

Ecology of Politics

Alawattagoda Pemadasa

The global ecology has become the most innocent, vulnerable and almost helpless victim of the monopolized politicisation, by a powerful and power-thirsty minority, of ecological priorities, environmental propensities and economic practicabilities culminating in authoritarian misuse, abuse and over-use of common natural resources evolved through billions of years that facilitated the sustainable persistence of the entire bio-geochemical environment which is now being manipulated lopsidedly by the dictatorial human animal as if it exists completely and exclusively for his own selfish survival. It must be emphasized that, although the entire humankind is blamed for the ecological sins aggravating throughout not only the globe but also the outer space, only a minority of politically powerful humans are the real culprits who have taken the ecological whip into their custody, so that everyone else and everything else must depend unconditionally on the dictums dictated by them. Thus, the political priorities and politicised policies designed, devised and decided by a minority of power-thirsty politicians have created a dangerous situation in which the convergence of diverse biotic and abiotic resources for the wellbeing of a handful of humans has become the norm determining the fate of not only human beings, but also the entire biosphere comprising the complex range of creatures from tiny virus to the gigantic redwood tree and even the entire ecosphere which is regarded by the self-centred political mighties as their own anthropogenic heritage. The politically-motivated human-brain seems to forget the indispensable axiom that politics is hardly ecological nor biological but primarily anthropological and hence is concerned eccentrically about the wellbeing of the politicians whose trick of the trade is to act wily nilly in the guise of sustainable development for the harmonious persistence of common-man.

In actual fact, this so-called common-man is nobody but the politicians and their privileged lackeys and not the downtrodden billions of humans who are being deprived of even the barest minimum of ecological rights let alone human rights. In actual fact, the average common-man is the common victim of politicisation of not only the socioeconomy but also the ecology of individual countries in particular and the entire globe in general, a tendency now being extended even to the outer space with the advancement of inter-planetary explorations.

The politicised socioeconomic priorities and consequent manipulation of ecological propensities have created a hierarchy of dependence within the humankind in which the oppressed public at large have become the most victimized dependents while the privileged minority is being provided with increasing opportunities of exploiting the rest of the universe. This hierarchy is evident not only within each nation but also between nations so that disparity of resource availability and discrepancy of resource utilization have led to unjustifiable and inhumane socioeconomic diversity culminating in dangerous divisions within the mankind so that the globe is more divided today than ever before, a tendency which could culminate in a volcanic eruption of human-bomb manifested as aggravating conflicts causing confrontations that may end up in wars.

A Third World War could not be a remote possibility, in spite of the fact that the cold-war accentuated between the capitalist countries manipulated by the United States and the socialist counterparts monopolized by the then Soviet Union is only history today. A former Soviet Leader Nikitha Krushchev once remarked, quite rightly of course, that a war between the United States and the Soviet Union will end up in mutual defeat. But this statement is probably the under-statement of the century, because a war between the two super-powers armed with thousands of nuclear weapons would lead to the destruction of the entire globe with near complete eradication of not only the super-rivals involved in the

conflict but also the entire mankind and even the whole biosphere. In actual fact, it is the downtrodden mass that would have to face the inevitable consequences even before the repercussions of the war are manifested, because the privileged nations would be able to divert all the resources for their selfish survival so that the poor nations would be left high and dry.

Such a disaster may now be avoided, for the carefully manipulated dismantling of the iron-curtain world into almost powerless anthropogenic remnants, each burdened with its own social, economic and ecological crises manifested as communal conflicts, has been the anticlimax of the political monopolization of global ecology by the United States which has achieved its final goal of becoming the **Almighty** of the earth. Today, the very existence of the entire global economy and universal ecology rests on the political dictums prioritized by the United States, as evident from the arrogant and intolerable attitude demonstrated by President George Bush at the Earth Summit held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, who rejected the declarations arrived at by the rest of the world-leaders single-handedly in order to impose the concepts designed by the United States on biodiversity, for its singular benefit with hardly any regard to the rest of the world, more particularly, the so-called Third World Countries which are the natural store-houses of much of the virgin biological heritage.

In fact, the tropical world has become the most pathetic victim of exploitation by the socioeconomic and industrial mighties led by the United States, European Community and Japan, which are almost totally dependent, to the point of parasitism, on the tropical biosphere for their socioagricultural development and technoeconomic sustainability. This may appear an absurd, unscientific and unjustifiable sweeping statement, but the parasitic dependence of the industrial giants on the petroleum resources from the Middle East itself is more than adequate to support my conviction. It must be emphasized that more than 90% of the global timber production is consumed by the industrial giants, and

much of this is contributed by the tropical countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. It is very well known that Japan has hardly any natural resources essential for industries, but the bitter truth is that Japan is the industrial authority of the world which has overtaken even the mighty United States. Japan is known to consume 50% of the global timber production, and this itself demonstrates how political manipulation can create a hierarchy of resource utilization.

In a world not only the anthropogenic priorities but also the evolutionary propensities are decided and dictated by a handful of power-thirsty politicians, the politicisation of ecospheric equilibrium in the guise of sustainable development is inevitable.

Now one may argue that neither the anthropogenic priorities nor the evolutionary propensities are dictated by the politically-motivated power-thirsty minority. But if one stops to concentrate logically on the present-day global trends one should not fail to realize the reality of this generalization. For example, who decides the economic trends and social tendencies of the world which are nothing but anthropogenic priorities. The global economic giants led by the United States, who else? Similarly, who decides what types of crops, for example, should be allowed to proliferate in order to achieve the so-called sustainable agro-economy? The global genetic-technological giants led by the United States, who else? This is quite evident from the dictatorial attitude and authoritarian arrogance expressed by President George Bush on the declaration of the global protocol on biodiversity made at the Earth Summit. He refused to accept the declarations made by the rest of the world.

Politicisation of civilization

Human animal is unique, because, unlike other organisms, he is blessed (handicapped?) with what is scientifically regarded as a double inheritance, the biological inheritance operating through genes, which is the basis of persistence of the entire biosphere, and the cultural inheritance manifesting through systematised educa-

tion, which is exclusive to humans. The biological evolution through countless generations had led to the origin of man, which Charles Darwin preferred to refer to as the **descent of man**, while cultural evolution through the process of civilization had led to the metamorphosis of man into a political animal, which I would prefer to refer to as the **descent of ecosphere**. In actual fact, civilization must best be regarded as the outcome of politicisation of ecological needs, ecological rights and ecological values of humankind. Through the process of civilization, man deviated from other organisms for he began to dissociate human needs from ecological needs, human values from ecological values and human rights from ecological rights. Now he has deviated further from the normal biospheric niche concept, because his priorities are decided not by the human needs, human values and human rights but by the political needs, political values and political rights. In fact, considerable divergance of human rights from political rights, human values form pohilical values and human needs from political needs has created almost irreparable cleavages within the humankind, and this has become the greatest and most volatile challenge that the entire globe is saddled with today.

The politicised dissociation from the rest of the biosphere enabled man to deviate from the normal ecological norms and evolutionary trends, and the consequent divergance of biological properties, ecological propensities and anthropogenic priorities from one another had created a situation where man ceased to be a harmonious knot of the web of nature.

