

The silence of the intellectual lambs harms the struggle

BENNIE BUNSEE

OUR country is slowly entering a crisis of great proportions. Some would say we have already entered it. The failures of the ANC are only too apparent. Our "freedom" and "democracy" were given to us by the colonialists through a negotiated settlement that some call a negotiated sell out.

We dismally failed to seize power from our oppressors through an armed struggle based on revolutionary principles of change, when we had every opportunity to do so, and when the entire country was up in arms and the whole international community was behind us.

Can it honestly be said that black people (Africans, so-called coloureds and Indians) have gained much? On the contrary, whites have consolidated their colonial hold over the country in the name of democracy and human rights.

Here in the Cape, we have a province and city which is the most racist in the country. Whites have cornered the best of everything while black people are huddled in the dry, decrepit areas and slums of Gugulethu, Langa, Bonteheuwel, Mitchells Plain, Rylands and Crawford, after being ejected from better areas through the Group Areas Act.

In the meantime, whites flood into Cape Town, absolutely love the place, and walk into well-paying jobs. Our innumerable restaurants and clubs, and other places of enjoyment are hardly patronised by Africans. They are to be found in the kitchens hidden away, doing the menial work. You will find a sprinkling of Africans at the Waterfront, Century City and wine farms. They are invisible. You see them on the main streets with defeated looks on their faces. This in their own country while foreign whites cavort around. The huge developments in the city are by whites for whites, mostly I despair at changing all this.

What has happened to all those coloured freedom fighters from the United Democratic Front who sacrificed and went to prison, those that belonged to the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) and Azapo? These people are the cream of our struggle heroes. They are silent.

There is an abdication of black intellectuals generally in the country, and specifically in the Cape. They should be at the forefront, defining the parameters of real changes, giving leadership to the masses and inspiring hope in a dispirited situation.

We have a situation where a large segment of the coloured people vote for the Democratic Alliance on an anti-African basis. We are silent

about this, but the truth is that a significant number of non-African blacks are racist towards Africans. Our coloured and Indian leaders dare not address this problem. The DA cleverly capitalises on this as it did in the last election.

The Non-European Unity Movement was the precursor of the BCM. It tried to bring Africans, coloureds and Indians into one movement. Its warnings about white liberals remain true today. And it produced some of the finest radical analysis of our political situation. It got stuck in the debate about Stalinism and Trotsky from which it has not moved, as if this has any real relevance today.

Its analysis of capitalism is sterile and not rooted in the practicalities of the anti-capitalist struggle. It embraces a socialist theory that is Eurocentric; leave aside the silly adulation of Trotsky. That one person, Trotsky, could have the eternal answers to our problems boggles the mind. Even Mao Zedong committed mistakes, great revolutionary that he was, that cost millions of lives in the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution.

Even the great statesman, Jawaharlal Nehru, made mistakes that are costing India a great deal today. Our coloured intellectuals are not living in Africa, but Europe. With true Eurocentric minds, they are colour blind. They love nothing more than an argument on hair-splitting theories. That is their forte.

I am only too aware of the ideological mess in which the ANC finds itself, of the necessity to struggle from a sound ideological platform confirmed through revolutionary practice. But at least the ANC has its feet on the ground. It can change. At Polokwane, the rank and file wanted change. They threw out those who have failed to bring real changes.

Can the ANC be changed into something radical? Or do we have to create a new movement? But how easy is it to do this under the present fragmentation, and when our black intelligentsia - academics, lawyers, teachers, judges, journalists - have all entered the colonial institutions with their institutionalised racism? They dare not change these institutions. They are quite comfortable in them. Our universities are still Eurocentric. Our black journalists write like white journalists.

Theory without practice is useless. The abdication of black intellectuals has driven all of us into the colonial camp. They should be out there, challenging and daring to bring real changes. There is no ideal time to enter the struggle. The struggle is now. We have a long struggle ahead.

