

Blair “cannot be allowed to get away” with having minimized Mandelson’s misdeeds. Blair’s public comments on the affair amount to “hypocritical nonsense.” The editorial concluded: “It is almost enough to make you nostalgic for John Major,” the sleaze-ridden former Prime Minister whom Blair defeated in the May 1997 general election.

The *Economist* followed this up with a nasty piece titled “Comparative Sleaze Studies,” comparing what is now happening under Blair, to the previous Major government, which was riddled with corruption. This piece concluded, “In the five years of the Major government, two cabinet ministers were forced to resign—the Blair government has already equalled that in a year and a half.”

A third article in the same issue indicated that Blair, while riding high in the opinion polls, is fast losing support. The magazine wrote that the reaction of a wide range of people (including within the Labour Party), to the resignation of Blair’s buddy Mandelson, “can be broadly summarized as hahahahah.”

On Jan. 4, British establishment insider Lord Rees-Mogg, writing in the *Times*, likened Blair to Charles I, who, readers may recall, was beheaded in 1649. According to his lordship, the resignation of Mandelson leaves Blair “exposed and vulnerable, terribly isolated. . . . Resistance to Blairism is growing. . . . Tony Blair was wrong to request or accept Peter Mandelson’s resignation. . . . That mistake may well destroy the Blair project. . . . Mr. Mandelson’s resignation suggests that Mr. Blair may be too weak to be a successful Prime Minister. . . . At the moment of decision, he flinched; that usually proves fatal.” Rees-Mogg pointed to the moment when King Charles I signed the death warrant for his controversial chief aide-de-camp, the Earl of Strafford, in 1642. By doing so, “he was also signing his own. No Prime Minister can afford to butcher his friends in order to appease his enemies.”

Rees-Mogg insisted that what Mandelson did, in accepting a large loan to buy a house, and not declaring it, is in the grand tradition of leading British Empire figures who did likewise, including Edmund Burke, Benjamin Disraeli, and Winston Churchill.

The Wilde way?

The aforementioned Jan. 5 *Times* commentary by writer Michael Gove was titled, “Tony Takes a Walk on the Wilde Side: The Third Way Has Always Led to Ruin.” Gove affirmed that it is now evident, that the “Blair project is simply a clique clinging to power.” The Third Way is in service to this end, but it needs a philosophy to cover up its intent: “Mr. Blair is, of course, aware that he should have a philosophy, much as [notorious homosexual] Oscar Wilde was aware that he needed a wife. He finds it hard to be passionate about the idea, but respectable common sense makes it necessary, and so we have the Third Way. Oscar Wilde tried that too, neither old bachelor nor new man but something more novel, and we know where that ended.” Wilde, ended up in prison.

Women’s commission calls for New Silk Road

The following text was drafted in the hours before President Clinton had called off the air strikes against Iraq on Nov. 14, 1998. It is being circulated by the Women’s Commission for the New Silk Road.

When the first Gulf War was about to be launched in 1991, Pope John Paul II warned, that this would be a war “from which humanity could not return.” In this war, the largest industrial potential of the region was destroyed, when Iraq was “bombed back to the Stone Age,” and many countries suffered severe economic consequences. Through the combined effort of the destruction of infrastructure, and the embargo of seven years’ duration, well over 1 million Iraqi children have already died; one child is dying every eight minutes. The living standard in Iraq has collapsed to the level of sub-Saharan countries. A new war against Iraq, this time in the context of the ongoing global financial crisis, would throw the whole region into the apocalypse.

Just preventing this war is not enough, we must prevent the reasons it is looming before us now. The very idea of a new crisis around Iraq, represents, in itself, a complete and utter diversion from the efforts on the part of world leaders to find an urgent solution to the world financial and economic crisis.

The world is presently in an accelerating global financial crisis, one that is throwing more and more parts of the world into a deep depression of the physical economy. Entire countries and even continents are disintegrating. Starvation threatens the life of millions of people in Africa, as in Indonesia, Russia and other areas around the globe.

Many regions have been so weakened by decades of austerity imposed by the International Monetary Fund and others, that hurricanes and similar natural disasters have sunk them in the abyss of disintegration virtually overnight, as happened recently in the case of Central America—which shows the speed with which nations can find themselves thrust into a New Dark Age.

