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Outline of the presentation by Heide Goettner Abendroth

Globalization and regionalization from a matriarchal perspective

Introduction

Brief definition: Matriarchies as women-centered, egalitarian, consensus-based societies.

An explanation of the three terms: "women-centered," "egalitarian," "consensus-based".

Part I

First: A definition of "region". This is determined by natural, ethnic, and cultural boundaries, not abstract, artificial borders as in the case of "nation", "confederation of states" or "superpower".

Rural and urban contexts. Rural: Regionalization. Urban: Localization (explain)

The political aspect: "Consensus-based" doesn't extend beyond the scope of the region. Transparent, inclusive politics; the people in the region know each other more or less personally ("grassroots democracy").

In consensus politics, women and young people are very important. They make up (more than) half the population and can no longer be ignored. They're the guardians and guides of consensus-based politics.

Cherokee saying: In a nation, the populace is a mass, whereas in a region they're people.

Opposite of transparent politics: Formal democracy without any right to be involved in determining content. As a member of a confederation of states or superpower, people are just a number, fed into the World Wide Web and electronically manipulated according to patriarchal capitalist values (dehumanization).

Part II

The economic aspect: Subsistence farming is only possible regionally (explain), this being the type of economy that protects the soil, plants, and animals, and provides people with healthy food. Satisfaction through subsistence activity.

A local economy with regional trade prevents food and essentials from being transported around the globe, with the consequent harmful effects (e.g. strawberries at Christmas, grapes in spring, exotic fruits).

Regional, seasonal crop rotation is healthier; the range of foods from our own region.

The business carried out by agricultural corporations has devastating consequences for the earth and people, such as monocultures and the destruction of whole areas of land for consumption in rich countries. But it doesn't result in better consumer goods, these becoming uniform. Producers are exploited and small farmers squeezed out, in this case especially women, who produce 50% of the world's food, as small farmers who feed their families (UN Report).

The deindustrialization of agriculture, which today has become a machine-based economy.

Women are heavily involved in the subsistence economy. In this case, "women-centered" means at least 50% of the subsistence economy is in women's hands, a fact which is noted and appreciated.

Part III

The social aspect: Ending global exploitation, which is neo-colonization. During the process, evolved social forms are destroyed, such as families, extended families, clans, and communities. Individuals feed into the money-based economy.

People in the region meet up more, get to know and understand each other better, establish networks and joint projects, build up both natural and intentional communities. These are women-centered; i.e. founded and run by women. Consequence: End of consumer individualism and political manipulation.

People in such groups act more independently, and more resiliently than individuals.

No more ethnicities and cultures forced together, no more hostility to the point of civil war.

Part IV

The cultural aspect: Region is based on people's common history and practices, with their traditions in terms of food and cooking, clothing, customs, and culture being preserved.

People make their own culture: the culture of associations, typical celebrations, local festivals, open-air gatherings, and the important role they play. Regional artists are appreciated. Women's art and culture become visible again.

Result: cultural diversity.

Big Show Business, made in America, is no longer the dominant "lead culture"; art isn't prefabricated by art corporations.

No more technology-based canned culture like television, and the internet, which lead to intellectual conformity and spread patriarchal and capitalist values.

Culture and technology: Paring back the culture machine to a scale at which it serves life, not big money. Deindustrialization.

Technology as "high tech" is also possible in the region, e.g. in the media such as the internet, movies, etc. The region already has enough know-how in this area.

However, this is prevented by the monopolies of corporations, which sell their "high tech" worldwide and constantly exploit people with new (superfluous) developments, as in the case of cars, the internet, and cell phones. This makes people dependent and they end up being "herded" like technology-consuming cattle.

This can be disrupted by making regions self-sufficient.

Conclusion

Region - Province

Region corresponds to the human dimension, not the dimension of increasingly larger machines and inflated technology.

A Europe of regions.

A world of regions.

Regionalism does not mean provincialism.

Province: the exploited hinterland of large cities; hierarchical.

Regions can be linked, with cultural visits from neighboring regions; the scope can be global via the internet.

Exchange and understanding on a purely cultural level: living locally, communicating globally.
Women-centered in the above sense and egalitarian!

This leads to a new matriarchal social structure.
