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This quarterly newsletter carries news and views of a socio-economic movement based on the ideals of the Progressive Utilization Theory (PROUT) for educating the new generation of leadership in North America in sadvipran values, essential for the establishment of an exploitation free (economic) democracy.

The New Golden Age...


By Ravi Batra

The above is the title of my forthcoming book. The central message of this work is that the world is heading towards a time of greater poverty, troubles and chaos that will climax in a social revolution in the United States, which will then be followed by a golden age the likes of which the globe has never seen. The Soviet Union, as predicted by my 1978 work, The Downfall of Capitalism and Communism, has fallen right before your eyes; the downfall of acquisitors or of monopoly capitalism could also materialize soon, in accordance with Sarkar’s Law of Social Cycle. So we Americans need to act as “We the People” did at the time of framing our constitution. We need to get united, not remain divided as Democrats and Republicans, and vote for honest politicians. It is this division that enables corporate interests to use the world’s resources for personal gain and generate poverty for others. The theories are there, proper ideas are available; what is missing is a political apparatus to materialize these ideas and adopt an ethical economic policy, which could end destitution around the globe. If we act in time, we could bring about this golden age in a short time; if not, Nature will act for us and prolong our agony, just as it did in bringing about the fall of the Soviet empire and the revolution in Iran. For such is the law of nature. The choice is all ours.

Prout in Americas...

Washington DC: Dada Vimalananda ji was invited to be present at the Inter American Development Bank, during a presentation on Women’s Self Reliance efforts being made in Pete’n Region of Guatemala by a local NGO called the Professional Women’s Group based in Washington DC. It turned out to be a gathering of over 60 people, mostly professional women activists.

The project was initiative of Mrs. Miirabai of the Global Coalition for Peace. Drawing inspiration from a Prout Introductory given by Dada to them in 2004, the group started the field work in Feb. 2005, and had successfully organized more than a dozen small vegetable farming women’s cooperatives in rural villages of Pete’n region to provide them with increased purchasing capacity. They also teach Yoga and vegetarian food habits to them that have changed quality of life for women and their family. Presenters included local members from Peten. Dada was introduced to the gathering. He gave a Prout talk, for inspiration and guidance. Didi Anumaya now tours the region and visits campuses for Prout pracaar. —PNA
Prout Research Institute (Los Angeles)

Mayajiit gave a three-hour training in grant writing for IXCHIM, a large organization of Mayan peoples from Guatemala. Their goal is to develop economic and cultural solidarity for Mayan people in Los Angeles. Mayajiit’s PhD dissertation is addressing the history of community development and regional self-reliance in a remarkable Mayan community in Guatemala - Panimatzalam. This work is aimed at providing training for Proutists in working with indigenous peoples on community and regional development. It is an example of Collaborative Research in which the researcher works with a community to tell its own story. The dissertation will be completed in about five months, and then Mayajiit will develop a variety of publications from this work to benefit Proutists in the field, as well as providing curriculum for Neohumanist Education. There will be middle school curriculum produced from this project addressing how Mayan youth can become involved in their own community to write a grant to develop a seed bank to stimulate the development of fruit producing cooperatives for export income. Now, hard working and well-educated Mayans are forced to work in their agricultural fields just to survive. They desperately need agricultural alternatives to raise their standard of living. Dadas Mokshesvarananda ji and Lokamitrarana ji have worked with the Mayan shaman who lives in the village, doing emergency relief work in the region after the tragic mudslides buried many people and villages. Dada Lokamitrana is working in a nearby Mayan city to develop a medical and social services clinic. Mayajiit is going to produce a number of Prout caps to sell at the Summer Retreat. So far, Proutists like the slogan: Social Transformation and Economic Democracy. Please send him other ideas for slogans to embroider into the caps as soon as possible to Mayajiit at: oppenm@earthlink.net

Prout News from Mexico;

1.- Last month (April ’06) representatives from EZLN (Ejercito Zapatista de Liberacion Nacional) visited Morelos State. We attended a meeting with Sub-Comandante Marcos who is the head of this movement of the indigenous people all around Mexico country. This meeting was in Ocotepec, Morelos State. Many NGOs participated including Proutista Universal de Mexico.

2.- About two weeks ago rightist Morelos State Government declined to start the construction of a bridge in Cuernavaca City. The construction of this bridge will affect many trees and "barrancas" that is the natural system to maintain the all year spring weather in this city. Ecologists called "Guardianes de los Arboles" to interfere this project during more than six weeks, Proutista Universal de Mexico supported this fight.

