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GLOBALIZATION IN THE DYNAMICS OF HUMAN HISTORY: LESSONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE THIRD WORLD

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Abstract

Globalization has been under serious scrutiny due largely to its inability to provide social wellbeing to the world population especially, the Third World as promised by those supporting the process. Anti-globalist scholars have pointed at the exploiting tendencies of the process and doubted its capability, for global peace and security. Interactions with those promoting the process have landed majority of the world societies in stringent socio-economic and political conditions in their attempts to cope with their national needs. Some are trapped in the process. Reactions resulting from such conditions have undermined global peace and security. Attempts to curtail these reactions have led the super powers into production of instruments of mass destruction opposed to production of food. The Existing literature has not captured this problem in balanced analytical and theoretical frameworks to enhance understanding without bias, of issues concerning the problem. Their partisan and narrow uses of theories have led students/readers astray. Thus, this paper has used liberal and Marxist conceptions of globalization to x-ray the history of globalization, and verify its impact on the Third World social formations. It interrogates the prospects of globalization to guaranteeing the security of the Third World region and humanity in general especially, in its present character. It argues that globalization has made the Third World a victim of international exploitation and unequal exchange. And that the security of the area can still be guaranteed, if and only when, the region internally takes the challenges of its development with greater discipline, sincerity and patriotic leadership. It concludes that while globalization cannot be avoided, the Third World countries should relate globally with caution, and build internal capacity supportive of self development.

Introduction

Globalization has been a process that started in the ancient time but the character and nature of its modern form has engaged scholars, governments and organizations in unending debates as to what the process holds for humanity in general and Third World social formations in particular. The notion that interactions among states, corporations, organizations and private individuals in a system of global market economy will bring progress to humanity is no longer supported by

Present reality of things taking place within the system. In the course of time, the process of globalization has metamorphosed into different changes and natures, yet its effect on many societies remains unfavourable. In the ancient time, globalization focused on the establishment and expansion of international routes which eventually, opened trading activities among regions. The process in the Middle Age witnessed massive growth in the population of trade system and enormous political and military supports by nations that engaged themselves in conflict-ridden competition over monopoly of trade regions and routes. The modern era was characterized by industrialization, imperialism, removal of trade barriers and exploitation of international market. These were facilitated by advancement in transportation, information and communication technology. Proponents of globalization have spoken of it as a natural outcome of technological, scientific and economic progress that is irreversible. They argued that globalization would create convergences of income and provide access to knowledge, technology, information, power, political ideals, and thus improved standard of living for the world population. According to them the integration of local and national economies into global economy that is unfettered by protectionism will yield an increase in wealth and economic growth and people will enjoy the

Fruits of modernization, technological progress and civilization.

On the other hand, its critics have argued that globalization is hegemonic, antagonistic to the poor and vulnerable, and is debilitating local and national economies, communities and environments. In supporting this view, Guttal (2007) emphasizes that globalization is driven by greed and the desire for accumulation and control of material wealth for which capitalism provides a rational ideology and operational framework. Despite arguments supporting globalization, its present character has not only placed many societies in socio-economic difficulties but has as well stripped them of their economic grip and control of their immediate environments. The number of such societies is alarmingly, in the speedy increase. This situation has posed serious threat to global peace and security owing to reactions from those whose conditions of existence have become unbearable and inhuman especially, when living standard of those favoured by the process is relatively interrogated and placed on a comparative scale with that of their counterparts across board. Globalization has placed about 60% of global wealth in the hands of about 20% of world population while the remaining 40% is in the hands of 80% of the population. Third World social formations are worst hit by this unfavourable economic imbalance between the North and South. Increase in the negative effect of globalization on the Third World countries has calls for a review of the process as arguments for and against globalization have not relieved them of the shackles of the programme. The Third World is allegedly, not only integrated into the global capitalist economy where it does not control affairs affecting it, but as well exposed to international competition without competent competing capacity and as such is made vulnerable to foreign exploitation and domination. Our analytical sense of economic and socio-political inquiry has therefore queried:

1. What is the actual impact of globalization on the Third World Societies?
2. Can globalization guarantee socio economic and political security of the Third World societies and humanity in general?
3. What lessons are derived from globalization?
4. What is the way forward for the Third World in the globalization process?

