

Resistance from the North

6-9-2023

The extractive industries, mining and oil, are a major component of the Canadian economy and the boss nation to the south doesn't like the business it does with China, especially the sale of the lithium, the new *miracle* product of our time. The Canadian Security and Intelligence Service is a frequent purveyor of Chinese plotting stories, and much of the captive media has followed its cue. The only sector that carries more weight in a capitalist state than the state apparatus are the capitalists themselves, and they don't approve of the US trying to punish China with nonsensical scare tactics, particularly when it's obviously made up to aid the US in its pre-war war with China. Extractive industries are a close second to manufacturing in Canada. Recently a special rapporteur on foreign interference concluded that a public inquiry into allegations of foreign interference was unnecessary.

Curiously the most 'leftist' political party, the NDP, has sided with the Conservatives in dismissing the report while Liberals gave it some credence. In any case the Canadian *smoke* sector sent a warning by forcing most folks in NYC to don their Covid masks. The stench was especially strong around Wall Street.

Has the Tide Turned?

Confidence in the damage Nato sanctions would do to Russia is gone. What damage has been done has mostly been to Nato nations. The economy of BRIC Nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China) have surpassed the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, UK, US). BRIC nations total of world output is now a third while G7 is less than 30%. Since 2000 the total of dollars being held by foreign countries as reserves has fallen by one half. But our ruling class appears to be blind to reality. The recent annual emergency about expanding the national debt has held steady or cut social needs while increasing military expenditure by another 6 billion (\$86 billion total). Everyone seems to be aware of real conditions except the ruling class. According to Pew research, a question as to where the US economy will be in 2050 66% said the economy will be weaker, 71% said the US will be less important in the world. 71% felt that the country will be more politically divided, and 81% that the gap between rich and poor will grow.

Canceling Dissenting Voices

The major flaw in nations like the US and its allies proclaiming themselves real democracies governed by elected people distributing justice equitably to all is that it is not true, and when some late learners in relatively important position become enlightened as to real conditions they become very angry and turn against their masters. Assange, Snowden, Manning, Ellsberg are some recent examples and they have made up for their stint in serving the enemy, made them turn against it (Assange is an exception in that chaotic experiences in his early years were enough to make him a contrarian). Aging, sickly capitalism no longer has the capacity to discipline all those making a break for real freedom. But it still can make them an object lesson for other dissenters.

The recent actions taken by US against Tik Tok because its rules were based on popularity rather than what is best for national interests. It forced out an administration because it allowed Tik Tokers to do their thing and placed it under the control of CIA friend Oracle which is systematically rooting out the many who took advantage of the space to be in contact with the many – this included political radicals like those of the Midwestern Marx Institute who not only had hundreds of thousands of followers canceled but had those supporting causes inimical to US or Nato interests harassed and sometimes fired from their jobs.

When people learn there is no place for real freedom under capitalist rule they will clear out the space occupied by the usurpers of freedom and make it open to all.

Uses of Fictional Data

As has been stated here on occasion, reported economic data is closer to dreams than reality. Monthly reports on manufacturing data are based on company executives informing government researchers whether the month was down, the same or up, to which numbers are added, like 1, 2, 3, and when compared you have everything from bad to great. A similar metric is used when the Fed interviews corporate executives. This of course is crap because those coming up with numbers have stake in the outcome

This week the markets rose -- some have entered bull territory -- amazing since most folks experience the economy in a slump. World stats have growth at about 1%. Even some major metrics are below 50, meaning they are declining, but the markets are doing great, and at least the capitalists are happy (because they feel certain that they are duping the people). The fact is that, even though the data shows that jobs are up, the number of hours worked were *down*, a small bit, but down. That more or less eliminates all that is positive, but never mind.

Meanwhile the Household Survey, which is not included in these studies, that data comes from the Establishment Survey (lots of confidence in the ruling class that they are so free to tip their hand), the HS shows a 0.3% increase in unemployment along with a sharp drop in quits; meaning these are layoffs. One senses that reality is not to be circumvented.