



International Journal of Sociology and Political Science

Online ISSN: 2664-7745; Print ISSN: 2664-7737; Impact Factor: RJIF 5.48

Received: 01-01-2020; Accepted: 15-01-2020; Published: 02-02-2020

www.sociologyjournal.in

Volume 2; Issue 1; 2020; Page No. 01-03

Post Corona world: Who will win

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Abstract

The article tries to predict the post Corona world from the social, economical and political perspective. It tries to explore the probable changes in human society due to expected economic disaster and indicates that fascism would gain their momentum again. But the situation indicates a golden opportunity for socialism to comeback again. The current socialistic kind of state welfare pattern of the countries shows more chance for socialism to penetrate among people. Even if the present capitalist democracy prevails it needs a lot of changes to corroborate with the changed scenario which again also would be more socialistic in nature. The paper also focuses on the importance of social media in organization of mass opinion.

Keywords: Corona, democracy, socialism, fascism, depression

1. Introduction

It may be astonishing to write such article when the virus is ruling over the human civilisation, trying to win the battle with its maximum zest. It is causing severe harm, death toll is increasing in a J shaped curve and to be precise it has brought the whole civilisation to an unprecedented disaster. It is justly can be termed as the crisis of civilisation. Therefore, to think of post Corona world may sound like a luxury of thought, a hardship. But, as it is said by the proverb "A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences", I feel encouraged to write.

Tagore always was in favour of keeping faith on mankind so must do we. Our medical sciences and disaster management techniques improved much to combat this menace also. Yes off course, it needs time. Off course so many deaths we have to face, so many families will be ruined but not the whole human race will be perished. But what would be after this pandemic phase? After such severe natural disaster would man face another kind of manmade disaster, severer than this? It is expected and estimated that human being is going to face massive economic, political, social and behavioural changes after the corona attack. So the objective of this article is to survey the probable changes and their consequences. It is also tried to explore the most suitable alternative(s) to opt for the sake of mankind to sustain for a healthy and humanitarian civilisation. Certainly, the whole piece of writing is hypothetical but based on logical reasoning.

2. Material and Method

The article studied the present situation on the basis of Economic, social impact, and the role of social media. It reviewed the scenario and tried to hypothesise alternatives or model societies on the basis of that review.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Economic changes

Anandabazar, one of the leading newspapers in India states that the economic loss in India is expected to be approximately 9 lakh Crore Rs. As a consequence the downfall of GDP may face upto 2.5%. Care Ratings, which they quote, reported this standard may goes down to even 1.5% during the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. The reserve Bank may decrease interest rate upto 65 – 100 basis point regarding loan. In fact the whole world is shivering out of the threat of depression [1]. The question is only whether this depression is going to supersede that of The great Depression of 1929 or not. Let us compare the two situations. During 1929 – 32 depression the world GDP saw a fall of 15% while that was only 1% during 2008 depression. But that 1% caused 10% recession during October, 2009 [2]. Now let us verify and take a quick survey of the probable post corona situation. Goodman et.al. in their "In world's most vulnerable countries the pandemic rivals 2008 crisis" stated a few features of post Corona scenario with examples [3]. NourielRoubini says "the financial crisis and great depression took three years to play out, this crisis has taken three weeks. The greater depression beckons." [4]. SwaminathanAiyar says, "If consumers cut consumption by no more than 5% to avoid infection, that will suffice for a world recession" which is now happening worldwide [5]. Already aviation industry has faced massive set back. "When we see well-capitalised airlines like Lufthansa making statements about the need for state support then we know things must be bad" [6]. Now, this article is not aimed to discuss the details of economics. Rather it tries to focus on the consequences the world is going to face. In this regard we can conclude this part stating that depression and its inevitable corollaries are either already taking place or in pipeline. Let the economists debate whether the shape of the graph would

be V, U, L, or I, it is certain that depression is foreseeable. Most optimistic economists cannot rule out the probability. Even if the impact is lesser than the 1929 case the social impact created by it would be much greater because the society of present day is considerably different after the globalisation.

