

THE DEWEESE REPORT

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Poverty, the Compassion Cartel and Environmental Racism

By Tom DeWeese

In 2006, I was surprised to find myself sitting at a formal meal in the middle of a 200 year old debating society at Cambridge University in England. In a few minutes I, and five others were about to engage in a debate over the usefulness of the United Nations. But here, for a few minutes longer, at the long dinner table with the crisp, white table cloth, I was sitting next to one of my fellow debaters, Salis Shetty, the head of the UN's Millennium Project.

I had ignored him through most of the dinner, but with just a few minutes left before the debate I finally turned to him and said, "You realize you don't have a prayer, don't you?" He looked at me and asked, "About what?" I replied, "Ending poverty by 2015 through the use of redistribution of wealth." (That was one of the eight listed goals of the UN's Millennium Project, accepted by world leaders in 2000.) He said, "Yes, I know."

I began to talk with him about the need to help the poor to escape from poverty on their own rather than being condemned to life long bread lines. I talked about the need to establish private property rights as a means to build wealth. I mentioned that there was estimated to be almost \$10 Trillion in dead capital – property in the world that no one is allowed to own or invest in. That's enough to help a lot of poor people break out. Mr. Shetty looked at me as I made these observations and said, "Hernando deSoto." I excitedly said, "yes!." That's exactly who I was quoting. deSoto is an economist from Peru who has made it his life's work to help end poverty in the world by promoting private property ownership. To my amazement Mr. Shetty looked at me and said, "I have associates who are looking on this (deSoto's ideas) favorably." Just as he said those words, the call came for us to head to the

debating hall for our event. Of course we were on opposite sides.

As soon as the debate was over (I was outnumbered five to one, as usual) I made a beeline to Mr. Shetty and said, "you and I started a conversation and I want to finish it." A few weeks later I traveled to New York City to meet with him in his UN office. He told me during that meeting that in his city in India the local government was beginning to go over property records and officially register ownership, something that had never been done before. And the result was the economy of the community was starting to improve.

That is exactly the point that Hernando deSoto is making as he travels the world meeting with national leaders. The core reason for poverty is bad government. In most of the world, people may "own" their homes, perhaps through an underground economy, but they have no official records through the government to prove it. Without that official proof or registration, they have no means to use the property for equity loans and so it is essentially dead capital as deSoto has labeled it.

In his book, "*The Mystery of Capital, Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*," deSoto explains the major difference between the American system and most other nations of the world. Here, every single piece of privately held property, homes, even large equipment is registered. In fact, the County Registrar's office is the most important tool of freedom as it is where every American can prove their ownership of their property. Because of that system, average Americans can use their property as a tool to obtain loans. At least 60% of American companies have been started thorough equity loans on private property.

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And those privately held companies now employ about 60% of the American workforce. That is how private property ownership made the United States the richest nation in the world, almost overnight. And lack of such a system is the reason most of the rest of the world is failing under extreme poverty. The people have no way out of poverty and are forced to rely on government handouts.

deSoto's book was called "The blueprint for a new industrial revolution," by the *Times of London*. Today deSoto travels the world, meeting with world leaders who seek his guidance on how they can end poverty in their nations. Yet, when he tells them the secret, many balk, telling him with a troubled smile, that the people in their nations "just aren't ready for such a policy – they don't understand the concept of private property ownership." So the promise of a great new industrial revolution that could spread wealth to every corner of the world never gets off the ground.

A few years ago I had the great privilege of a private meeting with Hernando deSoto. He told me a story of one such meeting he had with a national leader. He's been in enough meetings with such leaders that he can now almost anticipate what they are going to say. In this particular meeting, he said he knew the leader was going to tell him his people just weren't ready for private property ownership. So, before the meeting, deSoto sent a team into the neighborhood around the presidential palace and knocked on doors to ask the people if they owned their homes. Every single one of them said yes, they owned their home. So deSoto's team members asked each to produce any kind of evidence they might have to show that ownership. They did. It might have been a bill of sale, a receipt or even a copy of a will. In any case, they had something to prove their ownership.

deSoto took copies of these items with him to the meeting, and before the

discussion began about how the people of this country don't understand private property ownership, Hernando deSoto spread his evidence on the table and said to the leader, "your people understand property ownership, now let's discuss how they can build capital from it."