The web of nature is both a function and a product of ecological norms, ecological factors, ecological resources and ecological organizations. Ecological norms determine the behaviour of ecological factors. Ecological factors dictate the dynamism of ecological resources. Ecological norms, factors and resources collectively determine the degree of ecological organization, the zenith of which is the origin of organisms through billions of

generations from the most primitive unicellular organisms to the highly advanced and most complex multicellular organisms. The human animal is regarded as one of the most sophisticated and complex organisms whose genetic constitution has caused an unprecedented deviation from the normalcy by way of transfer of knowledge through education and its utilization through experience, the cumulative outcome of the two phenomena had made the politicisation of civilization possible. This unique feature had led to the systematization of experiences in the form of documented knowledge, which has ultimately metamorphosed into science and technology, two of the most destructive anthropogenic creations which have now become the singular determinants of the future of not only the globe but even the entire universe. At the present rate of scientific and technological advancements and their eccentric manipulation, even the outer space would not be a safe place. If, for example, all the nuclear weapons available on earth are exploded simultaneously, nobody could predict what the outcome would be. But it is certain that not only the earth but even the nearby planets would be greatly affected and their ecological balance disrupted, so that recovery would take many billions of years. This is the danger of politicised civilization monopolized by a minority of power-thirsty human animals. It is believed that the United States alone possesses several million of rockets and missiles. If all these are used against an enemy, would anybody be left to celebrate the victory?

Accumulation of documented knowledge through successive generations enabled the man to define his own anthropogenic principles and priorities which are systematized as human needs, human rights and human values. These are three aspects of highest concern in the world today but are given the least appreciation by the politically-motivated decision-takers, for if they do, so much anarchy, starvation, discrimination and deterioration of spiritual values would not be prevalent in the modern world.

Human needs, human values and human rights are specific extractions from ecological needs, ecological values and ecological rights respectively, that are the ecologically common triple gems of any biological entity regardless of its size, shape, complexity and the evolutionary niche that it enjoys in nature. It is the civilized man who recognized, identified, elucidated and evaluated the existence and activities of these triple gems, and this was made possible through the accumulated knowledge and experience. The ecological needs, ecological values and ecological rights are delicately interrelated and interdependent, so that a slightest distortion of any of them leads to a chain of repercussions which would modify the other two as well as the entire ecosphere. This is evident from the aggravation of human impacts on nature, through modifications of human needs, for example.

The evolution of knowledge and wisdom had made man to consider himself as the mightiest force which could govern the behaviour of nature. This eccentric belief had led to the self-centred systematisation of natural norms, principles, priorities and trends, so creating a unique avenue for thinking, acting and reacting which culminated in restructuring of human behaviour, a phenomenon now propagandised as the political culture.

Today, political culture has metamorphosed into the ultimate decisive force dictating not only the activities of human societies in general and technoeconomic, agro-economic and entrepreneurial priorities in particular but also, and more precariously, the very persistence of the ecosphere, so that politicoeconomic and politicoecological propensities have become the two rails of the ladder along which the future of not only the earth but even the other planets would either descend or ascend. This fact is particularly evident from the politicoeconomic decisions taken by such global organizations as the United Nations regarding world peace, hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and sustainable development, to quote just a few of the prioritized items in the agenda of the current era! All these are anthropogenic creations, sociolo-

gists may argue. But the truth is that the entire humankind should not share the responsibility for their aggravation, because they are being caused and accentuated by a politicised minority who attempts at solving problems with little concern about the common majority. Attempts at achieving world peace, accomplishing sustainable development and alleviating hunger, poverty and environmental degradation, for example, have created a new arena of anthropogenic motivation which is now known as politico-ecological approaches to global crises.

The world leaders view every problem through politicoeconomic eyes and their ways of combating challenges inevitably lead to politicoecological disasters, classic examples being the aggravating greenhouse effect and ozone crisis, both of which are repercussions of politicoeconomic approaches to technoeconomic advancements in which science and technology have been politicised for the sustainable persistence of politicians in both the capitalist and socialist worlds. Where should the sciences be directed and how should the technology be prioritized are ultimately decided by the political mighties so that scientists and technologists have become the wage-earning slaves employed by the politicians, as evident from the political manipulation of scientific discoveries and technological inventions for maintaining the politicoeconomic supremacy of industrial giants led by the United States. For example, Arthur C Clark's conceptualisation of satellite communication became a reality as a result of politicoeconomic decisions taken by the United States and the (then) Soviet Union. The two super-powers employed space scientists not for accomplishing an advancement in space science for the benefit of the humankind, but for utilizing the technology as a means and medium for achieving space-supremacy, because of the myth that the nation which has won the space-supremacy would become the global leader. The precarious struggle between the American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts has done more harm than benefit to the world, because the advancements in space science have created a situation where the world is more

exposed today than ever before. No nation, mighty or tiny, can live in politicoeconomically water-tight compartments today, because nothing can be done in secret, for the spy-satellites are capable of monitoring even the slightest technological manipulations.

Today the electronic communication has become the most vulnerable scientific achievement, for it is being manipulated by the world industrial giants not as a means of making a man-to-man bond in a contracting global village but for making a man-to-man bomb, because this greatest advancement in the history of mankind is now being used as the most efficient means of exploiting the under-privileged and downtrodden masses through propaganda machinery. Electronic communication is vulnerable to political manipulation, because, the scientists are being manipulated by the political mighties. For example, the nations are interconnected through satellite communication not for efficient and quick transfer of information and knowledge for the benefit of the public at large but for the dissemination of spiritually disastrous perspectives designed for brain-washing.

Politicised man is a civilized criminal

Hierarchically systematised organisation of human society, as an outcome of utilization of accumulated experience and knowledge through education, which facilitated what is popularly known as modernization of thinking, acting and reacting in response to exogenic challenges, has led to the cultural hybridization within the humankind so yielding a socioeconomic stratification which had created what should best be regarded as a political niche conducive for successful persistence of opportunists who are blessed with intrinsic abilities and inherent capabilities for acting aptly to exploit opportunities. The evolution of political culture has led to the segregation of the general public from the rulers, the former being manipulated to accept the decisions taken willy nilly by the latter for their own successful survival. Today hardly any decision is taken without a political motive, and nothing is prioritized

without a political interest. Very often the political mighties take decisions not for the benefit of the public at large but for their successful manipulation of power and monopolization of authority, and this is clearly evident from unilateral decisions taken by the United States to interfere with internal affairs of Vietnam and Kuwait and by the (then) Soviet Union to interfere with the conflicts in Afghanistan. These are just a few of many examples where the so-called super-powers have taken international law unto their own greedy hands. What they have done in these war-stricken poor countries can hardly be justified, for they have no authority, obligation or even cultural or any other affinity to declare war against an already oppressed society. Should they, therefore, be not reprimanded as war criminals. Are the modern super-powers very different from Hitler in their approach to the rest of the world?

How unscientific, unethical, illogical and even inhumane are the political decisions enacted by the so-called democratic authorities is clearly evident from the following report appeared in the September 1926 issue of *Scientific American*:

"Tennessee forbids the teaching of evolution in state-supported schools. The Florida House of Representatives passes a resolution with similar aims. Kentucky barely defeats an anti-evolution bill: another is threatened. In North Carolina the High School Textbook Committee removes two school books from the list -they contained matter on evolution. In Louisiana an anti-evolution bill passes the Lower House, but the Senate postpones the issue. And now comes Texas, whose State Textbook Commission draws a black line through every mention of the word evolution in biologies, substituting therefor the word 'development'. What next? They say that in these states people who never before heard of evolution are inquiring into it, finding it interesting. Boys, denied the forbidden subject at school, furtively read about evolution from booklegged treatises, down behind the barn, where their fathers once read 'Pluck and Luck', 'Fred Fearnot' and 'Diamond Dick', while smoking cigarettes concocted of cornsilk. To forbid is to recommend. These state legislatures are doing a great work for evolution."

