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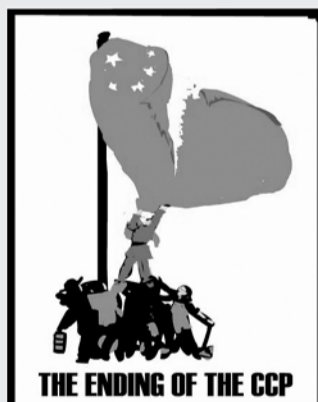
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Include address and a daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters.

QUITTING THE CCP



Inspired by the 'Nine Commentaries', as of 20:47 EST, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009

53,876,863

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at

<http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

# Canada-EU trade agreement could be bigger than NAFTA

By DR. STEPHEN MURGATROYD

The current Canada/EU trade talks taking place in Prague may be labelled a "trade agreement," but make no mistake, it has far wider implications.

While we have to wait and see just what the EU will agree to, there is no denying that this will be a significant agreement.

The talks seek to more closely align Canada and the EU especially as in those areas such as sustainable development, the movement of people, and intellectual property. Though trade is a strong focus—the

EU is Canada's second largest trading partner after the US, with a total of \$109.4 billion (€70.3 billion) in trade in 2007, making Canada the EU's eleventh largest trading partner—the "soft" agreements on sustainability and labour mobility are actually of most interest.

Changing the rules governing trade to remove barriers, especially in services, could be mutually beneficial. In fact, a study commissioned by the Government of Canada suggests that changing the rules could yield \$18.26 billion (€11.6 billion) for the EU and \$12.9 billion (€8.2 billion) for Canada in terms of ad-

ditional GDP contributions, with services leading the way. This would require the elimination of tariffs on bilaterally-traded goods, easing restrictions on services and opening up competitive bidding on government contracts to EU companies and giving equal access to such contracts for Canadian companies bidding in the 27 countries of the EU.

Behind this focus on trade is also a desire to strengthen intellectual property protection, a more effective enforcement of labour laws, the focused enforcement of the environmental protection legislation and the freer movement of labour. In

particular, there is a desire to make it easier for Canadians to serve as executives for European companies and more efficient tax arrangements for individuals moving between Europe and Canada.

Also on the table is the possibility of increased foreign ownership in media and airlines, the regulation of financial services and the encouragement of foreign direct investment by the EU in Canada and Canadian in the EU.

Canada already has several other agreements with the EU—on science and technology, on aviation and on cultural exchanges. But this

new agreement will be substantive and very comprehensive—all provinces, except Newfoundland and Labrador, have signed on to the framework for the agreement and have participated in shaping the key agenda for this week's talks.

There are significant concerns, however, including the implications for Canada's fisheries and fur trade and for environmental protection under the terms of the treaty. Newfoundland is concerned that EU fishing fleets may have too easy an access to an already stressed fishery while others are concerned that the EU will force Canada into a "green" strategy that is not in keeping with the economic interests of Canada.

For many, including the Canada-EU Business Council, the agreement is more substantive than the NAFTA agreement, but is moving through a process of negotiation almost unseen by the public.

Dr. Stephen Murgatroyd is a columnist for Troy Media Corporation. This article first appeared in Troy Media Corporation, [www.troymedia.com](http://www.troymedia.com)

## Global Crisis Leads to Coming Asian Storm

By CONN HALLINAN

According to a lot of mainstream thinking, Asia is weathering the current economic meltdown. "Asians are taking the economic collapse far more calmly than many in the west," writes David Pilling, Asian editor for the Financial Times. The region he says, "brims with confidence that its time has come" and is operating under the assumption that "when the dust settles, wealth and power will have edged decisively east."

Pilling may be right about the rise of the east, but things are not nearly as rosy as he paints them, and there are restless clouds on the horizon.

"As goods pile up on wharves from Bangkok to Shanghai, and workers are laid off in record numbers, people in East Asia are beginning to realize they aren't only experiencing an economic downturn but living through the end of an era," says Walden Bello, a senior analyst at the Bangkok-based Focus on the Global South, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, and professor of sociology at the University of the Philippines.

