

Editorial

What's Really at Stake in Zimbabwe

The many-sided tragedy of British, U.S., and other Western nations' destructive policies toward Africa, has been focussed in these immediate days, on the forthcoming Presidential election in Zimbabwe. An international British Commonwealth crusade is seeking to punish and eliminate the government of Robert Mugabe, for its sins: military defense of the sovereignty of its neighbor, the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Mugabe's two years' steady attacks on the International Monetary Fund.

To the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa, it appears that Tony Blair has marked off Mugabe's government, and perhaps its influence on the policy of South Africa, as a second "axis of evil." Nor is any part of the British or Western establishment criticizing Blair for his atrocious and heavy-handed interventions since 2000 to torpedo Mugabe's government—though some are criticizing and warning him over British support of George W. Bush's "axis of evil" campaign. Do we conclude that President Mugabe, for his two alleged sins, is more dangerous than Saddam Hussein?

Look at the tumult over the recent Presidential election in Madagascar, to see how the arrogant intervention of colonialist "international observers" can destabilize an elected government. Blair's anti-Zimbabwe campaign has far clearer hostile intent, and the nations of Africa are right to back Zimbabwe fully, in its defense of its own sovereignty and that of its neighbors.

The important declaration of Zimbabwe's Ambassador to the United States, and the tragic human demographic data on Africa as a whole presented by UN senior adviser Ibrahim Gambari, both published in our *International* section, show the desperate need for sovereignty and economic protection of the African economies. The 15-year drop in life expectancy of all of Sub-Saharan Africa at the end of the 20th Century, shows a disaster of historic scope unfolding, under the crushing burden of unpayable debt and IMF-mandated "adjustment programs."

No longer can we accept the collection of billions of dollars of illegitimate debt by London and Wall Street, whose shareholder mentality demands we obliterate the nation-state, and kill millions of Sub-Saharan Africans,

in the name of paying one's debt. No longer should globalization be appeased in order to beg for crumbs of foreign investment. The privatization of state-owned industries and businesses in order to remain in the fold of neo-liberalism, should stop. Africans should no longer accept the status of second-class citizens and slaves.

Even those African leaders denouncing the debt, are still accepting the IMF's deadly axioms. The fundamental error of Professor Gambari's thinking, like that of so many leaders throughout Africa and around the world, is the acceptance of the axioms of free trade and globalization. That acceptance is conditioned by the violent campaign mobilized against President Mugabe, for example, since he began his attacks on the IMF system two years ago.

The mental resignation to the permanence of this free-trade financial-monetary system, and its right to subjugate nations to its unlawful manipulation and control, is what prevents leaders from acting appropriately on the present global economic breakdown crisis. These axiomatic errors are the shackles of the mind that effectively keep one in a state of slavery, and not acting decisively. Even well-meaning, patriotic national leaders fail to understand, that the only possible hope for rebuilding their nations lies in killing and replacing the whole, collapsing system, before it kills their nations.

It may be difficult to accept, but there are no internal African solutions to the ongoing destruction of the continent. Read Lyndon LaRouche's concluding, "Help Africa!" section of his "Economics: End of a Delusion," in *EIR* of Feb. 22. LaRouche's New Bretton Woods monetary reorganization is known worldwide as the only workable alternative on the table, that provides a pathway of escape from the onrushing collapse of the present failed IMF system.

Even those leaders acting patriotically, have not sufficiently fought for the change in policy embodied in Mr. LaRouche's alternative. The failure to act wisely thus, will be fatal. So much is really at stake, in battles against the "new imperialists," such as Zimbabwe is waging.