is the most powerful instrument in the national electoral process. So, this assertion becomes evidential when we see that over the half of presidents of the USA came from the wealthiest 3% of the Americans while at least a dozen sprang from the loins of elitists in the top of 1%. Statistics from 2005 shows that 143 of 435 US representatives and one in three senators were millionaire. These people, no doubt, were connected to the corporate world in one way or another. Presumably, recent statistics will reveal the similar pattern of representatives in the US government.

Due to their inherent background, these powerful people have strong influence in formulating policies in favour of corporate interests. For instance, a policy of GATT (The General Agreement on Traffic and Trade) chalked out by the Clinton and Bush administrations has prohibited penalties for goods produced under substandard labour and environmentally damaged conditions in line with the demand of the corporate interests. Behind the unethical aggressive war against Iraq initiated by the Bush administration, the multinational companies were very active with the hidden intention to capture the natural resources there.

However, in the USA and the corporate led countries in Europe corruptions are not visible to a great extent as most of the ethical corruptions are legalised there at the policy level. But the context of the third world countries is completely different. Especially, if we closely examine the society of Bangladesh then it will not be hard to find the linkage of corruption to consumerism. Decades ago, consumerism was localised in the USA and in some countries in Europe. However, as the corporate world needs new markets for their commodities, they have rapidly spread the creeds of consumerism all over the world using the advantages of globalisation. At this point of history, Bangladesh is passing through a transition period. For a capitalist country, presence of a strong national bourgeois class is a must. But agro-based Bangladesh lacks such a strong bourgeois class and this vacuum is fulfilled by the lumpen bourgeois class who are the major constituent of the leadership of our political parties. The involvement in massive corruption on part of the leadership of the political parties can be explained in line of consumerism. Especially, if we look into the lavish pattern of expenditure and royal life style of the most of the leaders and their families of the last political coalition government then the influence of consumerism on this lunatic class is predominantly hallmarked. For instance, owning high end expensive cars, luxurious apartments, the Bagan Baris by many of the individual MPs and their lifestyle have reflected this assertion. Obviously, these sorts of consumerism have gratified them at the cost of exploitation of public money.

Evidences of involvement of multinational companies in corruption process at the government level in Bangladesh can also be traced if proper investigation could have been done. The interests of the multinational companies in our countries are two fold. Firstly, they need to create markets for their service and products. Secondly, they need to capture our natural resources, especially, gas, oil and coal which are essential in producing consumable items. To fulfil these, involving with the policy makers at the government level, they are ready to do any sort of corruptions. Above all, corporate culture knows only the business ethics; they hardly consider any moral ethics.

For better development of the planet, we must combat the consumerism. But this is not that an easy task. People of the earth are now in a pro-people ideological vacuum. One of the basic laws in physics dictates that no system can exist in a vacuum state. This law is also applicable to the case of socio-economics environment of the world. So, the consumerism, at the present complex socio-economic structure of the world, gets its footings in the absence of any strong pro-people ideology. So, to escape from the curse of consumerism, at first we need to reengineer our socio-economic and political environment with a view to eliminating the evil influence of consumerism and free market economy.

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Effects of global warming!