

Kosovo Liberation Army: a pawn in the British game

Part 1, by Umberto Pascali

The British strategy [after World War II] came to rest on two broad requirements: first, the need to maintain the continental [European] commitment in order to preserve a balance of power which protected the United Kingdom . . . and prevented a land power from extending a continent-wide dominion; and secondly, the need to *protect our imperial (now out-of-area) interests* (with the important proviso that, during the protracted retreat from Empire, it was *beyond the NATO area* rather than in central Europe that *British forces would be called upon to open fire in anger*). The last such [out-of-area] conflict occurred in the Falklands in 1982, but includes also the 20-year continuing “low intensity” operation in Northern Ireland [emphasis added].

— Brian Holden Reid, “Is There a British Military ‘Philosophy’?” introduction to *Central Region vs. Out-of-Area: Future Commitments* (London: Staff College, Camberley, 1990)

It is becoming clear that the European [East-West] military confrontation of 40 years may well be diminishing; as a result the conceptual straitjacket on strategic thought imposed by the confrontation is loosening. If anything, present trends suggest an increased rather than a decreased probability of Western Out-Of-Area activity.

— Col. M.D. Jackson (later Sir Gen. Michael Jackson, head of the NATO elite Rapid Reaction Corps and NATO plenipotentiary in Kosovo), “European Security and Military Involvement Outside the NATO Area,” in *Central Region vs. Out-of-Area: Future Commitments* (London: Staff College, Camberley, 1990)

As of Aug 11, 1999, two months after the end of the NATO bombing of Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro, Pristina, Kosovo’s capital, had been “ethnically cleansed.” Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR, said that the forced expulsion had been unleashed by well-organized “thugs,” who were using “disgusting” tactics, including intimidation, forced expulsions from apartments, beatings, and murders, creating an unbearable atmosphere, with the victims forced to live in constant fear. The campaign of forced expulsion, Redmond said, was “systematic.”

The UNHCR report was one of many, all equally dramatic, issued in the two months following the end of NATO bombings. The reports are strikingly similar to those concerning the “ethnic cleansing” unleashed by the Greater Serbians of Slobodan Milosevic against the Bosniaks (the Bosnian Muslims) and the Kosovars (the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo). The only difference is that now the victims are the Serb civilians in Kosovo, and the authors of the violence are to be traced to the KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army, or UCK, from the Albanian acronym Ushtria Clirimtare E Kosoves).

“The UNHCR views with increasing alarm the situation of the remaining Serb minority in the city,” Redmond said. Only 1,000-2,000 Serb civilians out of an estimated 40,000 before the NATO bombings, remained in Pristina. “The Serbs remaining in Pristina are the most vulnerable of the pre-conflict population—they’re elderly, they’re disabled, and a lot of them are isolated, but that doesn’t seem to matter to the thugs who are now terrorizing them.” The situation is similar all over Kosovo. A NATO spokesman in Kosovo, Major Jan Joosten, said there is not really much they could do. “Our



An unholy British-led alliance has backed the KLA, including Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair (right) and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (left). This gang couldn't care less about Kosovo; their goal is geopolitical manipulation.



soldiers work damn long hours . . . but we can't be on every corner in every house."

So, the expulsion of the Serbs is expected to continue, even after the official deadline for the "disarmament" of the KLA, and after the KLA will be re-deployed as national militia and police in Kosovo. That was the scenario laid out as early as June 20, 1999 by the London *Sunday Times*. That oracle of the British oligarchy foresaw: "Though NATO forces are trying to reassure Serbs in Kosovo, it is hard to see anything other than a temporary peace. . . . Maybe it is for the best if the Serbs do flee to Serbia. It means great injustice to many, but that could be better than further decades of bloodshed."

From Greater Serbia to Greater Albania

The picture is made more eerie, by the anti-Russian campaign organized by KLA operatives, who are using mass demonstrations, harassment, and similar tactics against the Russian peacekeepers.

