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The Critical Moment

THE FINAL CHAPTER OF *Social Credit* (1924)

By C. H. DOUGLAS

There are two hypotheses as to the method by which changes of so far reaching a character as those we have been discussing might come about, one of which may be described as the evolutionary method, and the second as the revolutionary. For my own part I am inclined to believe in the probability of a combination of the two.

The outstanding fact in regard to the existing situation in the world at the present time, is that it is unstable. No person whose outlook upon life extends even so far as the boundaries of his village, can fail to see that a change is not merely coming, but is in progress; and it requires only a moderately comprehensive perception of the forces which are active in every country of the world to-day, to realise that the change which is in progress must proceed to limits to which we can set no bounds.

That is to say, the break-up of the present financial and social system is certain. Nothing will stop it; "Back to 1914" is sheer dreaming; the continuation of taxation on the present scale, together with an unsolved employment problem, is fantastic; the only point at issue in this respect is the length of time which the break-up will take, and the tribulations we have to undergo while the break-up is in progress. But while recognising this, it is also necessary not to fall into the error which has its rise in Darwinism; that change is evolution, and evolution is ascent. It may be; but equally it may not be. That is where the necessity for the revolutionary element arises; using, of course, the word revolutionary in a constructive sense.

There will probably come well within the lives of the present generation, a period at which the blind forces of destruction will appear to be in the ascendant. It does not seem to me to be necessary that this should be so, but it does seem to be probable.

There is, at the moment, no party, group, or individual possessing at once the power, the knowledge, and the will, which would transmute the growing social unrest and resentment (now chiefly marshalled under the crudities of Socialism and Communism) into a constructive effort for the regeneration of Society. This being the case, we are merely witnesses to a succession of rear-guard actions on the part of the so-called Conservative elements in Society, elements which themselves seem incapable, or undesirous of genuine initiative; a process which can only result, like all rear-guard actions, in a successive, if not successful, retreat on the part of the forces attacked. While this process is alone active, there seems to be no sound justification for optimism; but it is difficult to believe that the whole world is so bereft of sanity that a pause for reflection is too much to hope for, pending a final resignation to utter catastrophe.

When that pause occurs mankind will have reached one of those crises which no doubt have frequently been reached before, but which so far have failed to avert the fall of humanity back into an era of barbarism out of which new civilisations have slowly and painfully risen.

The position will be tremendous in its importance. A comparatively short period will probably serve to decide whether we are to master the mighty economic and social machine that we have created, or whether it is to master us; and during that period a small impetus from a body of men who know what to do and how to do it, may make the difference between yet one more retreat into the Dark Ages, or the emergence into the full light of a day of such splendour as we can at present only envisage dimly.

It is this necessity for the recognition of the psychological moment, and the fitting to that moment of appropriate action, which should be present in the minds of that small minority which is seized of the gravity of the present times. To have a clear understanding of the principles which underlie the problem is essential to those who may hope to play a part in its solution; it is even desirable that skeleton plans should be in existence to meet the situation as it can be seen to exist; but nothing can be more fatal to a successful issue than the premature publication of cut-and-dried arrangements which are likely to be out of date before their adoption can be secured. As the world is constituted to-day, effective action is only possible through certain centres of influence; that is to say, short of complete social anarchy as a preliminary to a new world, it is necessary to work through the arrangements which have grown up in the system with which we are all familiar.

While the evolutionary process depends most probably on the formula to which the present civilisation is working, and, given adherence to that formula, is independent of human psychology, it is fairly obvious that the effectiveness of "constructive revolution" does depend, to a large extent, on this latter factor alone. In other words, although we can float down the Rapids and over the Falls without any struggling either on our part or on the part of those with whom we come in contact, the possibility of avoiding that uncomfortable journey, if there remains a possibility, requires definite exertion. And if the cataract must be run, a safe arrival on the waters of the placid lake which may lie beyond, is surely conditional on some sort of expert navigation. If the present onerous taxation is continued into an era of rising prices, we shall not have long to wait.

There are certain factors operative in human psychology which it is possible to recognise as helpful or the reverse.

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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

“Making all due allowances for the defects in it which are only too obvious, the Anglo-Saxon character probably remains the greatest bulwark against tyranny that exists in the world today. That is a thesis on which a large number of volumes have been written, and it does not seem necessary to expand it further. But if it be granted, it will be agreed that any attempt, either conscious or unconscious, to establish an effective hegemony over the whole of the world would be likely to concentrate on such methods as would paralyse the Anglo-Saxon.” (C. H. Douglas, *Social Credit*, 1924.)

