

Editorial

A time of reconstruction

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. One characteristic of the various ceremonies commemorating that occasion has been the coming together of veterans of that war. Most people alive today were of course not yet born; and the Cold War is much more a reality to them, than the division between the Allied and Axis powers.

Today the Cold War is officially declared over—although in reality the nations which made up the former Soviet Union are suffering from an aggressive economic attack organized by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in the name of so-called free market economics. This, coupled with the stultifying years of communist rule, has devastated their economies to a degree reminiscent of the closing days of World War II.

At that time, among victors and vanquished in Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union, there was reason for despair at the enormity of the destruction and destitution of their nations. Yet strangely, amid total disaster, a mood of hope arose as men and women virtually stone by stone, and brick by brick, torturously rebuilt their nations from out of the rubble heap of war. This mood of hope was of course more pronounced in England and France, where the devastation was not as great as in the Soviet Union.

Things were different in the United States, which came out of the war triumphant. For Americans in the immediate postwar period, the mood was not so much one of building but of reaping the fruits of victory. Instead of a desperate need to rebuild their nation, Americans were concerned only to rebuild lives which had been disrupted by the war, and to mourn those who had died.

It is the European and the Japanese postwar experience which is most relevant to us today. It would be good if remembrances of the end of the Second World War were dedicated to commemorating the miracle of reconstruction which followed over the next several years, because the task before us today is not unlike that faced by those men and women confronted with the task of digging out from the rubble heap of war.

The so-called free market system is about to collapse. Small-scale wars are resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths over a period of mere weeks, as in Rwanda. The economic policies which fuel these “little” wars, are resulting in such an escalation of social decay that throughout Africa, the average life expectancy is now not even 40 years. Moreover, a financial collapse is in the offing which will disrupt what remains of physical economies everywhere, unless measures are rapidly taken to scrap the International Monetary Fund-dominated global financial and monetary system.

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled to be held in Cairo this coming September, is the clearest organizing thrust for a new, fascist, one-world government-in-the-wings. It is based on the premise that the poor, the infirm, the dark-skinned, should be forced to forfeit their right to reproduce, while their numbers are also sharply reduced through war, famine, and disease. This is the only possible explanation for the United Nations’ toleration of the Nazi practice of “ethnic cleansing.”

If people can be induced to accept certain axioms, such as the lie that the “carrying capacity” of the Earth has been exceeded, so that it is justifiable to brutally reduce the population, then our civilization will be destroyed without hope of rebuilding. If people can be induced to accept philosophical axioms such as these, they will be manipulated until civilization as we now know it will be destroyed beyond reconstruction, for generations to come.

We need to strengthen the nation-state, while engaging in massive global reconstruction of physical economy; we need major infrastructure development reaching out into space; we need a renewed commitment to scientific and technological progress, but more than that, we need to understand the roots of fascism, so that history does not repeat itself on a still more terrible scale. It is more than overdue that men and women of good will can know that what they build today, will provide the basis for a dignified and fruitful life for those who will come after them.