Conceptual Discourses

Globalization refers to the process by which economic activities, politics and cultures of different regions and societies are integrated into a global network of relations made possible by advancement in transportation, trade, and information and communication technology. It aims at linking the economies of states into a global economic network and makes cultures and material

products made in different regions of the world available in places other than their areas of origin. It is driven by a combination of socio-economic, technological and political factors ranging from the need to exploit what exist beyond borders to the need to influence and control others for the benefit of individual international economy. Globalization is also driven by the desire to spread a particular culture to other regions and societies. It involves the development of a global information system, global telecommunication and greater cross-border data flow using such technologies as internet, satellites, submarine and wireless telephones etc. It also involves the development of system of non-governmental organization as main agents of global public policy including humanitarian aid and developmental efforts. The creation of International Criminal Court and International Justice Movement, crime importation and rising awareness of crime-fighting and cooperation efforts are all parts of globalization. Others include spread and increased interrelations of various religious groups, ideas and practices. In the cultural front, globalization includes growth of cross-cultural contacts, advent of new categories of consciousness and identities which embodies cultural diffusion, the desire to increase one's standard of living and enjoy foreign products and ideas, adopt practices and participate in a world culture. Makarychev and Sergunin explained that Globalization has become a popular word among both academics and journalists since the early 1980s. They quoted Scholte as saying that English-speakers began to use the adjective 'global' to designate the whole world at the end of the nineteenth century. According to the same source, the terms 'globalize' and 'globalism' were introduced by Reiser and Davies in their book *Planetary Democracy: an Introduction to Scientific Humanism and Applied Semantics* published in 1944.

Despite this information, globalization remains a rather vague notion with some authors equating it to cosmopolitanism. Others have seen it from internationalization; while in the other hand globalization is understood to mean a process of imperial expansion spreading socio-economic, cultural and political tentacles to achieve a worldwide network of life that will not only benefit the imperial masters more but as well guarantee their control of the global system. It explains how increase and spread in production, trade, transportation, capital, policy, information technology, and communication are speedily reducing societies to one global entity' of relational interconnectivity. Makarychev *et al.* (N.D) described it as the world-wide spread of common patterns of production, technology, management, social structures, political organization, culture and values, a process that leads to the rise of supranational institutions and. ultimately, a single global society. This understanding of globalization helps to reveal the prominence of multinational corporations and international institutions in the unification of production, management and policy formulations of world societies. From deregulatory perspective, Palmer Tom of the Cato Institute argued that globalization defined the diminution or elimination of state enforced restrictions on exchanges across borders and the increasingly integrated and complex global system of production and exchange that has emerged as a result.

Tabb (2008) sees globalization as a comprehensive term for the emergence of a global society in which economic, political, environmental, and cultural events in one part of the world quickly come to have significance for people in other parts of the world. Globalization according to him is the result of advances in communication, transportation, and information technologies. It describes the growing economic, political, technological, and cultural linkages that connect individuals, communities, businesses, and governments around the world. In similar perception, *Wikipedia* (2011) describes globalization as the process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of political ideas through communication, transportation, and trade. It sees the term as most closely associated with Economic Globalization, the integration of national economies into the international economy

through trade, foreign direct investment, capital flows, migration, the spread of technology, and military presence. It notes however, that globalization is usually recognized as being driven by a combination of economic, technological, socio-cultural, political, and biological factors. The term, the source contends, can also refer to the transnational circulation of ideas, languages, or popular culture through acculturation. An aspect of the world which has gone through these processes, it posits, can be said to be globalized. In supporting these views, Whatis.com (2003) sees globalization as the tendency of businesses, technologies, or philosophies to spread things throughout the world. The global economy, it maintains, is sometimes referred to as globality, characterized as a totally interconnected marketplace, unhampered by time zones or national boundaries. It argues that the proliferation of McDonald's restaurants around the world was an example of globalization. This is for the fact that they adapted their menus to suit local tastes. Beerkens (2006) *Definitions and Perspectives on Globalization* offers the following comments on globalization:

