

TEN REASONS TO BUILD A NEW SOCIETY ON THE RUINS OF THE OLD.

In 2019 I wrote that the twenty-twenties would be make or break for the human race. Firstly, the world economy was sliding into recession, secondly, Google had just published the theoretical framework for Large Learning Models (mistakenly called AI) which in time would savage jobs, thirdly, Trump had started sanctioning China opening the first round of what was becoming a hegemonic struggle which could culminate in a world war, and finally, it was clear that the capitalist class was incapable if not unwilling to tackle global warming. Today all these crises have been bundled into one term, the polycrisis. It is likely that the sum of these crises is beyond the reach of capitalism to solve, making revolution, if not inevitable, then certainly necessary.

Reason 1. Ending classes. A fissure runs through capitalist society - classes. On the one side those who own the means of production, really the means of life, and on the other those forced to work for them in order to survive. Society can only be healed when this 10,000-year-old division is healed. Class is the forbidden word, the word that may not be uttered aloud. When it is raised, the capitalist class claims this division is natural, and not only natural but deserved, because those who inhabit this class did so through originally saving and investing as opposed to those inhabiting the working class who wastefully spent instead of saving. This is not real history but myth. The brutal fact is that centuries ago at the birth of capitalism, workers were so impoverished, had they saved, they would have simply starved, in which case there would have been no workers and therefore no capitalists. In reality, the ugly birth of capitalism is one of bloodletting, of forcible expropriations, daylight robbery, piracy, usury and fraud.

Reason 2. Empowerment. Those who own the means of life are empowered. Those who don't own are disempowered. Disempowerment is the ultimate form of social control. It is the source of all the divisions amongst the dispossessed, of all the distress endured and it is the substance of mental ill-health. When people feel powerless, feel they have no control over their lives, it corrodes their lives, it demoralises them which is why revolution is the best anti-depressant. For all these reasons, collective ownership of the means of life is needed, not only to end exploitation, but to empower the working class and through empowerment to heal society mentally and physically, especially the chronic illnesses provoked by unfit food and lifestyles that poverty and hopelessness engender.

Reason 3. Cooperation replaces competition. Propertyless workers are forced to compete for the jobs rationed by the propertied capitalist class. Competition, as Einstein said, brings the worst out of humanity. At the upper levels it leads to careerism and opportunism, and at the bottom, the struggle for survival which targets the less fortunate such as migrants and foreigners. It breeds selfishness, arrogance, cruelty and racism. In short it creates a society where people push down on each other, rather than raise each other up. This primitive behaviour is replaced by a society which now co-operates and no longer competes, because collective ownership means actual equality for the first time. Collective property allows a caring-haring society to emerge which for the first time in human history will introduce genuine human connections and relations no longer disfigured by material want.

Reason 4. Capitalism no longer works. No society is forced to change until it has exhausted its economic potential. That economic potential has a single test: whether standards of living throughout society are being raised. This is no longer the case. Each successive generation is finding its standards falling, it is suffering less well-paid, less secure jobs, more debt and increased difficulty in finding a home. Today this is called the cost-of-living crisis, but the real crisis is a system which can no longer deliver. When the majority can no longer tolerate living this way, when they refuse to suffer in silence,

then the dawn of revolution is upon us. As expected, the capitalist class will claim there is no communist alternative to capitalism, but they miss the point, present day capitalism in practise has ceased to be an alternative to communism.

Reason 5. Technology is breaking society not liberating it. The emergence of *Large Learning Models* misnamed *Artificial Intelligence* can complete more complicated functions. This means computers are moving up the skill ladder. What began with blue collar workers is now working its way over to white collar office workers. While it is still early day because the algorithms are still glitching, the potential for future job losses is significant once confidence in these systems is established. Whatever the case, profit ensures that when the time comes, instead of this technology reducing the working day and making work more exciting, it will lead to mass firings. In turn these firings could become so extensive that mass unemployment becomes permanent destabilising the political system itself. Truly a case of the forces of production colliding with the relations of production, or more prosaically, profit destroying the fabric of society.

