

South Africa – Promises Unfulfilled

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What happened to South Africa? In 1994, after years of struggle and suffering under the rule of a white racist capitalist dictatorship, the regime finally understood it could no longer continue its domination in its current form and supposedly relinquished power to the Black majority.

The popular new regime, a joining of the African National Congress, the giant Cosatu union confederation, and the South African Communist Party, was now in a position to implement its promise to the millions who were ruthlessly exploited under a unified regime of racism fascism and capitalism, and to the memory of thousands that perished in the fight against its rule. It would replace evil capitalism with a humane socialist society.

Why did these revered leaders become traitors to the black working class? Because they were of the privileged black middle class and their interests by no means coincide with those of the workers.

Instead of socialism they partnered with white capitalists to form a black-white led system of exploitation and enriched themselves through the labor of Black, Indian, Asian, and White workers.

The ideal example of how frauds and traitors in their midst used the oppression and exploitation of their own people and leveraged it into a partnership with the enemy is the country's current interim president Cyril Ramaphosa.

Much of the nation's wealth is derived from extractive industries. Ramaphosa founded the National Union of Miners and led it in massive strikes against the apartheid regime.

As soon as the transition deal was brokered Ramaphosa marched directly from the head of the most dangerous (for the capitalists) union right into the boardrooms of his former enemies. Well paid and welded to the wonders of capitalism with free access to its filthy lucre, he was in short order a billionaire who proved his loyalty to those who gave him access to the ruling class by signaling his approval of harsh measures against Marakana strikers in a mining business that he had a stake in. More than 30 were murdered by the police and the strike broken.

Ramaphosa is the lead candidate in next month's presidential election and the international bourgeoisie see him as a Thatcher-like union breaker. Trouble is, Thatcher destroyed the coal mining industry at the time North Sea oil fields had opened up. South African can't very well replace diamonds and gold. Here's wishing him the worst of luck.

But how did the black petty bourgeoisie manage to clear the way for a partnership with those that exploited, tortured, and murdered millions of their own people? Bring in Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as the mechanism of public cohesion between the partners and a phoney display of justice for the dead, maimed and exploited. Virtually all the evildoers were cleansed by merely publicly saying they were sorry and promising never to do it again until the next time.

And what about its revered leader Nelson Mandela who in the fight against apartheid oppression served thirty years in one of its hellholes? The British invaders and rulers followed form in solidifying their rule by selecting among the oppressed elite a number for privileged treatment. Mandela was one of the selected and gained access to advanced education and its benefits. But to his credit he was not to be satisfied with merely being a member of the elite among the oppressed. Eventually the leaders of masses got their victory which primarily benefited the leaders and not the masses.

And finally, what about those real revolutionaries of the South African 'Communist' Party? Its leadership consisted of Stalinist counter revolutionaries who followed the example of their Russian masters into the comfortable arms of capitalism.

But for all of this, it still must be acknowledged that what happened was of immense significance. It laid before the people of South Africa the possibility of a humane and prosperous future. Now it is up to the people of South Africa to see that those promises are fulfilled.

Economy Update

- US retail sales August 2018 thru February 2019 -- 7 months. Total -0.45% negative growth. Annual rate -0.8%. Same with data with gasoline excluded. Total 0.0%. Annual rate -0.1%
- China manufacturing PMI 49.2 in Feb. 2019, 50.5 in March. From slightly below to slightly above. All week, in a daily if not hourly basis, Trump and his counterparts have been touting their wonderful trade deal in perfect timing with markets. That has helped markets in both countries especially in China where the Shanghai exchange move from 2400 to over 3200 in a couple of months, even as the economy continues its slow downward spiral.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut its benchmark money rate for the second straight meeting. Reducing its repo rate by 25 bps, down to 6%. The new head of the bank is a Modi crony. His predecessor was driven out because of his refusal to

convert from hawk to dove. Trump so far has not been able to do the same with Powell.

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