



Taking the Next Steps Together

I like to walk. I often walk alone but I have had some of my most memorable and inspirational walks with friends. With people like you, that I have so much in common with.

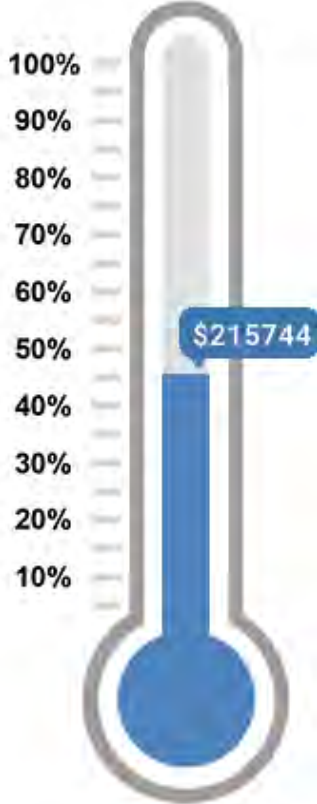
I wish I could take a walk with you right now, in the hills of Marshall NC. The first signs of spring are greening up the hills, and if we walk past a hollar and climb up a hill, we see the dynamic beginnings of the new PRI building. Everything around us seems to be sprouting up, including our beautiful new center. The basement floor and some of the framing is up already. A truck arrives to deliver new windows and doors for installation later this month. A pile of lumber is ready to assemble into two sets of stairs to the deck, along with an accessible entrance path. The framing has resumed as the weather warms again.

Maybe as we walk around it all, we could talk about some of the people who we want to spend time with here. Dream a little about the gatherings we have planned, the PRI projects that are still in seed form. All our dreams that are wrapped up in this project.

Amazingly, as we walk and dream and share, our perspective on the building turns from something that a few people we know are building to something that belongs to us.

Our next steps in the Prout Research Institute need to be done in a united flow. The carpenters installing the windows and doors, the planners and builders of those staircases, the people donating the funds and writing the checks that pay for all this, the dreamers of the work to be done there, the designers and the builders of those staircases. Even the writers and newsletter designers and event planners. We all need to flow together. We each have our part to play. And if we work as a team, it won't take too long to finish it.

You can find your own place on this team. Are you the one who can volunteer your time to install some doors and windows, walls and roofing? Do you want to garden and landscape? Or can you provide much-needed resources to pay for the nails, tools and specialists needed? Dada Maheshvarananda (Maheshvarananda@gmail.com) is chief coordinator and fundraiser. Talk to him about your ideas and what you can share. If you have financial resources to contribute, go to the www.PRI.Institute website, where it is simple to make a donation. Again and again, because that is what it is going to take. Serving, giving and sharing collectively. And repeatedly.



I look forward to working together with you. And do let me know when you are available for a walk.

Jody Wright

Jody Wright (Acarya Devanistha) is the vice-president of the PRI Board of Directors. She travels extensively teaching Prout, meditation and Infant Massage - and taking walks in beautiful places.



What is Consumption in a Prout System?

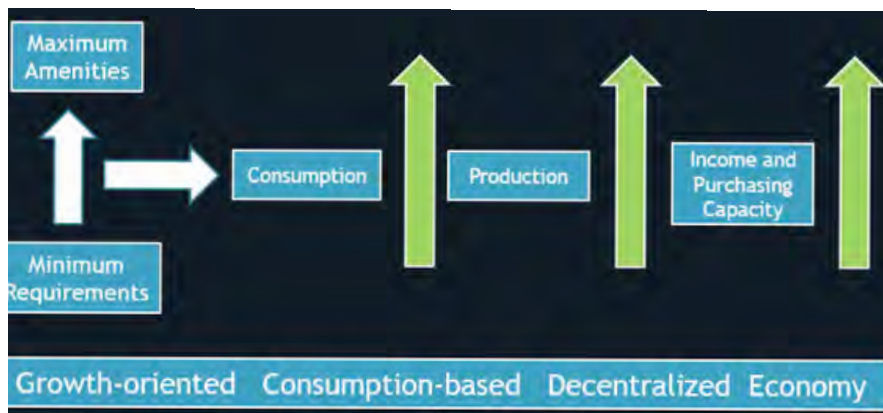
By Shriraksha Mohan

Answering this question brings clarity about the nature of consumption and production in Prout. Consumerism-based economies like capitalism view consumption of commodities as the primary driver of profits. Hence limitless consumption of goods and services is encouraged, whether one needs them or not. Capitalism encourages a high degree of debt among consumers. Communism, on the other hand, is a command economy in which the nature of consumption is decided by the government or a central authority, without consideration of the diversity of human needs and choices. Prout is a bottom-up economy that starts at the grassroots and works its way up.