1. Globalization refers to all those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into a single world society.
2. What is taking place is a process of cultural mixing or hybridization across locations and identities
3. Globalization - however the word is understood - implies the weakening of state sovereignty and state structures
4. The world-wide interconnectedness between nation-states becomes supplemented by globalization as a process in which basic social arrangements (like power, culture, markets, politics, rights, values, norms, ideology, identity, citizenship, solidarity) become disembedded from their spatial context (mainly the nation-state) due to the acceleration, massification, flexibilisation, diffusion and expansion of transnational flows of people, products, finance, images and information.
5. Globalization may indeed mean the end of the nation-state if the nation-state fails to redefine itself to meet the new conditions it faces in the global environment.
6. The network society is, in its various institutional expressions, a capitalist society. But this brand of capitalism is profoundly different from its historical predecessors. It has two distinctive features: it is global and it is structured, to a large extent, around a network of financial flows.
7. At the end of the twentieth century, the analysis of globalization of capital must start with finance. The financial sphere is the one in which the internationalization of markets is most advanced; the one in which the operations of capital have reached the highest degree of mobility.

Very interesting to this study is Guttal's (2007) view on globalization. She argues that globalization is a form of capitalist expansion that entails the integration of local and national economies into global, unregulated market economy. She added that though globalization was economic in structure, it was equally a political phenomenon, shaped by negotiations and interactions among institutions of transnational capital, nation states and international institutions. Its main driving forces, according to the paper, were institutions of global capitalism. Especially, transnational corporations which she maintains needed the firm hand of states to create enabling environments for them to take root. She added also that globalization was always accompanied by liberal democracy which facilitates the establishment of a neo-liberal state and politics that permit globalization to flourish. Some of the most common assumptions promoted by the proponents of globalization are contradictory to reality, and that globalization is resisted

by more than half of the global population because it is not capable of delivering its promises of economic well being and progress for all. Among the things she raised as contentious issues surrounding globalization were (1) Its definition and origins (2) Central actors and driven forces (3) Transformative powers (4) civilizing or destructive? (5) Powerful or feeble? (6) Politically, neutral or ideological driven? or (7) Whether it started with Columbus as he set out to conquer the New World for the Spanish Crown; or when The East Indian Company laid the foundation of the British Empire in India or when the USA took over reconstruction of Europe through Marshall Plan.

In line with conceptual discourses, we can now look at the phrase "Third World Social Formations" as a component part of the study. This is to provide relevant understanding of the term within this frame of study. As such, the Third World social formations refer to those countries other than the economically, developed countries of mostly northern hemisphere. They are sometimes called developing countries, peripheral states or neo-colonized states particularly those that are former colonies. The designation refers to the fact that most of these countries are not only economically backward, but their colonial and neo-colonial experiences have created their dependence on the industrialized economies of the northern divide. Their integration into the world capitalist economy exposed them to international exploitation and unequal exchange. In the Marxist conception, the term social formation is preferred by Marxist scholars to mean society in attempt to support Marxist *structuralist* conception which holds that social relations rather than individuals determine what happens in the society. The term was used by both Marx and Engels to refer to feudalism and bourgeois societies**.** It is a Marxist concept largely synonymous with society which refers to the international context which provides the conditions of existence of the mode of production. The term was devised by a *structuralist* Marxist, Louis Althusser as a substitute for society because he thought that the latter was two strongly marked by what he regarded as pre-Marxist humanist conception. For this reason, its presence in a text normally indicates that the author works with a *structuralist* conception of social life according to which social relations as such rather than their individual bearers determine what happen within the society. It comprises of a structure of hierarchies relatively autonomous and determined in the last instance by the economic substructure. The total complex of superstructure and economic infrastructure contain perhaps the most potential for the practical application of the term, social formation.

Theoretical Framework

Our scientific approach dwells on the uses of the potent elements found in both Marxist and Liberal perspectives on globalization. This is owing to the fact that problems associated with globalization, have defied singular use of a theoretical framework for analysis. This is self-evident in the existing literature on globalization. Neither the liberal celebrated economic growth nor Marxist caution against capitalism is capable of quenching the speedily dwindling conditions of the Third World or the slippery nature of global peace. Thus, Marx and Engels had in *The Manifesto of the Communist* argued that "the history of all societies hitherto in existence is the history of class struggle" and as such that the exploitation of the proletariat has injected antagonist tendency in production relations between owners of means of production and owners of labour. This they argued has ignited a class struggle, the global extension of which explains both globalization and international relations. They saw globalization from economic prospective explained in dialectical materialism of history. According to the Marxists capitalism as a system of economic planning cannot guarantee the economic interests of the international working class

