

New Bush 'Exit' Strategy Means New Balkans War

by Umberto Pascali

When global TV screens filled, in March, with pictures of the unexpected two-front assault—against both Macedonia and Serbia—by the Kosovo Liberation Army, few noticed an event distant from the Balkans battlefield, which held the key to it. The unexpected terrorist assaults against two sovereign countries, were performed by illegal military formations based in Kosovo, a province that is both *de facto* and *de jure* a NATO protectorate. Simultaneously, numerous “hot spots” exploded elsewhere in the Balkans, including the decision of the Croats of Bosnia to split from the Bosnian government and military institutions.

On Feb. 26-27 at Columbia University in New York City, some of the most prestigious U.S. military officials, those most attuned with the strategic intentions of the Bush Administration, gathered in a symposium organized by the U.S. Army War College under the title, “The Future of U.S. Presence in the Balkans.” They endorsed a U.S. policy that could be summarized as follows: “renegotiate” the Balkans borders along purely ethnic lines.

According to a first-hand account by the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting, “Scholars and U.S. military officers attending the two-day seminar appeared to be in almost unanimous agreement that current state boundaries in the Balkans should be redrawn to create ‘smaller, more stable mono-ethnic states.’ . . . According to the delegates, new boundaries enshrining homogeneous ethnic entities would follow the historical patterns and ‘natural instincts’ of Europe, as witnessed over the past 300 years.”

Frozen Instability

This idea, that there has been, not too much ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, too much genocide, but, *not enough* ethnic cleansing, is a false concept of “stability.” This is the “stability of the colonies” of the British colonial empire. “Stability” in this sense has nothing to do with the natural need for material and intellectual growth of the population of those countries, or with economic development; it is a frozen instability.

The attempt to impose this kind of “stability” is not new in the Balkans. Most recently, in 1995 the Dayton peace agreement, that stopped the violent phase of the war in Bosnia, tried to create stability by dividing Bosnia into ethnic

areas, preserving the vestige of a unitary state under the authority of a supranational authority representing the “international community.” There was no room for creating national sovereign institutions, nor the instruments through which the country could develop its population and its economic growth. The majority of the citizens, in those conditions, tended to turn to the “nationalist [i.e., ethnic] parties” for support and protection. The very concrete proposal for a “new Marshall Plan” for the Balkans, advanced by Lyndon LaRouche, and supported openly or implicitly by a majority of the region’s elites as a way to base stability on economic growth, was never given a chance. Now the vicious conclusion is being introduced into Bush Administration policy: “Redraw the maps!”

From Kissinger to Lord Owen

A few days after the War College symposium, the former British foreign minister, former European Balkan mediator, Lord David Owen, the Balkan factotum for the British oligarchy, announced his solution. “What is needed today is a Balkans-wide solution, through a present-day equivalent of the 1878 Congress of Berlin, with pre-agreed boundary changes endorsed by the major powers.” Since the Congress of Berlin, Balkan populations have been displaced by force from their lands like animal herds, with untold suffering; bloody ethnic rivalries have been created and exploited. Lord Owen stressed:

“Some will claim that any modification of the current map of the Balkans will succeed in opening a Pandora’s box. I believe this fear is exaggerated. Questions relating to the readjustment of the international borders are not new. This readjustment represents the best hope for assuring a durable peace in the region.”

“Readjusting borders” was exactly what, just ten years ago, Slobodan Milosevic started with the Greater Serbia plan. That idea of Greater Serbia and the emergence of Milosevic the dictator, was not opposed by the “West.” Quite the contrary: the group of Henry Kissinger and former U.S. ambassador to Yugoslavia, Lawrence Eagleburger, had great appreciation for the young, energetic technocrat, Milosevic. Eagleburger, the head of Kissinger Associates, became the



The new NATO “exit strategy” from the Balkans, emerging in the Bush Administration and from such as Henry Kissinger and Lord David Owen, is a disastrous return to colonialism, and already leading to new war outbreaks. Here, a NATO KFOR control post in Kosovo.

U.S. President of the Yugo Corporation, briefly the biggest and most lucrative Yugoslavian company abroad.

Five years ago, Kissinger called, in even more brutal terms, for an ethnically pure partition of Bosnia, and for the right of the big powers to redraw the maps. On Sept. 8, 1996, in a commentary in the *Washington Post*, Kissinger explained that ethnic cleansing could not be reversed, so it should be accepted as a stabilizing factor. He proposed this policy as the U.S. Republican Party alternative strategy in the Balkans. “With extensive ethnic cleansing only the most insignificant remnants of other groups are left in each area,” he wrote. Thus, ethnically pure areas have been created. “To force these now ethnically homogeneous regions into a common entity, guarantees another round of ethnic cleansing. . . . Crimes such as the slaughter of Muslim prisoners in Srebrenica are despicable, but . . . realistically a separate Muslim entity maybe the best achievable outcome. It would be a solution most conducive to long-term stability. The other ethnic groups should have the same option to join the mother countries. Once ethnic lines are given international status, the cease-fire will be much easier to enforce.”