We know now beyond peradventure that there *is* a conscious attempt to establish an effective hegemony over the whole of the world. Until the outbreak of war in 1914, the world was largely under the influence of the Pax Britannica, which was essentially the diffusion of the Anglo-Saxon character and its derivative institutions. Nauseatingly much has been heard of “gun-boat diplomacy”, just as the cry is being raised in the U.S.A. of “police brutality”. But the fruits of “gun-boat diplomacy” which, in a world assimilating the potentially devastating effects of the industrial revolution, was akin to maintaining order in the kindergarten, were in the main benevolent. “India” is a British creation, unified, so far as it has remained unified, by the English language and British institutions. Canada and Australia have become nations in their own right; the Republic of South Africa has English as a main language, and the British type of Parliamentary Democracy; Southern Rhodesia was independent in all but name until the “dismantling” of the British Empire began in earnest. The United States of America until it became the headquarters of the Money Power was predominantly Anglo-Saxon in character. All this means that within the framework of the Pax Britannica the Anglo-Saxon character expressed itself in increasing self-determination, culminating in one way or another in “independence”, which is simply the formal recognition of self-determination, just as a child gains legal independence on the attainment of its majority.

The present world disorder is most easily understood

as the outcome of the steps taken by the Money Power to paralyse the Anglo-Saxon, and subvert his institutions. The first step to world hegemony is destruction of the existing order, and this has been accomplished on the do-it-yourself principle of granting independence to undeveloped areas, and providing arms to the natives to slaughter each other and disrupt the communications and services on which growth through nurture could eventually lead to genuine self-determination and independent nationhood.

The purpose of destruction is largely accomplished. “Gunboat diplomacy” is no longer possible except to the U.S.A., the headquarters of the Money Power, and co-agent with the U.S.S.R. of the International Conspiracy to attain world hegemony.

In the article *Social Credit and Suez* (T.S.C., July 1, 1967) we reviewed briefly the concept of the Heartland, now in the control of the Conspiracy. But the communications centre of the world, controlling the distribution of the world’s natural resources, is the Middle East. Arabs as nationals, and except as slaves, are therefore marked out for destruction, which is why they are being armed, but only vocally if vociferously supported, by the U.S.S.R. Anyone who will give due consideration to the linked events of the past 50 years should be able to recognise in the present situation in the Middle East the fruition of the strategy embodied in the Balfour Declaration. Any more sentimental view is closing one’s eyes to disaster.

* * *

And yet, it is not too late, or may not be. If by any means the Anglo-Saxon character can be resuscitated, Anglo-Saxon institutions survive and could be revived. The first requirement would be to get Socialists, whether Fabian or Communist, out of administrations, and then to form an economically self-contained Anglo-Saxon Common Market based on a realistically reformed monetary system. It should always be borne in mind that *it is not necessary to import money to buy your own goods*. The “dollar shortage” (or sterling crisis) is a myth, though admittedly supported by sanctions. But myths are susceptible of exposure, like the myth of the Emperor’s clothes; and it is more than doubtful whether physical sanctions would be employed—yet—against a determined and realistic discarding of the myth. The value of “sterling”—of any monetary unit—resides in its generalised purchasing-power, which rests on productive capacity and realistic accounting. Productive capacity in its turn rests on access to raw materials, all of which, for example, are to be found within Canada, Australia and Britain, for a start.

However, if it is not too late, time is running out very fast. Strong indications have been published that severe crises involving Korea, East Germany and Cuba have been planned for later this year; these, added to Vietnam and the Middle East, might well present the U.S.A. with an ‘impossible’ situation, in which surrender to external authority would appear inevitable.

* * *

“Politicos in the Capitol have been rubbing their eyes in amazement at a recent resolution passed by the National Executive Committee of the Americans for Democratic Action which actually attacks the Soviet Union. ‘The ADA’, says the resolution, ‘condemns the callous attacks upon Israel indulged in or prompted by Soviet officials.

The viciousness of these assaults reflects a contempt for the procedures of debate in the U.N. and a genocidal attitude towards Israel's destruction."

—*Human Events*, July 8, 1967.

Well, well! Furthermore, Ha ha.