There are three main reasons the world has not experienced deSoto's new industrial revolution. First is bad government led by dictators who refuse to give up their power over the people by supplying them the means for ending poverty. Poverty is very helpful to dictators because poor people are powerless to rise up against them. Poverty is also convenient to rouse the rabble against political opponents and spread fear.

Those who are barely hanging on from meal to meal are easy to scare with threats from any proposal that dares to differ from the redistribution schemes, even if, in the long run that would be the best thing for them to find a way out of poverty.

The second reason the world is sinking into ever greater poverty is the Environmental movement- the new style dictatorship that actually prefers people to remain poor, living in mud huts with no infrastructure, running water or electricity. That, they claim, is sustainable.

Believe it or not, there is a worldwide Sustainable Development policy to prohibit funding of development projects in Third World countries if the projects don't fit the environmental agenda. It's called the Equator Principles. According to their own documents, the Equator Principles were established in association with the World Bank's International Finance Corporation in 2003. They have been adopted by at least 73 financial institutions around the world, covering over 70% of international projects such as dams, mines, and pipelines. Three American financial institutions are

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The Compassion Cartel - In their own words...

Those who want to control society are very open about how they intend to do it. Take private land and personal wealth for their own agenda and destroy human populations. And they will tell you these ideas are all in the name of their love and compassion. They are monsters most assuredly cheering on the current Ebola scare as a means to accomplish their ends. Here is their promised Utopia in their own words.

TAD

Private Property

“I think (all private property) should be in the public domain. We should get it all, Be unreasonable. You can do it. Yesterday’s heresy is today’s common wisdom. So I would say, let’s take it back, let’s take it all back.”

Brock Evans, Vice President, National Audubon Society (Growth management Forum, Tufts University, November, 1990)

“We reject the idea of Private Property”

Peter Berle, Former President, National Audubon Society

Redistribution of Wealth

“We are going to try to take all the money that we thing is unnecessarily being spent and take it form the “haves” and give it to the ‘have nots’ that need it so much.”

President Lyndon Johnson, White House speech, January 15, 1964

Restructuring Society

“Children and women can be our Trojan Horse for attacking the citadel of poverty, for undergirding

democracy, dramatically slowing population growth and for accelerating economic development.”

James P. Grant, Past Executive Director, UNICEF, Speech on International Development, 1993

Man Versus the Environment

“Loggers losing their jobs because of Spotted Owl legislation is, in my eyes, no different that people being out of work after the furnaces of Dachau shut down.”

David Brower, Director, the Sierra Club, Founder, Friends of the Earth

“The collective needs of non-human species must take precedence over the needs and desires of humans.”

Dr. Reed Noss, Director of the Wildlands Project and later in the Department of Interior

“If you haven’t given voluntary human extinction much thought before, the idea of a world with no people in it may seem strange. But if you give it a chance, I think you might agree that the extinction of Homo-sapiens would mean the survival for millions, if not billions, of earth-dwelling species. Phasing out the human race will solve every problem on earth, social and environmental.”

Published in Earth First’s newsletter Wild Earth.

“If I were reincarnated, I would wish to be returned to Earth as a killer virus to lower human population levels.”

Prince Phillip, this quote appeared in the Deutsche Press Agentur, 1988

“Our society is turning toward more and more needless consumption. It is a vicious circle that I compare to cancer...Should we eliminate suffering, disease? The idea is beautiful, but perhaps not a benefit for the long term. We should not allow our dread of diseases to endanger the future of our species... In order to stabilize world population, we need to eliminate 350,000 people per day. It is a horrible thing to say, but it’s just as bad not to say it.”

Jacques Cousteau, Underwater Explorer from an interview published in the UNESCO Courier, November, 1991

Follow the Money: Not Big Oil – But Big Green!

