

Re: Design and Social Consciousness

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- *From:* bill.sloman@xxxxxxxx
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On Feb 3, 9:20 pm, m...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

gary.hendr...@xxxxxxxx wrote:

I'm an electronics hobbyist and ME student in Florida, USA at the USF. I'm gearing up to get cracking with a few projects. Over the course of the next few months I'll be running through dozens of circuits, both casually creating some art projects and academically.

My dilemma is this, how do I purchase a few hundred bucks in electronic components, i.e. sensors, ics, resistors, capacitors, etc..., without poisoning some thai river or funding the economic sabotage of a third world economy ? Are there any socially conscious electronics distributors who you can recommend ?

It depends on what your real goal is.

If your goal is to make yourself feel better even if doing so hurts those in the third world, keep on the path that you have chosen.

If, on the other hand, you ever decide to actually *help* those in the third world, open your eyes and realize that if the Third World adopts science, democracy, and capitalism, then they will get rich just like us, and purposely do the things that help them, even though your lying sack of shit professors call it "the economic >sabotage of a third world economy."

The solutions to third world poverty are well known. If the third world is ever to become prosperous, it must abandon dictatorship, socialism, communism, Islamism, pan-Arabism, statism, protectionism, tribalism, superstition, racism and corruption, and must adopt the western values of democracy, capitalism, science, free speech, freedom of religion, free press, free society, property rights, the rule of law, the ability to make binding contracts, free enterprise, minimal bureaucracy, minimal taxation, minimal state enterprise, and free trade. Of these, free trade is the one area that a first world engineer -- and you personally -- can influence the most.

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This all sounds fine, until you get to the bit about free trade.

Back when the U.K. and the U.S. had third world economies they didn't believe in free trade, but once they'd developed serious manufacturing capacity and saturated their domestic markets, they were suddenly converted to free trade so they could sell off their excess production to less developed economies whose own manufacturers hadn't built up their production capacity enough to be able to exploit economies of scale to the same extent.

Nowadays, the U.S. and the E.U. claim to believe in free trade in manufactured products, but keep on subsidising their farmers and dumping the excess agricultural production on the world market.

You are just parroting economics for republicans, which is based on long exploded theories whose sole virtue is that their errors justify the sorts of economic practices that suit the people who have already made lots of money, and who want to maintain the existing inequitable distribution of capital and income.

Modern European socialism actually works better than U.S.-style minimal-taxation capitalism, but republican economists are good at finding misleading statistics that purport to show otherwise.

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