

Globalization in Africa: A New Form of Slavery

by Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Africa can develop its immense resources, to become a continent of modern, industrial nation-states. That was the subject of a seminar held in Khartoum, Sudan, on Jan. 14-17, 2001. Co-sponsored by the Sudanese Centre for Strategic Studies and Ministry of Information and Culture, with *EIR* and the Schiller Institute, it laid out a series of detailed studies, showing how advanced infrastructure development, in water management and transportation, in particular, can vastly increase agricultural output, and integrate the economies of the region, as well as to link Africa to the Eurasian continent.

EIR has published two previous reports on this unique conference. Our issue of Feb. 9 featured a paper by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., submitted to the conference panel on "Peace Through Development, Foundation for a Dialogue Among Civilizations," as well as speeches by Helga Zepp-LaRouche and distinguished panelists from Sudan and Nigeria. Our Feb. 23 issue included Mr. LaRouche's keynote address, "The New Bretton Woods System: Framework for a New, Just World Economic Order," and speeches by specialists from the region, on elaborated proposals for the economic development of the Nile Valley.

Why these ambitious, and eminently feasible plans have not long since been implemented, is the obvious question raised. And the answer, which should be just as obvious, is, that the leading financial and political-economic institutions of the current order, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the top, have pursued a ruthless policy of usury and non-development for decades. They have been committed to preventing any meaningful development, in favor of looting the continent's raw materials and minerals resources, to the bone.

The name of the policy, is globalization, presented as an advance in international relations, to enhance trade relations and cooperation. In reality, globalization has proven to be, as Prof. Sam Aluko of Nigeria put it, another form of slavery. In contrast to "internationalization," which seeks to promote cooperation among sovereign, national governments, Professor Aluko said, globalization "seeks to undermine the very concept of nation-states." Through its economic policies, of the free market, combined with the conditionalities of the IMF, known as structural adjustment programs, globalization has devalued national currencies, destroyed viable state-sector enterprises through privatization, drastically lowered the standard of living, and thus encouraged the spread of poverty and epidemic diseases.

This has been the "success story" of globalization, Professor Aluko demonstrated, in Eastern Europe following the collapse of communism, as well as in Asia and Ibero-America.

But most dramatic, has been the ravaging of the African continent. The Khartoum seminar dedicated one session to this theme, "The Economic and Political Failure of Globalization in Africa." Joining Uwe Friesecke from *EIR*'s Africa Desk, were two leading intellectuals from Nigeria, Prof. Sam Aluko and Prof. Ode Ojuwo, whose first-hand reports on the IMF's impact on their country, provide chilling proof of the accuracy of the charge that globalization is another form of slavery.

The task assumed by the sponsors and participants of the Khartoum seminar, as stated by LaRouche, was to accept the responsibility of leadership, to bring Africa out of this bondage, and into a future of true freedom, and peace, through development.