

On Empires Going – Raja Arasa Ratnam

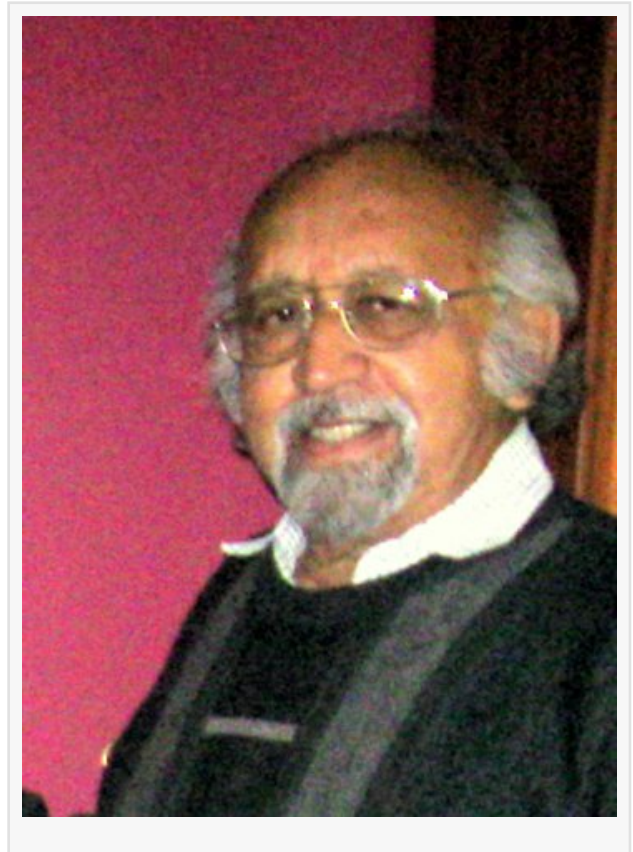
DALMENY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, November 26, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- “The last of the old-fashioned empires involving physical control is the current Chinese empire. This pretends, as does Israel, that the lands (forget the peoples) were ‘traditionally’ theirs. How far in history does tradition extend? What happened then to the once independent peoples of Mongolia, Manchuria, Tibet, Xinjiang? Were they not also once credited with achieving, for a while, empires made up of contiguous lands but occupied by unrelated tribes? A rapacious China, having enslaved these peoples, will destroy whatever economic bases they have, as well as their ethno-religious cultures.

It is the new form of empire, however, that is most interesting. This is the hegemonic empire, based on influence (including threats and bribery). Only one exists, and it is almost global. Australia is a respected part of it. The empire of the USA does not physically control any foreign territory (except for a few islands here and there), unlike the Chinese and the colonising nations of Europe. It exercises influence in a variety of ways that are decidedly clever.

It appoints so-called ‘deputy sheriffs’ to safeguard the interests of the West in their respective bailiwicks; it has trade and mutual-defence agreements with nations which seek protection from imagined foes; and it has military bases here, there, and everywhere to protect the nations of the West and their allies. The USA will fight terrorism anywhere and everywhere; defend itself from attack by enemies, real or creatively conceived; keep the sea routes open, thereby making other navies unnecessary; sell armaments (its primary objective?), and contain political threats, even imagined ones. This has given it the right to have a foothold in all sorts of places; we Aussies are grateful for such protection!

It also makes generous grants as strategically needed, to keep unpopular, even undemocratic, foreign leaders in power. Their job is to ensure that the needs of the USA, viz. oil and other resources, bases, access routes and export opportunities, are met. Its deputy sheriff Israel is furnished with the latest weaponry to prevent an Islamic resurgence. This includes the intended breakup of Iraq into three ethno-religious regions; so wrote an Israeli scholar recently.

A strong foothold on Iraqi soil will give the US power to over-~~sight~~ lesser nations and overlook the more powerful. The US has installed its satrap in Afghanistan to enable that desired oil pipeline from Central Asia to the Indian Ocean to be achieved one day. The US will also enable Israel to recover Judah and Samarra as that pure Jewish nation that their God decided was OK,



Ethnic cleansing, like 'rendering'-with-torture, and assassination are acceptable, but only in the interests of protecting Western democracy. Australian politicians who visit Israel without being able to notice the plight of state-less Palestinians couldn't possibly have any concern with this view of the Middle East of the future.

How long will this new empire last? Since it is only about 60 years old, who can tell? Through its Monroe Doctrine, the USA assumed indirect control of South and Central America a long time ago. Would the US now install Monroe Mark 2 to keep any rising power away from its current spheres of interest? If so, how?

Realism requires us to accept that the Western world needs a strong USA to counter China, were this nation to enter into a payback mode; that is, to reprimand all those nations which sought to obtain a foothold on its home territory in an earlier century. Those incursions caused great damage to the people and their heritage.

But then the Western world needs not only the USA but also a friendly China and a united Europe (including Russia) to contain militant Islam's growth. Were Islam to take over the world, what would happen to the liquor industry, the Christianising industry, the prostitution industry, and the usury industry? However, since the nations of Europe seem incapable of burying their sectarian or other ethno-cultural differences, one can only hope that the Sunni-Shia divide is like the Rift Valley of Africa.
... ..

What could be the legacy of the US Empire? How about good governance, education, employment opportunities, housing, health services, clean water, toilets, and gender and caste equality?

Or, is it the case that an empire of political and cultural influence, a hegemonic empire, has no concern about such issues; that each government within the penumbra of US influence is autonomous in relation to human rights and associated institutions; that the policies within these countries of interest to the metaphoric 'godfather' relate only to international relations, access by the godfather to relevant resources and markets, the purchase of compatible armaments labelled 'Made in USA,' and a readiness to join killing 'coalitions of the willing' under the nominal leadership of the UN or NATO?

Yet, this neo-colonising nation is the only major power which has shown any inclination to protect a minority here and there in the world from being butchered. Thus, the USA can become a moral leader for mankind."

These are extracts from Chapter 11 'On empires gone and going' in my book 'Musings at death's door: an ancient bi-cultural Asian-Australian ponders about Australian society,' available at amazon.com as an ebook for \$US2.99

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