

EXTREMISM

ONE

By: Joe Okera Valentine

"The question is not whether we will be extremists, but WHAT KIND of extremists we will be. Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice, or will we be extremists for the CAUSE OF JUSTICE?"

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On February 18, 2015, the Obama Administration participated in what was described as "A Conference on Violent Extremism" with one of the aims being to develop strategies geared towards creating improved socio-economic conditions, since these negative realities are said to be at the root of motivating disenfranchised – as if somehow it is merely these elements who are profoundly disaffected by a hopeless future – people becoming "radicalized," "lone-wolves," and joining extremist groups like Al Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram, Al Shabazz, etc.

Now, before I delve into the blatant hypocrisy at this agenda and program, the important question for us to pose is: "IS THE UNITED STATES' COLOR-CARNAGE MILITARY MACHINE VIOLENTLY EXTREME?" Was the decimation of MILLIONS of Vietnamese, Koreans, Cambodians, etc., by the United States' carpet-bombings violently extreme, even as but for their imperial ambitions and the compulsory dynamics of their profit-driven system in expansive competition, this country had absolutely no damn business imposing itself in the affairs of these nations in the first place? Better yet, is the United States capitalist (i.e., High-Finance) white supremacist patriarchal EMPIRE rooted in and maintained by VIOLENT EXTREMISM?

Was the Great Depression, Jim Crow, COINTELPRO, the dropping of an explosive device on the MOVE organization – OUR CHILDREN – and the 2008-2009 Economic Recessions violently extreme? What about the New Jim Crow and those exposed to Mustard Gas without their consent during World Wars I & II? What about Obama's droning-to-death (i.e. DECAPITATIONS AND DISMEMBERMENTS) in Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, etc., while he and his daughters are off somewhere in colonized Hawaiian land celebrating Father's Day in safety? The blatant mendacity and moral hypocrisy of the White House, Pentagon, politicians, of all stripes, Attorney Generals, Judges, CIA, FBI, Congress, et al, is quite sickening for those who truly grasp the deceptive nature of this Empire's rulers.

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- ✧ NSA spying on U.S. and global citizens;
 - ✧ A devastating economic embargo imposed on Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Iraq, etc.
 - ✧ The dropping of two Atomic Bombs on Japan;
 - ✧ Backing Nazi-fascists in Ukraine in 2015;
 - ✧ U.S. colonialism/neo-colonialism imposed on Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Panama, Haiti, etc.
 - ✧ Supporting tyrannical regimes rooted in profound disdain and oppression of females such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, etc.
 - ✧ Ecological destruction by virtue of Capitalistic practices;
 - ✧ Endemic racism, sexism, police brutality/murders, unemployment, infant-mortality, etc.
 - ✧ Inordinately high mass incarceration of obsolete human labor – (i.e.) especially those people of color;
 - ✧ The 1%-er's monopoly of economic resources, media, governments, sciences, technologies, etc.
 - ✧ Cutting off people's water, heat, electricity, leaving people homeless due to banks' foreclosures etc.
 - ✧ Economic austerity by the IMF/World Bank;
 - ✧ Weapons for space warfare.

In fact, extremism as a general philosophy and method of attack is a cornerstone of Amerika's founding and projection of its power abroad. Neoliberalism and so-called "creative-destruction" are but euphemisms for extremist policies and programs from the ghetto-hells of this country, to Greece, Italy, Spain, Puerto Rico, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Eastern & Northern Europe, etc.

Naturally, just as in the case of the term "terrorism," the word "radical" or "radicalism" – (i.e.), extremism or extremist – is selectively and conveniently applied and extended in order to emphasize and designate those groups/individuals whom a government and its ruling class, immersed in extreme and violently stolen wealth, are in political opposition to; since as the facts certainly bare out for imperialist nations, a group/individual(s) which are defined and labeled as "terrorist" in one context as for example ISIS, Bin Laden,

et al., in another, are defined and labeled as "freedom fighters" or a "freedom fighter."

We observed this in the case of Reagan & Company defining and labeling the "Mujahadin" and "Contras" as so-called "freedom fighters"; even as each of these groups were in actual practice terrorist-motivated drug-pushers to their damn core, and indeed were encouraged by their CIA-Handlers to deploy terrorism and drugs as weapons of destruction and fear.