In reality, the KLA is just a pawn in a broader, deadly game that very few in Kosovo, and outside of it, understand. The controllers of this strategy of tension—a large part of the British elite represented by Tony Blair and by the NATO plenipotentiary in Kosovo, Gen. Sir Michael Jackson—aim at a radicalization of Russia as such, and the set-up of a new furious confrontation between Russia and the United States. The puppet-masters of Blair and Jackson have literally gone insane (or, better, gone fascist) at the prospect of an uncontrollable financial collapse, and are betting all of their cards on a military takeover—actually being ready with guns in their hands when the world financial pyramid crashes.

Confronted with the "end of the world"—i.e., *their* world—these oligarchic gangsters intend to officially arrogate to themselves the "right" to destroy any nation-state, to cancel the independence and sovereignty of any nation, and to re-establish direct military and political control over as many parts of the world as possible. "The New NATO," progressively shaped to represent the army of a globalized British Empire, has thus become the main military tool to push this process through, not only through the official NATO machinery, but, even more, through non-orthodox guerrilla warfare, where NATO or the British do not need to appear directly.

The main immediate concern for this gang is a possible Franklin Delano Roosevelt-style alliance among the United States, Russia, China, and India, that could go for a New Bretton Woods reform and save the world both from the financial collapse and from the oligarchic nightmare. This is the ultimate reason why the Kosovo Pandora's box was opened. This is why an organization like the KLA, basically unknown and irrelevant until one year ago, was suddenly given the green light by a very strange coalition of forces.

An unholy alliance joined together to trigger the KLA escalation and to precipitate the Kosovo war. This alliance ranged from the liberal imperialist Tony Blair, the "new Gladstone," to the "odd couple," U.S. Secretary of State and liberal cosmopolitan Madeleine Albright, and her political partner, the super-conservative yahoo Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), one of the most precious British assets in the United States; from Albright's mentor and enthusiastic groupie of the British colonial "games," the low aristocrat Zbigniew Brzezinski, to the personal financial pirate of the British monarchy's and Albright's "adviser," George Soros; to the head of the NATO

Rapid Reaction Corps, and leading actor in the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre of unarmed Irish demonstrators in Derry, Northern Ireland, Sir Michael Jackson.

One point is obvious, but it is to be re-stressed: This gang couldn't care less for Kosovo, the Kosovars, and their rights, nor did they have any moral objection to anything Milosevic and his Greater Serbs ever did. It is also obvious that the many ethnic Albanian citizens who rallied in support of the KLA in Kosovo and outside, as a reaction to the crimes of Milosevic's special police against the Kosovar population, have no idea of what the game is, and cannot see that those powerful international forces that apparently are helping them, are exactly the same as those who, one century ago, relaunched the modern Greater Serbia, investing Serbia with the title of "Guardian of the Gates," i.e., the gates of the British Empire.

It was the British Empire, with the cooperation of its French junior partner, that gave Serbia the poisoned apple of "Greater Serbia" as a way to smash the Ottoman Empire, which, after a period of inter-imperial struggle, threatened to go on the road of economic development. It was this British oligarchical group that helped the young pro-International Monetary Fund (IMF) reformist, Slobodan Milosevic, rise to power in Belgrade.

These same forces are now offering another very deadly present to the Kosovars: It is called Greater Albania, the mirage of a large Albanian area, whose establishment would trigger the explosion of Macedonia, Montenegro, Greece, Serbia, and the entire Balkan region. This would give the oligarchy control over a large mass of people to be *manipulated* into launching a devastating confrontation, and the consequent destabilization of a large area of the world. It would trigger a broader war.

At the end of this appalling geopolitical experiment, the oligarchy will throw away, like broken toys, the organization they have used and manipulated. Very likely, they will unleash a self-righteous campaign accusing the Albanians of crimes against humanity, not differently than they have done with the Serbs, after having favored and used their bestialization. Only this time, the process will be incredibly faster. Should the Albanians be induced or forced to accept the ploy of Greater Albania, they may soon be paying the terrible consequences.

The green light given to the KLA can only be understood from this standpoint. We intend to sketch here an outline of how Operation KLA was triggered. Our most immediate purpose is to warn the Albanians of the trap that has been set up for them. But first, we must travel far away from Kosovo in history and geography, and focus on the real purpose for the Kosovo operation and other similar "gunboat diplomacy" operations (such as the ongoing military expedition in Indonesia) aimed at smashing not only sovereign nations, but the very concept of national sovereignty. The chosen instrument for this "back to feudalism" drive is the "New NATO" experiment in Kosovo. The pretext is so-called "humanitarian con-

cern." Let's take a quick look inside the minds of the puppet-masters.

