

What's at stake in Peru's war with Shining Path

by Dennis Small

The nation of Peru is locked in a battle to the death with the most bloodthirsty subversive apparatus that has ever appeared in the western hemisphere, the bestial Shining Path narco-terrorists. Their stated objective is to murder 1 million out of 23 million Peruvians, in order to shatter the nation and establish an ethnically "cleansed," indigenist brand of Inca primitive communism. Only the genocidal Pol Pot regime in Cambodia, or the Serbian butchers of Bosnia, can compare with this brutal organization. When Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori took office on July 28, 1990, the country had already been at war against Shining Path for over a decade—and was losing. In his three years in power, as we document below, Fujimori, working closely with the top military command headed by Gen. Nicolás de Bari Hermoza, has turned the situation around almost 180 degrees:

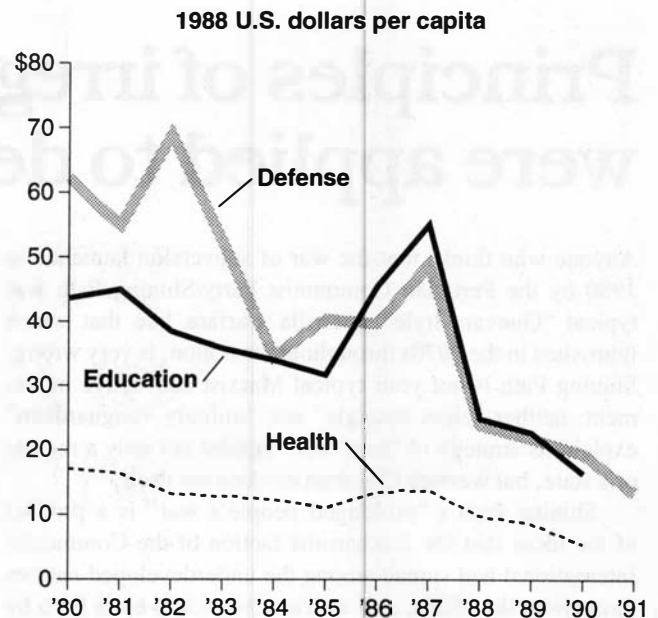
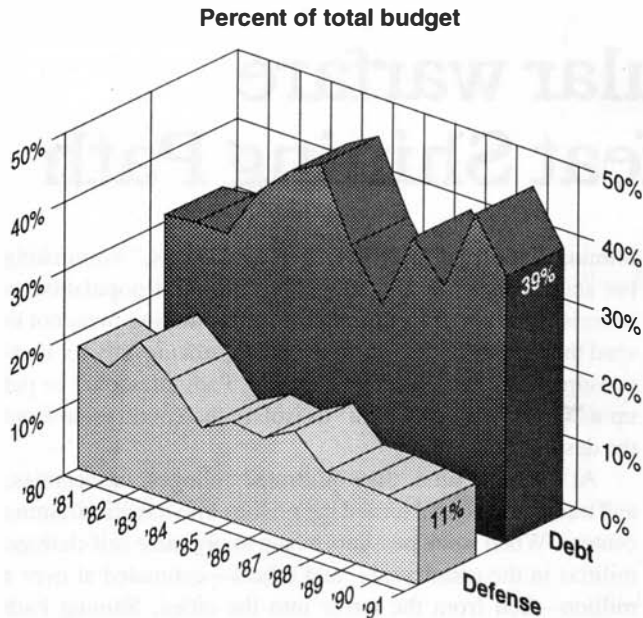
- Most of the Shining Path command have been captured and given life sentences, including the feared leader Abimael Guzmán.
- Shining Path's sister terrorist organization, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), has been even more thoroughly dismantled, with its entire top leadership in jail and its rank and file turning themselves in to the authorities.
- The Shining Path support apparatus in the legislative and judiciary branches has been dealt a body blow which has allowed the military war to be pursued.
- Most important of all, the people of Peru have been given back a sense of dignity and optimism, earning President Fujimori the strong support of the Peruvian population and of its patriotic Armed Forces.

But the Peruvian government has had to achieve this in the face of the hostile, organized opposition of the U.S. State Department (under both Bush and Clinton); most of the other governments of Ibero-America; the international human rights lobby organized in various non-governmental organizations such as Amnesty International and Americas Watch; and a domestic political apparatus called the Democratic Forum.

As the Peruvian Movement for Ibero-American Solidarity (MSIA) recently

The IMF has tried to strangle Peru's war against Shining Path

Government expenditures, by sector



Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática, Lima, Peru, 1992.

warned, these same forces are currently deployed “in an imminent, new intended coup against the government of Peru, including the possibility of assassinating President Alberto Fujimori and Gen. Nicolás de Bari Hermoza, the main figures in the successful war against Shining Path. . . . As President Fujimori stated . . . in Brazil, the nations of the Ibero-American subcontinent have a debt to the current Peruvian government, for having stopped the continental threat posed by Shining Path, which had already infected various South American countries. For its own survival, all of Ibero-America today must make common cause with Peru and its government in saying no to the globalist forces that want to blow up the continent, just as they have blown up the Balkans, the Middle East, and Africa.”

For all its successes to date, however, the Fujimori anti-terrorist strategy has two crucial flaws.

The first of these is economic: The Peruvian government remains committed to the free-market austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the creditor banks. This has led to an impoverishment of the population, which is a political time bomb. As *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche recently warned in an interview with this magazine: “If you are carrying out an IMF program against your own population, and you are trying to fight guerrillas, you are facing a losing battle.” IMF policies have also forced government budget cutbacks in all areas except debt service payments (see graphs). In terms of defense expenditures, this has meant a drop in outlays from \$62.10 per capita in 1980,

to \$13.40 per capita in 1991—a devastating 78% decline. The results are well known. The Peruvian Armed Forces are desperately short of the most basic matériel needed to pursue the war against Shining Path: helicopters, fuel, and even uniforms and simple weapons. Peruvian sources report that the military has been forced to rehabilitate weapons dating back decades and even a century.

It is a testament to the patriotism, resourcefulness, and sheer courage of the Peruvian military that they have been able to achieve as much as they have with so little. Yet a decisive final victory against Shining Path requires putting the Peruvian economy on a war footing as well, to prioritize national security expenditures over debt payments to the banks, and to free up the necessary resources for long-overdue investments in infrastructure, industry, and agriculture.

The second flaw is best described as an ideological blind spot. It is not enough to destroy Shining Path; it is necessary to also root out Shining Path’s *mother*, the evil ideology known as “indigenism” which has infected Peru and many other nations of Ibero-America for hundreds of years.

To aid that task, we have dedicated a large part of our *Feature* to exposing Shining Path’s historical ideological roots, and to presenting shocking new evidence that proves that today’s Peruvian promoters of Shining Path indigenism are part of an international network of psychiatrists trained at London’s Tavistock Institute, British intelligence’s psychological warfare division, where the leaders of Serbia’s genocidal policy of “ethnic cleansing” were also trained.