In Prout, there are several stages of consumption. Consumption in the first stage is needs-based, to guarantee all the basic requirements of life. Consumption in the second phase provides additional amenities to meritorious people. After everyone's basic needs are met, these amenities create incentives for individuals to educate themselves and use their skills to contribute to the society.

There must be a constant effort to bridge the gap between basic needs and extra amenities, in an effort to constantly increase the living standard of people. This leads to a progressive increase in consumption in a Prout economy.

Local people of a socio-economic region, who manage their local resources, should be equipped with enough knowledge about the region's limitations and utilize their resources wisely, to prevent resource depletion or ecological degradation. Local people will plan their local economies based on their needs and the availability of resources.



Consumption can also take the form of common amenities shared by the community and special amenities for the sick and disabled. Any excess production is distributed rationally among people to enrich the living experience. Common amenities can include art galleries, museums, libraries, sports facilities, swimming pools, concert halls and parks. These amenities, in a Prout system, are considered a form of consumption of goods and services and can contribute immensely to increasing standard of living.

Mindless consumerism is discouraged within Prout's model of consumption, but Prout honors consumption based on diversity of human needs. Consumption always follows a progressive upward trend.

This brings us to the question, "Why should there not be a profit motive?"

When profit becomes the motive for production in an economy, economic enterprises fail to make good judgements about their production standards, ecological impact of their economic activity, working conditions of labor force and other such factors that affect lives and livelihoods.

Profit motive leads to production monopolies, the concentration of wealth, and superfluous production that can overshoot a region's ability to regenerate its resources.

In a profit-oriented system such as capitalism, solutions to day-to-day problems are commodified by attaching a price tag to them. For example, healthcare is a basic requirement of life and a human right. But even basic medical care is unaffordable to many in the United States. When an essential industry like healthcare is run for profit, it leads to the situation where people are deprived of their basic right to live. Should this be an outcome of our economic activities?

Does this mean economic enterprises receive no profit at all?

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Prout places emphasis on rational profits. The suggested upper limit for profits cooperatives can make is

roughly 15% of the cost of production. This profit is also based on rational costs of production, taking into account cost of raw materials, cost of labor, cost of transportation and storage, depreciation, etc.

The profits enterprises make naturally see an upward trend with an upward trend in consumption and production. Profits are reinvested in the local region as wages for local people, and for more production. Therefore, in a growth-oriented Prout economic model, profits are always ensured even if they are not the primary goal of production. An increased purchasing capacity and economic security follow. [see full article at pri.institute]

Shriraksha Mohan serves on the Board of Directors of the Prout Research Institute. As an active member Prout Alliance (USA) and Proutist Universal (Denmark), she is invested in Prout advocacy on social media. She is the co-author of a chapter on Prout in the book entitled, Climate Adaptation: Accounts of Resilience, Self-Sufficiency and Systems Change which was published in conjunction with the United Nation's Climate Change Conference in 2021.



How Will Prout be Established?

From Dada Abhayananda

One evening in 1990 Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar was sitting with a few workers and myself in his Tiljala residence. He said, "You know, democracy is the best system in the world today. There is no other comparable alternative. But a day will come when democracy will become demonocracy! The exploiters will destroy democracy. At that time, Prout will be the answer."

Then he asked us, "Do you think Prout will be established by the power of the mystical mantra, or the power of the sword, or with muscle power?"

After listening to each person's reply, he then answered his own question, saying, "No. It will not be established by mantra, muscle, sword, bloodshed, or military might. It will be established by the efforts of many intellectuals and spiritualists. It is your duty to do maximum pracar (propagation) in every corner, so that no one will get the chance to say that they did not know of Ananda Marga or Prout. You do your duty, and everything will happen in time."



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**Prout Research Institute
of Asheville**
272 Wellness Way
Marshall NC 28753-0763
1-336-567-6912
info@pri.institute

Developing a World Government

A Proposal for A World Constitution
Based on the Works of Shrii Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar
is co-published by the Prout Research Institute of Asheville and the P.R. Sarkar Institute.