'Out-of-area' means 're-conquering the empire'

The quotes at the beginning of this article are taken from a book of military essays published in 1990. The study was commissioned by the highest military level of the United Kingdom, with the explicit aim of "stretching the intellectual horizons of [British] senior officers beyond the confines of regimental command and routine staff work." The book was intended to shape the "philosophical" outlook, attitudes, and behavior of a select number of future top British military leaders that were to bring the British armed forces to the next millennium.

The two editors were Maj. Gen. J.J.G. Mackenzie and Brian Holden Reid. The first, born in Kenya in 1941, spent his active military career in bloody colonial rearguard wars, attempting to save the post-1950s "retreating" British Empire from the pro-independence rebellions and revolutions of many subjugated peoples all over the Third World. Mackenzie served Her Majesty from the Brunei Rebellion, to the Borneo and Belize Campaign, with a military command in Hong Kong. In 1989 he was appointed Commandant at the Staff College.

The second editor, Brian Holden Reid, was, at the time, the first civilian in 100 years to be in the Directing Staff of the Staff College. Reid was also the editor of the *Journal of the Royal United Services Institute for Defense Studies (RUSI)*, the oldest and most important military think-tank in Britain, graced with the direct "protection" of the Queen and the Duke of Kent. The two editors were at the time the most prominent and recognized authorities in Britain concerning military strategy.

The book is to be considered the first explicit statement, after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, of the need to extend the British and NATO "out-of-area" military deployment, i.e., a military intervention outside the area mandated by Article 5 of the NATO founding treaty of April 4, 1949. Article 5 stated that NATO is a *defensive* alliance that has the mandate to deploy militarily only in case of an "armed attack against one or more [members] in Europe or North America." The treaty specified further and in detail that NATO cannot intervene militarily in case of attacks *outside* the area of its member countries.

The British elite never really accepted this limitation, and this for one basic reason: As the above quote by Brian Holden Reid shows clearly, for them, "out-of-area" means "colonial empire." And the British elite has never accepted the "retreat" that followed World War II, and in particular the strategy of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (that survived his untimely death for many years, albeit with exponentially decreasing effectiveness) to favor the rapid transformation of the colonies into independent sovereign nations. Thus, in

1990, the key British military think-tankers can stress with barely masked rage that the key “requirement” of the “British strategy” in the postwar period was the protection of “our imperial (*now out-of-area*) interests.”

In other words, the debate on NATO “out-of-area” deployment was just a code word for the attempt to use NATO as the global military instrument to reconquer, *mutatis mutandis*, the Empire. Thus, in the dreams and plans of the British military strategists, “out-of-area NATO” means a sort of new “globalized” British colonial navy, able to do what the British armed forces had not been able to do after World War II: guarantee continued possession of the colonies! And, guarantee this possession not just “indirectly” through financial and intelligence tricks—as London has done, with large success, through the institution of the Commonwealth. No: What these forces, nostalgic for the Empire, yearn for, is the direct “*Reconquista*.”

Dr. Reid cannot refrain from an emotional outburst—rather surprising in an academic journal—when he deals with the difference between the “two broad requirements of British strategy.” The first is the NATO military commitment “in-area,” in continental Europe, aimed at “preserving the balance of power” and keeping the continental powers weak. The second—the “real” commitment—is the “out-of-area,” the “imperial” commitment: “During the protracted *retreat from Empire*, it was beyond the NATO area rather than in central Europe that the British forces would be called upon to *open fire in anger*”!

In fact, before and since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949, a debate raged within the British elite. A significant faction was dead-set against mixing the purely imperial military army with other nations’ military forces. But the debate was won on the basis of one overwhelming consideration: After World War I, the British army alone could not keep the Empire under control. But, of course, there was no compromise with the non-British forces, just the establishment of a “secret agenda.” NATO was to become the instrument for the globalization of the empire military powers, and the base for the “*Reconquista*,” rather than a way for outside powers to limit the oligarchic, Nietzschean “freedom” of London. The most crucial target was the United States: It had to be “cleansed” of any trace of Rooseveltian principle, if the “agenda” was to be carried out.