Who has given the political mighties the authority to deny the general public the freedom of acquiring knowledge and deprive them of the opportunities of exploring the wisdom? Why should the concept of evolution be forbidden? Is the concept of evolution more detrimental to the humankind than bombs, guns and other weapons? These very same political mighties remained dumb, deaf and blind when the American Presidents authorised the invention of the atom bomb. Is the concept of evolution more dangerous than Albert Einstein's famous equation $E = mc^2$ that led to the nuclear fission opening the destructive avenue for making nuclear weapons?

The wars made evident what a scientist was!

Early this century scientists received little recognition, respect and attention of the general public and the mighty politicians, for their discoveries had not been given due publicity outside the scientific community, and even if they were published and publicised the jargon had made it difficult, if not impossible, for the laymen to appreciate and understand sciences. The scientists remained almost a specific tribe alien to the common man, the politicians were no exception. This fact is clearly evident from the following quotation from *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, one of the most illuminating treatises on the subject of politicisation of scientific knowledge for evil purposes, written by Richard Rhodes:

"..... A congressman in 1914 had questioned a witness at an appropriations hearing, 'What is a physicist? I was asked on the floor of the House what in the name of common sense a physicist is, and I could not answer.' But the war made it evident what a physicist was, made evident the value of science to the development of technology, including especially military technology, and government support and the support of private foundations were immediately forthcoming. Twice as many Americans became physicists in the dozen years between 1920 and 1932 as had in the previous sixty. They were better trained than their older counterparts, at least fifty of them in Europe on National Research Council

or International Education Board or the new Guggenheim fellowships. By 1932 the United States counted about 2500 physicists, three times as many as in 1919" (pp 141-142)

This clearly demonstrates how sciences and scientists in general and physics and physicists more particularly, had been politicised by the politicians and entrepreneurial mighties for the sole purpose of creating a new generation of political and entrepreneurial power through sciences which eventually led the way to technology, a powerful tool essential for making dreadful weapons and military strategies. Quite clearly, eminent scientists had been manipulated by cunning politicians and entrepreneurs who cared little about the wellbeing of the common man but the prosperity of their own tribes regardless of the repercussions that could jeopardise the sustainable persistence of the posterity.

Yet scientists were fully aware of the inevitable danger of sciences more particularly nuclear physics in the hands of politicians, as evident from the following remarks made by the Nobel Laureate Francis Aston, in 1930:

"There are those about us who say that such research should be stopped by law, alleging that man's destructive powers are already large enough. So, no doubt, the more elderly and ape-like of our pre-historic ancestors objected to the innovation of cooked food and pointed out the grave dangers attending the use of newly discovered agency, fire. Personally I think there is no doubt that sub-atomic energy is available all around us, and that one day man will release and control its almost infinite power. We cannot prevent him from doing so and can only hope that he will not use it exclusively in blowing up his next door neighbour." (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, p. 141).

It is evident from Aston's remarks that scientists were fully aware of the imminent danger if their discoveries and inventions would be abused, misused and even adulterated for making evil out of them rather than using them for the wellbeing of the mankind

in particular and the ecosphere in general. Then why did they continue scientific explorations endangering the very existence of the universe, one might now question. The very essence of sciences elegantly summarized by Robert Oppenheimer, the so-called father of the American atomic bomb who led the Manhattan project, discloses why scientists continue to do what they want to do:

"It is a profound and necessary truth that the deep things in science are not found because they are useful; they are found because it was possible to find them."

This outstanding evaluation of the reality of science and eccentricity of scientific research demonstrates how ignorant scientists are, for they rarely appreciate the potential dangers of their discoveries until they become razors in the hands of political monkeys. In actual fact, it is not the science that endangers the globe but the technology developed from sciences. Yet, if there is no science there cannot be technology and *vice versa*, and scientists should be able to appreciate the potential dangers of their findings, and to act accordingly. Unfortunately, however, new discoveries are the driver of ego of scientists which they seem to value more than anything else. That is why scientists publish and publicise their destructive discoveries with little regard on their practical repercussions!

That the real scientists were fully aware of the destructiveness of their findings in the hands of power-thirsty humans is obvious from the following dictum of the Polish mathematician Stanislaw Ulam:

"It is still an unending source of surprise for me to see how a few scribbles on a blackboard or on a sheet of paper could change the course of human affairs."

Obviously, the nuclear scientists were fully aware of the dangerous future of their discoveries and inventions, yet they continued to engage in politically more awesome scientific re-

search, for the human nature is to peep into the unknown and to reveal the hidden. This very same lust for knowledge had led the politicians to realize the manipulative importance and their weaknesses of human mind and to exploit to the utmost for their purposeful survival by committing ecological disasters by way of wars which destroy not only the so-called human-enemy but also, and more pathetically, billions of innocent organisms that are the product of evolution through countless generations and not of anthropogenic innovations. This is exactly what Francis Aston tried to highlight in his following remark which enlightened the world about the enormous and fateful energy and power embodied in an atom in the form of subatomic energy:

"We cannot prevent him from doing so and can only hope that he will not use it exclusively in blowing up his next-door neighbour."

Today atomic bomb has become one of the greatest threats to the persistence of not only humankind but also the entire ecosphere, and who knows the entire universe in the future. The atomic bomb makes use of enormous amounts of energy stored in a tiny atom for destructive purposes. This possibility was revealed by Albert Einstein in his now famous, but more precisely notorious, equation, $E = mc^2$, which had later been described as the **fateful mass-energy equivalence**. It is true that atoms are the final storehouses of every kind of energy prevalent in the universe. It is also true that these storehouses are the targets of scientific experimentation. Both the physicists and chemists research deep into the unknown universe embodied in the smallest particle on earth, and perhaps in the entire universe, the atom. They do investigate into the unknown, to the unseen and to the unheard because the basic human nature is to explore the truth and reality. In the process they have discovered that the smallest particle on earth is the most powerful. Should he be blamed for this discovery? No. Then who should be reprimanded as the culprit of the present-day nuclear threats, disasters and uncertainties? The men who do not

realize, understand and appreciate the fatefulness of the atomic energy if used detrimentally and indiscriminately. They are politicians and bureaucrats whose self-centred ego is to satisfy their own greed and lust for power. Robert Oppenheimer's following remark summarises this truth:

"Taken as a story of human achievement, and human blindness, the discoveries in the sciences are among the great epics."

Humans are blind not only to the realities of nature but also to the dangers of the revealed truth, and most anthropogenic disasters are the direct repercussions of this blindness. The greed for property, privileges, power and pride has made many humans more acutely blind than most others, a truth that can be proved by referring to any local, regional or global political might irrespective of the political doctrine that they have adopted.