* * *

"The Administration seems unaware that one of the Soviet objectives is to strangle the great arteries of maritime communication, one by one. Russia's Egyptian cat's-paw, Nasser, has closed the Suez Canal with sunken ships and attempted to blockade the Gulf of Aqaba. The United States has fallen for Communist and Afro-Asian propaganda and got itself into a senseless quarrel with South Africa, whose ports and refueling depots are vital to use in the substitute route around the tip of southern Africa. Now the United States position in the Panama Canal has been compromised.

"The stage is set for Communist strangulation of the great sea arteries which contribute so much to American strategic mobility."

—*Human Events*, July 8, 1967.

The operative word here is "seems". It has never been our contention that the Administration in the U.S.A. is run by people who are unaware of what is going on. They are not fools, though they employ and direct both fools and knaves. The hard fact is that virtually openly since 1942 U.S.A. policy has furthered Communist objectives. And the U.S. position in the Panama Canal has not been compromised, but surrendered. But the Administration does not consider this an appropriate time to announce the fact. Maybe the time will be when the other anticipated crises blow up.

And don't forget that Cuba is a missile and aircraft arsenal aimed at the U.S.A., just to convince the American public that it has run out of options.

Rhodesia

Speaking at a Press conference, Mr. Ian Smith said although he and his Government were suspicious of the visit of Lord Alport (previous British High Commissioner to Salisbury), they were prepared to meet him provided his intention was serious and genuine and in the interest of Rhodesia. If, however, Mr. Wilson was insisting on NIBMAR (no independence before majority rule) there was no hope of a settlement.

The Prime Minister said he had not been informed of, or consulted about, the decision to send Lord Alport.

He hoped the visitor would not find himself working to a tight schedule laid down by the Afro-Asian bloc—as was the case on Tiger.

Mr. Smith said "the choice of this man Alport seemed quite incredible because he could almost be described as a listed enemy of Rhodesia." He had been cold-shouldered out of this country by the Federal Government as it was believed he was conniving with the British on what was thought were some pretty underhand tricks over the break-up of Federation.

He had written a scurrilous book about Rhodesia and indulged in offensive broadcasts from Francistown radio station.

"I can't help wondering whether, when Mr. Wilson chose this man, he was hoping and planning for the mission to fail. The choice was an unfortunate reflection on

Britain's representatives, Sir Humphrey Gibbs and the staff of the Mission."

Mr. Smith repeated his warning that time was running out. Once the Constitutional Commission reported "we will act and get on with the business."

"So it might be appropriate to say that if Mr. Wilson bungles this one as he did the Tiger episode, I doubt if he will have another opportunity."

The Prime Minister said the cut in tobacco had nothing to do with the visit of Lord Alport. "As a matter of fact our plan is to do things assuming there will be no reconciliation. This is the only sane thing to do."

—*Rhodesian Commentary*, July 3, 1967.

African Education in Rhodesia

The following information is from *Rhodesia's African Record*, published in May, 1967, by the Ministry of Information, Immigration and Tourism, Salisbury:

Outside the wealthy Republic of South Africa, no country on the African continent can equal Rhodesia's record in the field of education for its indigenous people. The growth in Rhodesia of the African educational system (expressed in terms of money spent and school attendance) exceeds by a considerable margin that of European education.

Between 1956 and 1966 the record shows a doubling of primary school enrolments and an eightfold increase in the numbers of those entering secondary schools. One in seven of Rhodesia's African population is at school. By contrast, Algeria and Liberia have one in 12; Tanzania has one in 15; Mali one in 42 and Ethiopia one in 74.

Nine per cent of Rhodesia's budget is devoted to African education. It is the largest single item for which provision is made in the national estimates, and is additional to the substantial amounts voted for African health services and agriculture.

There are in Rhodesia today the following institutions providing educational facilities for Africans exclusively:

- 3,302 primary schools (including a few farm schools) with more than 656,000 pupils;
- 94 secondary schools with 14,050 pupils;
- 72 night schools (part-time) with 6,330 pupils (including adults);
- 80 study groups at secondary level with 3,081 pupils;
- 500 unaided farm schools employing 700 teachers for approximately 15,000 pupils; and
- 28 teacher training colleges with 2,551 pupils.

Thirty-six primary schools and 14 new secondary schools were opened during 1966.

Correspondence colleges cater for many thousands unable to receive direct tuition.