The current crisis is due to the global crisis of capitalism, but most Asian economies are being particularly hard hit because they bought into a scheme by the World Bank back in the 1970s. The plan was to raise living standards without redistributing wealth—thus challenging local elites—by turning countries like South Korea and Taiwan into exporting machines, where economic growth would lift the poor out of poverty.

At the same time, the United States was pressuring Japan to revalue its currency to make Tokyo's products more costly in order to cut the trade gap between the two nations. Japan complied, but its domestic labor costs increased as a result. To keep its status as the world's top exporter, Tokyo began pouring tens of billions into the rest of Asia to take advantage of low wages in places like China and Vietnam. The strategy was to produce low cost goods, ship them to Japan, and then Europe and the United States.

"This was industrial policy and planning on a grand scale," says Bello, "managed jointly by

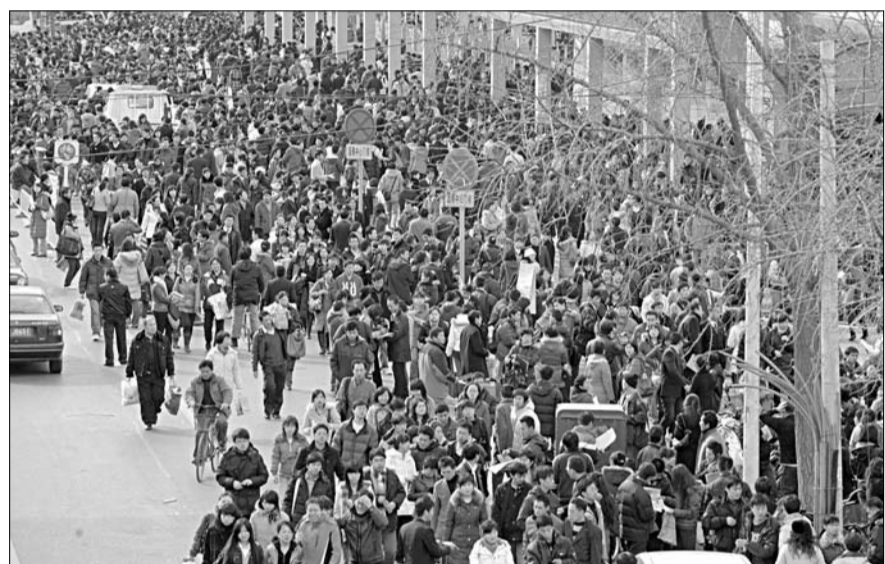
the Japanese government and the corporations."

The export machine did indeed raise living standards all over Asia, but it ran on the endless appetite of U.S. and European consumers. As long as Americans could get easy credit—and they could as long as China and Japan bought up hundreds of billions of U.S. Treasury bonds—everything was hunky dory. Until the housing bubble popped and the bottom fell out of the credit market. The fallout has been catastrophic.

"China's growth in 2008 fell to 9 percent, from 11 percent a year earlier. Japan is now in deep recession. ... South Korea, the hardest hit of Asia's economies so far, has seen its currency collapse by some 30 percent relative to the dollar. Southeast Asia's growth in 2009 will likely be half of that in 2008," says Bello.

Although economic growth did alleviate some poverty, the gap between haves and have-nots actually expanded over the last decade. Between 2000 and 2006, Asia grew at more than twice the rate of the rest of the world, but as the Financial Times points out, that hardly meant the end of penury.

"Many of the people in the region were still suffering from serious poverty. More than 1 billion people, representing almost 62 percent of the region's labor force, were still working in the 'informal economy.' Some 900



GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT: Job seekers crowd outside a job fair in Beijing on Feb. 7. At least 20 million Chinese have lost their jobs in the past few months. LIUJIN/APGETTY IMAGES

million were living on less than \$2 a day. The International Labor Organization found that 308 million of these people were living in extreme poverty—less than \$1 per day.