Unfortunately, the eccentric way of approaching problems has not allowed scientists to appreciate this common human weakness, and this was probably why the Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard, who laid latently the foundation for nuclear physics, dreamed of saving the world through an element which could be split by neutrons. This was almost a young child's dream in the early twentieth century. But today it is a reality. Yet has the humankind been able to save the world through Szilard's dream? No! We are faced with more fateful repercussions of liberation of nuclear energy today than ever before. Should we not, therefore, argue that the discovery of nuclear energy was the greatest disaster in the history of civilization? But scientists advocate different views, as evident from the following remarks made by Francis Aston:

"There are those about us who say that such research should be stopped by law, alleging that man's destructive powers are already large enough. So, no doubt, the more elderly and ape-like of our pre-historic ancestors objected to the innovation of cooked food and pointed out the grave dangers attending the use of the newly discovered agency, fire."

Should one not argue against this view as one of the most eccentric? No, Because, the atomic bomb now is no more detrimental than the fire then! Both the atomic bomb and fire use the atomic energy, though in different forms and means, and they both could and should be used and utilized for the constructive upliftment and not for destructive advancement of humankind. The discovery of fire was as brilliant as that of atomic energy, but both forms of energy are equally destructive if they are employed to achieve evil goals. Both discoveries are of equal importance and are scientifically indispensable and outstanding, and have given the power-thirsty politicians the opportunity of making authoritarian use of them for their own greedy survival. This danger had been highlighted by many famous scientists, and the following remarks made in 1934 by Leo Szilard summarizes the reality better than any other view made by anyone else:

"The discoveries of scientists have given weapons to mankind which may destroy our present civilization if we do not succeed in avoiding further wars."

Yet scientists themselves were the culprits, for they enlightened the politicians with destructive scientific knowledge, a fact that is elegantly revealed by no lesser political mighty than Sir Winston Churchill who recollects his discussions with the physicist Frederick A Lindermann in 1935:

"Lindermann was already an old friend of mine... We came much closer from 1932 onwards, and he frequently motored over from Oxford to stay with me at Chartwell. Here we had many talks into the small hours of the morning about the dangers which seemed to be gathering upon us. Lindermann became my chief adviser on the scientific aspects of modern war."

Obviously, the cunning political mind has deceived the innocent scientist by offering to take his advice on scientific aspects of war. Sri Winston Churchill would have exploited Lindermann's wisdom, knowledge and logical approach to prob-

lems in such way to extract maximum profit, and to have access to secrets of nuclear physics, for Lindermann had been a respected friend of many contemporary physicists including Leo Szilard. Apparently, scientists had secret acquaintances with powerful politicians independent of their own colleagues.

Niels Bohr's nuclear approach to global peace

One of the most outstanding and outspoken Nobel Prize winning physicists, who was instrumental in changing the world of theoretical physics with his eccentrically extraordinary conceptions and contentions, was of the view that sharing the nuclear secrets among the major powers is the key to the world peace. This seemingly absurd opinion of Niels Bohr has been very bluntly stated in the May 1995 issue of *Scientific American* as follows:

"During World War II, he (Bohr) opposed the Nazi occupation of his native Denmark and as a refuge participated in the Manhattan Project, which gave nuclear might to the U. S. Yet Bohr was also an outspoken advocate of international cooperation, urging Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill to provide other countries with knowledge of the bomb's workings in the interest of world peace." (p. 63)

This amazingly eccentric contention seems superficially absurd, but once examined carefully the reality of its logic can easily be understood and appreciated. This reality may be exemplified from the following evaluation of the future of the atomic bomb published by the three Hungarian nuclear authorities, Leo Szilard, Edward Teller and Eugene Wigner:

"Although none of us spoke much about it to the authorities - they considered us dreamers enough as it was - we did hope for another effect of the development of atomic weapons in addition to the warding off of imminent disaster. We realized that, should atomic weapons be developed, no two nations would be able to live in peace with each other unless their military forces were controlled by a common higher authority. We expected that these controls, if they were effective enough to abolish atomic warfare,

would be effective enough to abolish also all other forms of war. This hope was almost as strong a spur to our endeavours as was our fear of becoming the victims of the enemy's atomic bombings." (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, p 308)

Obviously, the three Hungarian geniuses were day-dreamers, for today there is proliferation of atomic weapons as well as other forms of warfare in spite of the fact that there is a global authority by the name of United Nations, which is nothing less than the **common higher authority** that the three scientists had advocated. Do we have peace on earth? Yes, we do, but as long as the United States is allowed to monopolise supremacy and military authoritarianism!.

Hailing the successful atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the White House press release summarized the victory as 'the greatest achievement of organized science in history'. How eccentric and inhumane indeed!.

Much worried Leo Szilard, a proponent of world peace through atomic weapons, had finally realized the gravity of his eccentric logic, as evident from the following confession:

"Using atomic bombs against Japan is one of the greatest blunders of history. Both from a practical point of view on a ten-year scale and from the point of view of our moral position. I went out of my way and very much so in order to prevent it but as today's papers show without success. It is very difficult to see what wise course of action is possible from here on."

Not only appreciating the theoretical danger but also witnessing the practical devastative power of the atomic bomb, after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki disasters, Leo Szilard became an outspoken opponent of nuclear warfare:

"The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction, and there is almost no

limit to the destructive power which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale."

Suddenly, the nuclear physicists - Ernest Lawrence, Robert Oppenheimer, Arthur Compton and Enrico Fermi - who comprised the powerful Interim Committee Scientific Panel, had realized the grave danger ahead of the world and had to urge the political mighties for preventive action, a futile attempt as we know today:

"The development, in the years to come, of more effective atomic weapons, would appear to be a most natural element in any national policy of maintaining our military forces at great strength; nevertheless we have grave doubts that this further development can contribute essentially or permanently to the prevention of war. We believe that the safety of this nation - as opposed to its ability to inflict damage on an enemy power - cannot wholly or even primarily in its scientific or technical powers. It can be based only on making future wars impossible. It is our unanimous and urgent recommendation to you that, despite the present incomplete exploitation of technical possibilities in this field, all steps be taken, all international arrangements be made, to this end"

Yet, today we have so many nuclear powers on earth that no political mighty can cheerfully dictate and monopolize global political and military authority. It must be emphasized that the latent nuclear powers are the most dangerous. Nuclear weapons in the hands of notorious politicians could be as dreadful and fateful as having nuclear reactors without proper precautionary shields. Do we know how many countries possess nuclear weapons? No. Do we know the amount of nuclear weapons that each nation possesses? No. The future of the world is more uncertain today than ever before. This is the most intriguing aspect of the ecology of nuclear politics!

As the Manhattan Project got successfully underway, some scientists realized the grave danger that they are creating through the designing of the atomic bomb which once completed would become the property of politicians who would be the final decision-makers in deciding when to use it against whom. The scientists who developed the bomb would have no authority in decision-making so that they would become victims of their own invention. Leo Szilard's apprehension, as outlined in *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, is, therefore quite understandable indeed:

"Szilard complained that he and some of his associates did not know enough about the policy of the government with regard to the use of the bomb. He felt that scientists, including himself, should discuss the matter with the Cabinet,..... His general demeanour and his desire to participate in policy making made an unfavourable impression."