The Massive War Chests of the Environmental Movement

The constant attack leveled by the environmental movement against anyone who stands up to them is that the opposition is funded by “big oil.” Indeed, in a 2012 article by Lloyd Alter on treehugger.com, entitled “Exposing the Influence Behind the Anti-Agenda 21 Anti-Sustainability Agenda,” Alter told his readers...”and that is how we have to paint them: not concerned citizens worried about the United Nations, but representatives of big oil out to preserve their turf.”

Well, let’s get the real numbers. Ron Arnold, one of the most effective and accurate researchers in the nation, has spent a major part of his career zeroing in on the massive war chests of “Big Green.” In his recent article in the Washington Examiner, titled “Big Green’s Untold Billions,” Ron reports “Behemoth Big Green outstrips Big Oil in expendable revenue by orders of magnitude...”

For example, Ron reports that “the American Petroleum Institute’s IRS Form 990 for the most recent year showed \$237.0 million in assets while the Natural Resources Defense Council reported \$241.8 million.” That’s just one environmental group opposing the oil industry’s largest lobbying arm.

And who started the campaign to stop the Keystone Pipeline? Ron reports, according to the records, the Rockefeller Brothers \$789 million Fund. In a 2008 PowerPoint presentation called “The Tar Sands Campaign,” by program officer Michael Northrop, who set up coordination and funding for a dozen environmental and anti-corporate attack group to use the strategy, “raise the negatives, raise the costs, slow down and stop infrastructure, and stop pipelines.”

In his article, Ron Arnold exposes the massive structure of the Big Green movement. It is a vast area of individual component parts that comprise membership groups, nonprofit law firms, nonprofit real estate trusts (The Nature Conservancy alone holds \$6 billion in assets), wealthy foundations giving prescriptive grants, and agenda-making cartels such as the 200- plus member Environmental Grantmakers Association. Says Ron, “They each play a major socio-political role.”

Together “the environmental movement is a mature, highly developed network with top leadership stewarding a vast institutional memory, a fiercely loyal cadres of competent social and political operatives, and millions of high-demographic members ready to be mobilizes as needed,” reports Ron Arnold.

According to Paul Driessen, senior policy analyst for CFACT, as interviewed by Ron Arnold, “US environmental activist groups are a \$13 billion a year industry – and they’re all about PR and mobilizing the troops.”

Driessen goes on to say, “Their climate change campaign alone has well over a billion dollars annually, and high profile battles against drilling, fracking, oil sands and Keystone get a big chunk of that, as demonstrated by the Rockefeller assault.”

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associates of the Equator Principles, including Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and Citigroup.

In short, such policy actually leads to what can only be called Environmental Racism. A few white, rich people who live in luxury in their first world nations have made a determination that some who now live in mud huts with no indoor power and no clean, running water, must stay that way because they have determined it is more ‘sustainable’ for the planet.

Stopping development for the poor has become a major drive by Sustainablists. At the Earth Summit in 1992, Chairman Maurice Strong famously said “Isn’t the only hope for the planet that the industrial nations collapse? Isn’t it our responsibility to bring that about?” Zero economic growth will certainly do the trick. And the result will be more poor people – all in the name of saving the environment.

But fear not, these same power mongers who intend to impose the future that we don’t want aren’t satisfied to condemn just those already living in poverty. Apparently they are so fond of it as a life style that they are equally happy to condemn the rest of us to such a future – for the planet, of course. Author Ted Trainer has written a book entitled “Transition to a Sustainable And Just World,” which is really nothing more than a blueprint for establishing Marxist principles into your local community. In the book Trainer writes, *“The alternative has to be the simpler way, a society based on non-affluent lifestyles within mostly small and highly self-sufficient local economies under the local participatory control and not driven by market forces or the profit motive, and with no economic growth. There must be an enormous cultural change away from competitive individualistic acquisitiveness.”* The call for zero economic growth was also heard at the UN’s Rio+20 Summit in 2012. Trainer’s motto for us all is that “you must live on less!”

