at the merest hint of op-

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position to the Zionist genocide in Gaza. (We've all, for example, seen how the police in the UK have been arresting octogenarians who dared display signs showing support for Palestine Action.) South Africa has proven to be no exception. The GNU acts as mere passive spectators as hordes of anti-African xenophobes go on the rampage. Meanwhile, nothing has changed concerning corruption in high places. How can we expect otherwise in the light of the Phala Phala revelations?

- There was a time when capitalism sought growth opportunities via the satisfaction of social needs – for food, clothing, housing, medical care, education – that kind of thing. Now, having mechanized production to the degree that the vast mass of society has become unemployed and therefore, outside the market, Big Capital has turned its attention elsewhere. Apart from the shadowy world of speculative investment, investment funds are being diverted to areas such as Real Estate Development, with characters such as Jared Kushner leading the way. So, suddenly a vision is created for the future of a destroyed Gaza – let's rebuild it as a Mediterranean resort. What about Cape Town? The ideal location for real estate moguls to gentrify.

All of which raises the question: where is the resistance to all of this?

To be sure, there is resistance to it all. For example, one need only mention the names, "Iran," "Hamas," "Hezbollah" to immediately know that there is fierce resistance, and not only on the battlefields. Again, awareness of the tireless work being done by groups such as "BDS," "Abahlali" and so many others (even, "moral" governments such as those of Spain) brings to mind that there is struggle being waged on all fronts.

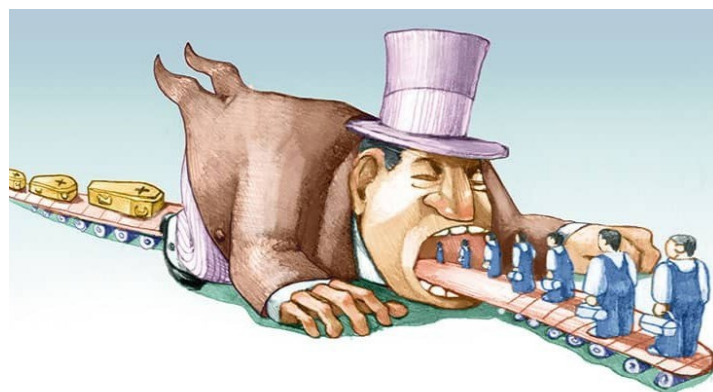
But we are faced with massive power imbalances, as civil society appears unrelentingly to be losing ground. If this continues, the future is spelt d-y-s-t-o-p-i-a.

For left wing activists across the world there is general agreement that the way to reverse the trend is increasingly to mobilise the ORGANISED WORKING CLASS on a global basis – the slogan "Workers of the World Unite" has never been more relevant. It is no exaggeration to say that the doomsday clock on humanity's very existence is ticking.

To quote the words of Stephan Maher and Scott Aquanno in a June 2026 article ("Contemporary Capitalism is Brutally Competitive"):

[The need facing us is] revitalizing and transforming the labor movement as the linchpin of a

broader class politics and, no less important, imagining and constructing institutions capable of expanding democratic control over investment. As the climate crisis accelerates, the failure of investors and capitalist states to undertake a green transition makes clearer than ever the need to allocate resources according to social and ecological needs rather than competitive market imperatives.



***The Global Wealth Machine:
Why Capitalism Isn't
Democratic and Never Will be.***

GENOCIDE OF THE SAN, 1700 - 1795

Much historical evidence supports the notion that settler colonialism almost invariably results in the elimination of Indigenous populations. This is certainly borne out by the examples of America, Australia and Canada, and is currently what we are witnessing in real-time in the case of Israel's murderous, genocidal war on Gaza.

In most cases in Africa, the form colonialism took was less extermination than outright plunder. An example in Africa of where settlement of European colonizers took place without extermination/genocide of the Indigenes is that of colonial Algeria, where the settlers were referred to as *Pieds-Noirs*, who fled back to France *en masse* when the Algerians rose up in rebellion.

South Africa might be regarded as a "hybrid-type," since in addition to settlement, colonialism was concerned with wage-enslavement of Indigenous population groups to exploit their labour power in the mining industries. However, there are explicit examples of genocide, too. A well-known example is that of Germany's mass murder of the local populations of South West Africa.

Between 1904 and 1908, the German Empire perpetrated the first genocide of the 20th century in German South West Africa (now Namibia). German colonial troops under General Lothar von Trotha systematically exterminated 80% of the Ovaherero and 50% of the Nama populations, resulting in up to 80,000 deaths through shootings, forced starvation, and concentration camps. (Wikipedia)

Perhaps a lesser-known example is that which was perpetrated in the Dutch-ruled Cape Colony in the eighteenth century. This is well-documented in Mohamed Adhikari's seminal article, "A total extinction confidently hoped for: the destruction of Cape San society under Dutch colonial rule, 1700-1795."