How the power-thirsty politicians and bureaucrats had manipulated the physicists to politicise nuclear physics in order to accomplish global military and political supremacy through destructive atomic energy is clearly evident from the Manhattan Project. Once the bomb had been devised, the politicians exercised the dictatorially bureaucratic authority in deciding when to use it, with little regard to the inevitable repercussions, and vociferous protests of the very nuclear physicists who devoted their time, energy, labour and knowledge for developing the deadly monster. When the scientists realized the gravity of the devastative power of the atomic monster and tried to enlighten the political mighties, the latter argued against the scientists' views taking the socioeconomic and political propensities as the number one priority, a classic example being the arguments of James Byron who tried to teach Leo Szilard a bitter lesson in domestic politics as follows:

"Byron said we had spent two billion dollars on developing the bomb, and Congress would want to know what we had got for the money spent. He said, 'How would you get Congress to appropriate money for atomic energy research if you do not show results for the money which has been spent already?'

Byron's remarks cleverly exemplify the bureaucratic eccentricity in disregarding the realities and repercussions, for his main objective was to impress the Congress that the Manhattan Project was an utter success. The politically motivated bureaucrat was of the view that demonstration of the devastating power of the atomic bomb might also make Russia more manageable and controllable. Evidently, the prime objective of the United States was to establish its military supremacy at the expense of innocent people and not the world peace that they continue to preach, for if they were interested in global harmony they would have agreed with Niels Bohr's proposition for sharing nuclear secrets with other countries, more particularly the Soviet Union. Instead what the United States did was to execute Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on charges of wartime espionage leading to the leaking of nuclear secrets to the Soviet Union.

Today a sensational allegations are casted against Niels Bohr who is accused of providing the Soviet Union with American nuclear secrets, an accusation publicised throughout the world in a book titled *Special Tasks*, the essence of which may be quoted as follows:

"The most vital information for developing the first Soviet atomic bomb came from scientists designing the American atomic bomb at Los Alamos..... They agreed to share information on nuclear weapons with Soviet scientists...." (*Scientific American*, May 1995, p. 63)

The nuclear physicists, who had little political experiences and bureaucratic interests, genuinely believed that sharing the nuclear secrets with other nations would be pivotal for world peace and global harmony so that such geniuses as Niels Bohr advocated this proposition publicly, but the politicians never agreed and in fact subsequently attempted to direct allegations and accusations against these very nuclear physicists.

Politicised scientists are also culprits

The normal tendency is to blame the power-thirsty politicians for manipulating scientific discoveries and inventions for military purposes, but should a greater proportion of the blame not be directed at the very scientists themselves? If the scientists know the potential dangers of their discoveries, is it not impossible for them to remain silent, one might ask. Indeed, if their interest is to promote anthropogenic advancement in the right direction, scientists must embark on right kind of research, but unfortunately scientific researches are no more enlightening than playing golf in the dark! Until and unless a worthwhile theoretical discovery is made and experimentally tested, nobody knows exactly what is there to be unravelled and revealed, but once a fraction of the potential reality is identified everything appears obvious to everybody. However, it must be emphasized that scientific research leads us to confusion rather to conclusion! The notorious mind quickly realizes the practical utility value of the new discovery not necessarily for the betterment of the socioeconomy and wellbeing of the general public but for destructive purposes and/or for maximized exploitation. The goal is achieved by manipulating the very scientists through systematic bureaucracy. Some of the most brilliant humans had succumbed to their own weaknesses, so opening avenues for the destructive exploitation of the global resources, a classic example being Robert Oppenheimer's immediate reaction to the discovery of nuclear fission, as described by the Nobel Laureate Luis W. Alvarez as follows:

"I remember telling Robert Oppenheimer that we were going to look for ionization pulses from fission and he said, 'That's impossible' and gave a lot of theoretical reasons why fission couldn't really happen. When I invited him over to look at the oscilloscope later, when we saw the big pulses, I would say that in less than fifteen minutes Robert had decided that this was indeed a real effect and... he had decided that some neutrons would

probably boil off in the reaction, and that you could make bombs and generate power, all inside of a few minutes. It was amazing to see how rapidly his mind worked, and he came to the right conclusion."

Correct conclusions indeed, but are they the right ones?

How destructive the scientific mind of Robert Oppenheimer is clearly evident from the above assessment of Alvarez, a fact which is further supported by the following revelation of the American theoretical physicist Philip Morrison:

"When fission was discovered, within perhaps a week there was on the blackboard in Robert Oppenheimer's office a drawing - a very bad, execrable drawing - of a bomb."

The most unpopular and notorious dictum of Arther Koestler (1968) that the intrinsic constitution of *Homo sapiens* may contain a deficiency or a built-in-error that would predispose him to self-destruction may be appreciated if not accepted if one stops to evaluate the dreadful instincts of famous (notorious?) scientists such as Robert Oppenheimer. But this is not peculiar to Oppenheimer alone, as evident from Edward Teller's following recollections:

"But before he (Szilard) left, he sat on the edge of the hard bed and talked excitedly:

'You heard Bohr on fission/'

'Yes,' I replied

Szilard continued: 'You know what that means?'

What that meant to Szilard, Teller remembered, was that 'Hitler's success could depend on it.' (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, p, 274)

Evidently, these great scientific minds knew exactly what the future of the world would be if nuclear fission became an experimental reality and practical commodity accessible to the

power-thirsty politicians. Yet they continued to research on fission until the final goal was accomplished. What was the final goal? The atomic bomb, what else! The use of nuclear energy for constructive human advancement had become a secondary priority, for the atomic bomb had been the chief goal of not only the politicians but also the politicised scientists.

How the subject of nuclear physics had been politicised for the sole objective of accomplishing military supremacy in the world is evident from the considerable struggle encountered by the nuclear physicists throughout the world, the main rivals being those in Germany and the United States, with the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom catching up closely.

The nuclear physicists were fully aware of the venturesomeness of their research on fission, but some of them were eager to embark on fission not for mere fascination but for pure practical utilization, mainly for manufacturing nuclear weapons, as evident from the following remarks by the famous nuclear physicist Joliot-Curie:

"I began to consider carrying out certain experiments with uranium. What I had in mind was some rather more than a piece of pure research, for at the back of my thoughts there lay the possibility of a weapon."

Quite obviously, these nuclear physicists knew exactly what their final goal was. It was an atomic bomb. What for? To bring their nation to the zenith of military supremacy and global authority, and this fact is substantiated from the following message sent by the physicist Paul Harteck to the German War Office in 1939:

"We take the liberty of calling to your attention the newest development in nuclear physics, which, in our opinion, will probably make it possible to produce an explosive many orders of magnitude more powerful than the conventional ones... That country which first makes use of it has an unsurpassable advantage over the others. (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, p. 296)

This letter received the prompt attention of Hans Geiger who recommended immediate acceleration of research on fission with a view, of course, to producing the first atomic bomb in order to make Germany the most powerful nation on earth. Apparently, these nuclear physicists were so eccentric that they never stopped to evaluate the repercussions of developing nuclear weapons, which would become the most destructive gamble in the hands of shortsighted politicians, and to realize that they too would eventually succumb to their own discoveries and inventions.

One may argue, however, that nuclear physicists, like any other scientist, would have engaged in research on fission primarily for its intriguing fascination and that the possible repercussions of the abuse of their findings for making atomic bombs may not have been their concern. At the time of the formulation of the famous equation $E = mc^2$ did Albert Einstein not know its potential danger? He did know indeed! Yet he was never reluctant to reveal his most explosive theoretical finding, perhaps, because unlimited ego for personal glory had outweighed his concern about the devastating repercussions of the equation in the hands of notorious scientists and inhumane politicobureaucrats.

