

(2024 February 6) Don Hamerquist, again

I'm about halfway through *A Brilliant Red Thread* and thinking how much I'm learning from it about Left thinking since the 60s (the last time I really dived deeply into leftist theory), and how so much of it is pertinent in the Trump (post-Bernie) era.

The excerpt below gives an example of why I think you I'm sending this to might find it worthwhile to buy a copy of the book.

"There is an assumption in some quarters that the planning-significant outcome of these conditions [e.g., those that led to the Occupy movement] will be the global collapse of capital and centrifugal fragmentation with a variety of localized responses -- most of them not liberatory. I think that a different outcome . . . should be seen as planning-significant. This points toward a new capitalist equilibrium: unstable, perhaps including a zone of chaos, and probably involving the collapse of the centrality and hegemony of the current capitalist nation-state formations. This is the terrain from which I see the emergence of global social democracy. . . . [106]

significant ruling-class interest in 'reforms' that choose labor mobility over nativism, soft policing over militarization, maintaining a social safety net over 'austerity' and 'fiscal responsibility,' are not only possible, they are inevitable. Moreover, focusing on issues in this way offers up an expanded constituency for superficial, reformist promises -- formal institutional changes giving the oppressed and repressed an expanded role in administering their essential subordination. These can become substitutes for substantial material benefits and, equally important, will provide roadblocks to the development of revolutionary intransigence."

- Don Hamerquist, "Email on the Historical Situation, October 2011; ed, Luis Brennan, *A Brilliant Red Thread: Revolutionary Writings from Don Hamerquist* (Montreal, Quebec: Kersplebedeb, 2023), pp. 105-106.