This recently released book presents an in-depth look at Shrii Sarkar's ideas on world government and world constitutional issues. The book's purpose is to give readers a clearer understanding of Shrii Sarkar's approach to the creation and operation of a world government. It is structured in the form of a constitution together with commentary. The book focuses on the mature phases of the evolution of world government and includes more than 500 footnotes. The author, Chandra Shekhara, has been a follower of Shrii Sarkar since 1971. He attended law school and was inspired by Shrii Sarkar to write a world constitution.

Here are some excerpts from an interview with Chandra Shekhara:

What is a world government?

World government refers to the idea of all humankind (and other beings as well) being united under one common political authority.

Why develop a world constitution?

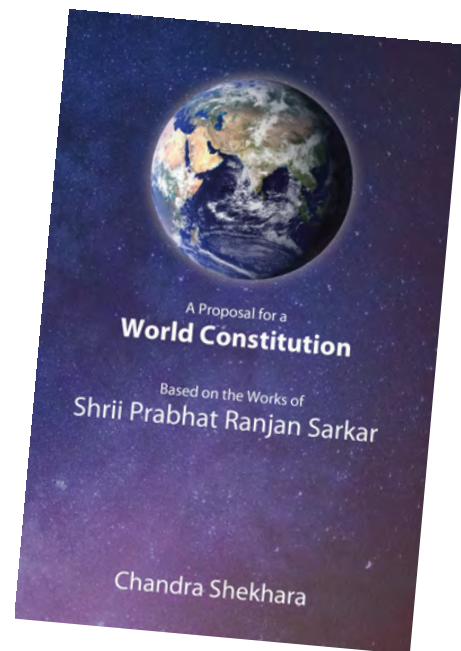
Per Shrii P.R. Sarkar, a world constitution is the guidebook in which the rules, regulations, and principles for the proper conduct of the government are codified. A world constitution guides the world government with policies and principles to render all-round services to the people for their rapid progress.

What would a world government do?

Among other things, the world government would protect the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, safeguard the peace, promote unity, protect the environment, and support economic development (although the actual planning and implementation would be managed by local people – a concept called decentralized economy).

Should there be a world military?

One benefit that Shrii Sarkar mentioned relates to



safeguarding the peace through the establishment of a world militia. He says this would eliminate the need for each country to have its own military which would save money that could be used more productively. It would also lessen bloodshed and ease people's mental tension.

What would a transition to a world government look like?

Currently the world is made up of about 200 sovereign nations, most of which have either capitalist, communist, or socialist economic systems. It is a very big task to move from this to the type of world government envisioned by P.R. Sarkar. He recognized that there would be major resistance to this. People could be skeptical or fearful of an "all powerful" world government. Current governments might have divergent interests that would make them hesitant to join in a world government. P.R. Sarkar says though that the main obstacle would be local government leaders who would be afraid to lose their leadership and power in the new system.

Nonetheless, there are issues that are too big for any single country to address. As a consequence, organizations like the United Nations address certain problems like a world government. At the same time the UN's structure hampers it from effectively dealing with issues like stopping the war in Ukraine, addressing climate change, and guaranteeing people the minimum necessities of life.

The book is available online and in paperback. See the pri.institute to order a copy.

Why do we believe what we believe?

Why do we believe what we believe? How are our beliefs shaped by social conventions? In the hustle and bustle of everyday life each and every person uses money. How is it created? Who has access to it? We use it to pay the rent and utilities, services such as a baby-sitter, house repairs, and essentials such as groceries. We know when we don't have enough of it and when some people have too much. But what is money? Or more appropriately money "things". In a series of articles appearing in the March, April and May 2023 editions of *The Prout Journal*, Mike Zimmerman explores those questions within a Proutist framework.
<https://anandamarga.org/pdf/news/south-asia/prout/ProutMarch2023.pdf>

In the March issue Mike explores Adam Smith's fundamental mistake in capitalist theory. That inability of Smith to theorize beyond contemporary 18th century social beliefs had both an immediate and far reaching impact on society, the ripples of which we see across the centuries today. In the April issue we comprehend how the original deficiency of capitalist theory was compounded by a failure of economic theorists to incorporate the physical sciences into economic theory. The belief that the economy was circular became normalized. This led people to believe manufacturing produced things when in reality resources were only transformed. Such beliefs are now rapidly threatening life on the planet. In the May issue, observations and suggestions from a Proutist perspective are made regarding money, and modifications to economic theory within a Proutist framework for the benefit of all people and the planetary ecosystem.