Political manipulation of scientific research has become the reality and necessity of modern world so that no scientist can escape from their part in destruction of nature. Gregor Mendel's pioneer experiments on heredity and subsequent advancements in microbial genetics have opened many an avenue for biological warfare. These innocent geneticists had been manipulated by the bureaucracy for getting their political objectives fulfilled, and today the biological warfare has become more dangerous than even nuclear weapons threatening the very existence of mankind, for the former eradicate the enemy without destroying the physical environment while the latter is omni-destructive.

Politicised agricultural slavery

In conjunction with the exploitation of nuclear physicists for achieving military supremacy, the industrial world dominated by the United States launched a complementary programme for

exploiting the under-developed world through political manipulation of global and regional agriculture in the guise of scientific modernization. The development and manufacture of atomic weapons through monopolization of nuclear physics enabled the United States and the Soviet Union to establish themselves as super-powers and global rivals to keep the entire world and even the outerspace under their dictatorial authority. The two super-powers became the decision-makers as well as mediators and arbitrators for any and every global crisis, particularly conflicts and confrontations between rival nations leading to localized wars such as those erupted in Korea, Vietnam, the Middle-East and the Indian subcontinent. While exercising the crocodile-grip of military might, the United States and the allies launched a scientifically attractive but biologically illusive long-term programme for politicisation of global agriculture which led to the destruction of traditional practices of individual nations. This politicisation of agriculture is popularly referred to as **green revolution through gene revolution**.

The traditional agriculture unique to each individual nation, like the asveddumization in Sri Lanka, has been the outcome of systematised cultural evolution through successive generations, and has developed into a way of life which is the most suitable for the physical and socioeconomic environments prevailing in a given country. The so-called scientific modernization through green revolution, however, aimed at development of an agro-industry leading eventually to an agro-business, which necessitated mechanization and the use of agrochemicals which were unknown to the Third World.

The explosive increase in the global population necessitated parallel increase in food production for which the so-called modernization of agriculture appeared an essential prerequisite. This urgency was pivotal for the green revolution. The multinational business organizations were quick to exploit the inevitable situation, as evident from many attractive advertisements such as the following:

"We're expecting a few extra people for dinner tonight.

Tonight, the world will have 213,000 more mouths to feed than it had last night. Unfortunately, we're not growing as fast as people. But there's still hope of reversing the trend. Modern technology is increasing the production of staple food crops in many countries. The 'green revolution' is something our company is very much part of.

Helping the world grow more food is not the only thing we do. But it's one of the most important. Because those 213,000 guests are coming, whether we're ready or not" (*Scientific American*, September 1976)

This advertisement demonstrates how the propaganda machinery of the industrial world began to exploit the starving Third World with its politicised modernization of agriculture.

In order to impose a metamorphosis of traditional agriculture into an agrobusiness, the multinational entrepreneurs launched a highly sophisticated agricultural espionage with the assistance of the local agriculturists. This objective had been achieved through the establishment of Research Institutes designed for the scientific modernization of agricultural practices relevant for various climatic regions, the most noteworthy being the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) in México, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Peru, the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD) in Kenya and the International Centre of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia. All these research institutions had been established on the initiative and recommendation of the World Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) which is supposed to be the global authority responsible for improving agricultural production and minimizing mass starvation. The financial assistance and expert

participation had been made possible by the funds poured by private philanthropic foundations such as Ford, Nuffield and Rockefeller foundations and the World Bank.

The publicised objectives of FAO and the philanthropic foundations are absolutely noble but the actual manipulations and practical implications are utterly disgusting, for all the above mentioned Institutions have been designed for disrupting and destroying the traditional agricultural practices of individual nations with the ulterior motive of opening avenues for exploiting the Third World for the sustainable expansion of the agroindustries of the capitalist world. Why am I be so blunt in my assessment?

The so-called green revolution began through political affinities between governments in the guise of providing aid-packages from developed countries to the developing countries. The aid packages included specific scientific training of local experts abroad and provision of technical and chemical assistance in the form of machinery and agrochemicals manufactured by the private philanthropic foundations, a classic example being tractors. The local scientists were given the opportunity of postgraduate training in developed countries such as the United States Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia, a process designed for carefully manipulated brain-washing, so that once they return home after the so-called training, their duty, responsibility and obligation had been to promote the so-called scientifically modernized agriculture at the sacrifice of the traditional cultivation. The foreign-trained agriculturists knew little about the merits and demerits of the modern and traditional agricultural practices, so that it had been very easy for the global agricultural giants to introduce their own techniques that were designed to promote the sale of machinery and agrochemicals. The traditional agriculture required none of these new methods because the crop varieties that had been used were the most suitable for the local environmental conditions and social requirements. If the tradition is to be destroyed, the use of local crop varieties must be discour-

aged and that of introduced varieties be encouraged. This had been easily achieved by modernizing agricultural policies of individual countries the necessary recommendations being designed by the local experts who had acquired agricultural training abroad. These local experts were cunning enough to deceive the politicians as well as the public, so that policy changes enabling the introduction of imported agricultural techniques had been accomplished with little resistance but with much success. The myth that traditions are the obstacles to advancement had been propagandised so effectively that cultivators had been easily manipulated to discard the traditional crops and practices in preference to introduced crops and techniques. For example, Sri Lankan cultivators had discarded nearly two thousand local varieties of rice in preference to man-made varieties such as the IR varieties produced and popularised by the IRRI. Today, they have realized the gravity of their mistake, but the reversal of the inevitable repercussions seems remotely possible.

The man-made varieties of crops are vulnerable to environmental stress and pathogenic interference, two phenomena most favourable for the multinational entrepreneurs to promote the proliferation and popularisation of their machinery and agrochemicals. Thus, the basic objective of introduction of new methods and crop-varieties was to open avenues for the popularisation of their machinery and chemicals, a long term manipulation culminating in creating what may be referred to as an **agricultural slavery** in the Third World. Today, our cultivators are mere slaves of multinational entrepreneurs monopolizing agroindustries.

Today the Third World cultivator is no more than a slave of multinational entrepreneurs, who has no alternative but to hang on to an agriculture with diminishing returns. As we know in Sri Lanka, it is a sin to be a cultivator, for no cultivator can hope for a reasonably sustainable development necessary of securing the barest minimum human requirements. Why? Because through the years after the introduction of the so-called scientific moderniza-

tion, their land has degraded, economy has retrogressed and quality of life has deteriorated, so that today he has no alternative but to live on state subsidies which are also being systematically restricted. On the recommendations of IRRI the Sri Lankan cultivators began to modernize their agricultural practices through mechanization and the use of agrochemicals essential for successful cultivation of man-made rice varieties. The use of tractors unsuitable for the local conditions has destroyed the soil environment and that of agrochemicals minimized the natural biodiversity so that beneficial organisms have also been eradicated. Today the cultivators have to spend prohibitive sums of money for cultivation so that output is inadequate to earn any profit from the agrobusiness. The World Bank has already recommended that paddy cultivation be discouraged. Accordingly, we in Sri Lanka must feed the starving masses with imported rice. Is it, therefore, difficult to appreciate what the long-term objective of agricultural modernization advocated by the Research Institutes such as IRRI manipulated by philanthropic organisations led by Ford and Rockefeller Foundations?