The last 50 years of NATO history can be well understood from this vantage point. On Nov. 2, 1956, the United States joined Russia in the United Nations General Assembly, demanding the evacuation of Egypt by all British, French, and Israeli forces which had militarily invaded the Suez Canal to block its nationalization by President Gamal Abdul Nasser. The British colonial adventure had to be called off.

On March 25, 1999, British and American air forces, under the NATO umbrella, started the systematic “out-of-area” bombings of Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro without a declaration of war, nor even the pretext of a mandate from the

United Nations. Yugoslavia had rejected an ultimatum, and refused to “invite” into Kosovo a NATO “peacekeeping force” led by the most prominent British military “out-of-area” specialist, Sir Gen. Michael Jackson. Then, on Sept. 12, 1999, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie announced he would not oppose the landing of a NATO British-dominated “peacekeeping force” in the Indonesia province of East Timor, despite almost universal opposition in Indonesia. British Prime Minister Tony Blair had already sent a warship from Australia. The “gunboat diplomacy” in Kosovo has apparently “taught a lesson” to many former colonies. Meanwhile, the U.S. administration strongly supported the “humanitarian mission.”

The U.S. defense of Egyptian sovereignty in 1956 in Suez against the British-French colonial adventure, and the diametrically opposite developments in Kosovo and Indonesia in 1999, demonstrate how far the British agenda has proceeded.

What’s more, the alliance among United States, Russia, and the Third World emerging nations, pushed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the key to relegate colonial imperialism into prehistory, is being progressively replaced by a British-engineered confrontation between the United States and both Russia and China.

The KLA and the new Cold War

The Kosovo Liberation Army was basically unknown until the beginning of 1998. The recognized leader of the Kosovo Albanians was Ibrahim Rugova, and the only political and social organization was Rugova’s Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). The LDK had established a capillary network all over Kosovo following the annexation of the Kosovo province to Serbia in 1989. Before that, Kosovo had a great degree of autonomy within Yugoslavia. It was only with a famous speech in Kosovo that Slobodan Milosevic, calling for the “defense” of the Serbians against the Albanians and the successive cancellation of the province’s autonomy, became a national leader and started the most recent drive for Greater Serbia.

The Kosovo Liberation Army launched isolated attacks against police patrols, or peripheral police stations. The first time the acronym was used to claim an attempt, was not in Kosovo, but rather in Macedonia, in 1992. In January 1997, the KLA claimed responsibility for a bomb attack against the dean of the University of Pristina, the Serbian Radivoje Papovic. A large number of the attempts claimed by the KLA were against ethnic Albanians labeled as too soft (“collaborators”) with the Serbians. Normally, the communiqués issued by the KLA were ignored, with the curious exception of gigantic media such as the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

On the ground, leaders of the LDK in Kosovo stated repeatedly that they had no evidence of the existence of the KLA. The very heavy suspicion in Kosovo—and, for that matter, even in U.S. diplomatic circles—was that the KLA

was a provocation by Milosevic and Yugoslav army intelligence, aimed at setting up a pretext for repression measures and control of the province. It was no different, according to sources, than the methods used by British intelligence in Northern Ireland: the “gang-countergang” psywar routine. It was also reported that the initial group of KLA operatives, the “trainers,” included a very large percentage of former officials of the Yugoslav Army. The ability to keep the organization in Kosovo under heavy police control was also attributed to the alleged former affiliation of several initial military leaders with the UDBA, Milosevic’s Internal State Security Service, or the army and police.

According to reports, foreign military experts were training a large number of young people in guerrilla warfare, demolition, etc. in some secret locality in the Balkans, probably Albania. It was also known that the initial KLA nucleus took advantage of connections with Albanian organized crime, which had grown rapidly after the IMF-facilitated crash of the country’s economy, following the 1997 scandal of the so-called “financial pyramids.” Many Albanians who had been told to invest all they had in these cancerous speculation schemes—presented as the epitome of the “free market”—lost everything in a matter of hours.