3.- Last Monday May 22nd, we had a meeting with Manuel Martinez Garrigos and Claudia Martinez Lavin, major of Cuernavaca and congresswoman candidates from Partido Revolucionario Institucional respectively. Elections will be held this summer in Morelos State respectively.

Sister Nirainjana in New York has been in touch with Toni Zeidan who is the Coordinator of the National Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. She has organized two programs for Toni Zeidan regarding the plight of Leonard Peltier who is an Indigenous Person from the Anishinabe Nation and who has been unjustly imprisoned by the United States Federal Authorities for over 30 years. Mr. Peltier has been transferred to the Federal Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Nirainjana has sent him Dada Maheshvarananda's book "After Capitalism: Prout's Vision for a New World" to him in prison via Toni Zeidan. —-PNA
**Prout activities in India...**

Eastern India has been in the forefront of Prout movements where people from the states of Bihar, Eastern U.P., Orissa, and West Bengal always responded in large numbers to seminars, movements and other programs sponsored by Proutist Universal, India. As a result there are scores of Block level “Prout Local Guides” who are seen as resident wise men/women having assumed the center stage of leadership at grassroots in their respective localities. .. The state of Bihar is now gearing up for Block level elections for its various local bodies scheduled for mid-May this year. More than 400 prout candidates are contesting for these Sarpanch, Mukhia and Zilla Parishad positions in Bihar. Occupying such offices gives them the scope of initiating the local developmental plans and supervising their executions. 50% of these candidates are considered (unopposed) elected government had brought forth the Bill in keeping with the Constitution.

**Bihar Panchayati Raj (amendment) Bill 2006 adopted**

Patna: Amid a noisy walk-out by the entire opposition, Bihar assembly today adopted by voice vote the new Bihar Panchayati Raj (amendment) Bill, 2006 after the house rejected all the 58 amendments brought forth by various opposition parties.

All the MLAs of the opposition parties, including RJD, Congress, Lok Janshakti Party, CPI, CPI-M and CPI-ML staged a walk-out from the house protesting against the government’s rejection of various amendments suggested by them. The house then adopted the bill by voice-vote.

Earlier, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told the state assembly that his government had brought forth the Bill in keeping with the Constitution.

Under the Bill, women would enjoy 50 per cent reservation in all the posts of the three-tier panchayati raj system, while the people belonging to extremely backward class would get 50 per cent reservation, mar said. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe would get reservation facility proportionate to their population which is at 16 per cent and one per cent respectively, he said.

Nitish Kumar said a commission or committee would soon be up to study the quantum reservation for the other backward classes, other than those in the annexure i.e. the OBC list designated as extremely backward classes.

A separate commission would also be constituted to review the functioning of the panchayati raj institutions, the Chief Minister added.

NewKerala.com (Courtesy) Posted on 03 Apr 2006 #PTI

"Marching ahead is life. Crushing the pebbles of hindrances and obstacles with a stroke of your feet, disdaining the frowns of tornadoes, meteors and roaring thunder, and rendering all superstitions to ashes without any second thought, march on and on. Parama Purus’a is with you. Victory is yours.” —P.R. Sarkar
The 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1993 did for women what parliamentarians are still twiddling their thumbs about — it made women's reservation mandatory within the panchayati raj framework.

Yet, a gross subversion of the constitutional mandate was played out in Bihar five years ago, when it went for panchayat elections after a 23-year gap.

A Patna high court ruling in 1996 ensured that women did not get any reservation for chairpersons' posts i.e., for mukhiya, pramukh and adhyaksha at the three tiers (panchayat, block and district respectively) of the panchayati raj.

With panchayat elections in Bihar around the corner, a dramatic turnaround has occurred. A brand new Bihar Panchayat Raj Ordinance 2006 has just been passed in the Bihar assembly.

The new Act says "as nearly as but not exceeding 50 per cent of seats" at every level, including chairpersons, must be reserved for women. But an unnerving sense of deja vu looms large.

Around 72 writ petitions have been filed before Patna high court concerning the new Act, some of them challenging the very provisions of reservation for chairpersons' posts.

It is imperative at this juncture to go beyond political manoeuvres and legal battles to revisit basic tenets underpinning gender reservation. Here are some indisputable facts in the context of Bihar and let them speak for themselves.

These emerge from a survey of 97 women chairpersons — 49 mukhiyas, 41 pramukhs and seven adhyakshas — spread across 35 districts of Bihar elected in 2001 on an unreserved basis.

The research was carried out by the writer between February and December 2005 on behalf of an NGO working for women empowerment at the grass roots.