Mike Zimmerman spent 35 years as a healthcare financial executive and consultant. Learning of P. R. Sarkar's comments regarding monetary policy within Prout. That spurred him on a 34 year journey, of personal research, earning a MA in economics, and formal post graduate study in ecological economics as he developed an understanding of Sarkar's thoughts regarding this most difficult of topics.



Don't miss these Upcoming Prout Events for 2023

Deep Activism

Online April 13, 2023 8-9 PM

Register at:

<https://proutalliance.org/events/>

A new system and model for understanding activism, its challenges, and how there is a more nuanced and deeper path than traditional paths of activism.

ProutSisters Gathering

Online July 15, 2023

Information at: <https://proutsisters.com/>

Educational and support gathering for Prout-focused women around the world.

Prout Global Convention 2023

Ananda Gaorii

Holbækvej 56, 4560 Vig, Denmark

July 19-23, 2023

Register at: <https://www.anandagaorii.dk/>

Contact: gaoriiconnections@gmail.com

The convention is a meeting place where one can learn more about Prout and become acquainted with the many Prout activities in different countries, and the possibilities to visit them and work with them. Includes a children's program so families are welcome and the parents will be able to attend the various sessions.

Prout Alliance Annual Convention

Hosted by Prout Research Institute Asheville
Marshall, NC

October 6-9, 2023

Register at:

<https://proutalliance.wildapricot.org/events>

Prout Alliance meets together annually to plan our year's activities, choose our Steering Committee, and offer educational workshops online and in-person.

Interested in Volunteering?

We need support work for the PRI.institute website. Need volunteers for installing windows and doors and doing finishing work. Contact Maheshvarananda@gmail.com

How to Inspire Others and Yourself

by Dada Maheshvarananda

Inspiration is vital for activists who receive no material compensation. The only fuel they get for serving others and sacrificing for a noble cause is inspiration. Without it, they may feel like giving up.

Activists often ask: “How can I inspire new people to join this struggle? How can I inspire my fellow activists to carry on? And, most important, how can I inspire myself?”

There are several ingredients for inspiration:

1. Spiritual practices: Daily meditation strengthens the mind and opens one to the source of all inspiration and wisdom. The more time one devotes to it, the more one will experience peace and joy. The company of other spiritualists also helps immensely to keep the mind inspired and growing.

2. Positive outlook: From a spiritual perspective, all obstacles and difficulties help one to develop. Both individually and organizationally, one can learn much when things go wrong. Rather than become discouraged when a loss is suffered, by redoubling one’s efforts and asking others for help, one can often make it up. Hidden in every crisis lies an opportunity.

3. Enthusiasm: To inspire, one must be dynamic, cheerful and full of energy. By speaking to others in an exciting and dramatic way, one can transfer some of the thrill and exhilaration of the global movement to create another world.

4. Actively collect and communicate good news from around the world: Our humble efforts sometimes seem too insignificant to have much effect on the local community or the wider world. Only by expanding our vision to see all the efforts and projects in every country of the world can we realize how strong the global effort to make a better world is growing. Hearing and telling others of the successes of this movement inspires everyone.

5. Invite Creative Expression: The collective struggle needs everyone’s help. Recognizing that people have diverse experiences and abilities, leaders should invite them to express their talents in a constructive way. New ideas and new ways of doing things, if carefully planned, breathe fresh life into tired activists and generate enthusiasm. And the resultant new experiences will challenge and empower people to take risks and overcome their fears.

6. Laugh Together: A good sense of humor is one of the loveliest qualities that leaders can have.

Those who spent time with the founder of Prout, P.R. Sarkar, remember well how often he lightened our feelings with a funny story or joke. Sometimes he made everyone laugh so hard that our sides hurt and tears came to our eyes. His jokes were an invitation for everyone to relax and laugh together as a family.

To be a positive example and a continual source of inspiration for those around should be the goal of every activist.



272 Wellness Way
Marshall NC 28753-0763
1-336-567-6912
info@pri.institute