Greater Albania as Exit Strategy?

The fact that nowhere in the world do such “natural” lines exist, and that this has been tried many times in history and has led regularly to tragedy, is not a deterrent to the doctrine. Was the Kosovo Liberation Army aggression against Macedonia and Serbia in February and March, motivated in some way by the expectation that an ethnically pure Albanian entity carved out of other countries, was welcome in the context of

this New Congress of Berlin doctrine? A doctrine that was expected not only to be proclaimed by spokesman of the British oligarchy, Lord Owen, but also then officially endorsed by the Bush Administration? And had this doctrine triggered a process in which the Croatian community in Bosnia began to split from the Bosnian federal institutions?

Not only did the major Croat party in Bosnia (the HDZ) call for creating independent institutions, but the Croats in the military and in the police conducted a mass walk-out from their barracks, answering to a call from their political leadership. Some of the most insightful observers believe that a decision of quasi-secession could not have been taken without some extra-Balkan assurances.

What happened at the New York Army War College symposium? According to reports, the main speakers were: Brig. Gen. Keith W. Dayton, Deputy Director of Politico-Military Affairs for Europe/Africa at the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and General Ivany, Commander of the U.S. Army War College, and one of the top Balkan analysts of U.S. intelligence, just retired from the Central Intelligence Agency. General Dayton was introduced by General Ivany as the “point-man on the Balkans” for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry “Hugh” Shelton. Reportedly, Dayton stressed that the United States must have an “exit strategy” for the Balkans. He was quite critical of the system established by the Dayton peace accord in Bosnia. The military goal of the agreement had been reached, he said. The rest concerns political and economic affairs that are not the purview of the military. Thus the United States must pull out its troops and a radical downsizing will be

discussed already in early May.

Much worse, the General brought to the participants what he said was a request from Lt. Gen. Michael Dodson, the NATO Stabilization Force commander in Bosnia, to debate the viability of multi-ethnic states and of the Dayton agreement. He claimed that this meant the Dayton agreement had failed. A source familiar with this debate pointed to a radical change in foreign and military matters that has been requested by the Bush Administration. "It doesn't concern only the Balkans, even if the Balkans is the most evident point. The new policy will let the ethnic chip fall where they would naturally fall," he said.

'I See How the Ground Is Manipulated!'

On March 26, some 500 Macedonians, representing their communities in Canada and the United States, gathered in front of UN headquarters for a rally convoked by the Macedonians of the World for Peace in Macedonia. Among the main speakers were the leader of the Macedonian diaspora in North America, Nestor Oginar, and Jerry Pyenson of the Schiller Institute.

Pyenson told the delegates: "As most of you know, we are now facing the worst crisis in 500 years with the collapse of the financial system. When you have a financial collapse, there are certain nations that will push for war. The United States has only two policies that it can adopt for Macedonia and for the Balkans. One is that of Franklin Roosevelt, the other is from Adolf Hitler. Roosevelt would supply credit for water, railway, and road development. Hitler's policy you all know. People like Madeleine Albright, James Baker, Lord Robertson, Sir Michael Jackson, these people are promoting a policy of war in the Balkans. The purpose of this war is to stop economic development in Germany, Russia, and China. The policy of the U.S. must be that of Roosevelt, of economic development and support of national sovereignty and the general welfare of the population. That is what the Schiller institute supports.

"At this moment, the only solution in this area would be for the United States to junk the policies of former President Bush, of Margaret Thatcher and Madeleine Albright. Short of that, you face the worst crisis in 500 years of Western European civilization. The only solution is what we put forward massive economic development. Somebody from the outside is provoking a conflict there, using the ethnic division of Albanians and Macedonians.

Croats in Bosnia felt encouraged by these signals to pursue more autonomy. Does this mean that the new doctrine prompted a green light for the KLA? "This is a tough one, but I believe the changes will be clear soon enough."

'Politically Support the Pentagon'

A by-product of the Army War College symposium, was a polemical open letter addressed to Bosnia's International Administrator, Wolfgang Petritsch, by Frank Brozovich, the president of the Croatian-American Association. The Croatian American leader wrote: "Your Op-Ed piece in yesterday's *New York Times* expressed surprise regarding the

This has been a well-known gameplan of the British Empire for several hundred years. The British are playing it again, and they want a war in this area worse than they did in what came to be called World War I. That is what everybody here faces."

What Is the Purpose of NATO?

Two days before the rally, Nestor Oginar told *EIR*, "We feel that we are somehow being manipulated into a situation that will most certainly destabilize the country and perhaps plunge it into chaos. We are endorsing all the help we can get, from all over the world. . . . People in Macedonia, the ethnic Macedonians as well as the whole of the population, the minorities as well, are beginning to wonder what is the purpose of NATO, what is their mandate, what are they doing?"