In the 2001 elections, only 141 women — 78 mukhiyas, 54 pramukhs and nine adhyakshas — made it to chairpersons' posts. The total number of posts at each of these levels were 8,471, 529 and 37 respectively.

Thus, a shocking less than one per cent of elected mukhiyas were women. Significantly, the study revealed that for 86 per cent of the women mukhiyas interviewed, they were the only women candidates in the contest.

In no event did the number of women candidates for this post exceed two. The average number of candidates for the mukhiya election among those interviewed was 10.

Thus equal participation by women simply did not occur in a no-reservation scenario, not just in terms of proportion of women who won but women who fought elections. Who were these women who had won without reservation?

Only 2 per cent of women mukhiyas belonged to Scheduled Castes. A majority of them had completed their secondary education or above in a state where only a third of the women are literate.

A high 82 per cent of the mukhiyas had come from a home (natal or present household) where at least one member was into politics prior to her winning the election.

One third of the mukhiyas, nearly half of the adhyakshas and one-fourth of pramukhs interviewed were themselves members of political parties before coming to power.

Thus, these findings unequivocally highlight the improbability of ordinary women winning elections in the absence of reservation. Finally, the cliche of the 'proxy' or 'puppet' may have been borne out in a few cases, but the average level of awareness displayed defied this widely portrayed image.

Only 18 per cent of mukhiyas were incapable of stating development needs of their panchayats as they perceived it to be before 2001. But this dropped to 6 per cent when asked what they felt about when the survey was carried out — four-and-a-half years into their leadership.

Barring three, all mukhiyas interviewed knew exactly the amounts received by beneficiaries under the rural housing scheme Indira Awas Yojna. However, the degree of awareness varied across different schemes.

A clincher: Nearly all the women interviewed stated they supported women's reservation for chairpersons' posts, although they themselves had come to power on an unreserved basis.

Reservation to them was an antidote to unequal participation of women in society, caused by years of suppression. When the court sits for hearing, they might want to remember these realities, reflecting the voices of women in Bihar.

The writer is a Jaipur-based researcher and journalist. (Times Of India).

Recommended Link: http://www.law.uchicago.edu/news/nussba
Namaskar,
I have some news to report and some questions.

First, the questions:
One of the ideas of PROUT is to guarantee increasing purchasing power to the people. This has been questioned by the group in Boulder I am working with, for two reasons: 1. How can purchasing power keep increasing when our resources are limited, and 2. Since the U.S. already consumes way more than their share of the world’s resources, shouldn’t our purchasing be decreasing at this point?

Another question,
What is PROUT’s stand on Peak Oil and does PROUT think we’ll have other types of energy to replace oil before it runs out? Any info you could provide would be helpful.

Now the news:
On January 21 there was a Re-localization Conference held in Boulder, Colorado, at the University, attended by 500 people. I had the opportunity to speak on the food panel and presented PROUT and the Cooperative Economy. It was well received. A group of 100 people, participating on various committees, continue to meet for the purpose of creating a local self-sustaining economy in Boulder County: local energy, local food, local economy. I am on the committee to develop a parallel economic structure. We are studying the PROUT model, and other models, on this committee.

For more information on this movement go to: www.boulderrelocalization.org.

On January 28, I had the opportunity to present a slide show of my experience with PROUT’s recent training tour in Venezuela. Twenty people attended the presentation at the Boulder Co-op Market Community Center.

There was a great interest in PROUT and what is happening in Venezuela.
— Steve Phillips
stevephillips@segnet.net

Response:
1. The quick answer, which may be a little glib, is that physical resources are limited but human ingenuity is not. I can speak a little as a budding economist, as there are certain economic principles that apply to any economy, including PROUT. People in any economy will save, that is defer consumption, in order to engage in investment, that is purchasing goods such as machinery that will increase our ability to produce in the future. In this way any economy, although through different institutional structures, will gradually build up its capacity to provide material goods. Prout is simply acknowledging this normal process, and insisting that the benefits of this process be widely distributed throughout society. At the same time PROUT sees material accumulation for its own sake as a kind of mental pathology. In a healthy society people will find fulfillment in service, doing interesting things, enjoying family and community, and of course, developing spiritually. Material possessions are valued to the extent that they help us accomplish these things, not as ends in themselves. There will likely be much less conspicuous consumption and keeping up with the Joneses in Prout society, so there will naturally be less pressure on resources. PROUT does make use of the market mechanism when it serves social interests. Just like when strawberries become scarce the price will rise at the Coop. The high price encourages people to find alternatives, like other fruit that is in season. Similarly, if some resource becomes scarce its high price will encourage the invention of substitutes. However, Prout does not rely dogmatically solely on the price mechanism, but has a system of economic planning for all-around well-being, primarily at the local level but extending globally as well. Proutists will plan for sustainability and ecologically sound economic growth.

