

## **Globalization & Democracy - the Hijacking of Canada**

One of the brightest people I know especially in the area of economics and specifically the area of housing, made several very passionate comments to me that were very useful in helping me formulate my thoughts in the area of Democracy, Capitalist Consumerism and Socialism as I headed off to Cuba.

Several of those heartfelt emotional comments were “Capitalism is the only thing that works. Capitalism is the only system that can turn things around. I disagree. I agree with his point that in order to do so, all environmental costs of consumer goods must be factored into the price but if you read my article [“Globalization is Terrorism”](#) you will see my point of view.

He also said emphatically, “Socialism does not work. Just look at Russia and China.” I will address that in my [“Russia and China”](#) article.

He stated emphatically to me that “Fidel was never elected”. On this piece of CIA propaganda he is mistaken. Despite what the CIA and the USA have fed the West for decades, Fidel has never run Cuba as a totalitarian dictator. (One who takes advantage of his position to live a life of ease and luxury unattainable by the masses as did China’s Gang of 6 and almost every leader in the USSR, replacing the decadents of the Tsarist aristocracy with their own). Fidel has always remained a figurehead, a benevolent father figure who knows he is the main thing stopping Globalization from ravaging his country and people. His country is in transition towards his immanent death. Fidel has been elected every five years for 40 years. Perhaps none of you actually understands the Cuban system of government. In fact,

Fidel was almost not elected during the “Special Period” after the fall of the Soviet Union and subsequent economic struggle in Cuba. As children died due to the US blockade his popularity slid from 97+% to just make the cut of those elected in his province. His comment was “That was a close one but I am now ready to work even harder for the revolution!”

The bright person concluded: “we’re not all equal, some of us are smarter, more educated, contribute more and are thus compensated more. That’s just the way it is. That’s life! Get over it!”

As much as I respect him, I disagree and believe all of these are simply gifts of social position and Mother Nature. I have to implore that- “It” can no longer be “business as usual” in Canada or any of the G8 nations who already lead Canada in consumer responsibility. We can no longer accept “the way it is and just get over it”. Democracy has crumbled in our “free” world. Witness the USA and a non-elected President, Chany, Rundsfeldt et al wreaking havoc on the world. Witness the Emmerson floor-walk as a symptom of the right wing Canadian agenda to mesh further with the USA that surely no person true to their Canadian roots wants. Even if we were to have totally stopped the phenomenon of meaningless capitalist consumerism ten years ago, it would still have been too late to “save the polar bears”. If we abandon the capitalist consumer system tomorrow and poured all our technology, science and hard labours into reversing things we will still be in dire straits. If we were to all take public transit most of the time, private vehicles only when really necessary it’s too late to stop the glacier extinction. BUT we won’t. Capitalists are in total control of our lives. Madison avenue brainwashes us for at least six minutes every half hour of TV. SUVs are desirable top sellers- oil prices

be damned, because we want excitement in our boring lives. Helping keep computers running for local Mental Health centres or answering phone lines at the Crisis Centre is not fulfilling and hardly at all a glamorous rewarding activity to most... nowhere near as desirable an activity as mall-cruising.

Coca Cola, General Motors and Madison Avenue have hijacked society. The greed of capitalism prevails. They've had fifty years to perfect an advertizing system that makes every TV commercial convince us that leisure shopping is a "wonderful" activity; the status quo and a way to achieve the good life. In 1970 Alvin Tofler in Future Shock warned us to use the coming era of immense leisure time wisely with recreation and volunteerism. We did not. We went on to fill that time more and more with a sick cycle of TV watching and shop, shop, shopping. When we get bored with TV we go out and buy something. Anything. When we accumulate too much we fill our garages and rented storage space then have garage sales which serves to relocate some of the junk to alternate storage. Capitalism has become food gluttony's evil twin.

#### **Lance Read – A Canadian in Cuba**

Wikipedia- "Democracy", "Plutocracy"  
and then try try to remember  
"Those who ignore the past are bound to  
repeat it".