The IMF had strongly “suggested” to the Albanian government and Parliament that they not pass an already finalized bill requiring a “safety” deposit before engaging in “pyramid” speculation. The crash was therefore mercilessly disruptive.

Further below, we will discuss in more detail the KLA’s connections to organized crime, and especially the drug traffic, and how this “freedom-fighters” and drugs scheme overlaps a psywar archetype used by British intelligence and its confederates in the United States in several earlier, precedent-setting experiments: from the early Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, to the Contras in Nicaragua, to the Afghans (now Taliban).

As we shall see, to complete a summary overview of the KLA’s roots, we also have to go back to the uncanny figure of Enver Hoxha, the man who dominated Albania with a meta-marxist ideology for 40 years. Hoxha denounced Russia and China as “bourgeois,” but, strangely enough, while isolated from the rest of the world, was supported by British intelligence operatives such as the infamous triple agent “Kim” Philby.

But at the beginning of 1998, the KLA reportedly could not count on more than a few hundred operatives.

‘Kosovo must be a NATO protectorate’

Why, then, in the course of 1998, did this British-American gang begin to publicly pull its hair out, calling for the “humanitarian necessity” of launching NATO into war? How did the KLA and its leader Ashim Thaci become the most intimate ally of Albright and Co.? What pushed the czarina of the State Department to embrace Thaci, a 29-year-old nicknamed “The Snake,” to undermine the elected leader Ibrahim

Rugova, de facto giving the green light to an assassination spree that eliminated Rugova’s collaborators? What pushed this group to try every trick in the book, including the elimination of any even remotely potential competitor to the NATO warpath, like the macho-diplomat Richard Holbrooke, whose nomination to UN ambassador was blocked by Senator Helms and friends, until the end of the NATO bombings? What pushed the gang to endorse the slogan that the official envoy of President Clinton had given a “green light” to Milosevic to commit his massacres in Kosovo?

Well, still then, Blair and Albright could have cared less about Kosovo and the Kosovars. What changed in 1998, was that Kosovo had become a potential *casus belli*, a pretext for a confrontation between the United States and Russia, according to the British *divide et impera* strategy.

As the London *Times* explained on Feb. 3, 1999, the British oligarchs had already decided that Kosovo was to be a “NATO protectorate,” and that Yugoslavia’s national sovereignty was to be smashed by explosive force under the world’s gaze. This had nothing to do with “humanitarian necessity,” nor with the will to stop Milosevic’s crimes. In fact, the very same forces calling for the bombing, were the ones who favored Milosevic’s rise to power. Kosovo as a “NATO protectorate” was to be the first example of the new strategy of re-colonization.

Furthermore, the experiment was to coincide with the 50th anniversary of NATO, marking, in some semi-mystical way, the opening of the new era. All this *had been decided*, just as it had been decided that Tony Blair was to be the “New Gladstone,” the reincarnation of the liberal imperialist. The only thing missing was the announcement of the decision to an unaware and oblivious public.

“On the eve of its 50th anniversary [April 4, 1999], NATO has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance’s publics are barely aware. . . . It is planning to deploy ground forces within a sovereign state. On behalf of the six-nation Contact Group [involved in the Kosovo “peace talks”], British Foreign Minister Robin Cook has summoned Yugoslav and Kosovan Albanian leaders to Rambouillet this weekend. If their signature to an accord can be extracted, NATO ground troops are to police it. Should they fail, NATO has threatened, in effect to bomb them back to the table.”

The *Times* launched a kind of chauvinist war cry, digging up the dark emotions popular in Britain at the time of the 1956 Suez colonial adventure. “In this gamble for Balkan peace, British ministers have taken the lead, and British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of a peacekeeping force under British commanders. *Gladstone’s shade walks the Balkans*. . . . What drives Western politicians is the knowledge that the near truce secured in October ’98 by Richard Holbrooke is collapsing. . . .

“The purpose of [the Blair- and Albright-dominated “peace talks” in] Rambouillet is not negotiation but acceptance of the [British-dominated] Contact Group *diktat*. . . .

The people of this country [Britain] understand well that a trading nation with global interests must be prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened."

