

The British colonial legacy in S. Africa

by Criton Zoakos

Until the year 1960, there existed no Republic of South Africa. Instead, there was a British colony called the Union of South Africa, populated by approximately 16 millions of persons of racial composition approximately the same as today. Racial relations under British colonial administration were the kind of shameful mess that British colonialism managed to spread everywhere in the world it went. World opinion, however, never gave it a thought. No passionate, liberal riproaring speeches against apartheid, no sanctions, no international outcry. All this started in March 1961, when the anti-British Afrikaner majority within the white portion of the population declared themselves an independent republic after a referendum.

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, from that point on, launched a propagandistic war of revenge, protesting piously against the racist apartheid system which Britain itself had created over approximately two centuries of colonial occupation. Even after the 1960 proclamation of the Republic, British colonial interests maintained a powerful stranglehold over the South African economy, controlling most banking and mining.

South Africa started being populated in the mid-17th century when the first Dutch immigrants arrived in the area of the Cape of Good Hope in the southwest, and, at approximately the same time, the predecessors of the Zulu and Swazi nations started migrating southward from the direction of Mozambique. During the years of the American Revolution, the pro-American patriotic movement of the Netherlands spread among the Dutch settlers of the Cape, inspiring republican activism which was not quelled until a British expeditionary force invaded in 1795, to claim the Cape area in the name of the Prince of Orange who had escaped Napoleon by seeking political refuge in England during the Napoleonic Wars.

Britain began shipping colonists in order to tip the scales against the Afrikaner/Dutch settlers. Many of the Afrikaners began emigrating to the north and west to avoid British rule, and in the process they began establishing contact with black tribes and nations. These contacts were sometimes peaceful, sometimes violent. More often than not, the British, ever in pursuit of the fleeing Afrikaners, moved to create conflicts or manipulate conflicts between blacks and Afrikaners which,

in the passage of time over 200 years of British administration, crystallized in the apartheid system.

The British were also the ones who, in the 1860s, introduced slavery in the form of indentured labor.

The spectacular discoveries of diamond and gold fields in the 1860s and 1870s gave a new impetus to British imperialism as it moved aggressively against both Boers and blacks, rapaciously stealing, annexing, and otherwise conquering every bit of mineral wealth discovered by others. Toward the end of the century, British imperial rapacity was organized into a philosophical outlook around Cecil Rhodes, Lord Salisbury, and Alfred Milner, who unleashed one of the most barbaric wars ever, the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, for control of the Transvaal goldfields.

After the war, Rhodes, Salisbury, and Milner went on to launch their Round Table organization which gave us the present day international network of International Institutes of Strategic Studies and Councils on Foreign Relations. Within that which after the war was named British South Africa and later the Union of South Africa, the British retained virtually total economic control. To this day, British economic giants such as Anglo-American Corporation, de Beers, and Barclay's Bank are the principal causes of the racist policy of apartheid.

Apartheid, more than a policy guiding race relations, has been an instrument for British economic policy. In the early decades of struggle over irrigated lands and later over control over areas with mineral wealth, the colonial authorities would alternately use whites to wrest control from blacks and blacks to defeat white rivals. Today, the British economic giants are pursuing a global economic policy of world population reduction which has condemned the world's darker races to actual genocide. This year alone, the banking coalition of which Barclay's Bank, Anglo-American, et al. are partners, executed an economic and credit policy which has directly led to the death of over 30 million Africans by famine.

This Anglo-American financial grouping, the spearhead of policies of economic shrinkage, austerity, and disinvestment, is in an alliance with Soviet intelligence services to stir a race war intended to leave in its wake only smoking ruins, not only in South Africa, but in the entire subcontinent south of the Sahel. On Sept. 13, a meeting took place in Zambia between the Communist leadership of the so-called African National Congress, and a group of persons billing themselves as "South African businessmen," to discuss common action against the Pretoria government. The so-called "South African businessmen" were: Gavin Relly, chairman of the board of Anglo-American Corp., Zac de Beer, executive director of Anglo-American and chairman of Southern Life Assurance Corp., Chris Ball of Barclay's Bank, Tony Bloom of Premier Milling Group, Mike Rosholt of Barlow Rand, and Hugh Murray, publisher of the business quarterly *Leadership, S.A.*

As a famous Zulu proverb goes, "The British are something which was brought in by pigs."