Asked whether the Bush Administration's new Balkans strategy could be deadly, as Lyndon LaRouche is warning, Oginar replied, "I feel, frankly, that this is chauvinistic behavior by the great powers, against this poor, broken people, who are being driven into hatred, which they are trying to portray as ethnic, which it really is not.

"I personally spoke with [Schiller Institute Chairwoman] Mrs. LaRouche. I heard Mr. LaRouche. . . . I'm aware of Mr. LaRouche's proposal for a new Bretton Woods. He gave a great lecture on that. . . . Our message is peace. I see how the ground is being manipulated. I see how everything seems to be spinning out of control. I think in the next month or two or three, you will see some more serious bloodshed and I'm extremely worried."

Declaration to UN

The Macedonian delegates submitted a declaration to the UN's Assistant Secretary General for External Relations:

"1. We strongly condemn the extreme ethnic violence and terrorism against the territorial integrity of Macedonia and all of its people.

changes in Bosnia policy articulated at a U.S. Army War College seminar by Brigadier Keith Dayton, who is General Hugh Shelton's point-man on the Balkans. Although Dayton said his views were personal, the very same thoughts were repeated by Col. Greg Kaufman, Chief of the Secretary of Defense's Balkan Task Force, and by Steven Berg, formerly with the CIA Balkan Task Force. All three made the following points, which should be well known to you:

- The U.S. wants to exit Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as possible;
- The Dayton agreement has failed to create a Democratic multi-ethnic nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina;



At a mass rally of Macedonians from the United States and Canada, outside the UN in New York, the Schiller Institute's Jerry Pyenson tells the crowd that it is the oligarchy's global financial breakdown, which is provoking new wars in the Balkans. To his right is the rally's organizer, Nestor Oginar.

"2. We support the President of the Republic of Macedonia, and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia with all of its democratic institutions.

"3. We demand that the NATO/KFOR contingent currently operating under the peacekeeping mission in the designated buffer zones between Macedonia and southern Serbia, take an incomparably more pro-active role in securing and sealing the border and cutting off terrorist supply lines from Kosovo to Macedonia.

"4. We call upon all of the international organizations and institutions to continue their unconditional support of Macedonia in the preservation of its stability, territorial integrity, and sovereignty.

"5. We demand that all those that have been recently engaged in illegal armed terrorist actions against the authorities and the population of Macedonia, immediately cease all such actions, lay down their arms, and leave the country. . . .

"10. We urge you to help secure and sustain the stability, sovereignty, and the constitutional and territorial integrity of Macedonia by providing adequate military, logistical, economic, and humanitarian aid." — *Umberto Pascali*

• All attempts to create a multi-ethnic army as the core of a multi-ethnic society have proven to be impossible;

• The U.S. will consider the creation of hard borders along ethnic lines in order to facilitate withdrawal of all U.S. forces."

Brozovich continues: "Your office has had a major role in creating potentially explosive tension between the ethnic groups that could result in renewed armed conflict. You have ensured that ethnic animosity be elevated to pre-1995 levels by using three different behavioral standards for the Muslim, Serb, and Croatian communities. . . . Seventeen of the candidates elected by an 80-90% majority of Croats in a fair election were not allowed to take their duly elected positions. They were, in your words, too nationalistic. Are you beginning to get an idea why Croats in BH [Bosnia-Herzegovina] feel very much like blacks must have felt in Alabama in 1951?"

Though many of the complaints by Dr. Brozovich have a factual basis, the end result is that many now in the Balkans feel encouraged in the idea that the Pandora's box of redrawing maps, has been opened. The 1878 Congress of Berlin redrew the map of the Balkans with the stroke of the Great Powers' pen. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, who formally presided over the process, declared that the Balkans were "not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier," embracing the illusion that the horrible geopolitical borders-engineering would have saved the Great Powers from being involved in a Balkan war. History shows how wrong that assumption was.

The situation now is such that a simple military withdrawal could be the equivalent of lighting a fuse.

Paradoxically, Wolfgang Petritsch's commentary had a point. "Now many look to a definitive ethnic carving of the former Yugoslavia," he wrote. "Such a solution would be a disaster for both the region and the world." Bosnia's international administrator compared Lord Owen's call for a new Congress of Berlin with the U.S. War College symposium in New York, and concluded: "That mono-ethnic states don't exist anywhere else — except perhaps in Iceland — appears not to have worried the symposium participants. . . . The recipe, at least, is simple: gather together the Great Powers — now called the 'international community' — and ask them to pore over maps and fix a solution with a red pen, drowning out the cries of competing nationalist leaders with dry sherry. Then get out."

However, both sides of the debate miss the point that a sovereign nation is not a question of race, blood, and soil, but the institutionalized commitment to the development of its citizens and its economy. Otherwise, an ethnically or religiously "pure area" becomes just the starting point for a war with other such areas. The Thirty Years War has shown to the European what that means. In the midst of the collapse of their financial system, is this what the oligarchical allies of Lord Owen really want?