Gelbard: KLA are terrorists

It was not until February-March 1998 that the KLA became known worldwide. In February of that year, Serbian special police launched a brutal raid against the Kosovo Drenica region, considered a stronghold for the KLA. Villages were attacked, houses burned. Dozens of ethnic Albanians were killed. The police attacked demonstrations by Kosovars in Pristina and elsewhere. At the end of the police campaign, thousands of Kosovars had to abandon their houses. The KLA suddenly emerged as a relatively large military force that occupied towns, and engaged in field battles. After March 1998, the KLA had shoulder-fired anti-tank rocket launchers, mortars, and anti-aircraft machine guns. Before then, they had only been lightly armed, and had conducted hit-and-run attacks. Among their targets had been ethnic Albanians considered too soft on the Serbs, isolated police patrols, and refugee camps holding Serbs from the Krajina region in Croatia and Bosnia.

In the period of the hit-and-run tactics, the KLA methods were brutal, and were in fact characterized by disregard for the Albanian civilian population. "Our task is to fight, not to take care of civilians," they said.

Special U.S. representative Robert Gelbard, President Clinton's special representative in the Balkans, characterized this strategy as "terrorist" at the beginning of 1998. Gelbard had conducted a mission for the U.S. President in Belgrade and Pristina. He had warned Milosevic to stop the assault on Kosovo by the special police. At the same time, he condemned the KLA's methods and activities. On Feb. 23, 1998, while in Pristina, Gelbard stated that the KLA is "without any question a terrorist group. . . . [The United States] condemns very strongly terrorist activities in Kosovo." "We condemn terrorism wherever it comes from," he stated on March 4, 1998 in a speech at the Ana Hotel in Washington. "We cannot condone terrorism in any way, shape, or form." He referred to the KLA directly: "They are killing people like mailmen, other kinds of innocent people, and we know terrorists when we see them."

The period between the end of '97 and the beginning of '98 was a time of concerted effort by both U.S. and Russian diplomacy to stop another bloodbath in the Balkans, this time in Kosovo. It seemed for a while that the Russians might be able to stop Slobodan Milosevic.

The recognized leader of the Kosovo Albanians was Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). Rugova had been elected in a secret ballot (with the participation of the large majority of the Kosovars) as president of the Kosovars. He enjoyed great influence inside, and a growing respect outside, Kosovo from several governments, including the United States.

This was one of the most promising moments for Kosovo

since 1989, when Slobodan Milosevic abolished the substantial autonomy of the Kosovo province and annexed it to Serbia. The Albanian majority tried to resist the measure. But Belgrade sent troops, tanks, and warplanes. Twenty demonstrators were killed in February 1990, as a consequence of the Albanian members of the Kosovo legislature declaring independence. Milosevic dissolved the local parliament, and a secret ballot elected Rugova as president.

Milosevic's masters: Moscow, or Kissinger?

For nine years, the "international community" did not address the question of Kosovo in any way. At the end of 1997, there was the potential for Kosovo finally to become the starting point for a new chapter in the Balkans. Even more important, it could become the first concrete example of collaboration between Russia and United States. The Russian Foreign Minister of that time, Yevgeni Primakov, took a very active role. Officially, Russia is considered the key ally of Serbia, but in reality, Milosevic's protectors (the ones who greased his way into power in the '80s), are to be found more in the circles of Henry Kissinger, than in the Soviet Union.

Reportedly, Lawrence Eagleburger—later to become U.S. Secretary of State, boss of Kissinger Associates, and close associate of Henry Kissinger—"discovered" the young Milosevic, when he was U.S. ambassador in Yugoslavia. At the time, his close partner, Brent Scowcroft, was the military attaché. Milosevic was not a politician; he was one of the top economic and financial personalities of Yugoslavia, head of the national oil company Technogas, and head of the biggest private bank in Serbia, the Beobank (United Bank of Belgrade). He had good connections with the large financial centers in Wall Street, and, according to sources, was familiar with World Bank circles. Reportedly, what attracted the attention of Eagleburger and his "talent-scouts" was the young Belgrade manager's pro-free market attitude. Milosevic was a "reformist" (in the sense of International Monetary Fund reforms).