3.2. The social impact

After 1929 great depression there was the World War II, the result of which man still carries even today. If such kind of massacre happens again we cannot even imagine the magnitude of destruction. But hoping for the best we expect that no state in the world would take such endeavour. But few other probabilities still remains and should be taken into consideration. We know that China, America and Europe are the major super powers today regarding the control of world business. Corona added a new dimension and discourse to the issue. After corona phase either China will expand its business all over the world as the whole Europe and USA are in severe distress. On the other hand will the other two forces allow such state of affairs to be occurred? In that case possibility of relentless conflict must not be ignored. Islamic states like Iran or states like North Korea who are by now anti USA obviously are expected to take the side of China. The states of Latin America and Africa would join any one group depending on their own interest and relation between neighbouring countries. India and Pakistan also will be involved. Because, the foreign policy of India no longer remained same as that of Nehru or Indira. Rather India is more aggressive now in comparison to its past regimes. Besides during this phase it has also proved itself to be a significant power in world business supplying medicines to several countries. As almost all countries are helping each other to fight against Corona it would be expected that this friendship may remain forever and a wonderful world of eternal friendship is waiting. But unfortunately, this is not going to happen. The reason behind it is the depression. Capitalist economy must find their way to capture and control more and more market to recover their deprived economy and in consequence conflict is inevitable. In that situation as discussed earlier another Allies and Axis probability surely cannot be disregarded. Yes another world war in true sense obviously will not take place but possibilities of several 'pocket war' or 'microwar' are predictable. Recent speeches of American president against China or withdrawal of monetary support to WHO indicates to some bigger future clash. This may recover the economy of a few countries but several others so called undeveloped or underdeveloped countries certainly may be ruined with regard to their sovereignty, freedom or culture. The terrorist groups may take advantage of such unbalanced condition and extend their activities further. War lobby would also be benefitted by supplying them more and more arms. Therefore, instead of having a multicoloured world we may have to live in a fugacious and unstable one where quarrel and clash, panic and death, brutal self-interest and inhumanity will be daily affair. This may be called Third World War in a new sense where not only physical death but death of all great virtues of humanity will be at stake.

3.3 Rise of Arturo Ui, rule of Fascism

One of the basic instincts of man is the loss of virtues like reasoning, self-dependency and dependency on any kind of

super power in stressed condition. Because during rigorous stress, which man thinks beyond control of self-regulation he/she surrenders to some kind of messiah or extra human power. The primitive totem concept or concept of God itself arose from this very instinct. Similarly, when severe unrest and uncertainty prevail in society people seek their way into fascism. History of mankind repeatedly proved it. Due to the socio-economic crisis there is possibility of mass unrest in several countries. In addition to that today (as I have stated earlier the situation is different from any previous era) media uses successfully the principle of Social Conformity and thereby plays a great role to govern and shape peoples' mind. It is therefore not so incarnate to assume that with the help of organised propaganda techniques and machineries capitalism in many countries would find their way into fascism particularly where democratic system is by several reasons already are in doubt among people. Moreover, it is already observed in many parts of the world where nascent fascism is growing and regaining its strength including that of India. Now in such favourable situation there is every possibility for growth of this fierce virus also.

