

Commodification of Nature, Consumerism and Role of State



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It is known to all of us, that all the creatures or living organisms of this world came into existence through a gradual evolutionary process. Human being is not an exception. But human being is a creature possessing an advanced brain with enhanced capacity. With the advancement of their brain, humans developed ways to survive, day by day. Starting with cultivating food, using clothes and making houses or buildings to protect themselves from natural calamities are some examples of this event. If we notice carefully, we can see that, all the needs or necessities of human being are fundamentally unavailable in nature. Human beings manufacture all their necessities from natural resources, by applying labour, technologies and advanced merit on it.

Now, on the basis of the types of 'productive forces' i.e., the forms of applied labour, instruments or technologies, the raw natural resources on which the labour or technologies are applied; a 'social relation' evolved slowly and simultaneously. The 'social relation' is formed more specifically on the basis of ownership of the 'productive forces' and natural resources. These two terms are jointly called 'Mode of Production'. Our society has gradually evolved till now, based on this 'Mode of Production'. Presently we live in a capitalist society where profit is the only objective within the whole social, economic and political structure.

Consumerism and commodification of nature are the best tools of this capitalist social structure to maximize the profit, more specifically within this neo liberal era of economy. Generally, there are two ways to maximize the profit. Firstly, by

reducing the production cost and secondly by increasing the price. Now according to the first point, in order to make maximum profit we have to reduce production cost to minimum which depends on the supply of raw materials of any product. As we know, all the raw materials are natural resources, so the supply of raw materials in low price is directly proportional to the over consumption and over exploitation of natural resources. This is known as the commodification of nature, where natural resources are commodified in market as a product. On the other hand, if the rate of any product increases, demand will drop due to high monetary value. So, to make the maximum profit without increasing the price, we have to increase the demand. Here comes the consumerism. This phenomenon creates fake and needless necessity within the common folk of society, thus creating a hike in demand. So, it is clear that consumerism increases the demand which leads to more production resulting in huge exploitation of natural resources. Consumerism and commodification of nature both are policies made to convert any object into product, to consume and make consumers in the market simultaneously only to maximize the profit.

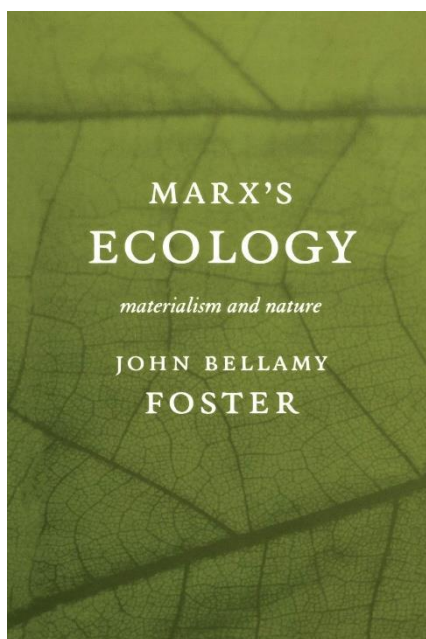
In this capitalist era, states play a critical role to protect the nature and natural resources. Previously, coloniser states would directly attack other states enriched with natural resources to get profit out of them, as there was a geo-political boundary of capital within nations in the old economic model. But in neo-liberal economic model there is no boundary of capitals as all markets have become globalized by some big

bourgeoisie corporates. So, they make sure that the structure of state is such, it helps them gain profits from their own land and natural resources. There were initially two ideological and political force within whole world, the Right wing ideology and the Left wing ideology. The latter never supports this economic model, i.e., the capitalist structure or neo-liberal economic model. So usually corporates support the right wing political forces to make sure their profits remain unhindered. Hence we see the rise of Right wing and far Right wing forces over the whole world in last few years, specially after the great economic depression of 2008. Entire Latin America, Italy, Ukraine, Germany, India are some examples of this phenomena. Now, with the help of this right wing forces, corporate regulate the rules and regulations over the natural resources, which were meant to protect the nature. The amendment of EIA and Forest Reservation Act are recent examples for India. The role of previous Bolsanaro

govt. of Brazil on the Amazon rainforest also a great example of this phenomena. The increasing market of eco-tourism is also a result of this case, where aesthetic value of nature is commercialized and corporates earn profits from them.

In this situation, the whole Latin America bears the torch to find ways out of this crisis. Latin America is the place where neo-liberal economic model was first implemented. Now, this continent rejects this model by electing the left or left-centre political forces. In all the states of Latin America these governments take oath to protect the natural resources and nature from corporate monsters as they mentioned their Election Manifesto. Most of the governments have alliance with such parties or political forces whose sole aim is protection of the nature.

In conclusion, we have to change the political system and structure to protect the nature and natural resources.



'The Point is However to Change It' – Karl Marx
Socialism and Philosophy of Marx on nature is the probable solution of current environmental crisis.
CHANGE THE SYSTEM