More than 75% of the population in the Third World have become the innocent victims of political manipulation of traditional agriculture by the industrial giants. What was their objective? To establish an economic monopoly for maintaining their entrepreneurial supremacy. If the Third World nations are self-sufficient in their staple food, no outside force can manipulate them. On the other hand, if they are to depend on food imported with foreign aid, then the global giants can exercise a rigid economic grip on them. That is what has happened today.

Politicisation of spiritual heritage

The ecosphere is the home of every organism existing and persisting on earth, and is a complex organization of seven environmental components, which may be generalized as the physical, biological, social, economic, cultural, psychological and spiritual environments. Every organism from the tiniest virus to the

gigantic redwood tree and the most simplest *Amoeba* to the most sophisticated *Homo sapiens* is a product and function of highly complicated and delicately interdependent interactions between all the seven environmental components, the change in any one of them being instrumental in causing a chain of repercussions culminating in a new equilibrium which is vulnerable even to the tiniest influence of internal and external forces. Thus, this dynamic equilibrium is the driver of ecosphere in general and the sustainable persistence of the biosphere in particular leading to what is generally known as Darwinian evolution. The phenomenon of Darwinian evolution may be applicable to external forces too imposed by the human animal through his scientific and technological manipulation of any or all of the seven environmental components. In fact, today, the political manipulation of the seven environmental components has become the most destructive and decisive of all ecological forces, for no ecological factor is now free of political influence and interference exerted generally by the local decision-takers and more specifically by the global super-powers led by the United States.

Accordingly, the political environment may categorically be regarded as the driver of nature, today.

For example, the physical environment on earth is being bombarded with noxious outcomes of politically motivated scientific discoveries and technological inventions such as testing of rockets, missiles, bombs and chemicals considered to be pivotal for military supremacy and industrial and agricultural sustainability. Who decides what should the priorities of these advancements be? Political mighties, of course! Scientists and technologists are being manipulated by the politically motivated bureaucrats so that sciences and technologies and their advancements have now become mere tools in the hands of political decision-makers. Who decides whether a particular river should be diverted or not? Whether a particular hill-top be cleared for cultivation? Whether a particular marsh should be reclaimed or not? Whether the industrial effluents

be dumped in the ocean and if so where, when and how? Whether agriculture be mechanised or not? All such decisions are taken by the political mighties and implemented with the assistance of bureaucratic machinery on the recommendations of a select brand of scientists who are no more than mere obedient servants of the politicobureaucratic authorities.

The political manipulation leading to the misuse and abuse of the physical environment has already created many ecological calamities, the most notorious being the greenhouse effect and the ozone crisis. The recommended mitigatory measures against these two global crises too are no more than attempts at maintaining the political supremacy and socioeconomic monopoly of the industrial giants and at making the Third World pay for the sins caused by the affluent nations. For example, the proposed introduction of carbon dioxide tax as a means of reducing the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is nothing but a disguised attempt to exploit the poor nations, for ultimately the tax would be passed on to the consumers so that the entrepreneurial tycoons would be least affected. It is well known that any increase in the tobacco tax is ultimately met by the smokers and not by the cigarette companies.

The biological environment has become the most innocent of all victims of political manipulation by industrial giants, and the worst affected are the natural flora and fauna in the developing and underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America with such global treasures as tropical rainforests in Congo and Amazon being the most handicapped victims. Parallel with industrial exploitation of natural forests, grasslands and coastal communities, the man-made agricultural ecosystems have evolved as monsters destroying the genetic constitution of the wild organisms as a result of development of artificially manufactured hybrids and varieties for improving productivity so increasing the profits of agroindustries and agrobusinesses. Today, the wild-types and man-made varieties have become ecological rivals with the latter winning through the scientific and technological assistance pro-

vided by politicised agriculturists. The shortsighted prioritisation of establishment and maintenance of monocultures of cash-crops has created ecological disasters more detrimental, perhaps, than even the greenhouse effect, for the long-term repercussions of reduction of biodiversity would culminate in irrevocable evolutionary catastrophes. The man-made cash-crops do not survive in harmony with the external biophysical environment, so that the anthropogenic biological component has become a rival of not only the natural biological environment but also the sustainability of evolutionary propensities. In the end, the man-made cash-crops would become an ecologically suicidal economic burden to the farmer himself so creating enormous social hardships culminating in human unrest, classic examples being the massive protests and demonstrations of farmers erupted in Europe, more particularly in France, in 1995.

Gene revolution, gene technology and genetic engineering are all under the control of political mighties today and this has already made not only agriculturists and farmers but also the consumers mere slaves of money-thrifty politico-entrepreneurs. Clearly, the biological environment has become a storehouse of anthropogenic organisms manufactured with the ulterior motive of satisfying the political requirements of industrial giants, and this has caused almost irreversible ecological disasters by way of eradication of natural organisms so destroying the delicate balance of biodiversity.

The political manipulation of physical and biological environments has led to almost irrevocable social calamities especially in the Third World affecting particularly the downtrodden masses who have become the immediate victims of economic monopolisation by the industrial world. For example, the modernization of agriculture through the introduction of man-made cash-crops and technological impedimenta such as tractors has created a deadlock situation so that poor cultivators have no salvation economically nor socially. The destruction of natural forests and grasslands,

for example, has intensified spash-floods, siltation of water-bodies, erosion of hillsides, eutropication and many more ecological chain reactions which have, directly and indirectly, demolished agricultural sustainability so causing innumerable hardships to poor cultivators. The social and economic calamities so aggravated have led to the deterioration of future prospects so making even a temporary salvation for the posterity a remote possibility. These socioeconomic hardships and resulting disillusionment have made the Third World youth a self-destructive generation as evident from the accentuating youth unrest in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These young minds would ultimately resort to violence, armed-struggle and self-destruction so that the Third World would be drowned into the darkest fathom of socioeconomic disasters and ecological deterioration. The local political authorities would seek military assistance from the developed world to combat terrorism which would be the final outcome of youth unrest. In the end it is the industrial nations which would be benefited by the unrest in the Third World, so that political manipulation of weaker nations would become a greener pasture for the entrepreneurs monopolizing the sale of weapons.

The capitalist manipulation of global socioeconomy, monopolised by the so-called seven economic giants led by the United States has created the concept of global village, the outcome of which would be the irreversible destruction of the cultural heritage of individual nations, particularly in the Third World. The introduction of the so-called open economy, willy-nilly, has already accentuated an irresistible socioeconomic pollution and one-way traffic of foreign exchange in favour of the developed nations causing an economic retrogression of poor countries, and Sri Lanka has already become a pioneer victim heading for a suicidal mission towards social disintegration, cultural deterioration and environmental degradation culminating in a succession of ecological calamities. The open economy is an outcome of political monopolisation of capitalist doctrines which have been designed to safeguard the sustainable wellbeing of the capitalist world at the

