The IMF's holocaust in Africa

Africa's population is on the verge of extermination as a result of the combined effects of the policies which the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have viciously enforced upon that continent. They did it by slapping austere measures on the African nations as "collateral" for the debt incurred from these London-based institutions. They did it by ruthlessly enforcing the political integrity of historically incurred instruments of indebtedness—a debt that is massive and expected to grow. They did it by destroying African agriculture and food production.

In prescribing the domestic economic policies to be implemented by recipient nations of IMF-World Bank loans, the IMF has throughout insisted that only labor-intensive modes of agricultural production are permissible for developing sector countries. This approach is applied to both food production and cash crops which are supposedly foreign exchange earners.

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But, in fact, this policy has brought about a fundamental shift in even backward Africa's economy. Prior to the rigorous enforcement of this policy, most African nations were food exporters, even if on a small scale. Like Zaire, they marginally maintained a division of labor which could support a surplus-producing internal economy. There are now no African food exporters, if coffee production is excluded.

Instead, the previously undeveloped backward agricultural profile has been shifted into a full-scale subsistence economy with certain large-scale labor plantations thrown in, as in Tanzania, for the production of cash crops for export—and IMF debt repayment. The African peasant is now forced to clear land with slash-and-burn methods to produce food for himself and his village. Internal markets have been destroyed. There has been a shift in emphasis away from encouraging production of grains into the production of carbohydrate source root crops such as cassava. In many cases, implementation of agricultural development programs has been stalled until the debt is repaid.

This policy profile has been applied not just to the black African nations, but to South Africa and Rhodesia as well. The consequences of this policy pursued since 1973-74 and with relentless ferocity since 1975 are now beginning to surface with a vengeance in depleted soil fertility, crop failures, plant disease, drought, famine, plague, and the genocidal emargination of the millions of rural inhabitants thrown into such subsistence forms of agriculture.

In its 1978 "World Development Report," the World Bank gloats that what it calls Africa's "high" population growth rate of 2.5 percent a year "has been checked so far by high mortality rates associated with the high incidence of communicable diseases, especially gastric diseases, malnutrition and poor traditional midwifery and weaning practices."

In Zaire, infant mortality rates in the first five years of life are now estimated at over 50 percent.

According to the Rome-headquartered United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, 17 African nations now face severe food shortages as a result of drought, floods, and war. During the 1970s, the average annual rate of increase in food production has been 1.3 percent—down from the average annual 2.7 percent registered during the 1960s. In terms of per capita consumption of food, these figures mean that, in the 1960s, food consumption increase by an official 0.3 percent per year, but in the 1970s decreased by 1.4 percent. This is on a continent in which 75 percent of the 380 million population are still tied to the bestial routines of subsistence agriculture.

The FAO considers that Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mali, Chad, and Ghana are the most critical cases. But in fact the entire continent has since 1975 been considered by Robert McNamara's World Bank as so poor in terms of raw materials resources, so backward and primitive, that they should no longer have access to outside sources of credit, capital goods, and so on. The

World Bank is explicit on this: "Even if large-scale and highly commercialized farms were more efficient, which is not always the case, there are reasons for preferring a strategy which emphasizes the groth of small-holder production" and starvation for the African people.

Bringing about a New Dark Age

The ultimate impact of the policies of the IMF-World Bank and the other political instrumentalities of the British Monarchy is to bring about a New Dark Age, reducing the world's population by between one and two billion people during the decade of the 1970s. In Africa, the conditions for doing that have been met. It is only a matter of time.

The IMF and World Bank have created the economic conditions for launching wars of extermination of populations, in the same way as happened with Adolf Hitler. In Africa, as elsewhere, these wars are directed at the destruction of states such as Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia that have operative defense treaties with the Soviet Union. Thus Africa has

> ***"The IMF and World Bank have created the economic conditions for launching wars of extermination of populations, in the same way as happened with Adolf Hitler....Reports of mass-scale starvation are beginning to trickle out from relief and church organizations...."***

increasingly been destabilized since 1973-74 by a succession of local wars whose purpose has been to strengthen the hands of the institutions for which the IMF is the international cover—the group of London-centered international financial and mineral corporations.