According to Bello, some 20 million Chinese have lost their jobs in just the last few months, and there are no industries to soak up the growing army of the unemployed. The economic crisis has also forced millions of Indonesian and Filipino migrant workers to return home to markets that high unemployment drove them to flee.

Rising poverty rates and jobless-

ness is already leading to protests in Vietnam, and "Korea, with its tradition of militant labor and peasant protest, is a ticking time bomb," says Bello.

The Financial Times' Pilling writes, "Asians are stoical ... nor have the people yet turned with a vengeance on incompetent politicians or negligent regulators."

You wouldn't want to put a lot of money on that stoicism to endure.

Conn Hallinan is a contributor for counterpunch.org, where this article was first published. Send comments to [ringoanne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ringoanne@sbcglobal.net).

## The real dangers of global warming

By VÁCLAV KLAUS

PRAGUE, Czech Republic—I am surprised at how so many people nowadays in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere have come to support policies underpinned by hysteria over global warming, particularly cap-and-trade legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and subsidies for "green" energy sources.

I am convinced that this is a misguided strategy—not only because of the uncertainty about the dangers that global warming might pose, but also because of the certainty of the damage that these proposed policies aimed at mitigation will impose.

I was invited to address this issue at a recent conference in Santa Barbara, California. My audience included business leaders who hope

to profit from cap-and-trade policies and from subsidies for renewable energy and "green" jobs. My advice to them was to not get caught up in the hysteria.

Europe is several years ahead of the United States in implementing policies intended to mitigate global warming. All of the European Union's member countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol and adopted a wide range of policies to lower their emissions and meet their Kyoto targets.

These policies include a cap-and-trade initiative known as the Emissions Trading Scheme, steep fuel taxes, and ambitious programs to build windmills and other renewable energy projects. These policies were undertaken at a time when the EU economy was doing well and—one hopes—with full knowledge that

they would have significant costs.

With the global financial crisis and the sudden economic downturn, two things are becoming clear. First, it will be difficult to afford these expensive new sources of energy. Second, energy rationing policies like cap-and-trade will be a permanent drag on economic activity. Ironically, emissions have not decreased as a result of these policies, but are doing so now as the world economy moves into recession.

This is not a surprise to someone like me, having been actively involved in my country's transition from communism to a free society and market economy. The old, outmoded heavy industries that were the pride of our communist regime were shut down—practically overnight—because they could not survive the opening of the economy.

The result was a dramatic decline in CO2 emissions.

The secret behind the cut in emissions was economic decline. As the economies of the Czech Republic and other central and eastern European countries were rebuilt and began to grow again, emissions have naturally started to increase. It should be clear to everyone that there is a very strong correlation between economic growth and energy use.

So I am amazed to see people going along with the currently fashionable political argument that policies like cap-and-trade, government mandates, and subsidies for renewable energy can actually benefit an economy. It is claimed that government, working together with business, will create "a new energy economy" that the businesses involved will profit, and that everyone will be better off.

This is a fantasy. Cap-and-trade can only work by raising energy prices. Consumers who are forced

to pay higher prices for energy will have less money to spend on other things. While the individual companies that provide the higher-priced "green" energy may do well, the net economic effect will be negative.

It is necessary to look at the bigger picture. Profits can be made when energy is rationed or subsidized, but only within an economy operating at lower, or even negative, growth rates. This means that over the longer term, everyone will be competing for a piece of a pie that is smaller than it would have been without energy rationing.

This does not auger well either for growth or for working our way out of today's crisis.

Václav Klaus is president of The Czech Republic, which holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union until June 2009. He is the author of "Blue Planet in Green Shackles—What Is Endangered: Climate or Freedom?" Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2009.

The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

## Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

Commentary Seven

On the Chinese Communist Party's History of Killing

None of the capitalists could escape the Five Anti Campaign. They were required to pay taxes that had been "evaded" as early as the Guangxu Period (1875–1908) in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911) when the Shanghai commercial market was initially established. The capitalists could not possibly afford to pay such "taxes" even with all their fortunes.

