

Two South Africas and the Media – A Recipe for Reconciliation, or Disaster?

By Udo W. Froese, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Firstly, two people live in one country: one is the black African South African, including a diverse people from the AmaZulu, to AmaPondo, AmaXhosa, BaPedi, North-Sotho, South-Sotho, BaTswana, Xoi-San and many newcomers from the African continent are at home in South Africa.

Secondly on the other hand, the “former” colonial settler-Caucasians consisting of a mix of Europeans, including the Boers, or Afrikaansers, live in the same land.

Thirdly, in addition to the above, there are Indians and the people of mixed races, the Coloureds. Both (minority) groups remain to act as a buffer between the aforementioned two peoples, living in the south of the African continent.



Udo W. Froese

South Africa has not defined the ‘national interest’. Its alien economic structures reflect just that.

To date, particularly under the centralization of the economies under the umbrella of ‘globalisation’, South Africa’s economy is hostile, exclusively oligopolistic (the historical neo-colonial deadly mix of oli-

gopoly and monopoly), cartelized (to protect the oligopoly and everything outside these structures against possible newcomers) and warehoused (minerals and gem stones mined in Africa, including South Africa, to be manufactured by the G-8 manufacturing industries only and then bought back at huge cost).

The term “free market economy” is misleading and thus bears false witness. In fact, the ‘Johannesburg Stock Exchange’ would reflect a more realistic picture of South Africa’s economy. About forty three million Black African South Africans hardly own one percent of the listed shares.

The economically empowered former colonial-apartheid Caucasian side of South Africa feels secure by aligning itself with its original home, the international West. In fact, this

group sees itself first and foremost as an ally, as a part of the international West.

Meanwhile, the Caucasian Boers, or Afrikaansers, failed to transform themselves. At the same time, there is no actual link between them and other “global homes”. Some NGO/movement with the name of ‘Afriforum’ now tries to create such a home together with its agricultural partner, ‘AgriForum’, their trade union called “Solidariteit” (Solidarity), its political home, the ‘Freedom Front Plus (FF+)’ and possibly their own secret society, the ‘Afrikaaner Bond’ (AB), formerly known as the ‘Afrikaaner Broederbond’, (‘Boer Brotherhood’).

This secret organisation seems to be an arm of sorts of the ‘Free Masonry’. In addition, the Caucasian Boer has his own church, the ‘Dutch Reformed

Church (NGK)’, during colonial-apartheid rule it was internationally described as the ‘Boer Apartheid Church’, or the then ruling “colonial-apartheid Nationalist Party at prayer”.

It is observed that the representatives of the white owned economy seem to have no qualms and no scruples to mess up new investments and economic development up in other African countries.

This is strange indeed, as the Caucasian economy based in South Africa with its larger investments being in London, would like to be viewed as driving foreign investment particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Such attitude is also out of tune with its own government in Pretoria.

It however seems, the international West has not much in common with its kith-and-kin in southern Africa. It would rather seem that the former colonial-apartheid Caucasian ownership of the economic and judicial status quo is viewed as being in competition with the international Western interests in this region. Canada; the US/UK/EU; Israel; Australia and New Zealand (international West) would like their economic and industrial interests strengthened.

The biggest challenge for all South Africans since 1994 - from government, to business and labour - is the dismal failure to work out common national interests and then develop them.

The alien Caucasian economic owners’ attitude is, “Talk to me. I have the capital.” In other words, capital is the ultimate to an extent that the ‘new investors’ from South Africa go as far as badmouthing their own country to achieve great admiration in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.

In fact, the Caucasian owned economy, banks and industry and its media do not align themselves with the national South African interest. Hence, it suits the “captains and owners of industry” to further the continuous exclusive interests of “their” economy.

In addition, the foreign owned and controlled media retains its narrow, conformist neo-liberalist petty cash mentality, based on a negative mindset.

In fact, South Africa’s business environment is suffocating, with no space for new and fresh news, analysis and interpretation. For example, whether one picks up the ‘Cape Times’ and/or the ‘Cape Argus’ in Cape Town; the national ‘Sunday Times’ and the other Sunday paper, ‘City Press’; the ‘Star’ and/or the ‘Business Day’ in Johannesburg; or listens to the electronic media of PrimeMedia, or the public-statal broadcaster, SABC - the reportage is almost identical.

There is simply no pluralism. A large number of new and

fresh ideas, news and views are just shut out of the local public eye. Those, who try to bring new and fresh ideas to the media market, seem to be black-listed.

Media moguls and captains of industry serve on the various media and editorial boards, as well as on the advertising industry’s boards.

This actually means, democratic South Africa has no space for any form of media freedom, nor freedom of expression. Media and economic ownership are one and the same and could therefore be accused of being an undemocratic syndicate, something the local members of this industry and their network of NGOs and media monitoring structures would not like to hear at all.

Black African South African leadership on the other hand, promotes the Caucasian owned capital and economy in Africa as South African and as “new investors”. In addition, the new leadership demonstrates its goodwill, hoping to stimulate foreign investment to the benefit of local growth too. An attitude often found is, “Let’s show the international West, we can govern professionally.”

The above development has established an unacceptable face of South Africa in the rest of Africa. The country finds itself therefore in a credibility crisis and out of sync with itself.

It is small wonder that xenophobia, taxi strikes, organised crime syndicates and their evil acts, national violent “service non-delivery” protests, the unionization of the national security cluster as well as a host of social wrongs always found in poverty-stricken societies find such a fertile ground in this country.