South Africa

South Africa is the case in point. According to unofficial estimates, South Africa's corn crop will be two-thirds of the 1977-78 tonnage. The shortfall follows a period of mounting austerity against farmers in South Africa. Threatened are the more than 10 million inhabitants of the so-called homelands. These are primarily small plot, tribal subsistence farmers who have been shut off completely from access to outside credit and supplies since Harry Oppenheimer of the Anglo-American Corporation elliptically announced three years ago that they would be eliminated. Reports of mass-scale starvation are beginning to trickle out from relief and church organizations, as are reports of conflict between the subclans of the various tribes. The homeland population was scrapped at the same time that South Africa went into negotiations with the IMF.

Now, according to a white paper published during the week of April 2, the South African government of Prime Minister P.W. Botha has declared its readiness to act as a "marcher lord," policing the southern African region, while Egypt polices the north. It plans for a mobile strike force capable of hitting deep into black Africa, and the creation of a South Africa-controlled "coprosperity sphere" in the region.

The white paper defines the enemy not only as "Marxist influence"—read, Angola and Mozambique—but also as "increased political, economic, and military pressure" from the West. It foresees increased isolation for South Africa and therefore the necessity of developing a self-sufficient military industry not only in basic equipment such as small arms, armor, and artillery, but also in advanced military electronics and other "advanced technological fields."

The paper notes that the permanent core of the South African defense force, now around 65,000 men, has been expanded by a full third in the last two years. Its "total national security strategy" to counter the "total threat" of a "total onslaught" includes an increase in naval defense, an overhaul of the air defense system, and the creation of a parachute brigade: "a quick reaction force" which may be called up and deployed at short notice for both "conventional" and "semi-conventional" actions. Such as brigade would probably be 4-5,000 men, with light armor and artillery, which could take on any army in soouthern Africa.

The paper proposes "a geo-economic community of interests" and "the concept of mutual defense against a common enemy." What this means is that South Africa's repeated raids against Angola and Zaire are no short-term maneuvers for the Namibia negotiations, that South Africa is abandoning its undertaking to refrain from military support of the "blackface majority rule" government in Rhodesia, and that it fully intends to set up a puppet government in Namibia.

Rhodesia

In Rhodesia, there will be a 30 percent shortfall in the corn harvest for white farmers this year. There will be a 100 percent wipeout for the black farmers on the tribal trust lands. The government now proposes to reduce the number of "cultivators" on the tribal trust lands from 700,000 to 125,000.

One million of Rhodesia's cattle herd died last year.

NATO plans end to Third World Sovereignty

The top echelons of NATO are launching a new phase of that institution's operations which includes targeting the sovereignty of key countries in order to prevent their government from implementing ambitious development policies. The method is this: the exacerbation of regional, tribal, and religious tensions.

Harlan Cleveland, a director of the Aspen Institute, included this kind of attack in his proposals for a NATO policy in an article in the December issue of *NATO Review*. Since "ethnic and religious rivalries and subnational separatists threaten the integrity of long established nations," and since "central economic planning ... is nearly everywhere in disarray," Cleveland wrote, "NATO must enter a new phase and must foster new styles of government."

The two key African countries of Nigeria and Ethiopia were both cited as examples of countries that would be subjected to this treatment. Nigeria is the largest African nation; Ethiopia is the second largest country in sub-Saharan Africa.

In late March, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* respectively singled out Nigeria and Ethiopia as targets for destabilization. If successful, these scenarios will leave Nigeria and Ethiopia looking like the African country of Chad, which presently has no government and is the scene of tribal, communal and religious fighting and bloodshed. Efforts led by Nigeria and France to avoid the partition of Chad and the establishment of a government there are threatened by British and Israeli intelligence networks operating through neighboring countries like Libya, as well as Egypt and Sudan. The most recent reports out of Chad are that there have been 10,000 reprisal killings of Moslems in the non-Moslem south.

The articles on Nigeria played up the differences between the Moslem north and non-Moslem south, asserting that people in the north regard the southerners with "contempt and envy," and played up all the points of contention between the two regions. The Chad situation could easily spill over into Nigeria, already put through the wringer of a disastrous civil war in the mid-1960s.

The series in the *Washington Post* on Ethiopia likewise played up the secessionist difficulties facing that government.

By the end of next month, another one million head will be dead out of a total herd of six million. The head of Rhodesia's African Farmer's Union, Gary Magadzire, recently warned that over 90 percent of Rhodesia's registered black farmers face bankruptcy. The government has outlawed certain kinds of production because of the war.