He was the perfect man for the situation, "tough" and "liberal." At the moment when the IMF intended to make Yugoslavia into an example of its reforms (shock therapist Jeffrey Sachs, after all, did not start his career in Russia or Poland, but in Belgrade, as adviser to that government), Milosevic seemed the ideal man. He was "resolute enough" to impose the financial squeeze on the Yugoslav republics, starting with Croatia, to pay the IMF and World Bank their dues. And that is exactly what happened. With the IMF "reforms," any push to invest in the Yugoslav economy was halted, while the primary issue became the immediate payment of the obviously growing foreign debts.

Eagleburger was so trusted by the Yugoslav government that he became chairman of the biggest Yugoslavian economic porkbarrel in the United States, the Yugo car corporation, which then suddenly disappeared—but, astonishingly, without even staining the immaculate reputation of the

top Kissingerites.

In late 1997, the Russians and Primakov were ready to put Milosevic in his place. Of course, if Washington and Moscow had found agreement in the Balkans, this would have had reverberations all over the world, creating, for starters, the conditions for a plan of economic development in the Balkans. This whole strategic perspective was at stake at the beginning of 1998. At that moment, the KLA was only a small group, made up of former Yugoslav army soldiers.

The group's ability to operate underground, in a situation thoroughly controlled by the Serbian secret police, is attributed by experts to the fact that the KLA leaders are former members of the UBDA (Internal State Security Service), the army, and the police. Even leaders of Rugova's Democratic League, up to the beginning of 1998, declared that they were not sure whether the KLA really existed, or if it was just a provocation set up by Belgrade. It is exactly at this point the KLA took off. It received a great amount of weaponry, and began to collect a large amount of money from the Albania diaspora, as a result of the ferocious repression of Milosevic's police against the Kosovars. Not only this: According to German, Swiss, Italian, Swedish, and other law enforcement sources, the coffers of the KLA, which was not even a unified organization, began to attract money from the Albanian mafia. Even more striking, the Albanian mafia—which until then were just junior partners of powerful Balkan organized crime, formerly known as “Bulgarian connection”—suddenly took over the heroin market in Western Europe.

Why the British endorsed the guerrillas

It was at this point that the British propaganda machine was unleashed. While Milosevic's special police assaults provoked a reaction of horror and rage throughout the Albanian community in the Balkans and internationally, the British media, from BBC to the *Times*, *Guardian*, and *Telegraph*—the whole spectrum—launched a two-tier attack. First, Gelbard was accused of having given the “green light” to Milosevic for his massacres, thus intimidating an already very timid U.S. administration. On the other side, the main body of the propaganda forces pumped up the role of the KLA, and at the same time did everything to discredit the role and the position of Ibrahim Rugova. Rugova himself at that moment was under attack (verbally and otherwise) from the KLA. He was also engaged in an electoral battle, that took place on March 22, 1998. The elections confirmed that Rugova had the support of the large majority of the Kosovars.

Still, the British media kept tagging Rugova with the label of “the Gandhi of the Balkans.” The same label was used by the KLA to smear the Kosovar leader, perhaps forgetting that in fact Gandhi had succeeded in doing what had been believed impossible: gain the independence of his country, India, from the British Empire. In parallel to the propaganda operation, as we shall see in detail below, “out-of-area” expert Sir Gen. Michael Jackson, the head of the NATO elite forces, the colo-

nial-style Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), was busy transferring his forces into neighboring Macedonia, even before anybody, including the KLA, had called for any outside “help.” Sir Michael Jackson, the deputy commander in 1972 of parachuters battalion that shot to death 14 unarmed Irish demonstrators in Derry, Northern Ireland (1972's “Bloody Sunday”), became an instant media superstar.

British journalists suddenly were able to contact the KLA and spend days with them in the Kosovo mountains, somehow escaping Serbian police surveillance. Interviews and pictures of the KLA guerrillas began to appear more and more frequently on the TV screen and in printed media. It has been reported that several of these “correspondents” in fact had a heavy British military background, often in the special forces. Of course, this was also the moment when the British special forces, the SAS, were operating inside Kosovo.

One year later, on April 13, 1999, the BBC boasted that “crack SAS troops are thought to have penetrated Serb lines. . . . In Kosovo, the highly-trained soldiers would be split into groups of eight or even smaller cells of four, military strategy expert Nigel Vinson, of the Royal United Services, for Defense, told BBC news. . . . They would have been dropped by helicopter, behind enemy lines . . . heavily armed. . . . They will be holed up in hillside hideaways.”

