

Belgian-Hapsburg control of Zaire

The Zaire economy is controlled by a Belgian-von Hapsburg political machine which loots Zaire's wealth and prevents the industrial and agricultural development of the country in order to preserve that privileged relationship. Since Zaire became independent in 1960, tribal disturbances have sabotaged every attempt by the central government to seize control of its own economy, and have justified the intervention of foreign troops.

The corruption, indebtedness, and tribal mobs are the instruments used to maintain this control, and were jointly created by the British-allied Belgian monarchy and the would-be pretenders to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Now, threats of another tribal uprising are being threatened by Hans Germani, whose role as a member of the Belgian-Hapsburg machine has been as a mercenary in Africa.

The Hapsburg connection

The Belgian-Hapsburg influence in Zaire is concentrated in the mining and business conglomerate, Societe Generale, which controls the mining giant Union Miniere operating in Zaire. The Hapsburg family dynasty is on the board of Societe Generale, including Otto von Hapsburg, the avowed leader of the Pan European Union, along with his four brothers and one sister. This Belgian-Hapsburg combine has traditionally been the main exploiter of Zaire's wealth.

These "Belgian" interests skim off a good portion of the mineral wealth produced by Zaire, through both corruption and usury. As a result, the lack of resources necessary to develop the country is ensured, thus fueling the tribal rebellions and destabilizations.

How Zaire is looted

There are two ways that the Belgian-Hapsburg complex bleeds Zaire. One is through kickbacks from corrupt officials that they have bought: "... The real kernel of the 'Zairean disease'," reported Jean-March Kalfleche in the conservative daily *Le Figaro* on March 16, is "the failure of hundreds of millions of dollars to appear in the coffers of the state." Kalfleche adds that "what is true is that Zairean and European interests (essentially Belgian, it must be said) would be significantly affected if this hemorrhage was cut off."

The second way the Belgian-Hapsburg combination extorts Zaire's wealth is through loan sharking to the liquidity-strapped Zaire government. The process began in 1967 when Zaire President Mobutu nationalized the mining giant Union Miniere. To pull the deal off, Mobutu had to grant Union Miniere the monopoly on the marketing and refining of Zaire's minerals.

In a move to regain control of his own economy in early 1975, Mobutu nationalized agricultural, commercial, and industrial properties. He also created the Societe Zairoise de Commercialization in an attempt to break the Union Miniere marketing monopoly. As Mobutu's initiative followed by a little over a year the October 1973 oil hoax price rise, he was extremely short on foreign exchange.

Kalfleche reports that the Belgian group, infuriated at Mobutu's "Zaireanization" program, agreed to prepay for minerals to be exported. But they only agreed to partial repayment and at "usurious rates," according to Kalfleche. "This is reportedly one of the essential causes of the current collapse, the other being corruption to ensure this friendly arrangement..."

The IMF of course never attacks the Belgian-Hapsburg machine, which is the root of the problem in Zaire. The IMF demands austerity to force a further lowering of the standard of living to ensure that the Belgian-Hapsburg machine gets its payoff and stays in control.

Will it happen again?

Mobutu recently shuffled his cabinet and set up a "legislative council." The first act of the council called on Mobutu to "reexamine all contracts concluded with foreign companies exploiting Zairean minerals." The call elicited this response, according to Kalfleche: "This shouldn't go to far (read with a Belgian accent) and again brings into question the existence of an arrangement which ... deprives Zaire of ..." hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

There are again widespread stories about possible unrest in Zaire, as well as a repeat of the time-worn Belgian-Hapsburg strategy of introducing mercenaries; 100

Belgian finance house Banque Bruxelles Lambert.

Mercenary Germani boasted in an article in the West German daily *Die Welt* that the tribal unrest tactic would work yet another time. He said that the Belgian-Hapsburg-allied "black mafia" could be used to "lead to new bloody unrest if they, the black mafia, manage to mobilize their black and impoverished countrymen against the whites. Then, there could be a massacre like Kolwezi again." — Douglas DeGroot