It was the white supremacist (extremist) Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, who had the gall to define Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers, and others as "extremists" or "radicals", even as his extremist organization went on to do the same with regard to Huey P. Newton, Fred Hampton, Sr., Kathleen Cleaver, Angela Davis, Assata Shakur and the Black Panther Party, (i.e.), those individuals and groups seeking justice were designated and labeled as supposed "Black Militant Hate Groups." Swimming in his own deception Hoover, all the white male power structure, then and now, refuse(d) to acknowledge the reality that it is his reactionary ilk whom are truly the "extremists" by maintaining violently extreme socio-economic and political conditions -- until this time.

When those who are the perpetual and intended targets of their extremist motivations expressed via policies and imperialist dynamics rooted in white supremacist programs dare to resist at any means necessary, then it is them who are invariably designated and labeled by pejorative terms just as were Nelson Mandela and the ANC, Nat Turner, Harriet Tubman, Denmark Vesey, Marcus Garvey/UNIA, the Mau Mau, the BLA, etc. etc.

"...The interaction between human beings and the environment is an enduring struggle to live within the finite world, under emerging conditions. There are social interactions that threaten to push the polyhedron of global environment towards states of RADICAL change that THREATEN THE WORLD WE KNOW WITH GLOBAL MASS EXTINCTION."

*-- John Bellamy Foster, Brett Clark,
and Richard York.
(The Ecological Rift, pg. 27)*

Just witness the recent tactical change of policy with regard to the lifting of the arbitrarily imposed "State-sponsors of Terrorism" designation applied to the genuinely progressive regime of Cuba, which was the actual target of the

United States' terrorist practices for over half a century with the murderous collaborative aid of terrorism in Miami, Florida.

"...what this police honcho intends. He and the super-rich Wall Street class he serves want to TERRORIZE potential protestors with threats of EXTREME VIOLENCE. Yes, the rich and their cops are the TERRORISTS. People protests against what? Police killings of unarmed youth? Starvation Wages? Pollution of the planet? Bratton didn't say. The police mindset reflects the despotic tendencies of those paid to defend an increasingly unpopular capitalist society that is wracked with unsolvable contradictions. New York City has the greatest income gap in the country. Luxury condos, limos, even private helicopters are at the disposal of the super-rich, while hunger and homelessness spread like cancer ~~working~~ through the working class -- especially its oppressed sectors, the Black and Brown internal colonies of imperialism."

(Workers World, 2015)

Now, isn't austerity measures imposed by the IMF/World Bank, the unequal exchange with regard to the World Trade Organization/NAFTA, NATO's forced penetration into Eastern Europe, Asia, Afrika, etc., an expression of extremism? Isn't the Western World's engineering of the global economy towards its super-exploitive dominance via neoliberal policies, extreme violence in terms of the deeply destructive impact inflicted on the poor and working-classes of especially the so-called "Third World"?

"...When all of us begin to reject the narrative of violent extremists."

-- President Obama

Yeah, right! These are the words of a shrewd pimp who perpetuates and lends total credence to the ruler's imperialist narratives on a regular basis while employing extreme violence via the form of DRONE BOMBINGS in Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, etc. Shall Obama & Company "confront extremism" as practiced by white supremacy and imperialism? Don't hold yo' breath! Will the various imperialist powers (e.g., France, Japan, Germany,

United States, etc.) participate in a "Summit" to discuss their practices as THE prime THREATS to humanity, even as they have been at it this very month of December, 2015, -- "carpet-bombing" innocent people in Syria and supporting their "partners in crime" like that of, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, etc.?

Hasn't the purposeful introduction of conditions of chaos via failed states (i.e., "creative destruction") operated to induce violent extremism in Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria, Mali, Syria, Libya, etc., as was certainly quite predictable with regard to the United States'/NATO's war strategy? Yes, these "fallouts" or "blowbacks" were and are deemed to be advantageous since the induced chaos provides for "fresh opportunities" to exploit and invasive foundations to be laid, even as their attitudes are that "violent extremism," which shall surely emerge as many are radicalized by injustice and oppression, is a "manageable problem" since afterall the rulers won't be directly impacted in any significant way.

"...The more accumulation or economic growth seems to be the source of the problem, the more they declare that technology by itself can work magic, providing a perpetual free lunch in which economic expansion occurs without cost to the environment – allowing for open-ended economic growth together with environmental sustainability. Nature thus becomes the proverbial 'free gift' of classical and neoclassical economics. Yet such is the depth of the environmental predicament today that some representatives of mainstream environmentalism seem to be breaking away – arriving at the more realistic and RADICAL conclusion that the ROOT of the problem is CAPITALISM itself."