Such ideas of destroying human civilization are, in fact, rampant throughout the Green movement. Paul Ehrlich, professor of Population Studies at Stanford University demanded that *“a massive campaign must be launched to de-develop the United States. De-*

development means bringing our economic system into line with the realities of ecology and the world resource situation.” Apparently, the advocates of such a desire to make us all poor have missed a very important fact. Only in wealthy nations do people have enough money and time to worry about protecting the environment. The poor worry only about one thing – survival. It is also in the poorest areas where population numbers explode. In rich, secure nations populations are actually going down. So it would seem logical that if one wants to protect the environment and reduce populations that Capitalism would be the economic system of choice. But of course, none of this is really about helping the poor or the ecology. It’s about power.

The third reason for depressed economies and a growing number of poor is what I call the “Compassion Cartel.” Government, private charities and foundations have made the poor big business. It’s the excuses for nearly every government spending program. Help the poor! Tax the rich! How dare they get wealthy while others suffer? And the preferred way to eliminate poverty is redistribution of wealth. It’s easy to convince someone to donate to a cause when emotions and guilt are employed. Reason and rational thought take a backseat.

Back to my debate in Cambridge I was confronted by one of the students, who asked with puzzlement – “sir, you really don’t believe in redistribution of wealth?” I answered, “no, it’s theft.” And she said, “But if you have more than you need, shouldn’t you share it with someone who needs it?” I said, “No, it’s theft.” She looked like I had slapped her. Here she was, one of the bright young students at one of the great schools in the world, and she had never heard an argument against redistribution of wealth or for a free market. So I gave it to her and the other students gathered around.

I explained that if I take money from each of them today so that one more unfortunate can eat, then tomorrow they will need another meal. And again the next day. And the next. You have gained nothing in the battle to help them, other than to delay their agony another day. At best you have offered a band aid. At worse, such policy doesn’t prevent poverty. Something else is doing that and you haven’t addressed it. So, tomorrow there will be more poor, and more the next.

And each time you will be forced to provide more and more aid from your now dwindling funds, until one day you too may find yourself forced to be in the receiving line. When I finished my explanation there was a moment of silence and then she said, “What an interesting point of view. How can I learn more?” I wanted to scream “Economics 101!”

To point such things out is called heartless and probably racist. What kind of evil person calls helping the poor theft? Well, take a good look at the world we live in. According to Mr. Shetty’s Millennium Project, there are currently 1.2 billion people living in poverty. 50,000 deaths a day occur worldwide as a result of poverty. Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases. More than half the world’s population lives on less than \$2 per day and 800 million people go to bed hungry every night.

To combat all of this we have the Compassion Cartel. We have thousands of charitable organizations and faith-based programs designed to feed the children, along with education programs designed to create awareness of poverty and starvation. Their ads run on television nightly pulling at our heartstrings to “do something.” Most of these charities have built up huge organizations with highly paid administrators working out of impressive buildings with large staffs. As I said, poverty is big business.

Every politician preaches the gospel of helping the poor and as a result, more than half of every American’s pay check disappears into government coffers even before it hits our own pockets. Billions of dollars of aid pour into federal and international programs to distribute to countries around the world to help feed the poor. Poverty reductions have been set. Goals have been announced, Deadlines for ending poverty have been determined and every national and international leader has signed documents to pledge that poverty must be eradicated.

And the result of this worldwide focus on poverty? Well, we have more poor! It’s a growth industry. Why? Because not one of these programs offer a single plan to allow the poor to help themselves. Instead, the Compassion Cartel has sentenced every single poor person in the world to a future of life long bread lines, allowing them to be victims of demagogues, con artists and harsh hopeless, futureless lives. There is no consideration for their hopes and dreams and no real understanding of the hopelessness of their lives. And the middle class of once wealthy nations like the United States is quickly dissolving under the burden of the redistribution schemes. Result – more poor in our once proud nation.

If the self-proclaimed compassion industry had true concern for the poor, it would begin an international drive to empower the poor by allowing them to build their own wealth – thereby getting themselves off of life long bread lines;

Hernando deSoto has offered that way. He has called for the establishment of private property rights that would allow people around the world to build personal wealth and the ability to invest in new enterprise that would in return employ more, help build infrastructure to allow still more to have electricity, heat, cooling and clean water in their homes, improving health and the quality of their lives. Step by step these improvements would lead to creating more wealth worldwide, reducing the burden on the rest of us, and in turn, help all of us build even more wealth, strengthening quality of life. Help the poor help themselves and it will also help you. That is true compassion.