They had no other choice but to end their lives, but they didn't dare to jump into the Huangpu River. If their bodies could not be found, the CCP would accuse them of fleeing to Hong Kong, and their family members would still be held responsible for the taxes.

The capitalists instead jumped from tall buildings, leaving a corpse so that the CCP could see proof of their death. It was said that people didn't dare to walk next to tall buildings in Shanghai at that time for fear of being crushed by people jumping from above.

According to "Facts of the Political Campaigns after the Founding of the People's Republic of China," co-edited in 1996 by four government units, including the CCP History Research Center, during the Three Anti Campaign and Five Anti Campaign, more than 323,100 people were arrested, and over 280 committed suicide or disappeared.

In the Anti-Hu Feng campaign in 1955, over 5,000 were incriminated, over 500 arrested, over 60 committed suicide, and 12 died from unnatural causes. In the subsequent Suppression of the Reactionaries, over 21,300 people were executed, and over 4,300 committed suicide or disappeared.

The great famine

The highest death toll was recorded during China's Great Famine shortly after the Great Leap Forward. The article "Great Famine" in the book "Historical Records of the People's Republic of China" states, "The number of unnatural deaths and reduced births from 1959 to 1961 is estimated at about 40 million. ... China's depopulation by 40 million is likely to be the world's greatest famine in this

century."

The Great Famine was falsely labeled a "Three-Year Natural Disaster" by the CCP. In fact, those three years had favorable weather conditions without any massive natural disasters like flooding, drought, hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, frost, freeze, hail or plague of locusts. The disaster was entirely caused by man.

The Great Leap Forward campaign required everyone in China to become involved in steel-making, forcing farmers to leave their crops to rot in the field. Despite this, officials in every region escalated their claims of production yields. He Yiran, the first secretary of the Party Committee of Liuzhou Prefecture, on his own fabricated the shockingly high yield of "65,000 kilograms of paddy rice per 'mu'" in Huanjiang County. This was right after the Lushan Plenum, when the CCP's Anti-Rightist Movement spread out to the entire country.

In order to demonstrate that the CCP was correct all the time, the crops were expropriated by the government as a form of taxation according to these exaggerated yields. Consequently, the grain rations,

seeds, and staple foods of the peasants were all confiscated. When the demand still could not be met, the peasants were accused of hiding their crops.

He Yiran once said that they must strive to get first place in the competition for highest yield no matter how many people in Liuzhou would die. Some peasants were deprived of everything, with only some handfuls of rice left hidden in the urine basin.

The Party Committee of Xunle District, Huanjiang County, even issued an order to forbid cooking, preventing the peasants from eating the crops. Patrols were conducted by militiamen at night. If they saw light from a fire, they would proceed with a search and raid. Many peasants did not even dare to cook edible wild herbs or bark, and died of starvation.

Historically, in times of famine, the government would provide rice porridge, distribute the crops, and allow victims to flee from the famine. The CCP, however, regarded fleeing from the famine as a disgrace to the Party's prestige and ordered militiamen to block roadways to prevent victims from escap-

ing the famine. When the peasants were so hungry as to snatch cereal from the grain depots, the CCP ordered shooting at the crowd to suppress the looting. It then labeled those killed as counter-revolutionary elements.

A great number of peasants were starved to death in many provinces, including Gansu, Shandong, Henan, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, and Guangxi provinces. Still, the hungry peasants were forced to take part in irrigation work, dam construction, and steel-making. Many dropped to the ground while working and never got up again. In the end, those who survived had no strength to bury the dead. Many villages died out completely—as families starved to death one after another.

Excerpt from the book published by the Hong Kong-based Chengming magazine (October issue, 1996) [www.chengmingmag.com](http://www.chengmingmag.com).

"Historical Records of the People's Republic of China" (Red Flag Publishing House, 1994).

"Unit of Chinese land measurement: 1 mu = 0.165 acres.