2. The priority for PROUT is to see that everyone has sufficient purchasing capacity to comfortably acquire minimum necessities. Therefore increasing consumption in very poor countries should take priority over increasing consumption in rich ones. However, it is better to help poor countries develop than for rich countries to go backward, for a number of reasons. First psychologically, people in rich countries will be more willing to help and more generous if they do not feel threatened economically. It is very rare for someone to voluntarily lower their living standard. Secondly, the higher living standard reflects a higher level of productivity that rich countries have developed. If this is compromised their capacity to help poor countries advance will be diminished. It is noteworthy that average wages in the US have been stagnant or declining for the past generation, so most of the benefits of our productivity gains and growth have gone to the richest few. There is amazingly little social discontent about this, probably because people are afraid because of growing economic insecurity. So it may be that we are willing to accept some slower income growth. What would probably be more important for people’s happiness would be real economic security. It is, however, important to understand that global poverty is
**Prout in America...**

**DALLAS:** Thousands of students, faculty, and staff members saw asanas, meditation, Kaoshiki, and Tandava at an International Day festival at Brookhaven College. Brother Naciketa, Ganesh (Glen Sovian) and Dada Shubhacatananda did a yoga demonstration. Ganesh explained the benefit of asanas and meditation. We distributed hundreds of Yoga fliers and Prout brochures to interested students.

Another similar International festival was held at North Lake College. The North Lake College Yoga Club students performed a Yoga Presentation. In March, 30 students and professors attended a vegetarian dinner by the Yoga Club. Omkarnath, Seema, Vijay, Sunita, Glen, Dada Moksheshvaranandaji and Dada Shubhacatananda joined and inspired the new people. Glen talked about the benefits of vegetarian food.

The Brookhaven College Yoga Club was recently honored. The student body president said, “Yoga Club is the only free club. Go and join the yoga classes.” The Richland Chronicle published a news article titled “Students Leaders,” which included members of the Yoga Club. Brother Naciketa went to Copenhagen, Denmark (Prout Global Office) for LFT training on May 11. His parents were happy to see the change in him and visited our Dallas office. They appreciated our work and philosophy. Naciketa helped with all our Dallas activities.

Thirty people attended Baba’s birthday celebration at the Dallas Prout office on May 13th.

We also conduct Yoga Classes on Saturdays and Sundays.

Dr. Ravi Batra is writing a new book, at the request of his publisher which will be published soon.

Bro. Gopinath is working for the development of Prout in Dallas. Ashok and Yash have taken leadership of the Dallas Unit. Dada Shubhacatananda took over for Dada Vimalananda ji in March as Acting CS PU of NY Sector. Thanks to Dada for his support and guidance as CS PU for the last five years. He said he would continue to support the Progress of Prout works in the sector.

Acting CS dada is managing Dallas and Washington DC Prout offices with the help of our Senior Proutists.

Your cooperation is needed for the growth of Proutist Universal.

Phone: 972-699-3838/214-315-0869,
E-mail: csny@prout.org or shubhany@yahoo.com

Dallas Office: 2355 Trellis Place, Richardson, TX 75081,
Washington Office:
6810 Tilden Lane, Rockville, MD

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**FOR THESE COLUMNS;**

Please gather & send us reports on PROUTIST activities from your areas including news of such developments that merit your attention and analysis. Fellow Proutists and sympathizers in America, and the world over, have a great appetite for reading PROUT.

— Peoples News Agency
**Deficiency in Democracy, Economy and PROUT — Susmit Kumar Ph.D.**

**Like communism and capitalism, the present form of democracy is a recent phenomenon. Women did not have voting rights in most countries, including the US, until the early 1900s. Until the 1800s, voting rights in many Western democracies were limited to only those men who were paying a certain amount of taxes. It is true that out of all “ocracies”, democracy is the best, but there are deficiencies in democracy. Democracy in its present form is not successful in any country, not even in the US, the richest country and in India, the world’s largest democracy.**

Bihar is the second most populous state in India. For the last 15 years, Laloo Yadav, has ruled the state of Bihar. About ten years ago, when he was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI – the Indian equivalent of the FBI), he made his illiterate wife ruler of the state. She was still ruling until last election, which threw a fractured verdict. Under Laloo’s 15-year rule, Bihar fell from the top ten to the bottom in all aspects. Among all the states in India, Bihar has the lowest per capita income, literacy, and production of electricity. In spite of this, Laloo has been winning elections for the last 15 years because he cobbled together a voting block called “MY” (Muslims and Yadavs, a caste in India). He is right now an influential Central/Federal minister since the ruling coalition would not have the majority without Laloo’s party. It is the case with almost all states in India. More than half of all elected officials are noted criminals, both at the state and central level. Almost all Indian cabinet ministers, both at the state and central levels, would go to prison if corruption and criminal charges were investigated impartially and vigorously in the same manner that the US Department of Justice and FBI investigate crimes and corruption charges against US politicians.