An exclusive, oligopolistic, cartelized, warehouse economy and its leaders have an established, historically characteristic of being masters in the game of dangerous sleaze - exclusive boardroom deals, researching and lobbying in order to corrupt and entrap leading politicians.

Their structured poverty for the majority of the people, by keeping them out of the ‘mainstream economy’, is the worst form of human rights abuse in the history of man.

Would it not be fair to ask now, where are all those churches, their religions, the law and the International Crime Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, in times of these man-inflicted trials and tribulations?

It also affects the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members and beyond.

In the above context one could rightfully ask, is there actually room to live in such an environment and, who is really benefiting?

The World Economic Crisis, the Failure of Capitalism and the Case for Socialism

By the Socialist Equality Party (Australia)

The sudden ousting of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in a political coup orchestrated by a handful of Labor factional chiefs and trade union bureaucrats has come as a significant shock to many ordinary people. Driven by the new requirements of the Australian ruling elite amid an historic breakdown of the global capitalist order, Julia Gillard’s installation is another expression of the increasingly convulsive political situation internationally.

National governments responded to the 2008 financial crash with a series of unprecedented bank bailouts and stimulus spending measures. These steps have only created new contradictions, with the latest stage of the crisis being driven by sovereign debt fears caused by mounting budget deficits and debt. Spurred on by the pressures of the global financial markets, governments internationally are imposing brutal austerity programs, making the working class pay for the crisis through cuts to

public spending, wages, jobs and living conditions. This has already triggered general strikes and mass protests in Greece, Spain, France and Ireland. In Britain, the new Tory-Liberal Democrat coalition government is imposing the deepest spending cuts since World War II. In Japan, Yukio Hatoyama’s resignation after less than a year as prime minister has been accompanied by a rapid shift to austerity measures.

The same process is now underway in Australia. The political conspirators who brought down Rudd acted at the direct behest of the mining companies, finance capital and other sections of big business.

Gillard is tasked with making major concessions to the mining giants on the Resource Super Profits Tax, then calling an election to pave the way for ruthless expenditure cuts to meet demands for a speedy return to budget surpluses.

The anti-democratic way in which Rudd was axed stands as

a serious warning to the working class of the autocratic methods that will be used to impose the agenda of big business. Shadowy factional leaders installed Gillard without any discussion in the Labor caucus, let alone the Labor Party or the working class. Not a single voice of protest or opposition was registered, with every Labor MP, including Rudd himself, falling into line. There has never been a clearer demonstration of the putrefaction of the Labor Party, and the gulf between this bureaucratic apparatus and the interests of ordinary people. The crisis has graphically exposed parliament’s function as a smokescreen for the dictatorship of capital.

None of these issues will be raised in the media and by the parliamentary parties in the upcoming election campaign. The urgent task confronting the working class is to make its own political preparations for the coming period.

The global failure of capitalism threatens another catastro-

forces General Blotz said that the case would be investigated.

NATO-led forces in the past too

pho—to once again drag humanity into an economic abyss and war. As in the 1930s, political and military conflicts are already festering between the major powers over control of resources and markets. The only progressive alternative is to build an independent political movement of the working class armed with a revolutionary and socialist perspective. Such a movement must reject all forms of nationalism and chauvinism and seek to unite workers of all countries to carry through the socialist reorganisation of the world economy to meet social needs, not private profit.

The Socialist Equality Party is holding a day-long conference on “The World Economic Crisis, the Failure of Capitalism and the Case for Socialism” in Melbourne on July 11. This conference will discuss the unfolding political crisis in Australia, the global capitalist breakdown, and the program required to build a genuine socialist movement of the Australian and international working class.

We urge readers and supporters of the *World Socialist Web Site*, the Socialist Equality Party and the International Students for Social Equality (ISSE) in Australia and the South Pacific region to register for this critical conference. Public meetings on the same topic will be held in Perth on July 18 and Newcastle on July 25. **WSWS**

had committed such mistakes which claimed the lives of Afghan military and civilians. **(Xinhua)**

NATO’s mistakenly air raids kill 6 Afghan soldiers

GHAZNI, Afghanistan, — Air raid carried out by NATO-led troops mistakenly, claimed the lives of six Afghan soldiers in Ghazni province south of Afghanistan early Wednesday, deputy to provincial police chief Nawroz Ali Mahmoudzada said.

“In the wee hours of Wednesday a group of soldiers were trying to ambush Taliban insurgents in Andar district of Ghazni province but aircraft of international troops mistakenly dropped bomb, killing six soldiers,”

Mahmoudzada told Xinhua.

Meantime, Defense Ministry spokesman Zahir Azimi at a joint press conference with NATO-led forces spokesman General Josef Blotz condemned the incident.

“The gruesome incident occurred at 04:00 a.m. local time when the aircraft carried out raids, as a result five Afghan soldiers were martyred and two others sustained injuries. Defense Ministry strongly condemns it,” Azimi told reporters.

Spokesman for NATO-led

Kisses better than smoking — Russian activists

MOSCOW, — Several dozen St. Petersburg activist couples puckered up Wednesday on the U.N.’s World Kissing Day to give more than lip service to their campaign against smoking.

Anti-smoking kisses have been the motto of a group of St. Petersburgers who have locked lips on this day every year since 2008.

This year, however, the kissers completed a simultaneous three-

minute smooch to help snuff out smoking around the world.

The St. Petersburg kissers locked lips on the Potseluyev Bridge over the Moika River.

The bridge was chosen as the kissing spot in St. Petersburg thanks to a 200-year-old legend that says some city dwellers kissed their good-bye’s after being forced to leave town. **(Xinhua)**