The profile of Rhodesia's economic policy matches that shaped for South Africa by the IMF.

The Catholic Institute for International Relations reports on the situation as follows: "The breakdown in administration has led to the closure of food stores, clinics and mission hospitals. Immunization programs against common disease such as measles and tuberculosis have been abandoned. So too have programs to combat endemic diseases such as malaria and bilharzia. Cattle dipping has been stopped in a number of areas ... The situation is in large part due to the government's insurgency campaign. With stringent curfew regulations and martial law in 85 percent of the country, the tending of crops and cattle is drastically curtailed."

Zambia

In Zambia, the corn crop will also fall 30 percent short. Zambia has had no foreign exchange earnings from its major raw material asset, copper, since the third quarter of 1973. Corn has been exported as a cash crop instead of being fed to Zambian cattle or to the population. The country went to the IMF in 1975. Since that time, the area of the country under agricultural production has increased, while the amount of food produced has declined. The amount of food consumed by the population has dropped 10 percent on a per capita basis. In 1978 President Kenneth Kaunda was forced the IMF to implement an enforced ruralization program.

Tanzania

Between 1974 and 1975, Tanzania's labor-intensive development model, "Ujamaa," collapsed after a series of disastrous harvest. Certain of the country's collectivized lands were turned back into private plantations under their original owners. Its war against Uganda has debilitated the civilian transport sector. In the meantime, Tanzania is totally dependent on outside supplies of food to maintain a margin for the survival of the population.

Angola and Mozambique

Food production in Angola is now at approximately 50 percent of the levels reached in the years before the 1975 war. The South African-backed UNITA guerrillas are keeping Angola's Benguela railroad closed.

In Mozambique where economic activity has been continuously disrupted by Rhodesian military strikes against transportation infrastructure, storage depots, and farms, the situation is again critical.

Zaire

In Zaire, the situation is so critical that the *Baltimore Sun* on Feb. 10 warned that "three million hungry Zaireans may turn on the 30,000 well-fed Europeans," in the capital city of Kinshasa. Average wages in Kinshasa are $30 a month. This is sufficient to but one week's food. A loaf of bread could be bought for $7.39 last year against$2.29 the year before. Cassava, the staple root crop source of carbohydrate, was $.96 a kilogram in 1977, $3.57 in 1978.

In Bas-Zaire to the west of Kinshasa, drought has created famine conditions worse than prevailed in Ethiopia in 1973. At least 500,000 lives are immediately threatened.

In Kivu province in the east of the country, food riots are reported and marauding bands of pillagers. This is a food-producing area. Doctors unable to do anything have evacuated.

In Shaba province, the mineral production center, unemployment is now calculated at 80 percent. Infant mortality in the first five years is at 50 percent; malnutrition and the diseases of malnutrition run rampant. Now the IMF has demanded that Zaire further cut its health and education program by another 50 percent.

At the time of its independence in the early 1960s, Zaire was a food-producing country. It had 80,000 miles of roads and an internal economy. It now has 12,000 miles of roads. There was no seed available for the beginning of the planting season this year. The IMF refuses to allow gasoline or spare parts to be imported for the country's run-down truck fleet. Food that is successfully grown inside the country cannot be transported to consumers. Zaire has approximately 25 million inhabitants.

Horn of Africa

The IMF has refused Sudan the credit lines to complete the ambitious agricultural development program begun in the early 1970s. Sudan could produce enough food on its own, if that program were to be adequately capitalized, to feed the whole of Africa.

Thus far the IMF's policies of preventing the slated agricultural modernization of the Horn area from taking off have been supported by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Europeans. Here the IMF has em-

African food output: a downward spiral

The table below presents the regression of African agriculture *before* the wars of the last three years and the current famine. In many African countries, per capita food production for the continent this year may be down as much as 20 percent below the 1975 averages.

The figures are for production of food, including estimates for the subsistence sector, and without regard for imports or exports. The dollar figures are farmers' prices in constant dollars of the 1961-65 period for the worth of per capita annual food production.

