

## Editorial

### *King Henry V today*

When Britain's Minister of Trade and Industry, Nicholas Ridley, to all intents and purposes compared Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Adolf Hitler, in an interview to *Spectator* magazine, perhaps he, like King Henry V, saw himself as the "scourge of God." Was he not defending the "God-given" right of the British to rule the world—if not directly, then with the time-honored politics of "divide and conquer"?

His remarks may have turned out to be sufficiently ill-considered to bring down the Thatcher government, but the arrogance which underlay them is not by any means unique to Ridley. The British oligarchy—or at least its more fanatic wing—is intent on dominating the world, even if it means temporarily sharing such power with the Soviets.

That Mrs. Thatcher is being spurned in her love affair with Mikhail Gorbachov, whose own star is rapidly dimming, is not a matter which she or her cronies will take lightly. Two world wars later, the British are still out to destroy the Germans, and to use the Russians in the process.

The comparison to Henry V is ironically apt.

While the British take justifiable pride in the figure of Henry as Shakespeare reshaped him, the reformed scapegrace become king, the real Henry V was far more like today's brutal Prince Philip or his apologist Ridley.

Shakespeare's Henry V is a beautiful play, and all of us who battle against odds which frequently seem insurmountable are given heart by that stirring victory on St. Crispin's Day, and the image of the dauntless Prince. Shakespeare's prince was intended to inspire greatness in an English monarch sadly lacking in that trait, and no one should miss the Kenneth Branagh film version of the play.

Sadly, however, the real Henry V has come much closer than Shakespeare's character to being a role model for the English over the centuries—certainly since the heyday of the British Empire.

Henry cut his teeth in the Welsh wars, at the age of 13, after his father seized power in a coup. He was ruthless and bloodthirsty to an extreme.

There is a lesson to be learned from that experience.

The English enemy, the "Germans," of Henry V's day, at the turn of the 15th century, were the French. France was a populous and prosperous nation, compared to the more backward England. It was a rich plum to be seized, particularly attractive to a king struggling to legitimize his position at home.

Henry conducted a war against a France weakened by internal dissent and a corrupt monarchy, with a brutality unheard of in the Europe of his day—although, unfortunately, not thereafter. For example, his troops, after one siege, slaughtered 2,000 men, women, and even nursing infants—after they had surrendered; and this was not atypical.

He deliberately lay waste to the land to decimate the French and starve them into submission—after which many Frenchmen were sent to England as virtual slaves—while their lands and homes were given to English settlers. These are the same population war policies which the British and American free-trade faction is trying to impose upon the world today. This is Prince Philip's policy for Africa.

As a whole, Europe in the 14th and 15th century suffered the dismal aftermath of brutal usury, as exemplified in the Hundred Years' War between England and France. It was a barbarous period.

A similar fate will await the world today if the politics of usury, such as Ridley, Bush, and Thatcher support, are allowed to prevail today. The real Henry V won his war against France, but in the process he bankrupted England as well as France. A bloody civil war—the War of the Roses—laid England waste.

The kind of development policies—for high-technology investment in major infrastructure projects—being put forward by the Kohl government are the only hope for humanity today. These are consonant with the American System economics of Alexander Hamilton, policies modeled upon the economics of Leibniz—policies of which Lyndon LaRouche is the world's leading proponent today.

The kind of bankers' dictatorship which Margaret Thatcher and George Bush represented at Houston can only bring the world to a dark age more dismal than that of feudal Europe.