As is common in every genocide (at least in modern times):

The essential purpose was to dispossess the indigenous population/s of their land and natural resources;

The characterisation of the Indigenous populations as "non-human" or "sub-human" (and therefore, expendable) was the rationale used as an excuse for the excessive barbarity of the colonizers.

Adhikari tells us:

Although economic competition in a situation of acute resource scarcity was the main reason behind trekboer violence toward San, this dehumanization, no doubt, made it easier for colonists to justify occupying San land, enslaving and killing them. What is more, trekboer isolation and their small numbers fed feelings of insecurity and ruthless behaviour toward enemies. The San's fierce resistance only intensified the fear and hatred felt toward them. It should thus come as no surprise that many frontiersmen shot San with

Impunity, arbitrarily and often on sight. Writing in 1775 traveller Anders Sparrman related that, 'Does a colonist at any time get sight of a Bushman, he takes fire immediately, and spirits up his horse and dogs, in order to hunt him with more ardour and fury than he would a wolf or any other wild beast.'

We see that the same ruthless savagery with which Zionist Israel is pursuing its modern-day ethnic cleansing of Gaza has a familiar precedent in the history of European colonial expansion.

As we have come to understand, capitalism, which is the driving force behind colonial expansion/imperialism, knows no limits, and is inherently compelled to keep expanding at all costs, to the point of self-destruction. As Chris Hedges puts it:

The final stages of capitalism, Karl Marx predicted, would be marked by global capital being unable to expand and generate profits at former levels. Capitalists would begin to consume the government along with the physical and social structures that sustained them. Democracy, social welfare, electoral participation, the common good and investment in public transportation, roads, bridges, utilities, industry, education, ecosystem protection and health care would be sacrificed to feed the mania for short-term profit. These assaults would destroy the host.

We are already seeing the unfolding of this scenario, particularly in the life-style deficits the mass of working class people are suffering on a daily basis. While the rulers continue to pay lip service to their efforts to create employment opportunities (and 'a better life for all'), unemployment continues to climb, relentlessly. At the same time, corporate profits are at record highs, and most top politicians and public service officials continue to enjoy lavish life-styles.

French writer Albert Camus offered a useful insight, when, during the Nazi occupation of France, he observed:

What sustained the Resistance for four years was rebellion. In other words, total, uncompromising, initially almost blind refusal to accept an order that sought to put men on their knees. *Rebellion* begins with the heart. But there comes a time when it moves on to the mind, when feeling turns into idea, when spontaneous enthusiasm culminates in concerted action. That is the moment of *revolution*. (Our emphases)

The challenge facing the working class today continues to be: how to transition from rebellion to revolution. Today, under the neoliberal order, we suffer what might be termed a "slow genocide," and so the struggle must continue.

FOOTBALL: “A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE JOY OF THE GAME AND THE DEMANDS OF THE MARKET”

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has come and gone, with FIFA expected to announce a record haul of some \$15b in revenues (“significantly exceeding the targets set before the tournament”). There was a time when the beautiful game was played for enjoyment, but with the dawn of the professional era, that time is long past.

Today, FIFA is as much a global profit-driven corporation as any multinational business firm. Indeed, we see this in the toadying behaviour of its president, Gianni Infantino, who was not too humiliated by the act of awarding Donald Trump the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize. FIFA went out of its way to turn the tournament into an entertainment spectacle, particularly the final game, which had superstars of the entertainment industry, such as Shakira, strutting their stuff. Even the bad guys – the Argentinian team led by their iconic captain, Leo Messi, lived up to their billing of being the nasties of the game, with some really blatant fouls and ill-tempered rants. Not to mention the purely economic strategy of raising prices to exploit demand. According to Al Jazeera: “Official 2026 FIFA World Cup direct sale tickets varied from a special entry tier of \$60 to regular face values and dynamic pricing peaks reaching \$10,990, with secondary resale markets climbing significantly higher.”

Something that has begun to feature as a regular talking point at World Cup tournaments happens to be the (growing) number of players of “foreign origin” especially of African origin who are playing for – and have become indispensable to – their adopted countries. France immediately comes to mind, as well as England and the Netherlands. This should, of course, not be too surprising, as these countries were the leading colonial powers in Africa. According to a post on Google:

Numerous prominent footballers of African descent represented European national squads at the FIFA World Cup 2026, with heavy representation in teams like France (21 players), England (15 players), and the Netherlands (14 players).