Index of per capita food production for selected African countries, 1966-75

	Average 1961-65	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Tanzania	100 ($24)	111	99	100	99	102	102	103	98	86	95
Angola	100 ($26)	101	103	103	105	103	94	87	94	87	67
Zambia	100 ($8)	122	187	81	85	92	110	157	113	135	125
Zaire	100 ($24)	109	111	114	120	122	111	108	111	115	111
Rhodesia	100 ($31)	97	92	85	90	79	93	103	77	102	92
S. Africa	100 ($68)	96	121	100	101	101	113	115	93	114	104
Nigeria	100 ($47)	94	88	83	102	96	94	96	89	92	93
Guinea	100 ($17)	93	101	108	109	106	108	107	107	104	104
Mali	100 ($18)	92	95	82	96	87	80	66	60	67	65
Niger	100 ($27)	100	107	98	99	96	88	73	52	71	64
Ethiopia	100 ($34)	100	101	103	102	100	99	91	87	87	77
Sudan	100 ($24)	90	106	87	100	106	109	100	92	103	104
Kenya	100 ($23)	99	105	100	95	95	90	97	95	95	96
AFRICA*	100	96	97	97	101	98	98	97	91	95	94

* excluding Egypt, South Africa

Source: USDA, *Indices of Agricultural Production in Africa and the Near East, 1956-75*. There is evidence that the USDA figures overstate actual production.

bargoed all new developments projects until the debt has been paid off. This has emphatically included the construction of the Jongelei Canal through the Sud which would double water throughput in the region.

In Ethiopia, locust extermination programs were stopped during the war. Mulugetta Bezabih, Director-General of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, has warned that the swarms can no longer be controlled with the resources availbale in the area. Immediately threatened are Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. If not destroyed, the swarms will move through the Arabian peninsula into the Indian subcontinent. The U.S., Britain, other countries, and the international agencies have been asked to help. None has bothered to reply.

West Africa

The resources of this area, human and otherwise, have been depleted by the long-standing drought in the Sahel countries, which has lowered water levels throughout the region's river systems while exacerbating problems of food supply. Again the IMF has accelerated the process of decay.

Ghana's "Operation Feed Yourself" has destroyed that country's advanced agricultural sector and reduced overall food production 16 percent since 1973.

In Nigeria, "Operation Feed the Nation" has produced an annual official 0.5 percent increase in food production. The population growth rate of 3 per-cent offsets that.

—*Christopher White*

The debt burden for Africa

The following table indicates the burden of debt for three selected Africa governments. Figures are for foreign public sector debt, and include private and public sector loans to public sectors of the above countries. The figures do not include private sector borrowing.

Country	Year	Balance of trade ($ mil)	Total debt ($ mil)	Debt service due ($ mil)	Debt service ratio (%)
Sudan	1970	NA	293.7	33.3	NA
	1971		309.1	46.3	
	1972	6.9	329.4	48.8	13.5
	1973	1.0	376.9	54.5	12.4
	1974	−305.4	723.0	58.5	16.6
	1975	−518.1	941.7	93.0	21.2
	1976	−426.1	1,292.1	119.7	21.6
	1977	−398.6	NA	184.0	27.8
	1978		2,500.0†	224.9	30.0
	1979			228.6*	
	1980			219.6*	
	1981	NA	NA	229.1*	
	1982			197.5*	
	1983			181.2*	
Zaire	1972	112.2	541.1	61.1	8.0
	1973	258.4	860.5	93.0	9.0
	1974	469.4	1,292.2	189.1	13.6
	1975	80.8	1,650.9	153.6	17.8
	1976	320.6	2,170.0	119.8	13.8
	1977	476.9		378.4	37.1
	1978			453.9*	50.0**
	1979			448.3*	
	1980	NA	NA	459.3*	
	1981			385.2*	
	1982			357.2*	
	1983			309.7*	
Zambia	1970	NA	547.8	54.4	NA
	1971		534.6	71.8	
	1972	81.4	559.6	85.3	11.3
	1973	401.9	568.9	346.5	30.0
	1974	421.6	679.6	77.7	5.5
	1975	−327.9	957.2	76.5	10.2
	1976	228.0	1,184.3	86.5	19.8
	1977	77.4	1,270.0	185.4	
	1978			211.0*	
				210.5*	
	1980	NA	NA	176.8*	NA
	1981			128.9*	
	1982			112.9*	
	1983			109.1*	

* World Bank projections
** estimate, *Euromoney* (Feb. 1979)
† estimate

Sources: International Financial Statistics, March 1979, IMF
World Debt Tables (World Bank)
Euromoney, February 1979