due largely to insatiable greed for maximization of profit which has extended production and distribution of material wealth to global level. It is this process of globalizing the above variables to serve capitalist system that the Marxists refer to as globalization. They add also that these economic activities create reflective influence in other aspects of the societal lives be it polities, culture, education, religion, social life and so on. The Dependency School which is an offshoot of Marxist analysis as developed by Paul Baran derived its idea from here and sees the world from rich-poor states perspective arguing that:

1. The wealth and development of rich countries are the outcome of exploitation and underdevelopment of the poor ones.
2. Dependency upon foreign capital, technology and expertise impedes economic development of the developing countries.
3. Former colonial nations were underdeveloped because of their dependence on western industrialized nations in the areas of foreign trade and investment.
4. Globalization has produced global relations of unequal exchange favouring wealthy nations at the adverse detriment of the poor countries.
5. Without a major restructuring of the international economy, the former colonial countries would find it virtually impossible to escape from their subordinate position and experience through growth and development.

The principal conclusion of the Marxist-dependency approach was that the problems of the Third World arose from the form of growth pursued by the First World i.e. underdevelopment of the Third World for the development of the First World. Some apostles of the theory include Andre Gunder Frank, Theotonio Dos Santos, and Emmanuel Wallenstein. However, liberal perspective on globalization has seen it as an extension of modernization by the industrialized world to the developing nations as a way to rescuing them from backwardness and primitivism. They argued that western culture was the best development for humanity and advised Third World to imitate it without hesitation. For them, capitalism is the best economic mode capable of global economic growth and improved living standard for the world population. Rustow had outlined five stages prescribed for the Third World as economic stages for their development. These were in line with his perception of the process of western development irrespective of environmental differences between the two economic divisions. Responding to the persistent poverty and backwardness presently in the South, liberal scholars have argued that people of the Third World were not only lazy, but as well lack economic vision, industrial and economic disciplines require to develop their economies.

The Impact of Globalization on Third World Societies

Going by the Marxist conception, relations among states in the international system is an extension of class struggle over production and distribution of the wealth of the world as

Established by capitalism. As such, the economically strong states usually emerge victorious in the accumulation process of the wealth of the world while the economically weak states move according to the dictates of the former. Such situation prevails in the globalization process involving the super powers and the Third World countries. The Third World societies are dependent on the globalized policy making mechanism of Britton Woods's system established by the super powers to facilitate their domination and exploitation of developing countries. They depend also on the economic production of the developed countries as manifested in trade, transportation, and information and communication technology going on within the global arena. Kema (2005) contends that dependence means a situation in which the economy of certain countries is

conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy to which the former is subjected. He argues that because of the unequal political, military, and economic relationships between a dependent economy and the dominant external economy, the structure of the former is shaped as much or more by the requirements of the external economy than by its own domestic needs. The domestic political economy he contends, is not only shaped by the interaction with a more powerful external economy, but is also shaped by the process. Indeed, the economies of the dependent would be impossible to maintain without the existence and the support of the external factors.

The international economic order is evidently the design of the super powers and it is fashioned in a way that these pacesetters continue to dictate the workings and trends of the system. Globalization has conditioned the world economy in such a way that Third World countries follow the developed states slavishly instead of partnership, cooperation, friendship, and relations of equal benefits. Therefore, the Third World social formations in the globalization have remained not only weak but dependent partners in their international relations with the developed societies. They do not have the capacity to contribute meaningfully to the policies and decisions that regulate socio-economic and political activities of the global system. They were integrated into the international capitalist system without their permission or fair negotiation. This is evident in the ways in winch they were taken into slavery, colonized and remain manipulated in the course of the present interaction with developed countries. Manipulation of the Third World societies is facilitated by institution of globalization like the IMF, World Bank, United Nations, and Multinational Corporations. Removal of barriers for the movement of goods, services, people, culture and capital as executed by globalization has exposed the economies of the Third world to an unfair and unfavourable competition with advanced economies. The situation is that production and distribution of wealth of the nations of the Third World society are being controlled by foreign direct investment from the developed economies.