3.4 Socialism, the alternative possibility

Recently a book suddenly is brought into limelight called 'The eyes of darkness' by Dean Coontz on the basis of which some people claimed China to be the nurturing ground of Corona Virus. Though this fact is criticised otherwise and this is not the point of focus for this present paper. Rather I would like to draw the attention to the fact that propaganda against China at present scenario is not only an event dependent one but it is a part of long drawn ideological battle capitalist world performing against socialist camp throughout centuries. Particularly after the fall of socialism in Russia along with whole Eastern Europe China remained the biggest enemy of capitalist camp. Moreover, due to the increasing graph of Chinese business threatens capitalist camp a lot. So they are not supposed to let pass this opportunity to diminish China. Therefore, the clash between China and capitalist camp no longer remains only a fight regarding market capture but certainly it would bring back the classic focal contradiction of the previous century again viz. the contradiction between capitalism and socialism. On the other hand after great depression of early nineties world capitalism is now passing through its most crucial crisis period. Its credibility and capability must be under threat in their own countries. Now they have to have returned to state funded relief system which long before practiced in previous socialist countries and now being practiced in existing system like Vietnam, Cuba etc. PravatPatnaik recently said that "It is said that in a crisis everybody becomes a socialist; free market takes a back seat, to the benefit of the working people" [7]. NourielRoubini also justified the same fact stating "Given the circumstances, interventions long proposed by leftists of the Modern Monetary Theory school, including helicopter drops, have become mainstream" [8]. This surrender to socialist sort of economy obviously would let their people to incline to socialism. Secondly, the success of socialist countries like Vietnam, Cuba and in India Kerala lead by communist party and allies to fight against Corona as well as providing the other services to the people already has drawn the attention to the

supremacy of state sponsored system over private system of capitalist countries. Previous history of second World War after which series of countries turned into socialist countries would also let the people think twice regarding the necessity and success of socialism to overcome the social crisis like unemployment, poverty etc. after any such major devastation. Thus more and more support for socialist system is expected and socialist groups would certainly not miss the bus.

3.5 Social media, fifth pillar of democracy

Whatever the possibilities may be, figuring out of any of them largely depends on social media in today's world. We cannot deny Phone journalism, Facebook, Whatsapp etc. which are constructing mass opinion regularly whether positive or negative. During last few decades a lot of social movements have been reported to be initiated and organised through social media. Keeping the enormous power of this medium in mind almost all political parties nowadays have constructed their own IT team to propagate their opinion and troll other political views. But that is one side of the whole story. Really this medium gifted the opportunity for freedom of thought freedom of speech, generate own voice and sharing opinion. Thus new narratives, counter narratives and discourses are generated regularly which challenge the so called manufactured and post truth news by state sponsored media houses. Though in this 'infodemic era' one must have to consider its dark side also. Because, under this stressed condition one single rumour or fake news may bring into being riot or anarchism which by no means good for democratic structure. That epidemic is also harmful but for the social health.

The other side of the story we have to consider is the globalisation of opinion. In today's world not only the local issues can motivate or change the public opinion but the influence of global politics is also similarly important factor. Therefore, the inclination of world people towards rebirth of socialism or fascism or existence and rebuilding of capitalism, or any other socio-political configuration would converge to a single direction globally which we can terminologies as 'singularity of opinion'. Actually, two kinds of singularities are playing their roles every day. One is media generated where existing ruler is using media, 'making news' and organising opinion in their favour and another is exclusively peoples' notion independent of any sponsored news. This contradiction is going to be much sharper in near future.

4. Conclusion: What is the outcome, who will win

Probability theory rightly says that for every action, there is infinity of outcomes but one comes true. Yes, it is true for Mother Nature but not for the human society. Nature selects the most probable one but man can let the most impossible to be real. Man can construct its fate actively. Corona is educating us quite a few lessons. Wide blue sky free of smoke from automobiles or clear night with lots of ever unnoticed shining stars teaches us that pollution can be controlled if we control our greedy consumerism. It teaches us that discrimination between races, religions, gender is manmade curse. Man can conquer all these vices if he/she wishes. Above all it preaches us that even the states or nations with all their parochial boundaries may be relinquished. Man can be global in true sense. But the question is how many and how much of

these lessons man will retain or they will be allowed to retain. Because once the battle will over, all those viruses will wear their crowns again and the system will be going on as it was. But now the time comes for man not to surrender to the fate but construct it. They have to choose the right way for a better world for living. It is known that society produce the governments or ruler as they deserve. This time man should configure proper humanitarian governance. Man must say this time 'Miles to go'. This time MAN has to win over man.

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