

Cheer Up, Mr. Gudemata, the World is Your Appetizer

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Capitalists are enthusiasts. Their system has brought them so much wealth and power that they expect everyone in their culture to have the same spirit of cheerful ambitious enthusiasm. Sure, not everyone can achieve their goals, but enough can so that a positive glow of success will be the dominant social mood.

Such was probably the case a century or two ago in the more advanced capitalist nations but repeated economic crises and wars have left shadows of a frozen smile to obscure the blank expressions of ennui emanating from slacker spiritlessness.

A recent article in Caixin described the growing acceptance of a *sang* culture by Chinese millennials. The term refers to funerals and mourning. It's so gloomy that social custom has it kept away from everyday use, which is likely why the youth have taken it to heart. The *Ge You slouch* – an image from a 1993 TV show of a middle aged man morosely slumped on a couch was used by national cheerleaders to ridicule those unable to adapt to the new energetic openness. Now the youth are throwing it back – the command economy is dead, we'll be happy when we can find something to be happy about.

The alteration of the expression *Xiao Que Xing* which loosely translated means little but certain happiness had a positive meaning when it was first introduced by a Japanese author. There are many fleeting moments of everyday joy if we allowed ourselves to be open to them. But now the youth are taking it to be the highest achievements of life – minuscule and momentary units of happiness.

One must consider whether China is undergoing a very compressed form of capitalist development. According to Marxism the bourgeois democratic phase of capitalism is the system at its peak – the point at which material and cultural levels make possible the transition to socialism. The counterrevolutionary anti-Marxist remnants of Stalinism still managed a significant degree of development but not nearly enough for the socialist equivalent of 'taking off' which could only be achieved by worldwide optimally structured genuine socialism.

China is not only the most powerful remnant of the old Stalinist order it is the most important capitalist nation in the world. The US is still the number one power in the capitalist world it has dissipated much of its productive force and relies on its military dominance to keep itself on top of the heap. A fast peaking and then declining China could provoke a worldwide abandonment of capitalism.

Mr. Gudemata is a Japanese cartoon character drawn from limpid egg yolk. Perhaps a slacker but still a joiner. Where there is egg, there is hope.

Economic reporting is beginning to change its tone. It's always hyped the economy to make up for the real economic weakness. But there have been weeks and weeks of outlandish market rises regardless of financial news and the news hounds have to wonder how much they may be contributing to the next collapse. As has been stated here previously, things like Trump, Brexit and several other like developments do not happen in a positive economic environment.

Brexit has been a disaster for the British economy and those conditions will likely worsen at the time of the actual exit. Yet the British pound is now \$1.37, right where it was before the vote. Traditionally that would suggest that the British economy is stronger than the American. The FTSE 100 has topped many highs yet things are not well in Britain. Capitalism is an irrational system and those currently profiting the most have learned to love non-reason. Certain markers that are supposed to signal a market turn, like treasury yield surpassing 2.5, have happened with no negative response. An airless, mount peak of dizzy elevation has been reached. Hopefully a sign of the near future will be revealed.

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