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OPEN LETTER TO BENNIE BUNSEE OF THE CAPE TIMES, SOUTH AFRICA by E. Thomson

Eurocentric Greetings! A correspondent sent me your article published on 7 FEB 08, which I read with interest, as a former colonial civil servant in Rhodesia. I gathered from your article that you want to stamp out all Eurocentrism in thought, word, deed and fact. As a fellow racist, I'd guess that you, too, believe that culture is rooted in biology, so Whites are conscious and/or unconscious proponents of Eurocentrism, as you wish Blacks and other non-Whites to be proponents of their racial cultures. If it is your intention to eradicate Eurocentrism, root and branch, we need to consider how deep the Eurocentric roots go into Black Africa, and how broadly spread are its branches.

As you say, Marxism and its Bolshevik successors are Eurocentric, since that is where such ideologies originated. Marx did not plan for his "workers' paradise" to originate in agrarian Russia, but in industrial Europe. The Law of the Contrary dictated, however, that Marxist ideology was to gain its mass-support in the agrarian societies of Russia and China. Jew Marxists, in league with Eurocentric Blacks, founded the ANC, as you know, which was backed by the usual Jew capitalists such as Harry Oppenheimer et al. Marxism has long served as a universalist cloak to conceal Jewish tribalism, as the Russian Gentiles discovered, to their sorrow.

White colonialism was but a tool for the power and profits of Zionist (Jew supremacist) banksterism, and world plutocracy. This is why I am a White Nationalist, not a White supremacist, for each race should govern itself, in its own living space. Racial diversity within a territory is simply a cloak for Zionist divide-and-rule policies. Harry Oppenheimer stated his desire to have a Eurocentric industrial society ruled by a White elite over masses of 'cheap' Black labor. When he realized his dream of Black rule, he fled to Britain, as Jews usually do, when they achieve their touted 'paradises'. Even Stalin's daughter fled to the USA! But if you are neither White nor Jewish, only the outcome of Eurocentrism need concern you.

You include as "Black people" Coloureds (mixed race) and Indians. The Coloureds and Indians are the legacy of White colonial rule. How can they be Afrocentric?

If you are not living in a mud hut in Cape Town, you are living in a building designed by Europeans. You are likely using such European items as electricity, wheeled vehicles, woven textiles, paved streets, and aircraft. You eat European food surpluses and you drink water from a tap, rather than a stream. How can you divest yourself of Eurocentrism by such Eurocentric consumerism? These items can only be produced and maintained by people who have Eurocentric educations. You, yourself, use English and the medium of the newspaper to communicate your thoughts, by which you denounce Eurocentrism. This reminds me of signs in Ireland, printed in English, urging people to "speak Gaelic!"

Let's suppose you achieve your non-Eurocentric 'paradise.' First, you get rid of all the remaining Whites, then the non-Africans whom the Whites brought in or miscegenated, including yourself. Then you must eradicate all Eurocentric artifacts, including the agricultural production and infrastructure of production, transportation, housing, distribution, schools and other social services, including government beyond the clan and tribal stages. Assuming you solve those problems, you'd have another evil legacy of White colonialism: The surplus population, which was only maintained by the abovementioned Eurocentric infrastructure, including colonial rule.

Under Black tribal governments, the territory now called Zimbabwe could support some 300,000 Blacks in 1890, when the first White settlers arrived. Thanks to the evil White colonialists, there were over 7 million Blacks living in that territory by the time of handover to Black Rule in 1980. Marxist president Mugabe seems intent upon reducing the Black population to that of 1890 or less. Of course, a liberal could say that is not Mr. Mugabe's intention. If the outcomes of his policies are unintentional, to rid Zimbabwe of most Blacks, could we say that Mugabe was crazy? Or does he know that Black population must be reduced in accordance with Black values, i.e. Afrocentrism?

I agree that South Africa faces grave problems, but I doubt the efficacy of your proposed solutions. But do not be discouraged, for all problems solve themselves in time. If the Eurocentric infrastructure is allowed to deteriorate, the non-White population will shrink to its numbers before the Dutch arrived in Capetown. Then, South Africa will be ripe for settlement and development by the Eurocentric Chinese, and the remaining Blacks will go the way of the dodo bird, from whom we receive no complaints.

Over to you, Mr. Bunsee.