There is an argument that African teams have benefited from so many of their players plying their sport in Europe, since the more competitive environment there would surely have contributed hugely to player skill development. In a 2022 estimate, it was stated that

Over 500 African footballers currently ply their trade across top-tier European leagues. Nations like Senegal (62 players), Morocco (55), and Nigeria (54) lead the export statistics.

Not only does the growing number of African players and African-descended players playing in Europe reflect the colonial past, but it also reflects the neo-colonial present, in terms of the “leg-drain” which is, of course, akin to the “brain-drain.” In a 2022 article, AA Mazrui wrote:

Africa produces what it does not consume and consumes what it does not produce.

This was quoted by Abisha Mugari (2005) who went on to comment:

Talented footballers from Africa are quickly whisked off to exhibit their beautiful talents in western countries’ football clubs. The interpretation to Mazrui’s theory could be that Africa is a reservoir of talented footballers; it is the mother of football skilled players who are then identified and lured by hefty salaries and lavish lifestyles by rich western states in America and Europe leaving the Africans enjoying ‘lemons while rich states enjoying cherry’.

Needless to say, African nations hardly see any direct benefits to themselves (as should be no surprise, since we’re talking the neoliberal, imperialist model, here). “Therefore,” Mugari suggests, “Western nations should pay taxes to African nations for every football player plying sporting trades in their countries.”

We end this short article with a 2018 piece by the late Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano (often referred to as the “poet laureate of football”):

The history of football is a sad voyage from beauty to duty. When the sport became an industry, the beauty that blossoms from the joy of play got torn out by its very roots. In this fin de siècle world, professional football condemns all that is useless, and useless means not profitable. Nobody earns a thing from the crazy feeling that for a moment turns a man into a child playing with a balloon, a cat toying with a ball of yarn, a ballet dancer flying through the air with a ball as light as a balloon or a ball of yarn, playing without even knowing he’s playing, with no purpose or clock or referee.

Play has become spectacle, with few protagonists and many spectators, football for watching. And that

spectacle has become one of the most profitable businesses in the world, organized not to facilitate play but to impede it. The technocracy of professional sport has managed to impose a football of lightning speed and brute strength, a football that negates joy, kills fantasy, and outlaws daring.

France World Cup Squad: 2026



THE NATION BETRAYED

The Agreement cobbled by the South African regime and the ANC at Kempton Park is one of the biggest frauds that was ever sold to a people . . . It was agreed to give the reins of power to the ANC on condition that . . . the Economic Structure was left intact. This meant that besides the conglomerates that own the wealth of South Africa, the 11% of South Africans would still control 80% of the economy.” (From NTANTALA, PHYLLIS: (2003) *Mistakes and Miscalculations: The Agreement*, unpublished article)

The betrayal of our country started when the first attempts were made in a Faustian Pact with the ANC leadership circa 1985.

The negotiated settlement that gave birth to the “democratic” South Africa after 1994 has failed to bring real freedom to the masses of our citizenry. It has not been fashioned after the visions of the various political organisations that had been involved in the struggles of the people for the past almost four hundred years. The full implementation of the Freedom Charter, the Azanian Manifesto or the Unity Movement’s Ten Point Programme of Minimum Demands has NOT been realised. What the dispute is now all about is that radical change was not realised. The substance of the political programmes has remained unchanged. If the changes are seen as cosmetic, could it then be a case of “old garbage in new bags”? The South African nation was thus betrayed with the negotiations between the ANC and the apartheid’s South African regime.

It is astounding that when reflecting on the socio-economic factors that play a major role in determining the quality of life in society, the parliamentary parties tend to put a band-aid on a terminally ill patient.

Have we achieved a better life for all in SA? If the answer is NO, then we have to continue the struggle for our complete liberation. In the years ahead, the fight will then become more difficult to characterise and recognise, the venom more deceptive. Different strategies will have to be employed as racialism has ostensibly been abandoned. We now have to employ tactics and strategies that prioritise the class struggle and socio-economic justice.

South Africa is in deep crisis. According to the World Bank South Africa is the most economically unequal country in the world. The difference between the wealthy and the poor has been worsening since 1994. Furthermore, the inequality is linked to the “racial divisions” that still exist in SA. The results of a survey of voter participation conducted by the HRSC for the IEC in April 2026 indicate severe voter apathy, an erosion of public trust in democracy, and identified the most challenging pre-electoral climate the country has faced.

We have to intensify the struggle for a nonracial

democracy. The struggle for equality and jobs for all has to be prioritised. The citizens must not be distracted by the blandishments of the parliamentary clique.

There exists evidence that poverty can drive citizens to the depth of depravity. Do the results of joblessness result in depravity? Is looting part of such depraved behavioural patterns? To answer these questions we have to analyse the effects of the policies of the current political system.