Just a few examples of the British rhetoric in March of 1998 show how the British press glorified the KLA thugs:

The London *Times* of March 23: “Kosova ‘will fight to death’ . . . [Correspondent] Tom Walker hears brave talks from ethnic Albanian guerrillas during a night maneuvers in the Llausche Valley. . . . Ethnic Albanians fighting for secession from Serbia are awaiting the results of Wednesday's Contact Group meeting on the Kosova crisis before deciding whether to broaden their counter-offensive against Serb forces. The clan-based Kosova Liberation Army (UCK) is engaging the Serb Army and police units in regular skirmishes. The front line is concentrated ten miles west of the town of Klina, and Serb checkpoints along the entire Llausche Valley. . . . Devoid of life during the day, the valley's hidden tracks were alive with Albanian foot patrols in the piercing cold of darkness. Armed with just the occasional hunting rifle and Kalashnikov, they walk tens of miles. . . . A few of the women had been brought down to cook for the men, who plotted the liberation campaign while monitoring media reports of their struggle through satellite television. . . the young fighters attending to their every word. . . . In the small hours we joined the patrol of the village. . . . ‘We are prepared to give our blood, there's no way back now,’ said a young guard, cradling an old Yugoslav National Army Kalashnikov. Many of the men were trained in the [Yugoslav] army, and still had their former identities from the ‘Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova.’ ”

From the *Sunday Times*, March 22, 1998, titled “Kosova Guerrillas Flock to the Flag”: “The guerrilla from the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) was a young man. Well-dressed for

the cold of the heights overlooking Drenica valley . . . an elite member of the nascent army of ethnic Albanians. . . . We walked for two miles into territory the Serbs consider a no-go zone, clambering over three more stone barricades. . . . KLA appears to be headed by a corps of men who served in the army of Yugoslavia before the country disintegrated. They are now turning their training against the Serbs. Although they seem to number only a few hundred, the KLA's ranks have been swollen by a much broader network of armed men in the villages that dot the valley. . . . They have flocked to the KLA since the Serbian offensive in Kosova began on February 28. . . . 'Now you have young men in the woods just waiting for a gun,' said a leading Albanian last week. 'To talk to anyone in a Drenica village from schoolteachers to elderly peasant women these days is to be told, "We are all KLA."'

" 'All the people of Kosova will join us when they realize there is no peace to be made with the Serbs,' the KLA commander said. 'There is no possibility of peace. . . . We are in training for operations,' the KLA commander said. 'All these Serbian police you see on the roads—prepare next week to see their bodies. My mother brought me into this world to die for Kosova and I am ready to do this,' he said. . . . The KLA emerged about 18 months ago from *frustration with the passive resistance of Ibrahim Rugova—the 'Gandhi of the Balkans.'* "

Contrary to the Gandhi-like strategy of Rugova, the KLA, the *Sunday Times* stressed, have taken a blood-oath, that is reported in detail by the correspondent. It is not clear how truthful the report is. Indeed, the oath closely resembled that of secret societies set up in the last century by Giuseppe Mazzini, the read chief of British foreign operations, especially in Europe. Mazzini specialized in setting up violent organizations, whose component, typically young, idealistic students, were motivated by nationalist feelings.

Mazzini was able to recruit a large number into such organizations, and was a master in manipulating them into terrorist operations when needed. Strangely enough, the Mazzini *modus operandi* could be found in organizations such as the Serbian chauvinist group called "Black Hand" or "Young Bosnia." It was a member of that organization, the young Gavrilo Prinzip—the Hero of the Greater Serbians—who assassinated the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in 1914 in Sarajevo, triggering World War I, exactly when the British empire needed the unprecedented conflagration. Wrote the London *Sunday Times* 84 years later: "[KLA] recruits take an uncompromising oath of allegiance. 'In front of the Albanian flag I give my word of honor and the promise of my life that I will die for freedom and for my land,' they pledge. 'I will obey my army. If I betray my oath, my comrades have the right to kill me. Now I am a soldier who fights for freedom.' "

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