

## ACADEMY AWARDS - 2009

Hugh Jackman proved to be an inadequate host, but adequate enough for a nation serving us with the unprecedented worldwide financial meltdown. He could entertain through his musical skills, but his jokes fell flat. His best feature when introducing presenters was getting out of the way while the presenters did the rest of the talking. He was a safe bet this year – 2009, and a fitting commentary on 2008, the year this writer forecast some 26 years ago as the American "crash" year predicting the financial meltdown caused by American empire-building!

The pedestrian form and content and "our most important product" – the Tinsel Town **film creative act** for 2008, said it all: minorities leading the prairie dog nation-state:

**Sean Penn** won performance by an actor in a leading role for his role in "Milk." Other highlights were **Kate Winslet** who won her first Oscar for best performance by an actress in a leading role in "The Reader" and **Penelope Cruz** who won supporting Oscar for her role in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

"**Slumdog Millionaire**" won Best Motion Picture of the Year. The movie came out on top during the 2009 Academy Awards taking away eight Oscars of its ten Academy Award nominations. "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" took away three Oscars of its 13 Academy Award nominations.

**THE STORY...** the American Academy Awards gala, a befitting finale for the 220-year old nation-state still in diapers, boasting Jeffersonian racist democracy as the final word to free the "weak & meek" of this world, i.e. when they finally win their recognition over the typical Anglo-Saxon ruling elite, be it in academy awards (the Indian film, fellow) or as heads of State (Obama as the first colored – not just Black African American as Chief of the racist regime, still), the form and content suffer...be it in the hands of slumdogs or prairie dogs it's the same, we're still losers, WesternCiv.

**Slumdog Millionaire**, the Academy Award for 2008 winner is a drama film directed by Danny Boyle, co-directed by Loveleen Tandan, and written by Simon Beaufoy. It is an adaptation of the Boeke Prize-winning and Commonwealth Writers' Prize-nominated novel *Q & A* (2005) by Indian author and diplomat Vikas Swarup. Last night, February 22, 2009, it received the Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Director, along with six other Academy Awards.

Set and filmed in India, *Slumdog Millionaire* tells the story of a young man from the slums of Mumbai (Bombay, city which this writer used to visit with his friends-military generals, including 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Lena, where we bought two Willis army jeeps made in Nasik, India, 400 km north), which appears on the Indian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* (*Kaun Banega Crorepati*, mentioned in the Hindi version) and exceeds people's expectations, arousing the suspicions of the game show host and of law enforcement officials.

What is amazing, and further comment on the issue at hand, a current interview with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Tinsel Town macho film star and California governor over the disastrous financial woes in our sunshine state, among other issues he spoke of his good-fortune how he was so lucky to make it as a pauper to Hollywood, something he could never have accomplished in his native Austria. Looking over the swarthy, incongruous creature, his diction, and pedestrian style, we can only conclude:

Why, be-cry it, the decline of the American elitist system, when our forefathers, who were after all a British and continental elite with aristocratic roots and up-bringing, despite the arrogant continental background based on the barbarian Anglo-Saxon origin, they were still a classy bunch of guys, with taste and style and ability too see much further than most in those days still Wild America. But the persistency to lead the world, to be in charge, to compete, to earn capital according to Max Weber's *Protestant Capitalism* – **never to give never to share**, without political gain and **profit** (wherefrom the insatiable desire for war games and profit motive be it by hook or crook, especially in the weak nations around the planetary meridians) has finally lead to Arnold Toynbee's 1961 dictum: ***Of the twenty-two civilizations that have appeared in history, nineteen of them collapsed when they reached the moral state the United States is in now!***

Now what's left is our backlash, the more literate elements of the American society, if not the worldwide community, while this writer continues to be-cry the rapid decline of WesternCiv!