Our country was never involved in a revolution. What we have experienced is mere regime change. The ruling party (ANC) has been bourgeois since its inception. It was more about including the black emerging middle class as part of the governance of this country. Indicative of the political programmes of the ANC was the successive deputations to the royalty soon after its establishment and including the corporates of the western world. The dominant tendency in the ANC, the conservatives and the liberals was always going to be in the ascendancy.

The Soweto uprisings of 1976, initiated by the Black Consciousness Movement, changed the course of the political landscape in our country. The imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction led to what was later referred to as Soweto '76. The whole country went up in flames. The masses then realised that the oppressor could be overthrown.

In 1985, the world was told that PW Botha, the then president of SA, would announce major reforms including the release of Mandela. Instead, he merely reiterated stated government policy. The corporates from Europe and the USA then spun into gear. Capitalism-Imperialism, fearing a backlash from militants, instituted immediate and far-reaching sanctions that, 1) removed PW Botha and installed the more favourable (for them) FW De Klerk as president, and 2) Set the scene for a negotiated settlement by releasing Mandela and all political prisoners. Meetings between the ANC and big business, the Stellenbosch mafia, trade unions and professional unions were held to lay the groundwork for the negotiated settlement.

The ANC government betrayed the interest of South Africans. This is so because the class interest of the ruling elite of the ANC was the same as that of the nationalist rulers. This is the major reason why the ANC is now facing opposition on the home front – why we

have a strong rejection of the electoral system amongst the majority of the population. Whilst the citizenry may not presently be able to organise the masses into a coherent combatting force, this day cannot be far-off.

South Africa has reached a political and economic crisis of unprecedented proportions. Political in the sense that far more than half the voters of our country do not participate in the party political processes. Economic, in the sense that the free-market system that is supposed to create wealth for its citizenry only creates wealth for the super-rich. The result is that the gap between the rich and the poor is expanding at a rapid rate.

Beneficiaries of the free-market system are wont to claim that only a small percentage of the population pay tax. State and local governments collect tax from three sources: income tax on money from salaries/wages, sales on property including moveable stock and live-stock as well as tax on the value of a property. Income and Value Added Tax (VAT) make up the majority of combined state tax, while property taxes are the largest source of tax for local governments. Those that work, have to pay Personal Income Tax (PIT). Those that do not earn a salary/wage obviously cannot pay any PIT – yet they pay tax on services – on going to the doctor, the pharmacist, many becoming ill because of the squalid circumstances under which they are forced to live, without sanitation, without electricity and in the decrepit shantytowns dotted around the country. All citizens have to pay tax when getting into a taxi, for almost non-existent electricity, for irregular water provision, or taking a bus or train or when buying food. Because of their joblessness, they can ill afford these value added taxes. Other hidden taxes are school fees, fees at churches and entertainment arenas. The poor are thus further impoverished in this way.

Strange though companies pay corporate tax on their taxable profits. this totals a mere 20% of the income of the fiscus. What scandalous exploitation of the workers of this country.

We do not seem to realise that the free-market system produced 'homeless street people'. It is estimated that approximately 200 000 people live on the streets in South Africa's urban areas. Studies have shown that this dates back to the apartheid era. It is exacerbated by increasing unemployment, lack of affordable housing, social disintegration and the current economic policies. The expanded unemployment stats in the rural areas can be as high as 60%, with the official youth un-

employment (ages 15 – 24) reaching 64.18%. Indications are that the official unemployment rate in South Africa is edging towards the 40% mark. This will be disastrous for the country.

Limited access to food, water and electricity are major consequences of poverty in South Africa. In the shanty-towns, it is a case of survival for many.

- Inadequate, limited or poor access to healthcare - unhealthy people work less, are less productive and place demands on an already over-burdened healthcare system. This cycle causes affected people to stay poor.
- Unequal distribution of resources - disparities in the distribution of resources cause systemic poverty while those with more resources get wealthier and better access to services.
- Discrimination, inequality (racial/gender and other biases) - individuals treated less favourably because of any kind of discrimination, bias or prejudice get less access to opportunities to get out of poverty.
- Poor education: poorly educated individuals get limited opportunities to succeed in a dynamic work environment. Illiteracy fosters poverty.
- Climate change, damage to ecosystems and environmental degradation - floods, droughts and storms cause food/water shortages, aggravate basic survival and cause migrations that create a cycle of poverty.
- Poor governance, corruption, and poor infrastructure - keep the governed locked out of opportunities, wealth and resources, and deny them ready access to essential goods and services.

We have to build the nation into a fighting force. Comrade RO Dudley said that tribalism and nationalism have to die before we can build the nation. However, being an internationalist what was meant by that phrase included much more. He continued, that as capitalism was a world system, we have to overthrow that system before we can attain our goals.

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