Globalization as a process of integration of economies and people into a global network of unipolar world society has made the wealthy nations stronger and Third World weaker and vulnerable to continuous international exploitation and unequal exchange. It is a continuation of imperialism which had manifested in slave trading, colonization and neo-colonization. It encourages institutions of exploitation which has been the motive behind all imperial relations between the developed and the developing societies. Policies of the institutions of globalization are too fundamental that policy making in the underdeveloped societies are mere endorsement of those basic decision packaged and imposed on member states belonging to these institutions. Today, underdeveloped societies are not given the required opportunities to regulate and select their relations with the developed economies. Removal of restrictions and national barriers are conditions from those who have built strong economies capable of advanced international competition. They have their way while the weaker economies of the Third World are exposed to economic vulnerability. The result is continuous increase in poverty while richness abounds in a few dominating states. This unpalatable impact of globalization has placed the Third World in socioeconomic and political limbo. The situation has shown that globalization is politically partial as it does not treat all and sundry equally. It is destructive and ideologically driven in its present character and needs human face and morality to lift those suppressed by it.

Lessons of Globalization

Before the establishment of world globalization, earlier stages of imperialism had provided a mirror capable of informing what globalization would present to humanity. The imperial natures

of Atlantic Slave trade, European invasion and colonization of the Third World and other neo-colonial structures and practices that perpetuated domination and exploitation of less developed societies by the super powers had before now shown what the character of the emerging globalization had in stock for human race. It reflects what Marx called further classification of the global society into the super rich and wretched poor states narrowing the number of the affluence to increase the number of the afflicted. It is a process in which exploitation and inordinate acquisition of surplus profit from relations existing between the economically developed countries of the North and economically less developed countries of mostly Southern hemisphere continues.

The process of globalization is centred on the global production and sales of goods and services facilitated by advancement in transportation, industrial production, information and communication technology with the functions of international organizations and Multinational Corporation providing conductive legal, policy and environmental atmosphere for progress. Such system of interaction has provided unfair, unequal and undemocratic exchange and relations between the strong and weak nation states in the international system. As national interest propel states' foreign policies, so are their practices and relations guided by national interest. As such states use every available resource to protect their national interest at the expense of others. Such system of relations has taught us that those who find their feet in the system make the best use of them while others who do not, wallow in socio-economic and political shells of incapacitation. Current experience in the global production process and industrialization has shown that few economic giants like the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Canada, Italy, China and their likes dominate world's production, distribution and exchange. We have learnt that the expansion of their industrial production has continued to turn up wealth for them; concentrates accumulation to particular few and through the instrumentality of super exploitation, subjects many to conditions unworthy of human beings. We have also learnt that the present consolidation and guide of the existing international capitalist system by the super powers have placed those who cannot find their levels within the dominating power blocs on continuous socio-economic and political retrogression.

Calls for the restructuring of the existing international order to reduce inequality has been rebuffed and discharged by the economically buoyant states as moves capable of disorganizing western development and global peace. However, an insight into the recent developments in the international economic system shows that a number of countries of the Southern hemisphere formerly categorized under Third World states have nevertheless found their economic footing without necessarily relying on the assistance of the super powers and in the present process of globalization. Their progress in economic production is an indication that despite the looming evils of globalization, determined Third World countries with high sense of industrial discipline and vision can make economic progress within the globalized world provided they give adequate protection to their economies and possess internal capacities that can sustain their development. Economic growth of Asian tigers serves as big lesson to those whom the realities of globalization have rendered hopeless. Their progress is a lesson to the Third World societies particularly those who have combined external exploitation with internal corruption and embezzlement of public fund. No doubt, many scholars have argued favourably on the side of globalization based on the gainful achievements recorded by those favoured by the process but one should go further than that expanding the discourse to its prospects regarding the security of Third World societies and humanity in general. In other words what does globalization hold for Third World social formations and global society in general? One may argue that it holds no bright chances because all those issues it poses as its strong points do not hold water as examples are as catholic as they are revealing.

