

# osvrti i mišljenja

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## Ant Country – second part: Epilogue<sup>1</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

I have never yet been frightened by my own writing. From the *Croatian Encyclopaedia* and the *McGraw Hill Concise Encyclopaedia of Science & Technology*, I present the following thoughts on ants.

“Ants are social insects. There are two main classes: the reproductive and sterile. The reproductive class consists of males and females, while the sterile class consists of workers and soldiers. Males have only one purpose, to fertilise the future queens. They do not live long. The sterile class are sexually immature females, and they arise from insufficiently fed larvae. They retain only the instinct to care for and defend the brood. They care for the nest, and clean and feed the queen who lays eggs. There are some species in which the queen robs pupa from other ant hills and, when they grow, she makes them her slaves. Varying relations are seen among the species, from rough forms of ‘tyranny’ (slaves carrying their masters) to ‘alliances’ (masters caring for the food of their slaves).

This all too much reminds me of the ‘advancement’ of the human society. The wealthy become superhumans, and the biological production machine (the man-slave) is reduced to sterile ants. They will be, like in real ant hills, without gender, deprived of reproduction, in the function of producing money and profit. Money begets money and profit begets profit!

### 1. ANT PRODUCTION MACHINE

The idea of an ant (or biological) production machine was already known in Greek philosophy. Aristotle (384–322 BC) taught that the production classes must not rule, and the ruling classes must not work (though they should have an abundance of money). For Aristotle, each form of professionalism meant a loss of status (i.e. artists and doctors do not fall into the ruling class).

Frane Petrić (1529–1597) in his work *Happy City* wrote, “I believe that our country is composed of two parts. One is a working part and is miserable, and the other is a

gentleman’s part and is happy. The classes of peasants, craftsmen and tradesmen cannot enjoy the rights of citizens. The class of soldiers, managers and priests enjoy benefits, carefree lives and comfort.”

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770–1831) claims that all personal relationships can be reduced to the fundamental relationship of master and servant. For Hegel, freedom is a recognized necessity, i.e. man can only be free once he realizes what he may and may not do. When he realizes this, in a market economy, he can sell himself and become a slave.

Zbigniew Brzeziński (American geostrategist and statesman, 1928) said the following quite bluntly in 1970, “The nation will be ruled by the elite... (who) will not hesitate to achieve its political goals by using the most modern technological means for influencing the behavior of the public and keeping society under strict supervision and control” (F.W. Engdahl, *Seeds of Destruction*, Detecta, Zagreb, 2005, pg. 104).

### 2. THE ANT PRODUCTION MACHINE MUST ALWAYS BE WORKING

The Ant production machine must, in order to survive, continue endlessly to produce both goods and money at lightning speeds. The masters rid themselves of surplus goods either by creating artificial needs among workers or by firing them. Workers work to be able to buy what they need and what they don’t need. And this successfully closes the circle of production and consumption.

Slobodan Šnajder (Croatian writer, 1948) retold the thoughts of Robert Kurz (German journalist, 1943) outlined in the famed book *Schwartzbuch Kapitalismus* in his article *Gulag of liberal democracy* (*Novi List* daily newspaper, 25 November 2007), saying “...the inner essence of liberal capitalism is completely irrational; not only does the system contain madness, but the system is completely crazed and leads to the ultimate destruction of the human species which will madly waste its resources which are ultimately limited.”

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### 3. MANAGING THE ANT PRODUCTION MACHINE

From the logic of the incessant turning of the ant production machine at maximum efficiency (the criteria of efficiency is profit), the following management principle ensues: removal of unnecessary workers and control of the number of workers (i.e. population control).

#### 3.1. Removal of unnecessary workers

The master will attempt to remove any worker who, for any reason (i.e. age, illness or termination of production), is no longer in the ant production machine. How to remove this small inconvenience – a person? Perhaps the most painless way is for society to neglect him (e.g. put him in vegetative conditions). During the bankruptcy process of the Rade Končar Electrical Engineering Institute, I often heard the following phrase, “Only those who don’t want and don’t know how to work will lose their jobs” (i.e. he who loses his job has only himself to blame).

Jeremy Bentham (British philosopher and lawyer, 1748–1832) imagined a giant pavilion or cage (association to a concentration camp or a gulag) in which all those falling out of the ant production machine would be closed up and subjected to the humiliating transparency of their physiology. He claims that the highest goal of humanity is to achieve “the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people”. This principle implies that a large share of humanity lives in poverty and misery.

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) incinerated all those who, according to some law, fell out of the ant production machine in concentration camps (used up German workers, strays, schizophrenics and prostitutes).

#### 3.2. Control of the number of workers

Thomas Robert Malthus (English economist and demographer, 1799–1834) posed the theory (1798) that the population increases geometrically (exponentially), and that food production grows arithmetically (or linearly). Though incorrect, this spurred many crazy proposals to reduce the growth of number of humans on Earth.

Henry Kissinger (American diplomat, 1923) in the programme *National Security Study Memorandum 200* (NSSM 200) stated that the United States would have to reduce food aid in order to “help nations who cannot or do not want to control their population growth.” (ibid *Seeds of Destruction*, pg. 133).

#### CONCLUSIONS

The ant production machine will slow down, sooner or later, when the flow of matter (due to an exhaustion of resources) or the flow of energy (due to atmospheric pollution and exhaustion of energy sources) drops. That is what chaos theory tells us. However, it is more likely that the ants will rebel first. Capitalism is a passing stage, either towards more just social relations or towards the demise of our civilization. It certainly is not non-historic. Perhaps, the old must be ruined in order to create the new. Is going to ruin for a purpose a bad thing?

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