

Wang Jianlin: Billionaire Capitalist - & Communist?!

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Nothing makes it more difficult to solve world problems when those in a position to discover solutions find it more profitable to imagine a world that bears no resemblance to the one in which we actually live. We would be better off if those in search of answers had the pure intellectual capacity of the child that said the emperor was naked for the plain and simple reason that he was presenting himself unclothed.

The life of Wang Jianlin can serve to illustrate the point. Forbes only has him worth \$13 billion, but the Hurun Report, a periodical that specializes in ranking the richest of China, says he has a net worth of \$25 billion. Along with vast real estate developments, the AMC Entertainment line of cinemas, and a stake in Atletico Madrid, he is also a member of the communist party and a top "communist" official. Such manifest nonsense is blithely presented to the public as if it's a taken-for-granted truth, and what makes it worse is that the well-trained intelligentsia must accept such a lie or else explain how the gigantic elephant came to fill a room without them being able to track the historical development toward that event.

"Communist" China is now a capitalist country waiting for an appropriate time for a name change -- even the Peoples Republic sounds silly. It has fulfilled all the sociological requirements. It now has a class system in which the unpaid wealth created by the working class can be legally expropriated by a new capitalist class created out of the old Stalinist bureaucracy -- What they once merely managed, they now own, and that wealth can be shifted abroad and inherited. Wang's son already has a bit of the old man's possessions. The Chinese economy is managed the same as that of any major capitalist nation; state agencies continuously struggle to regulate a constantly moving target -- namely the speculators and business schemers that have no goal but ever increasing profits. And finally, hallmarks of a communist society like, universal free health care and education and jobs available for everyone are now only an historical memory.

How did this all come about? Well, this common criminal, the leader of a gang in Georgia, decided that since he had burned all his bridges in the dying old order, he had better get in on the ground floor of a new one. Shrewdly working his way up with the help of the Okhrana he finally made it to the top largely because of the disorder following the imperialist attempt at counterrevolution. Then he did just what they failed to do -- murdered all prominent Bolsheviks that hadn't died of natural causes. It was impossible to complete a counterrevolution in a society that had just defeated 14 armies trying to attempt the same, so they practiced as half-parasites until their decaying system completed its half-life and became its natural self as capitalism. Thus there was never any Cold War between Communism (a system which died in 1924) and Capitalism, but rather something called Stalinism that had no place to go wherever it was created or copied except for its to its warm and loving capitalist home unless it was stopped by popular forces.

Leave it to the shrewd but stupid Stalinists to make the transition when the desired object is in a permanent state of decrepitude. The markets had mostly large down days during the week. Today the very low 2.6% growth in the US 4th quarter was the big negative news. It's worth noting that reality was even worse. By far the largest category of consumer component was health care costs, a carryover from an even larger figure for the third quarter. And if the public doesn't as yet hate being gouged by the forced private medical insurance companies, wait until an estimated 6 million are fined for refusing the poison.

There was an interesting study from Gallup that presented a reasonable explanation for the highly suspect BLS jobs reports. Alan Abelson never managed to write about the "Birth-Death" adjustment the BLS used for its final figures without inserting an introductory smirk. Gallup found that over the previous 6 years there were 700,000 more small business deaths than there were births (470,000 to 400,000). This can't happen in a recovery. With Gallup's adjustment of the BLS's phoney figures there were 3,678,000 million fewer jobs than reported -- 613,000 a year. That explains why there has been no significant increase in real wages or more discouraged workers entering the labor force.

The Eurozone is now in total deflation zone. Germany was the last to join the crowd. Deflation for the zone is now -0.6%. Oil rose to \$47 a barrel but that is only because the rigging number is down to 2010 level, and the speculators hesitate to bet on continuous drops.

The one good market day was Thursday. All the main sources gave conflicting explanations, which means they have no idea except possibly buying on the dip. But my choice for the correct reason is the NY prosecutors dropping charges against 5 brokers for inside trading.-- four of whom had pleaded guilty. A court ruling has put all past and future inside trading convictions in jeopardy because they decided in this case that the person passing the info did so casually and not for personal gain. Therefore all you future leakers of inside information, be prepared for deferred payment if you wish to profit without jail time.

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