

Editorial

Thatcherism brought bankruptcy home

Margaret Thatcher is about to be rewarded for all the evil which she accomplished in her 11 years in office, by being given a hereditary peerage. Thus is the aristocracy of Great Britain defined. Certainly, the policies which she fought to see accomplished were not hers alone, but she—this petty, narrow-minded, vicious ideologue—epitomized the brutality of an Anglo-American self-styled elite who have not blanched at genocide.

It was Margaret Thatcher who introduced the new era of wars that began with the Malvinas War. It was she who urged George Bush to go to war first in Panama, then in Iraq; continuing her policy, the present British government refuses to come to the aid of Croatia, and wishes to see Croatia—like Iraq—doomed to a state of siege.

No death toll is too high for Margaret Thatcher and her crowd. It is indeed a sign of the moral, as well as the financial bankruptcy of the United States that this stupid, evil woman could be the most influential adviser of the even stupider, equally evil American President. George Bush's new, fascist world order, aspires in the final analysis to be modeled upon the Roman empire's one-world imperialist government. Most immediately, it is shaped according to the guidelines developed by the British in the Persian Gulf states, and everywhere they could successfully impose their colonial rule.

There is one key difference, however, between the British Empire of the last century and the first half of this, and the perspective for an Anglo-American empire today. Both Britain and the United States are now themselves bankrupt. They lack the industrial and financial clout to impose a *Pax Romana*, even though they can bring on a new era of total war far more devastating than the Thirty Years' War of the 17th century, threatening to create ruin engulfing the whole of the planet, not just a few countries.

It is a strange world indeed, in which a stupid woman like Margaret Thatcher—unfit, really, even for the role of nanny—can pose as an expert on world finance. The truth is, that Great Britain today is probably in worse financial and economic shape than ever before

in its history. Strange it is that Queen Elizabeth is about to create her a countess precisely at the point where there is widespread agreement that her policies have been an unmitigated disaster for the majority of the British people.

Over the past 18 months, British unemployment has risen by 50%, to 2.4 million people. As in the United States, the same period has seen a diminution in the benefits available to these working people. The U.S. middle class is not doing much better, as public education, the public library system, and even the health system are collapsing: In 1980, there were 934 libraries open for 45 or more hours a week; today there are only 641 libraries, and their hours are reduced, with further cutbacks in the offing.

Public spending, pension fund payments, and unemployment benefits have also declined by approximately one-fifth. While health service spending actually increased, services have declined because the increase was absorbed by the needs of an increasingly elderly population. As a result, the spread between rich and poor is growing in the United States. Labor unions have been weakened and job protection consequently been reduced, along with wages.

The same policies which have brought the United States to the point of bankruptcy—deregulation of key sectors of the economy such as transportation, and unrealistically low taxes which favor the wealthy and speculative investment—have created the illusion that these problems are irreversible.

This is the essence of Anglo-American foreign policy as well—to widen the gap between the richer and the poorer countries, through imposing the usurious dictates of the International Monetary Fund at the expense of the very survival of some nations, and the welfare of others.

Let Mrs. Thatcher become a countess. Someday, the British people themselves and their American "cousins" will wake up to the reality behind that evil aristocracy that rewards genocide and despises all genuine fighters for freedom such as the valiant Croatian people.