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Special Bunker Hill Issue: BRIC in a Multipolar Economy

The anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775, serendipitously provides this column with an excuse to engage in another nationalistic rant that I thought I might have to wait until Fourth of July to vent.

Yesterday, four of the great wannabe imperialist nations held their first summit meeting, in Yekaterinburg, Russia. Nominal leaders of Brasil, Russia, India, and China issued a Joint Statement supporting a "more democratic and just multipolar world order based on the rule of international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making of all states." The BRIC leaders also specifically came out for admission of the BRIC leaders into the controlling councils of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, suggesting that "multipolar" means "We wanna run the show now, you old guys just keep sending money."

Some intriguing coincidences arise. Of the four BRIC countries, only Brasil uses the western alphabet. One wonders what the acronym for the names of the four countries looks like in Cyrillic Russian, or in Sanskrit, or in Mandarin. More importantly, one wonders what the concepts described in the English-language translation of the Joint Statement look like in Russian or Mandarin, specifically "rule of international law" and "mutual respect".

Mainstream media commentary took note that while there was some discussion of broad-based monetary stability as a goal, there was no specific badrapping of the position of the United States dollar as the fundamental currency of international finance. This was attributed to China having placed itself in the position of owning so many dollars that any threat to the value of those dollars is a threat to China's national wealth. Belated congratulations to former President Bush for having manipulated China as brilliantly as Donald Trump manipulated Chase Manhattan and J. P. Morgan twenty-five years ago, so that any meaningful action against the debtor will ruin the creditor.

A probably-unintentional play on words arose from one of the translated commentaries, which discussed China's economic intention to "re-Orient" its production toward domestic consumption from the export market. China's centrally-managed economy was never "Oriented", it was "Occidented" to undercut the internal manufacturing structure of Western, economically-developed, consumer-directed economies by flooding those economies with cheap, slave-labor produced consumer goods so as to drive the Western manufacturers out of business and eliminate those Western manufacturers from future competition with China's exports.

Well, it worked. There is no more manufacturing of consumer goods in the United States. There are also no more manufacturing jobs in the United States,

therefore no more consumers with incomes available to buy consumer goods from China. Those who direct production in China now have to "de-Occident" their production, and "Orient" their production to sell to their domestic consumers. The directors may soon learn that an employer must pay an employee a living wage if that employer expects that the employee is also going to be the consumer of the product, rather than continuing slave labor with the expectation that the product will be consumed overseas, where there is limitless disposable income with no work at the Golden Mountain.

It is just plain wrong that the BRIC nations can issue a Joint Statement pronouncing a goal of "rule of international law" that is reported by the mainstream media with a straight face. In response, this column offers one word to each of the BRICs, "Tibet", "Georgia", "Kashmir", and "Amazonas". The acronym for the group might be more appropriate if the name of one of the members were replaced by the name of one of its neighboring countries which also has a province named Amazonas, being "Peru".

Yekaterinburg is the place where the Tsar Nicholas and the imperial family were murdered in 1917 by the Bolsheviks.

- Christopher J. Mallin, Old Country Lawyer
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