Geopolitical Economy of the Organic Crisis of World Capitalism

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Geopolitics in the time of Monsters

Neutrality Studies

Kyoto University

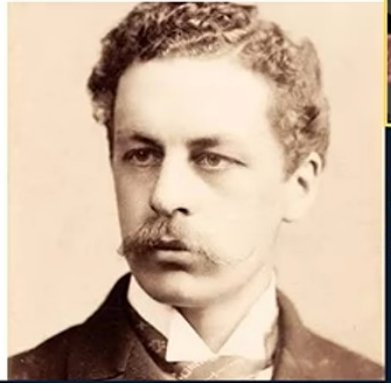
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Some Preliminary Caveats



- Allergic to Geopolitics
  - Imperialist
  - Based on social scientific division of labour, the greatest harm done to human thinking capacity
    - Separated into ‘spheres’ of human activity studies by separate social sciences
    - Privileging of ‘the economy’
    - Ahistorical

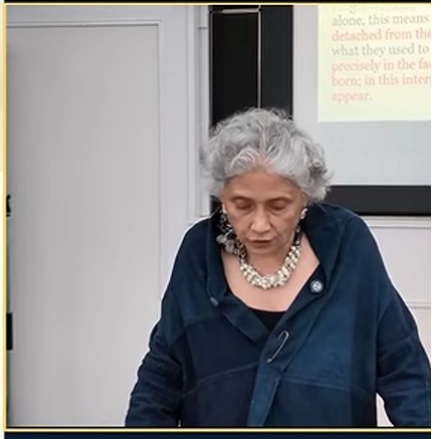




MONSTERS?
‘Waves of Materialism, Crisis of Authority’
Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks*



- That aspect of the modern crisis which is bemoaned as a “wave of materialism” is related to what is called the “crisis of authority”. If the ruling class has lost its consensus, i.e. is no longer “leading” but only “dominant”, exercising coercive force alone, this means precisely that the great masses have become detached from their traditional ideologies, and no longer believe what they used to believe previously, etc. The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.



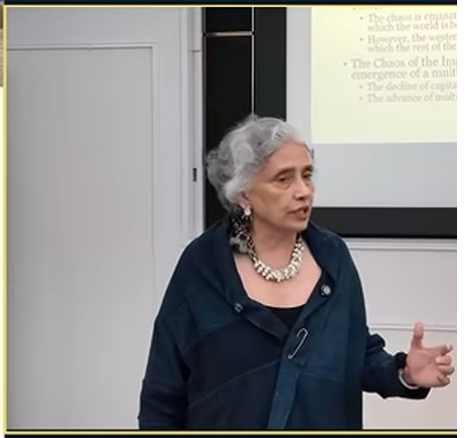
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Towards a New Order



- A new order IS being born, a multipolar one led by the party-state of Socialist China, representing the combination of class and nation.
- Mao: 'There is chaos under the heavens and the situation is excellent'
- The Future of Capitalism hangs in the Balance of International Power.
  - The chaos is emanating from the North Atlantic corner of the world, from which the world is being repelled
  - However, the western Pacific is emerging as the calm centre, the calm shore to which the rest of the world is increasingly being drawn
- The Chaos of the Imperial World is an effort to prevent the emergence of a multipolar world, the outcome of
  - The decline of capitalism
  - The advance of multipolarity largely along non-capitalist lines



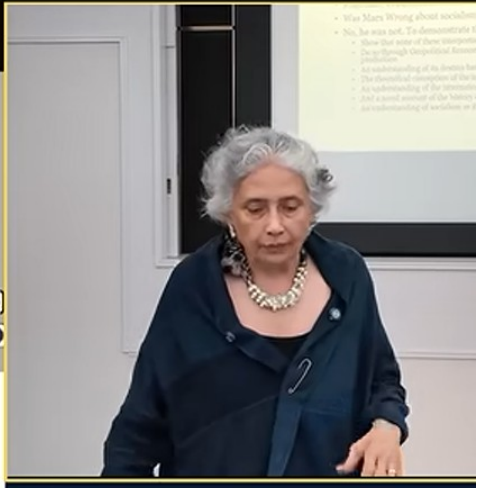
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The Current Conjuncture: Prevailing Interpretations

- Internationally
  - Great Power Conflict?
  - Third World War?
- Domestically,
  - A New Era of Fascism?
  - From Capitalism to Neo Feudalism?
- Polycrisis, Crises without End or Socialism
- Was Marx Wrong about socialism following capitalism?
- No, he was not. To demonstrate this, I will seek to:
  - Show that none of these interpretations work
  - Do so through Geopolitical Economy, based on Marx's original analysis of capitalism as contradictory value production
  - An understanding of its destiny based on Smith, Marx and the Division/Socialization of Labour
  - The theoretical conception of the international relations of capitalism that results from it,
  - An understanding of the international system whose motor is the dialectis of imperialism and anti-imperialism
  - And a novel account of the history of capitalism on a world scale that includes the emergence of socialism
  - An understanding of socialism as if imperialism mattered





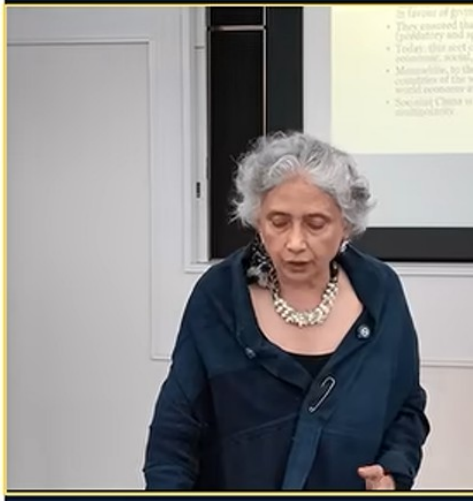
From this perspective, let us return to the prevailing diagnoses and those that emerge from GE

Prevailing

- Great Power Conflict?
- Third World War?
- A New Era of Fascism?
- From Capitalism to Neo Feudalism?
- Crises without End or Socialism

Geopolitcial Economy

- Conflict between capitalism and socialism
- No, wars of capitalism's decline. To use the label World War today would be to forget the advance of anti-imperialism
- Yes, though with time for Fascism to exhaust itself, rather than be defeated
- No, rent and interest are capitalist categories and this is what capitalism looks like
- Crises without capitalist solutions can only lead to socialism: the function of intellectuals is to lessen the birthpangs



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