More than 19,000 teachers are employed in the African education service, of whom 602 are Europeans and 124 are African graduate teachers. Salaries, which are wholly the responsibility of the Government, account for the greatest proportion of expenditure on education.

A ten-year plan to overhaul the entire African education system was announced during 1966. In terms of this plan, the target date for the introduction of full primary education for all who can reach a school has been advanced from 1974 to 1969.

But the great significance of the new plan lies in its emphasis on development in the sphere of secondary education. The intention is that secondary schooling be made available for a full 50 per cent of the pupils who complete the primary course.

By careful selection, the top 12½ per cent of pupils completing primary school will be creamed off for a full four-year academic course of secondary education leading to a secondary certificate and the further opportunity of sixth form work up to university entrance.

Another 37½ per cent will qualify for entrance to junior secondary schools, 300 of which are planned for the next ten years. These schools are to have a vocational leaning and will prepare pupils for the Junior Certificate examination and provide them with the qualifications necessary to enter apprenticeship.

At further and higher educational levels, the African and European educational systems merge, members of all races attending technical colleges and the University College in Salisbury together.

The Critical Moment

(continued from page 1)

During a visit to New York I saw considerable numbers of fervent men and women carrying sandwich-boards and collecting-boxes through the financial quarters in and around Wall Street, bearing on them the legend, "The Salvation Army is Father Knickerbocker's best friend." It is perhaps hardly necessary to explain that Father Knickerbocker is generally taken to represent the respectability of solid, or perhaps preferably, liquid capital. That is to say, it may be taken as a scientific statement of fact that one of the most dangerous opponents of a better, cleaner world, is the sentimental spirit which is entirely concerned with the beauties of a prospective Heaven, whether that Heaven is theological or moral. The head of the institution to which I have just referred, has recently elaborated the preceding statement by an intemperate attack on the "dole", basing his objection to it on the "demoralisation" of the recipient and not, of course, on the financial jugglery which accompanies it—an attitude entirely similar to that of the Puritan in his abolition of bear-baiting; not because it was cruel to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the populace. The practical outcome of this Puritanism is always negative. In short, there is a type of sentiment which, under existing conditions, is able to attain great respectability, but which can, with very little difficulty, be identified with the formalism against which the Great Reformer of 1900 years ago launched his most bitter invective; and wherever that is found, the prospect of effective assistance is not encouraging.

Again, it is only rarely that we find a response from those who have been "successful in business." On the whole, the most promising type of mind is either that which has always been free from financial anxiety and yet, at the same time, is familiar with the technique of the modern world, or, on the other hand, the worker, whether by hand or brain, whose incentive is very largely artistic in origin, in the ranks of whom may of course be included practically all persons of really scientific temperament. Most unfortunately this latter class is, of all the divisions of Society, that least equipped, either by temperament or organisation, to exercise effective pressure.

Since, however, most men are complex characters, it is probably true that an effective appeal can be made to a large majority if the appeal is made in the right way. It is my considered opinion that the right way with most people is to discountenance severely any discussion of the general advisability of such matters as we have been considering, and, as far as possible, to put the appeal in the form: "Suppose that you yourself were offered certain conditions, such as we suggest, under which to carry on your business or your own personal economic life, would you accept them?"

With a majority of persons there is (no doubt as the result of the collective hypnotism generally referred to as education) a tendency to uphold a social ideal from which their personal existence is a continuous effort to escape. That is to say, their social ideals and their social actions bear about the same relation to each other that the aspirations of the average individual in regard to an immediate translation to Paradise, as expressed on his occasional Sunday church-going, do to his wishes as expressed by his business activity during the week, and his concern at the onslaught of a cold in the head. If he can be kept on the more or less solid ground of his individual tastes, and the means which would enable him to achieve them, he is amenable to reason; let loose on social ideals, and we generally have something of about equal value to the theology of the Salvation Army—a thing which clearly has definite uses in connection with a given set of premises, but is not a hopeful source from which to look for a new direction of objective—is, in fact, frequently a vicious obstacle.

It hardly needs emphasis that a constant binding back of proposals for reform, to the moving events of the world, is of the utmost value; in fact, if it be possible to clarify the relation between the analysis of the financial system, the foci of discontent, and the logical remedy, with sufficient emphasis and over a sufficiently wide area, then the stage will be set for the greatest victory which the human individual has, within history, achieved over the forces which beset him to his fall.

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