Ibid. p. 157

In Afrikan ideologies and doctrines (e.g., New Afrikanism, Pan-Afrikanism, Africalogy, Ausarianism, et al) the term "radical," simply and quite correctly denotes and involves the deeply rooted SOURCE OF BEING; and is thus conceptually associated with the created life process itself, (i.e., **Ra = the Supreme Being of the universe**). On a social level, the term (ra)dical actually concerns and relates to transforming conditions – political, economical, cultural, psychological, ^{on a} **FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL**, as in UPROOTING slavery, exploitation, patriarchy, white supremacy, etc.

No, the term "radical" is hardly limited to an "extremist" or "extreme" out-

look in the form of religious practices. To my mind, the correct and appropriate terms that are to be applied to groups such as ISIS, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, etc., are “zealot” and “fanatical” as these groups are ultimately religious motivated. Of course, the rulers will exploit what political capital and propaganda value that they are able to gather from the violence of religious zealots as a tactic to direct and shape the “narrative” in a manner which serves their geo-political and strategic imperatives.

In truth, to a large degree it’s actually the extreme and indeed terroristic politics and practices of France, Britain, Japan, Sweden, Israel, Amerika, Russia, Germany, etc., which induces “radicalization” – (i.e., the attacks aimed at citizens or “soft-targets” are provoked by the TERRORISM of the EXTREMIST ruling classes screaming “terrorists” and “radical extremists.”

Yep, it’s one big ass devious game of “gettin’ one-up-on...YOU!” as far as the rulers are concerned since they can sure count on the majority of their profoundly conditioned populations to react irrationally – just as Trump is now Amerika, as he runs for the throne of the Amerikan Empire – as they’re driven by fear and revenge against those whom are the victims of many years of brutal imperialists’ operations in which these spoiled “soft-targets” conveniently ignore as a result or their complicity with global gangsters of super-exploitation.

As our principled hero Muhammad Ali once aptly stated when questioned by the ultra-reactionary William F. Buckley, regarding Ali’s remarks that the white man is the “Devil,” the same reasoning applies with regard to referring to those whom rule the world, by the term “terrorists:”

“Elijah Muhammad didn’t teach Blacks to hate white people. You, whites, taught Blacks to hate white people by your Devilish ways.”

I assume by this time that you’ve probably figured out that “I’M RADICAL” to my New Afrikan core. It was my political and spiritual evolution as well as the extreme and indeed violent conditions which my folks suffer (e.g., ghetto-hells, police brutality and the outright murder of innocent Blacks, deep poverty, racism, the New Jim Crow permanent unemployment, emotional and psychological torture – **as in the case of Security Housing Units which primarily people of color are subjected to** – etc., etc., that “radicalized” this quite sane mind and caring heart. So, to be “radical” or “radicalized” is not some aberrant state of mind or descent into madness as our ENEMIES would have the world believe in their “benevolence and moderation.”

Extreme: 2. very great in degree 4. one of two things that are that are as different from each other as possible.

Capitalism, and communalism? White supremacy and democracy? Colonialism and national liberation? free citizens and mass incarceration? Harmony and control -- think of Nature? Yeah, the truth of the matter is that from the very inception of Amerika, her "core values" have been and remain rooted in expressions of oppression, domination, brutal deception, genocidal exploitation, etc., even as Obama would have us think otherwise.

Radical: 1. complete or extreme: a radical change in policy. 3. basic: fundamental.

If folks like myself are deemed to be "extremists" or "extreme" (i.e., radical) for the right positions which we take in terms of intense resistance to white supremacy, patriarchy, militarism, genocide, super-exploitation, (neo)colonialism, etc., then we embrace this designation and label with tremendous pride.

"...Thus a RADICAL CHANGE in the operations of human society and its interactions with nature is necessary to stop the ecological crisis that is taking place."

Ibid. p. 272

"...the mass extinction taking place today is clearly being driven by Homo sapiens via an economic system that operates at the global level. The constant expansion of the capitalist system has pushed environmental degradation to the planetary level, as habitat destruction decimates the living conditions of species and as ecosystems are RADICALLY transformed. Human civilization, UNDER CAPITALISM, is engaged in a process of DESTROYING THE FUTURE..."

Ibid. p. 271