

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXTING OF "FOREIGN POLICY":

THE 2*FLOWS OF THE WEST'S 6*"ORIGINAL PEOPLES" ----- ELLIOTT #1804

Since WWII, the USA's "foreign policy" has been so stupid-evil (i.e., well-meaning, nonmalicious, yet demonic in unwittingly tilting toward hell) as to be explicable only as "decisions" made/taken on the basis of the internal logic of reactive-ideological anticommunism (which tilted toward heaven only in the Marshall Plan for Europe and in Gn. MacArthur's Japan). This thinksheet is written (26Feb84) as the USA seems about to try to prop up one more anticommunist dictator, viz., F.Marcos (as though we intended that one more people learn to hate us as an enemy of their liberation struggle)....This thinksheet uses the science of demography for "cooling" revolutionary/counterrevolutionary insanity (as in one's kitchen one cools a pressure-cooker by cold water). QUESTION: Is what is humanly necessary "politically feasible"? And if not, what then? Particularly, what are Christians to think/feel/do?

1. As in the prayer "help us to know the difference" between what we can/can't change, we need fresh wisdom on what is manageable (a) by humans and (b) by "America." We have a fair record of managing our own revolution, and a dismal history of trying to manage other peoples' revolutions: that should be one wide board in any party's foreign-policy platform. And we need a hard look at phrases that have misled us by our own hubris, e.g. "the responsibilities of a global power."

2. Historically, people-flows have been as uncontrollable as lava-flows --and there's little prospect we'll do better (in the sense of greater control). Therefore, meditating on people-flows is counter-hubris, shrinking the "What We Can Control" category of dreaming/thinking. This uncontrol of people-flows is dual: (1) We can no more time-control a people-flow than we can Mt.St.Helen's next blowout; and (2) We can do little to determine the direction and extent of a people-flow (given present worldwide political primitivity, forbidding planetary eco-organization with teeth).

3. As an individual stops resisting necessary painful changes when the misery-level rises high enough, I think the human global condition must get much worse before humanity stops resisting the painful changes needed for bio-homeostasis (i.e., balanced living, "with liberty and justice for all," in the biosphere). The spiritual problem for the 1% of us humans best dug in against the pain: what the Hebrews called "stiff neck" and the Hellenes "hard heart." But demo-ecologically, we must avoid false guilt vis-a-vis the coming great human die-off. More often than not, the past's pathetic-sentimental appeals to "do something" have, shortrun but especially longrun, done more harm than good. (One further comment on digging in against the pain, whatever may be said for it: possibly socially, and certainly personally, it cannot be more than a temporary strategem.)

4. The West's prehistoric people-flows are hard to trace and harder to call, in the limited sense, "West." The adj. "Indo-European," a linguistic term, points to the latter fact. Ca.6-4 millenia ago, a people-flow (population explosion?) pressed eastward, pushing the Tamils southward in India; and southward, producing the Mesopotamian, Mediterranean, and Nilonic civilizations; and westward (the "Celts": Germans, French, Picts, Irish--the latter, as "Gaelic"-speaking, related to Turkey's, and the NT's, "Galatians"); and northward (the "Norse" or Scandinavian peoples). (E.Asia and nonMediterranean Africa had each its own people-flows. So did Arabia, for a millenium beginning AD7th c.: Muslim Arabs are, by religion, committed to the nonexistence of "Israel," which is occupying part of "The Islamic Land.") Narrowly, "the West" is E.Mediterraneans (Jews, Greeks, Romans) + N.Europeans +Arabs (especially in their expansion N&W).

* 2 flows: N&W (incl. N.&S.Am. & Pacifica): Jews (by diaspora & by influence through Christianity), Greeks, Romans, Celts, Norse; N, then E&W: Arabs.... 6 peoples: Jews, Greeks, Romans, Celts, Norse, Arabs.