cruel sacrifice of the very existence of the developing and under-developed nations. Today, no nation in the world enjoys complete economic freedom, for every nation is strangled in the web of capitalist economic doctrines spear-headed by the United States and Japan which are the controllers of global industrial advancement with the European Union assisting in a subsidiary capacity. The capitalism advocates marketing anything from local news to garbage and from balloons to bombs, so that nothing ceases to be a profit-making commodity. In fact, sale of news has become a gigantic business today which helps politicising almost everything on earth as evident from such media tycoons as Reuters and CNN Organization. In a world motivated by profit-oriented entrepreneurialism, there is little room for humanitarian harmony nor for socioeconomic freedom nor for strict impartiality, for if such a situation exists we cannot expect the industrial giants to be able to exploit the Third World through proliferation of adulterated commodities, for example. Today, the Third World has become the dumping ground of the substandard products discarded by the developed world, and this is true of every commodity from toys to computers. Culturally more detrimental are the industries monopolizing electronic communication, cinema and tele-features which have invaded every corner of almost every Third World country, so that the local heritages are being destroyed at a rapid rate. The youths are polluted socially and ravished psychologically so that they can easily be manipulated to conquer dream-worlds through drug addiction and sexual misbehaviour, and this is the experience that Sri Lanka is undergoing today, and such countries as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand have already succumbed to the inevitable social and cultural disasters. The politicisation of communication has created the myth that capitalism and open economy are the saviours of the globe, and this conception has further been favoured with the manipulated disintegration of the Socialist World. The global failure of Marxism is an outcome of authoritarian bureaucracy evolved within the Soviet Union under the dictatorship of successive leaders from Joseph Starlin and not of any deficiencies inherent in the philosophy. The superficial success of capitalism is a result of political manipula-

tion effected by the economic giants, more particularly the United States, with the assistance of the Catholic Church led by the Pope. Today the United States and Japan have been able to hypnotise the entire globe with their high-tech communication networks so that most young minds have become inevitable prisoners of the dream-worlds created through commercialised cinema, music and literature which care little about the moral heritage of individual nations. The entire humankind has become psychologically adulterated, culturally degraded and spiritually disillusioned slaves of the global village dominated by the capitalist doctrines based on open economy.

Today, the humankind is fast approaching a spiritually blind-end where moral values are discarded as traditional garbage and psychological salvation is sought chiefly and cheaply through materialistic satisfaction with little concern about the inevitable long-term repercussions. The technological and scientific advancements and associated deviation from natural propensities in preference to anthropogenic priorities have led to a cultural descent and retrogressive civilization so that the modern human animal is least concerned about his own surroundings, like the prehistoric primitive humans who were ignorant of their niche in nature. The civilization has led to the ascent of man as a cultural being while over-civilization with uncontrollable technological advancements has led to the descent of man as an anticultural being, and if the present trends are allowed to continue it is impossible to imagine what wise course of action could be taken to save the ecosphere.

A famous Scottish writer, Gilbert Eliot, made the following assessment of human eccentricity in his book titled *Twentieth Century Book of the Dead*:

"I see that as human beings we have two great ecstatic impulses in us. One is to participate in life, which ends in the giving of life. The other is to avoid death, which ends tragically in the giving of death. Life and death are in our gift, we can activate life and activate death."

This may be considered one of the millennial visions of mankind that can be applicable to almost all the attitudes and approaches of the modern politicised man to sustainable persistence of mankind. He attempts to achieve peace through war. He attempts to conserve the physical environment through the destruction of its very components. He attempts to protect the biological environment through eradication of its very constituents. He attempts to establish harmony within the social environment through disharmonisation between the social strata. He attempts to maintain a sustainable economic environment through instabilisation of the two basic phenomena of supply and demand. He attempts to establish a unified global culture through destruction of cultural heritages of individual societies. He attempts to achieve salvation within the psychological environment through unattainable objectives. He attempts to create a unique spiritual environment by destroying the intrinsic spiritual tendencies evolved through countless phases of civilization. In short modern man attempts to activate life by activating death. This is the reality pivotal in manufacturing every deadly weapon and noxious chemical and in propagandising self-centred doctrines, and in the end, man would inevitably become the victim of his own eccentricity.

This anthropogenic tragedy is enlighteningly summarized in a nightmare suffered by Dr Michihiko Hachiya, a doctor who was wounded in Hiroshima atomic bombing but was humane and courageous enough to minister to hundreds of victims. The nightmare was described thus:

"The night had been close with many mosquitoes. Consequently, I slept poorly and had a frightful dream.

It seems I was in Tokyo after the great earthquake and around me were decomposing bodies heaped in piles, all of whom were looking right at me. I saw an eye sitting on the palm of a girl's hand. Suddenly it turned and leaped into the sky and then came flying back towards me, so that, looking up, I could see a great bare eyeball, bigger than life, hovering over my head, staring point blank at me. I was powerless to move.

I awakened short of breath and with my heart pounding.

'So do we all', comments Richard Rhodes in his famous book *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*

So do we all, indeed, but how long for?

How can the humankind avoid the irrevocable disasters?

Political niche must be restricted

Today, every phenomenon not only on earth but even in the outer space is under the influence of politics, so that the political niche has become the nucleus of controlling not only the very existence of humankind but also the persistence of mother nature, for the politically powerful nations enjoy the liberty and capacity to dictate terms for prioritising trends of anthropogenic evolution.

The ecological niche of human animal is uniquely different from that of all other organisms, for it is being made to expand unlimitedly through the human brain-power which facilitated scientific advancements and technological developments leading to a situation where man has become the only organism capable of expanding his fundamental niche in contrast to other organisms whose niches are restricted by outside interactions. Man was able to create a technosphere, which is an artificial rival to the natural ecosphere, so that the former is expanding at the expense of the latter. The ecosphere is the natural product of physicochemical and biological evolution over millions of years while the technosphere is an anthropogenic product of scientific evolution with the onset of industrial revolution. Today, the technospheric evolution has become the main goal of humankind so that even the very right of the ecosphere to persist is being threatened.

But, who is the controller of technospheric activities? Who decides the technospheric priorities? In short, who decides what should be promoted and what should be demoted? Not scientists

nor technologists, but politicised entrepreneurs. The multinational business tycoons and political mighties are the two global forces which make every decision of the industrial globe and natural earth, and they form a symbiotic association comparable to that existing between a blind-man carrying a cripple. The politicians are blind with power while the entrepreneurs are crippled economically if they lack political assistance. Accordingly they have no alternative but to depend on each other. This is what has been taking place in the technosphere today, with disastrous repercussions on the ecosphere which are manifested as energy and resource crises, greenhouse effect and ozone depletion, for example.

This symbiosis between politicians and entrepreneurs and the resulting evolution of an authoritarian-grip of powerful nations over the powerless nations have created an anthropogenic calamity in which the poverty-stricken and downtrodden Third World has become the dinosaurs of the modern world whose very existence is being continually threatened.

Such human tendencies as religions, sciences, technologies and politics are all creations of human mind. The so-called truths and natural realities too are no more than anthropogenic creations, and man believes what he thinks is right and what he does is correct, and politicians are notorious in this respect. This is why the political niche has been allowed to expand almost unlimitedly with disastrous repercussions.

If this trend is allowed to persist, then, there is little hope for salvation for the majority of human societies. No balloon can expand unlimitedly, nor can the political niche.

So there is one solution to the aggravating problem.

The expansion of political niche must be restricted. This can be achieved in two ways. Firstly, the masses must be prepared to

make the politicians to look through their own souls and see their own sins. Secondly, the politicians must be humane enough to see their own selves as others see them.

The following anxiety expressed by the Scottish poet Robert Burns is very appropriate in this respect:

"O wad some pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us"