

Editorial

We are in a new Dark Age

On March 3, London *Guardian* commentator Larry Elliot wrote a scathing attack on globalization, as responsible for the disaster in Mozambique, under the title, "We Should Be Ashamed."

"This is not a time to be measured and considered," he wrote. "This is not a time to be grateful that the aid is now — belatedly — starting to flow. It is a time to be angry: angry that in the third month of the 21st century, 100,000 people were yesterday precariously clinging to life, a week after it was clear that Mozambique was facing a full-scale natural disaster.

"Let's not mince words. The response by the international community to Mozambique has been pitiful. Day after day, there have been pictures of people huddled on shrinking islands of dry land, where the food is running out, and malaria is now rife. Day after day, they have waited, terrified and desperate, for rich governments to get off their backsides and mount a proper rescue effort. . . .

"Ultimately the tragedy of Mozambique speaks volumes about the way in which globalization works. In the global pecking order, the ability to move money around the world in a split-second comes first, dismantling trade barriers come second and rescuing people from trees in Africa comes nowhere. We have no problem air-lifting green beans from Africa so that they can be served up fresh the next day in our supermarkets, but moving helicopters and boats in the opposite direction is beyond us. If this is a global village, it is one where for some houses it takes a week for an ambulance or a fire engine to turn up after a 911 call. . . .

"Imagine for one second, that a mother in the West gave birth in a tree, after spending three days in the agonies of labour, while the flood waters rose around her. Consider how we would react, if somebody we knew was, like Sofia Pedro, winched to the safety of a helicopter with the umbilical cord still attached. How would we feel? Would we say that the authorities did the best they could in all the circumstances, that there were serious logistical problems that had to be overcome first? Or would we say that the episode was a moral outrage, an affront to our common humanity?"

We should indeed "be ashamed," but not only for

the crime of Mozambique. In New York one year ago, an unarmed street vendor was shot to death by four plainclothes policemen, on the front stoop of his own home. At their trial, the judge instructed the jury that the policemen were innocent, because they were simply doing what they had been trained to do! Then it turned out that there are a great many such instances in New York, and a far bigger scandal in Los Angeles.

After the Columbine High School shootings last summer, followed by the Atlanta day-trader massacre, now six-year olds are shooting their classmates in our schools.

How much more does it take, to recognize the obvious? We are not in the 108th month of continuous economic expansion — far from it. Rather, we are entering the fourth decade of an ever-more rapid collapse of extended European civilization. We are in a new Dark Age.

Especially among those between the ages of 35 and 55, and especially in the United States, those whom one would previously call our policymaking elites, have become completely irrational. They are living in a game-world, with fixed points and rules, or else in an existentialist's nightmare. In a fantastic substitute for reality.

Our populations have become irrational, especially in the United States. Particularly the top 20% of family-income brackets, have lost all their senses. They inhabit a make-believe world of money-manager accounts, Internet stocks, and pure psychological manipulation. They have completely forgotten such truths, as, for instance, that the things they need to survive every day, must actually be produced on farms, and in factories and mines.

The blind are leading the blind, and our civilization, or our un-civilization, is falling into the abyss. How did we come to this point? How can we stop it? As Lyndon LaRouche shows elsewhere in this issue, under the title, "He's a Bad Guy, But We Can't Say Why," the answer can be found by examining 30 years of operations against LaRouche by the U.S. Department of Justice and allied groups, and examining also the ideas which have been denied to the American people for 30 years, by these police-state means.