But to take such a step would require a rejection of socialism and an embracing of capitalism. And that, says the Compassion Cartel can never be allowed, because that would lead to empowering individuals to control their own lives. Instead, in the name of compassion, oppression in a well ordered society is so much more efficient. ●

“Climate-smart” policies for Africa are stupid and immoral

Obama-Kerry policies would perpetuate energy poverty, malnutrition, disease and death

Paul Driessen

The 2014 US-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by President Obama this past week brought together the largest-ever gathering of African government officials in Washington, DC. They discussed ways to bolster trade and investment by American companies on a continent where a billion people – including 200 million aged 15 to 24 – are becoming wealthier and better educated.

They have steadily rising expectations and recognize the pressing need to create jobs, improve security, reduce corruption, and control diseases like Ebola, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. They also understand that better roads and air transportation, improved agriculture and nutrition, and far more energy – especially electricity – are the *sine qua non* to achieving their aspirations. Indeed, nearly 700 million Africans still do not have electricity or get it only sporadically, a few hours a day or week.

“The bottom line is, the United States is making a major and long-term investment in Africa’s progress,” Mr. Obama stated. **One has to wonder whether his rhetoric matches his policy agenda** – and whether Africans would do well to remember the president’s assurances that Americans could keep their doctors, hospitals and insurance, when they hear his fine words and lofty promises for Africa.

The fact is, no modern economies, healthcare systems or wealth-building technologies can function in the absence of abundant, reliable, affordable electricity and motor fuels. They require far more than can possibly come from “climate-smart” wind, solar and biofuel sources. Adequate food and nutrition require modern agriculture. Eradicating malaria requires chemical insecticides, DDT and ACT drugs.

Obama Administration policies on all these matters are likely to hold Africa back for decades.

For President Obama, everything revolves around fears of “dangerous manmade climate change” and a determination to slash or end fossil fuel use. He has said electricity rates must “necessarily skyrocket.” His former Energy Secretary wanted gasoline prices to reach European levels: \$8-10 per gallon. His EPA is waging a war on coal. And his own requirements would prevent Africa from modernizing.

In 2009, the president told Africans they should focus on their “bountiful” wind, solar, geothermal and biofuel resources, and refrain from using “dirty” fossil fuels. He signed an executive order, directing the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to ensure that any projects it finances reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2020. He launched a number of domestic and international climate initiatives.

Afterward, when Ghana asked OPIC to support a \$185 million gas-fired electrical generator (that would utilize natural gas being flared and wasted at its oil production operations), OPIC refused to help. When South Africa sought a World Bank loan for its state-of-the-art Medupi coal-fired power plant (which will reduce dangerous pollutants 90% below what 1970s-era plants emitted), the White House “abstained” from supporting the loan. Thankfully, approval squeaked by anyway, and Medupi will soon be a reality.

Even more absurd and unethical, the White House announced last October that it will now oppose any public financing for coal-based power projects, except in the world’s poorest nations, unless they meet the draconian carbon dioxide emission standards now imposed on new coal-fired generators in the USA.

These policies prolong reliance on open fires fueled by wood and dung. They mean families are denied lights, refrigeration and other benefits of electricity, and *millions die* every year from lung and intestinal diseases, and other effects of rampant poverty. With hydrocarbons still providing 82% of the world’s energy – and China, India and other rapidly developing countries building numerous coal-fired generating plants – retarding Africa’s development in the name of preventing climate chaos is useless and immoral.

Meanwhile, President Obama is still guided by science advisor John Holdren, a fervent opponent of fossil fuels who infamously said the United States should support only the “ecologically feasible” development of poor countries, in line with his perceived “realities” of ecology and rapid energy resource depletion. How that translates into official policy can be seen from Mr. Obama’s 2013 remark: “Here in Africa, if everybody is raising living standards to the point where everybody has got a car, and everybody has got air conditioning, and

everybody has got a big house, well, the planet will boil over.”