George Bush, Jr. is the Laloo Yadav of the US. He won the elections by cobbled together the voting blocks of “Bible George Bush, Jr. is the Laloo Yadav of the US. He won the elections by cobbled together the voting blocks of “Bible Belt” states, conservatives and big industrialists. Like the Yadavs, Bush knows nothing about the working of the US government, i.e. what is being done in his name. In the book *The Price of Loyalty*, Paul O’Neill, Bush’s first Secretary of Treasury, discusses Bush’s complete lack of inquisitiveness and pertinent experience, and how Bush took no interest in discussions during cabinet meetings. The conservative sycophants are placing Ronald Reagan as being in the “Near-to-Great” President category, whereas the truth is that had there been no Japan, which financed the US debt, Reagan economics would have collapsed. There is an inherent weakness in communism, which resulted in the collapse of the USSR. The collapse did not occur because of Reagan. According to Henry Kissinger in his bestseller, *Diplomacy*, Reagan knew next to no history, and he treated biblical references to Armageddon as operational predictions. Kissinger wrote, “When you talk to Reagan, you sometimes wonder why it occurred to anyone that he should be president, or even governor. But what historians have to explain is how so un-intellectual a man could have dominated California for eight years and Washington already for nearly seven.” To the horror of senior US administration officials, Reagan committed to destroy all ballistic missiles and abolish all nuclear weapons during the 1986 Reykjavik Summit with Gorbachev. But the Reykjavik deal failed because of Gorbachev’s linkage of the deal with the ban on SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative, also called “Star Wars”), which Reagan did not want. It is well known that Reagan used to sleep during meetings, including cabinet meetings. Once the US economy collapses because of huge debt, historians will begin to re-evaluate Reagan, since it was his administration that started the debt problem.

As discussed above, the present form of “democracy” is not successful in any developing country or in the US. The world’s largest democracy, India, has been a so-called democracy for past 50 years, but Indian politics is deteriorating year after year with no hope of recovery. Hence there is a need to modify the present definition of “democracy.” I am going to write how the term ‘democracy’ can be modified based on PROUT (Progressive Utilization Theory) given by the Indian philosopher and economist, Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar. I will also write how PROUT is an extension of fundamental human rights, as guaranteed in the Human Rights Declaration after the French Revolution and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. If implemented as a practical economic model, PROUT can be a panacea for the world after the collapse of capitalism and resulting global depression.

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**Excerpts from his new book**

“Modernization of Islam”

By Susmit Kumar, Ph.D.

**Summary**

Today the Islamic civilization is going through a similar crisis that Europe went through between World War I (WWI) and World War II (WWII). In the future Islam will cease to be the guiding force behind countries in the Middle East, North Africa and East Asia. Like the two World Wars, Islamic militancy and economic crisis will drastically
Obituary...

Purodha, Acarya Raghunatha Prasad Ji (Senior Proutist) passed away.

With a very heavy heart we convey a sad news that one of our most Senior Purodha, former President of Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha, Acarya Raghunatha Prasad Ji, passed away in the morning hours of April 13, 2006 (07:30 am IST), at Sanjay Gandhi PGI, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, India) where he was undergoing treatment for heart ailment.

He had been indisposed for quite some time but was feeling much better, rather in good health lately, and had expressed his desire to visit Ranchi and Ananda Nagar. But a couple of days ago he had a sudden relapse and left this mortal world forever.

He stood out as a single ideologue of Prout to have been instrumental in spreading the message throughout the Indian sub-continent. He resigned his job as a Professor of History to dedicate his time to the cause of Prout since its very inception. Exceptionally well versed in spiritual and social philosophies of AM, and an eloquent speaker, he was an activist contemporary of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Ex – Prime Minister of India, before turning to AM. He played a lead role in developing applied Prout movements in India amidst all odds, often overlooking his family responsibilities. He became a source of inspiration for many renunciate monks and nuns for spreading the Universal Ideology of Dharma on planet Earth.

We pray to Parama Purusa, who he has been devoted and dedicated to all his life, to accept his soul’s final merger at this end of his earthly sojourn.

— PNA