

fuse the crisis by calling the early Presidential vote. Now, Saakashvili is getting a taste of his own medicine, with accusations, prominently carried by the likes of the *Financial Times* of London, that the results are rigged in his favor. Ten days before the elections, the Saakashvili government accused one opposition candidate, Badri Patarkatsishvili, of plotting a post-election coup that would take place through protests over vote fraud, by buying the security services for \$100 million. Tapes of Patarkatsishvili in London negotiating this payoff were released by the government on Dec. 26.

In Belarus, the United States imposed draconian sanctions on the small country—which voluntarily signed the treaty giving up its nuclear arsenal at the end of the Soviet Union, in return for good relations with the U.S. and West. In a Treasury Department decision, and a Presidential order in mid-December, Washington banned President Alexander Lukashenka from visiting the U.S., prohibited Americans from doing business with the Belarusian oil refiner Belneftekhim, and froze the assets that the company had under U.S. jurisdiction. On Dec. 30, President Lukashenka threatened to expel the U.S. ambassador to Belarus, and the Administration may impose

even more sanctions. The ostensible issue is Belarus’s violations of human rights.

Ukraine, which was described as close to civil war in May 2007, has just experienced the return to power of Yulia Tymoshenko, the “Orange Coalition” demagogue who kept in close touch with Dick Cheney while organizing her comeback. She became Prime Minister on Dec. 18, with a one-seat majority in Parliament, and phoned Cheney first thing.

“Instability and leadership conflict” were forecast immediately by Victor Yanukovych, leader of the Party of Regions (POR) and outgoing Prime Minister. His party was the highest vote-getter in Ukraine’s fifth Parliamentary election within three years, but—after another two months of maneuvering—the renewed “Orange” coalition was formed without the POR. Tymoshenko told her Cabinet that Ukraine is facing the highest inflation in seven years, and that the country’s energy firm Naftohaz was “bankrupt” due to mismanagement. She tried to blame these problems on Yanukovych’s government. Naftohaz is in technical default on a \$500 million Eurobond. Some analysts say that the factionalization is so severe, that the eventual splitting of the country is inevitable.

## Russian Media: ‘The Empire Comes Out of the Shadows’

Russian political analyst Boris Mezhyuev contributed an article titled “The Empire Comes Out of the Shadows,” to the year-end issue of *Smysl* magazine, describing how Great Britain was viewed in Russia during 2007. It includes a discussion of Lyndon LaRouche’s writings as a source used by Russians on the historical and current role of the British.

Mezhyuev singles out a series by Mikhail Leontyev on his Channel 1 TV show, under the title “The Great Game.” Here, “viewers learned many new things about the Anglo-Russian confrontation of the 19th-20th centuries.” The anti-British campaign in the Russian press, Leontyev said, is, in some cases motivated by “the British track in North Caucasus events, discovered by Russian counterintelligence.” He added, “The British lion, after the American eagle broke its talons in Iraq, is once again returning to Asia and the Caucasus, step by step trying to push aside not only Russia and China, but also its own NATO allies.”

Mezhyuev presents “three versions” of the British story. LaRouche’s “version” is excerpted here:

“LaRouche rejected Marxism and became a defender of the so-called American System in economics, meaning

the dirigist model in the spirit of President Roosevelt’s New Deal. This state-oriented model is opposed by a different model—the liberal-oligarchical one, rooted in British economic liberalism and the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes, who is held responsible for all the sins of the modern era, colonial slavery above all.

“These quite sympathetic ‘left-conservative’ views, LaRouche spikes with a good-sized dose of fantastical conspirology. It turns out that the roots of today’s financial globalization go back to Venice, which used Great Britain, which had come under its sway in the late Tudor period, to destroy the ideal model of an interrelationship of state and society, developed by the best minds of the Renaissance. Coming under the influence of the merchants of Venice, Britain began to promote economic liberalism, with which the colonial trade in human beings was closely associated. Continental Europe was unable to resist Britain effectively, leaving Lincoln’s America as the main adversary of Britain. But Britain’s allies in America itself were the Confederates, whose elite was closely linked with the British aristocracy through the Scottish Rite freemasonic network.

“The formal collapse of the Empire in the 20th century simply withdrew British colonial rule into the shadows: Now, they started ruling the world through the financial institutions they control. LaRouche sees his main objective as being to free the American Republic from domination by the British Empire and its henchmen in both American parties, like both Bushes or, for example, Al Gore.”