

A Charlie Wilson's War in need of a Joanne Herring

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DeepGulf operates in East Timor, a rugged half-island nation tucked between Indonesia and Australia. The country is 160 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, while its surface area is 5,800 square miles, slightly larger than Connecticut, but it takes one or two days to travel from one end to the other. The highest mountain is 10,000 feet. The population numbers a little less than 1.2 million. Although the country owns substantial oil and gas resources, and has accumulated \$17 billion in reserves (\$15,000 per capita), the population is incongruously the hungriest in Asia and the fourth hungriest in the world.

By comparison this treasure is equivalent to the U.S. having an accumulated surplus of \$5 trillion.

The reason for this incongruity is government inadequacy, incompetence, and of course corruption. Nothing new under the sun, except that since 1999 this government and its officers owe their positions uniquely to the universal support of Western ultra-liberals, mostly from the United States with the likes of Noah Chomsky and Peter W. Galbraith, and from Australia with the politicians of the Labor Party.

These Western ultra-liberals have written since 1975 a romanticized fictional legend of national struggle that appeals to the crowds of immature liberal teenagers, through its similarities with the Soviet era legends of Che Guevara and Salvador Allende. As with the last two examples, the result is a totally corrupt government, the gradual disappearance of democracy and freedom of the press, an economy at a standstill and a starving population. Starving, literally, and incidentally with the highest incidence of leprosy in the world. Government and its allies, together with its hundreds of Western activist advisors are doing very well, though, and everyone in this elegant and educated self-righteous society congratulates each other on the moral benefits of belonging to the Liberal Left.

The country's cash reserves, all from oil and gas, represents 50 years of basic annual revenue for the working masses, but the government won't use any of it to build an infrastructure, jealous as it is to reserve it all to pay for governmental and military salaries.

In addition to total inaction regarding the development of the country, the government has for years, advised by liberal foreign consultants, entertained the Liberal World with a very serious, although futile and stillborn, territorial dispute with its neighbor Australia, the only result of this dispute, now before the International Court of Justice, being so far to totally freeze the only remaining oil and gas field left in the country, with the consequence that in a couple of years all revenue will disappear.

We have conducted \$15 million worth of exploratory and geophysical surveys in the country since 2007. We have \$2 billion worth of projects for which we obtained Memoranda of Understanding from the government, the main purpose of which being to provide the country with the inexpensive natural gas the people need for their development. We have written hundreds of studies on the subject of economic development. Still, progress is very difficult, because of the hypocritical and self-righteous opposition of the Australian and American liberal supporters of the East Timor semi-dictatorship, which none of the supporters sees as such, engrossed as they are in the fictitious and romantic legends of Liberty, David and Goliath, Capitalist and Imperial Oppression at the hands of Australia, and other outdated fairy tales.

We have strong relationships in the country, though, with realistic intellectuals and educated businessmen with whom we share many ideas. Some of these individuals have been thoroughly cooperating with us over the years in our technical endeavors, and some came to the conclusion that the only way to change the deplorable status quo was to become politicians themselves. They succeeded in entering Parliament after the last elections in 2012, but they're still in the minority.

They have a realistic economic program, which of course runs contrary to mainstream Liberal policies. This program rests on investing a large part of the national cash reserves on national infrastructure, mostly roads and water supply, schools, hospitals, electricity production, in order to develop the kind of economy that succeeds in small nation-states such as the Bahamas, Turk and Caicos, the Cayman Islands, Lichtenstein, etc., by promoting financial services, ship registers, low taxation, in short the kind of economy abhorrent to the political Left. If this kind of sustainable economy is not implemented very soon the country will die, but not without going through appalling convulsions, with a death toll in the tens of thousands and final reincorporation within Indonesia.

Our friends have federated a few political parties with the aim of obtaining at least 30% of the votes in the next elections in 2017, which would be enough to control a future coalition government. The current President, very popular but without constitutional power, has approached them and desires to run jointly and perhaps become the next Prime Minister.

In a country such as East Timor, raising money for a campaign, as Americans know it, is illegal, either from individuals or businesses, thanks to the probably well-meaning but unrealistic liberal advisors who dictated the constitution 15 years ago. Campaign funds are miserly distributed by the incumbent government proportionally to current representation, which bars access to all parties not controlling the current government.

The way our friends campaign, though is very different from what we are accustomed to. They are not in politics for any personal benefit, and have repeatedly refused minor government responsibilities in the past. They are not in politics so that the people will work for them for a pittance. They're in

politics because they care for the people and understand that some party has to take care of them. Sounds demagogic? Well, it's not.

Instead of entrusting whatever campaign money they could gather to the media who would then relay and amplify some vague promises to the people, they choose to act in a way similar to religious charities in the U.S.: they travel the mountains, where the starving population reside. These populations are not of Portuguese stock and don't speak Portuguese, and therefore have no access to power. Our friends try to relieve starvation and infant mortality the best they can, by bringing in rice and medics, sometime even physicians; they educate farmers in developing, or rather rediscovering, new crops leading to the manufacture of coconut and peanut oil, essential oils, potato products, coffee, etc.; they bring in young cattle, either cows or buffaloes to plow the rice paddies; they provide tools to repair irrigation systems; they bring in drilling crews to bore water wells; they bring excavators to install septic tanks; they ferry children to school, saving them the many hours of daily walking; they offer to commercialize the catch of fishermen, by providing trucks and more importantly refrigeration, and countless other minute tasks, as needed. In short, they live with the people to alleviate their woes and prepare a better future.

These populations live in the Middle Ages while their self-righteous masters and their liberal advisors enjoy satellite internet and TV in the capital city, spend their dollars on expensive imported food, live in large villas surrounded by tall walls with scores of servants and guards, paid \$100 per month, cruise the streets of the city in luxury cars (but never exit the small town, as barely acceptable roads are all but inexistent), and fly to Bali on weekends, a mere 2 hour flight, to shop and party. Some even boast private jets. Many are Western bureaucrats, living in embassy compounds or employed by the likes of the World Bank, making 150 times the salaries of their servants and living in luxury. All are Labor or Democrats, depending on their passport.

To go back to the efforts of our friends, the side reward of their endeavors will be that when time comes to go to the polls people will make an educated choice, not necessarily the one we wish, although very often they will show their loyalty. The lesson was learned in the year leading to the 2012 election.

All these endeavors cost money, not much by our standards, but much by theirs. The money needed will necessarily come from abroad, as no wealthy individual in the country will provide any, but unlike in the U.S. our friends do not beg for mere donations. What they need is investors in a number of key projects, that will provide return over the years whether their electoral ambitions are rewarded or not.

The country will derive innumerable advantages if and when our friends hopefully get elected, not by having made empty promises for a distant hypothetical future, but by having fulfilled actual deeds before elections irrespective of the return, thanks to their unrelenting efforts and the funds invested before election day: billions will be expended on basic infrastructure, creating not only the very necessities of life but also jobs for tens of thousands, affordable energy will be brought to the island, clean water will be

distributed and sewage will be treated, legislation will be amended so as to promote an economy suitable for a small nation, the oil and gas fields awaiting authorization since 2006 will finally be opened to production, the military will be disbanded as totally useless except to enforce repression, the police will be educated to serve the people, instead of expecting to be served by the people, and the country will at last be opened to foreign capital and investors.