A good number of the so called products distributed globally in the course of globalization are nearly unavailable to the majority of Third World people. This is as a result of the exorbitant costs of the products and poor status of the potential buyers in this area. Evidence shows that only the few comprador elite are always ready to have these products no matter their prices. The wealthy class has continued to waste huge amount of money on foreign products and living luxurious life style not commensurate with their national economic reality. This has hindered production of local goods in poor countries. This is a major source of capital flight. Makarychev and Sergunin have argued that opportunities for LCDs are few and far because LDCs are allocated a subordinated role in world capitalism. According to them, economic exploitation of LDCs by the developed states is not an accident rather; it is an integral part of the capitalist system and is required to keep it functioning. It is pertinent to note that the entire relations established by globalization for the Third World is not healthy as it lacks the capacity and the likelihood of guaranteeing its security. The situation is not helped by the way and manner in which nationals of these states rush to the developed countries and how their resources are also moved in this direction. Although some of this wealth is stolen, the fact remains that they have helped to sustain and support Northern development against the South. The implication is that the North develops at the expense of the South. It is obvious that it is until Third World social formations unite, organize themselves and pick up the challenges of their development that their security could be realized as well as other socio-economic developments.

Conclusion And Recommendations

Globalization started in the ancient time through the Middle Age to this modern time with great and periodic changes in character and practices. As a process by which the economies and cultures of societies and regions are integrated into a global network of relations made possible by advancements in transportation, trade, industrial production, and information and communication technology, globalization has come to stay as inevitable reality. It is aimed at linking the economies of states into a global economic network with corresponding socio- political supports to create a united order of life within the global environment. It makes goods and services available in places other than their places of origin. However, the process has also placed the economically developed countries of mostly Northern hemisphere above the less developed Southern states as an extension of Northern imperial projects which went through slave trading, colonization and other neo-colonial exploitations and enrichment of the Northern hemisphere. The study has shown that globalization has made the Third World a victim of international exploitation and unequal exchange and lessons from globalization point to the fact that the imperial expansion of the economically developed nations propelled globalization, the success of which was empowered by advancement in technology, transportation, trade, information and communication. International organizations and multinational corporations are instruments of globalization with their states serving as way-pavers for smooth running of their operations.

Obviously, corrupt practices, poor leadership and unpatriotic dispositions of the South have contributed to the negative effect of globalization in the region and the Third World societies can only find security in the global environment if and only when their internal efforts are capable of achieving a united front for their development and checkmating of inhuman and illegal practices of the North since their years-long clamour for restructuring of the current international order has not yielded positive fruits. From all indications, and going by current socio-political maneuvering of the system by those who control it, such changes may never take place. Globalization is today

an inevitable reality facing societies as an integral part of the exiting international capitalist order. As such we do not envisage a complete ignorance of the process rather our recommendation centres on the need for societies particularly, the Third World to take lessons of globalization seriously. Accordingly, we advice Third World societies and humanity in general to follow globalization with caution. This is because the rate of inequality which globalization produces is capable of reaching a stage that can endanger world peace and security which of course is gradually increasing. The Third World countries should not open their socioeconomic door unguardedly for globalization without introducing and maintaining some regulatory measures capable of guaranteeing security of their national economies. Internal capacity building will be their main focus which must not be compromised for globalization. They should utilize what they can from globalization and, shorn with tact, those influences that tend to destabilize internal economic and political settings.

Technological services could be bought across borders to supplement or assist internal development but influx of influences must be prevented from destabilizing internal arrangements which aim at raising the economy and people to a greater level. Development of indigenous technology remains one of the safest responses to globalization. The economic progress of the Asian Tigers shall be a source and sign of hope for those who may tow their ways. Relations with the North should be based on mutually benefiting partnership, cooperation and friendship. The United Nations and other interested bodies and stakeholders should remind the industrial giants of the need for global peace in their quest for wealth in the Southern hemisphere. Again patriotism and industrial discipline should be the watch-word for leaders and people of the Third World who must uproot corruption to attain a greater height. Public fund stolen and stashed in foreign banks should be returned through diplomacy and threat where possible, in situation where negotiation fails to support the economy of the region. This calls for the full cooperation of all the leaders of the region who must first of all understand the need for sustainable development and empowerment of the people they lead before they can take or face the challenges of globalization. Globalization has come to stay and only the wise and the strong can manipulate it to his advantage. The Third World should thus, do well to do so.

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