What we need is a real perspective of peace through development. Only if the world returns to real economic growth, can there be any hope of stabilizing the many crisis spots existing today.

Governments throughout the world should immediately decide to establish a New Bretton Woods system, which must replace the old, presently bankrupt financial system.

The majority of the foreign debt of most countries is unpayable and should be written off, or reorganized. There must be a system of fixed exchange rates, capital and exchange controls, and the generation of new credits for production in industry, agriculture and infrastructure through sovereign nation-states.

The obvious way to start the reconstruction of the world economy is the beautiful project of the New Silk Road, otherwise called the New Eurasian Land-Bridge. This project, started by China and already supported by many countries, integrates the Eurasian countries through infrastructure development corridors, and then expands this program to Africa and Ibero-America. Through the Land-Bridge conception, the disadvantages of the landlocked areas of the world can be overcome for the first time in history, and the basis for a just world economic order can be found.

Obviously, Iraq is one of the central countries in the New Silk Road. If one wishes to change the dynamic of the entire Gulf, Middle and Near East region, and eliminate the looming danger to the world for good, there is no better way than to build the southern-tier extension of the New Silk Road, from China through Central Asia, to Iran, Iraq, to the Near East, and, from there, branching out to Africa on one side, and the Balkans, on the other side. In the other direction, the southern tier of the New Silk Road must go

from Iran to India and, from there, integrate all of South-east Asia.

We, the working committee of the Women's Committee for the New Silk Road, pledge that we will, by working to bring the plans of the New Silk Road to fruition as quickly as possible, make our governments the instruments to end the misery of so many people in the world. Perhaps, we had to go to the verge of the abyss, in the case of the threat of the war against Iraq, to realize that we cannot go on like this any more. We appeal to governments throughout the world to join us. We issue this appeal with burning hearts, speaking for the billions of poor and the innocent children of the world.

Signers

- Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and president, Schiller Institute, Germany
 Mrs. Livia Turco, Cabinet minister for Social Solidarity, Rome, Italy
 Mrs. Jany Hansal, Desa-Dubrovnik Women's Association, Croatia
 Mr. Mohammad Selim, director, Center for Asian Studies, Cairo University, Egypt
 Mrs. Nadia Fahmy, Cairo University, Egypt
 Mr. Ibrahim Arafat, Cairo University, Egypt
 Mrs. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gudrun Grabher, Innsbruck, Austria
 Mrs. Amelia Boynton Robinson, civil rights leader, United States

- Marian Stepanian, journalist, Armenia
 Nelly Rychko, journalist, Ukraine
 Prof. Dr. Natalya Vitrenko, Economist; Deputy, Ukrainian Parliament
 Dr. Lydia Gordiyenko, scientist, Ukraine
 Dr. Nina V. Gromyko, scientist; chief editor, *Russian Analytical Review*,
 Dr. Tatyana I. Koryagina, economist, Academy of Natural Sciences; former Deputy of Russian Parliament
 Dr. Yelena N. Veduta, Docent of Plekhanov Academy of Economics, Russia
 Dr. Stalina M. Belozerova, Scientific Collaborator of the Institute of the Problems of Employment, Russian Academy of Sciences
 Tatyana Kandalaki, scientist, Georgia
 Slavica Bilic, former president, "Mothers for Peace," Zagreb, Croatia
 Faris Nanic, General Secretary for the Croatian branch of the Bosnian SDA party, Zagreb, Croatia

Advisers

- Rev. Richard T. McSorley, SJ, director, Center for Peace Studies, Georgetown University, United States
 Monsignor Elias El Hayek, Chor Bishop Roman Catholic Church Maronite Rite, Montreal, Canada
 Honorable Clair Callan, former Congressman, Nebraska, United States

DO YOU KNOW

- that the American Revolution was fought ~~against~~ British "free trade" economics?
- that Washington and Franklin championed Big Government?
- that the Founding Fathers promoted partnership between private industry and central government?



The Political Economy of the American Revolution
 Edited by Nancy Spannaus and Christopher White

READ

The Political Economy of the American Revolution

edited by Nancy Spannaus and Christopher White

Order from:
Ben Franklin Booksellers
 P.O. Box 1707
 Leesburg, Va 20177
 Toll-Free: 1-800-453-4108

\$15.00

plus \$4 shipping and handling

We accept MasterCard, VISA, American Express and Discover.