Reason 6. The government is becoming more authoritarian. Rule by consent, by the ballot rather than the bullet, depends on the capitalist class making economic concessions to the working class who comprise more than 80% of the population. When they can no longer offer these bribes, when instead they claw them back, an electoral crisis erupts. This takes the form of the destruction of the main political parties as voters turn their backs on them because cuts and tax rises have replaced election promises. When the modern circus of elections no longer grips the imagination of society the ruling class prepares. In the shadows, the state begins to surreptitiously restrict the scope for protest and dissension. Laws are passed, penalties increased and surveillance enhanced. This is happening now.

Reason 7. The war to end all wars. We stand on the edge of another World War, different this time, because we live in the nuclear age. There is a tectonic geopolitical shift growing between the previous hegemon, the USA and the rising power China. Shifts of this magnitude have always unleashed world wars causing vast destruction and deaths in the tens of millions. Capitalism portrayed the *First World War* as '*the war to end all wars*'. But there is only one war that will end all wars, and that is a successful class war which abolishes private ownership of the means of production, the source of all wars. All wars between nations are generated by the preservation and expansion of the private property held by national capitalist classes who seek to defend this property or enrich themselves at the expense of other nations. However, once the international working class owns the means of production collectively, the purpose of wars would amount to self-harm, because this property represents their collective labour, their blood, sweat and tears, which they treasure and honour. And when we all own the means of production collectively then no one owns them, the means of production ceases to be property, it ceases to be property used to dominate and exploit, these means simply become the means to a better and safer life for all.

Reason 8. Planning not the market. The market is presented as omnipotent almost godlike, and irreplaceable. But the market is primitive. It is backward looking, reactive and wasteful. Price discovery is always delayed obscured by the push and pull of demand and supply. Planning on the other hand is conscious, precise, proactive and forward looking. Instead of the indirect information provided by pricing, it is direct, with consumers who know what their income is and what things cost to produce, instructing the planners what to produce in real time. Compare this to today where the corporations spend hundreds of billions of Dollars each year spying on us to second guess our spending intentions

and habits or to shape those intentions. What a waste of labour time and an insult to our privacy. And all unnecessary, they could simply ask us what to produce, but they won't, because that smacks of planning and puts us in charge.

Reason 9. Working for oneself. The average work life is 45 years. During those 45 years of working for an employing capitalist, 28 years will be unpaid and only 17 years will be paid. Not quite slavery but close. In the lower stage of communism this will end. Equal rights mean workers' rights. All unpaid labour will be banned and prosecuted. Now workers will work for themselves by receiving back from production in proportion to their contribution. Those who claim communism means surrendering all individuality are referring to barrack socialism, not a vibrant dynamic communism. In fact, a communist society is the first society where the interest of the individual, enshrined in workers' rights, is aligned with the interest of society, unlike capitalism where the conflict of interests misshapes society and debilitates workers. All things considered, when exploitation and wasteful labour is eliminated, each worker could enjoy a standard of living three to four times higher for the same number of hours worked under capitalism. Or conversely, they could preserve their existing standard of living by working a third of the time. This is what true equality delivers.

Reason 10. The survival of our planet, the survival of our home. Capitalism is history's first industrial society. It has achieved great heights, but in proportion to its ability to raise production so in equal measure it raises the potential for destruction. Capitalism is destroying the planet through its drive to reduce cost prices. Currently in the West the climate deniers personified by Trump are in the ascendancy. COP 30 was reduced to monitoring climate change not combating it. The \$6 to \$10 trillion needed each year, or close to 5% of Global GDP, can only come from taxing the rich. But the rich refuse to tax themselves, quite the opposite, and not only that, but through their uninhibited and extravagant consumption, they are the main cause of emissions. As a result, the world heats up. The stage is being reached where only the collective action of the whole of society can remedy this growing disaster. This requires a new society, one which is not fractured and hobbled by private property, it requires a communist society united in collective action, where the *Common Fund* to which every worker contributes, can be mobilised to protect and save our home, without which civilisation will fail, and all that has been sacrificed over thousands of years, will be lost.

Religion turns the world upside down. The origin of (wo)man is found in that idyllic Garden of Eden which is used to reconcile a perfect god who created an imperfect world where (wo)man could only exist by the sweat of their brows. And of course, religion blames mankind for its fall from grace. The Garden of Eden does not lie behind us but before us. It will not be the product of a perfect god, but of workers, who through their enhanced productivity and care for the planet, will have emerged from the vale of scarcity finally freeing themselves from want.

Brian Green, on the eve of Xmas 2025.