

Editorial

A decade of wars

It is ten years ago that the United States and Great Britain cooperated in the first of the ugly "little wars" which have marred this decade. In April 1982 the British declared war against Argentina in order to maintain their illegal claim of ownership of the Malvinas (known by them as the Falkland Islands).

This was the start of a series of wars which directly involved the United States, including the invasion of Grenada, the invasion of Panama, and the war against Iraq, and other wars and destabilizations in which the Anglo-Americans were more indirectly involved. As we warned, the policy underlying the British invasion of Malvinas would bring us to the brink of another global conflict. On April 20, 1982, in an editorial, we accurately pointed to the opening that the British attack on the Malvinas created for an Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

As the British Navy was steaming toward the south Atlantic, we warned that this was just a first step in the transformation of Ibero-America away from its alliance with the United States. As we foresaw, nationalists in Argentina, Venezuela, and Colombia now identify the U.S. government as responsible for imposing policies upon them which have wrecked their economic potential and created a civil crisis in their nations. It is only a matter of time before these forces succeed in toppling hated puppet regimes such as that of Carlos Andrés Pérez in Venezuela.

One of the most nefarious aspects of the Malvinas war was the consolidation of Britain's grip over U.S. foreign policy (a control which had escalated when Henry Kissinger became secretary of state under Richard Nixon and—according to his own account—reported to the British Foreign Office, sometimes before even consulting his own President). This was, in effect, the end of the Monroe Doctrine, which had been formulated to protect the nations of the Americas from coming under the British sphere of influence.

While it is true that the British were able to unlawfully occupy the Malvinas by military action in 1839 (the same year they started the first Opium War against China!), under U.S. law the islands were and remained

Argentine territory—until 1982. U.S. policy was succinctly stated in an advisory written in 1821 to President Monroe by then-U.S. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams. Adams formulated what became known as the Monroe Doctrine as follows: "The United States must not 'come in as a cock-boat in the wake of a British man-of-war.' "

True, in the 1830s, we did not dislodge the British from the islands which they seized by conquest, but at least we were clear that we not only did not support such a policy, but that we opposed all violations of national sovereignty, especially those in our own backyard. A point of reference in the not-so-distant past, when the United States refused to condone such British imperialist adventures, was the case of President Eisenhower's intervention to force the Israelis, French, and British to withdraw after their occupation of the Suez Canal in 1956.

In the ten years since the ugly Malvinas war, U.S. policy has completed a 180 degree shift from that policy. The Bush administration has let it be known that the United States is prepared to violate the sovereignty of any nation which defies the dictates of the International Monetary Fund or otherwise opposes Anglo-American imperial designs.

On April 27, 1982, Lyndon LaRouche issued a prophetic assessment in the pages of this magazine. He wrote: "The accelerating deterioration of the domestic and foreign-policy posture of the United States requires sharp action to reverse these trends, by reversing the causes of the policy of these trends. This requires nothing less than dramatic action beginning such a policy-reversal by the President of the United States." Key to this was a reversal of the usury being imposed upon developing lands by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Bank of England, and U.S. banks such as David Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan.

Many well-meaning Americans believed then that somehow President Reagan knew what he was doing, and that he would set the United States back on track. That illusion is long gone, and with it, valuable time.