The British scenario for destroying Zaire

“This Time, Let Zaire Fall Apart,” was the headline of an article by Conor Cruise O’Brien, published in the London Times on Nov. 19. Zaire, according to him, has been in a condition of “semi-anarchy” for years; President Mobutu Sese Seko is “dying and comprehensively discredited,” and it is only the French who are “seeking a restoration of Mobutu’s authority over the whole Congo.” While some tribes in western Zaire are committed to the unity of the nation, “there are also a great many who simply put up with Zaire, without identifying with it as their nation.”

Noting the increase of centrifugal tendencies, he concludes: “Zaire’s condition now appears to be terminal, and international efforts to preserve its integrity will only increase the agonies of its peoples. It should be allowed to assume such shapes as the energies and aspirations of its various peoples may eventually assign to it. The energies of international diplomacy should be confined to holding the ring, and discouraging the internationalization of the tremendous internal conflict. The French seem to need discouraging more than any other power. John Major should watch out.”

Now, you’ve got a conflict going on; just to get an example of what kind of world we live in, and what this guy is talking about.

Colonial Africa is divided into two principal groups. They’re called Anglophone and Francophone groups; that is, those who were colonized by French-speaking European powers, and those who were colonized by English-speaking European powers—British.

Under feudalism in Europe, the way you got population, serfs, is that, if you were given the title to a certain area of land, and you became the Duke of This, or the Count of That, or the Baroness of This, then you got, as a bonus for getting the land, you got to own the people who lived on that land. They became your serfs, your subjects; and, you could do with them pretty much as you liked.

In Africa, it works somewhat differently. If you control the people, you control the land which they occupy. If you have Francophone land, that is, Rwanda, Burundi, eastern Zaire, and you want to steal it, what do you do? What you do, is you run genocide, ethnic cleansing of the Francophones, and replace the Francophones with the Anglophones.

Now, the French imperial government of Chirac, is not a