Secretary of State John Kerry’s inane recent statements are equally problematical for Africa. His fixation on “climate-smart” energy and agriculture suggests that he lives on another planet and cannot imagine life outside a \$5 -million mansion – and certainly not life for destitute families in sub-Saharan Africa.

For proof of manmade climate change, Kerry told US-Africa Summit attendees, one need only look at the “hotter temperatures, longer droughts and unpredictable rainfall patterns” that farmers must now deal with. Not only are global temperature trends flat for the past 18 years; actual records show clearly that drought and rainfall fluctuations are no different from what North American, African and other farmers have had to deal with for centuries. Moreover, increasing evidence suggests that the sun’s ongoing “quiet” period may portend several decades of markedly colder global temperatures.

Even more absurd, Kerry told attendees that “carbon pollution” is making food “less nutritious.” First, it’s not carbon (soot). It’s carbon dioxide, which makes food crops, trees and other plants grow faster and better, and survive better under adverse conditions like droughts. Second, hothouses routinely increase their CO2 levels to two or more times what is in Earth’s atmosphere, to spur crop growth. Are these German, Israeli and American tomatoes and cucumbers less nutritious than field-grown varieties? In fact, recent studies have found *increased* nutrient concentrations in food crops, thanks to higher CO2.

To the extent that “research” supports any of these ridiculous claims, it merely underscores what scientists will concoct when tempted by billions in government grants – or intimidated by activists and colleagues who attack them as climate change “deniers” if they do not play the Climate Armageddon game.

Secretary Kerry did suggest that the best way to help farmers is through “climate-smart agriculture” and “creative solutions that increase food production.” But it’s a virtual certainty he did not mean any of the things that really

would help: biotechnology, modern mechanized farming and chemical fertilizers.

Genetically engineered Golden Rice and bananas are rich in beta-carotene, which humans can convert to Vitamin A, to prevent childhood blindness and save lives. New Bt corn varieties both kill insect pests, dramatically reducing the need for pesticides, and enable corn (maize) plants to survive droughts. New rice varieties can survive prolonged submergence during monsoons and floods. These crops, modern hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers multiply traditional yields many times over. Other developments let farmers practice no-till farming, which protects vital soil organisms and nutrients and reduces erosion.

These solutions won’t just improve adaptation to whatever climates might confront us in the future. They will also enable us to feed billions of people – including some 250 million malnourished Africans – without having to plow under millions of acres of wildlife habitat. However, Big Green activists in and out of government oppose GMO crops, fossil fuels and modern farming, whatever their benefits to humanity – and regardless of the death and destruction that result when people are denied access to them.

Africa is blessed with abundant oil, gas and coal. Turning food into fuel would squander those resources and divert land, water, fertilizers and energy from feeding people – to produce expensive fuels and leave people malnourished. This is not “climate-smart” energy or agriculture. It’s just plain stupid.

Wind and solar will let people in remote areas have light bulbs, tiny refrigerators and cell phone chargers, until they can be connected to an electrical grid. They cannot support modern economies, factories, shops, schools, hospitals or families. Coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydro-based electricity are essential.

Here is the real bottom line: Africans should not do what the United States is doing now that it *is* rich. It should do what the United States did to *become* rich.

Paul Driessen is senior policy analyst for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (www.CFACT.org) and author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green power - Black death*. ●

Money

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Add to these astounding numbers details in the Foundation Center database of the Top 100 Foundations that the Giving USA Institute’s annual reports show environmental groups received more than \$80 billion between 2000 and 2012. In addition, the federal government is spending \$2.6 billion per year on climate change research and much of that is funneled into universities and into the green movement through federal grants.

Concludes Ron’s report, “When self-righteous victims of Education Incapacity (the main stream news media) insist that Big Oil outspends the poor little greenies, keep in mind the mountains of IRS Form 990s filed by thousands of groups, land trusts, lawyer outfits, foundations, and agenda-makers, just waiting for America to wake up and smell Big Green’s untold hundreds of billions. ●